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2,474,552

SECTIONAL HINGED FOLD HOLDER

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Fig-1.

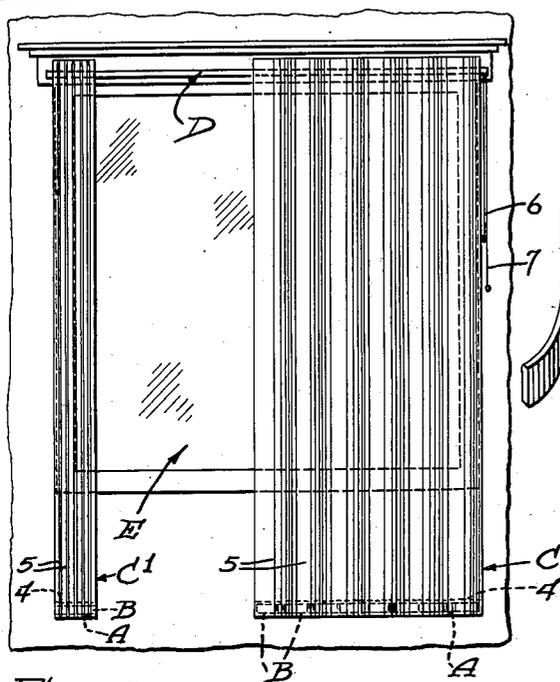


Fig-3.

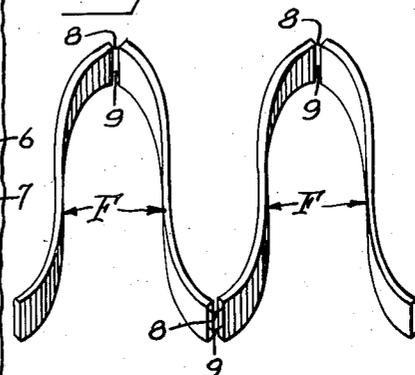


Fig-2.

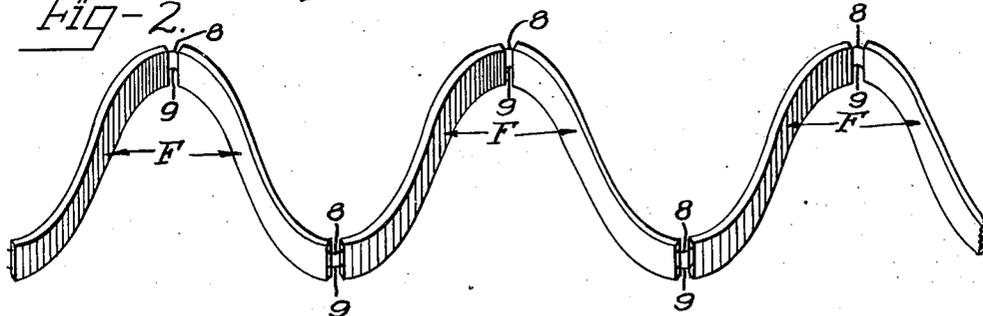
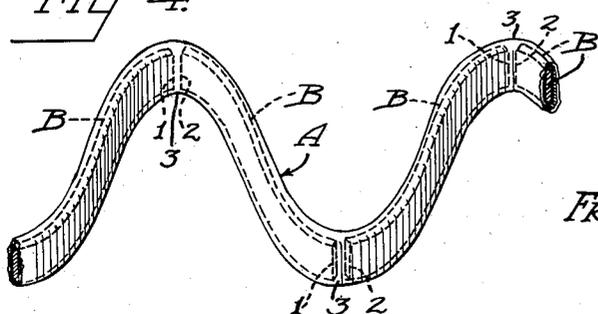


Fig-4.



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## SECTIONAL HINGED FOLD HOLDER

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7 Claims. (Cl. 160—348)

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An object of my invention is to provide a sectional hinged fold holder which is an improvement over my patent on a Drapery fold holder, No. 2,212,055, issued August, 20, 1940. In my patent I disclose a strip of bendable material, such as lead, and the strip is placed in the bottom hem of a drape or curtain and then curved in the desired manner for giving the desired fold to the curtain or drape. The strip holds the shape into which it has been curved or bent and will hold the curtain or drape in the desired number of folds. The strip will also act as a weight for holding the lower end of the curtain or drape down.

In the present form of the invention, I have designed a sectional hinged fold holder which will provide the necessary weight for the curtain or drape and in which the sections will provide folds of uniform width for the curtain or drape. The advantage of making the device in sections and hinging them together will permit the curtain or drape to be moved from closed to open position or vice versa and still maintain its folds during this movement. The device can be used on curtains or drapes which are not opened or closed. The device will give a little more freedom to the bottom of the curtain or drape so that the rigidity of the folds will not be so apparent and set.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device of the type described which is simple in construction and which may be made of any length desired. Each section of the device can have its ends curved slightly in opposite directions for aiding in forming the fold in the curtain or drape.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following specification, and the novel features of the device will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a window and a traverse rod showing my device applied to the lower hem of a curtain or drape, the left hand panel showing the device in collapsed position and the right hand panel showing it in extended position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the device on a larger scale and showing it in extended position;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, but shows the device collapsed; and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the invention.

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While I have shown only the preferred forms of my invention, it should be understood that various changes or modifications may be made within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

In carrying out my invention, I provide a flexible casing indicated generally at A in Figure 4. The casing may be of any length desired and is tubular so as to receive sectional weights indicated generally at B. The sectional weights are shown as being rectangular in shape, although I do not wish to be confined to any particular shape.

The opposed edges 1 and 2 of adjacent weights B are spaced from each other so that the fabric portion 3 of the casing that connects the weights at the edges 1 and 2 will constitute a hinge. Sufficient length of casing must be provided between the edges 1 and 2 to permit the sectional weights to hinge freely with respect to each other. Friction alone may be resorted to between the flexible casing A and the sectional weights B to hold the weights against longitudinal movement within the casing. On the other hand, the weights may be secured in place by stitching not shown, or by other suitable fastening means. The ends 1 and 2 of each weight B are curved in opposite direction for a purpose now to be described.

Referring to Figure 1, it will be seen that I provide a curtain or drape at C. The lower edge of the drape or curtain is provided with a hem indicated generally at 4 and the hem is large enough to receive the flexible casing A. The length of the casing A is made equal to the width of the curtain or drape C. The length of each sectional weight B is determined by the width of the folds 5 desired and this depends upon the wish of the person using the device.

At the top of the curtain or drape C, I show a traverse rod D and the curtain or drape C is operatively connected thereto in the usual manner. Draw strings 6 and 7 are used in connection with the curtain or drape C and when pulled will open or close the drape. For purposes of clarity, I have shown the right hand drape C covering its portion of the window E while the left hand drape or curtain C' is shown in a collapsed position. In actual practice, a pull on the right string 6 or 7, will simultaneously collapse the two curtain or drape panels C and C' to uncover the window or will simultaneously move them toward each other for covering the window.

The sectional weights B shown in Figure 1 determine the width and shape of the folds 5 and

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the top of the curtain or drape is provided with similar folds, so that the folds in the curtain or drape will extend vertically from the top to the bottom thereof.

Many modifications of the sectional weights and their manner of hinging together can be designed and I have shown one modified form in Figures 2 and 3. Here the sectional weights F are in the shape of hollow rectangular links and these links are hinged together by strings or flexible cords 8 and 9. This arrangement does away with the flexible casing A and the device can be placed in the hem 4 of the curtain or drape C and C' and will function in the same manner as that described for the form of the device shown in Figure 4.

It is possible to have the sectional weights in the form of cylindrical segments of the desired length with a cord or flexible member extending through the centers of the cylinders and hingedly connecting the segments together. The device is simple in construction and will not only provide the necessary weight for the curtain or drape but will also maintain the desired width for the folds at all times whether the drape or curtain is extended or collapsed.

The opposite curving of the ends of the sections B or F produces a curvature in the fold of the drape or curtain which will enhance its appearance. There will be less likelihood for the section ends to wear out the curtain or drape when the sections have their opposite ends curved in the manner disclosed.

I claim:

1. A drape comprising a sheet of material adapted to be hung in a plurality of folds at the top and having a hem at the bottom, and a sectional hinged bar pocketed in the hem and weighting the hem to draw the material fairly taut, said sectional hinged bar being substantially coextensive in length with the length of the hem, the sections of the bar determining the width of the folds at the bottom and causing these to match the folds at the top and thus establish a succession of flutes full length of said drape from top to bottom.

2. A sectional hinged fold holder comprising a plurality of sections of a predetermined length, means for hinging the sections together at their ends, the ends of each section being curved slightly in opposite directions, said fold holder being receivable in a drape lower hem and the sections determining the width and the shape of the folds of the drape.

3. The combination with a traverse rod and a traverse curtain supported by the rod and being movable from open to closed position, the curtain having folds formed therein at its top and having a hem at its bottom, of a sectional hinged fold holder placed in the hem and comprising a plurality of sections jointed together, the ends of each section being curved slightly in opposite directions, the length of the sections determining the width and the shape of the folds at the bottom of the curtain and causing these to match

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the folds at the top to thus establish a succession of flutes full length of said curtain from top to bottom.

4. A sectional hinged fold holder comprising a flexible elongated casing, and a plurality of rigid members arranged within the casing and spaced from each other, the casing acting as a hinge between adjacent members, said members having their ends curved in opposite directions so that adjacent ends of adjacent members will curve toward each other and produce a sinuous configuration from the members.

5. A sectional hinged fold holder comprising a plurality of tubular weighted members of a predetermined length, and a flexible cord extending lengthwise through the members and interconnecting the latter so that they can swing with respect to each other, said members having their ends curved in opposite directions so that adjacent ends of adjacent members will curve toward each other and produce a sinuous configuration from the members.

6. A drape or the like comprising a sheet of material adapted to be hung in a plurality of folds at the top, and a sectional hinged bar supported by the bottom portion of the sheet and having sufficient weight to draw the material fairly taut, adjacent sections of the bar being freely swingable relative to one another to give at least some freedom of movement to the bottom of the drape so that rigidity of the folds will not be apparent, said sectional bar being substantially coextensive in length with the width of the sheet, the sections of the bar determining the width of the folds at the bottom and causing them to match the folds at the top and thus establish a succession of flutes full length of said drapes from top to bottom.

7. A sectional hinged fold holder comprising a plurality of tubular weighted members arranged in end-to-end relation; the member having sufficient weight to maintain a fluted drape or the like at least fairly taut when the drape is suspended from its upper end and the members are attached to the lower end of the drape; and a flexible cord extending lengthwise through the interior of the members and interconnecting the members so that they can swing with respect to each other to give at least some freedom to the bottom of the drape so that rigidity of the flutes will not be apparent.

FREDERICK W. STEINMEYER.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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