Nov. 12, 1935. H. E. KAEMMER 2,020,838

RADIATOR GRILLE COVER

Filed Aug. 3, 1935

FIG. 1.

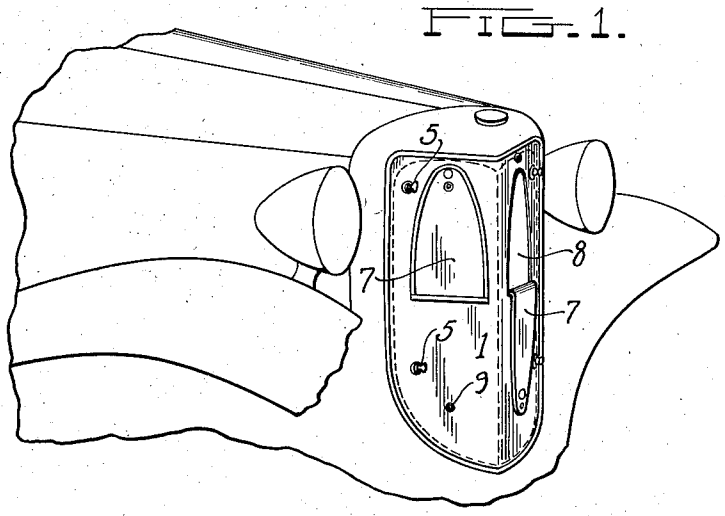


FIG. 2.

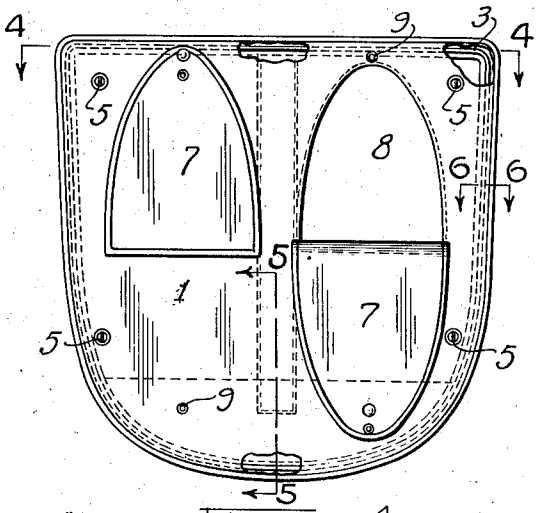


FIG. 3.

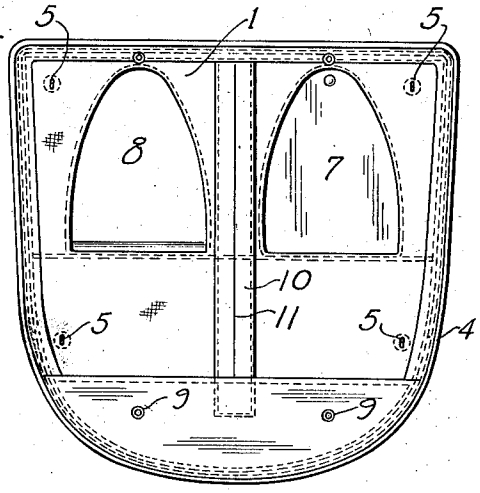


FIG. 4.

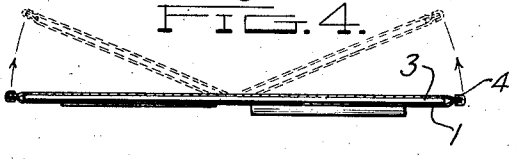


FIG. 6.

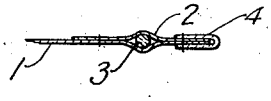
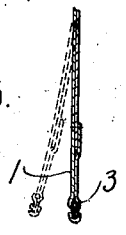


FIG. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,020,838

RADIATOR GRILLE COVER

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Application August 3, 1935, Serial No. 34,589

2 Claims. (Cl. 257—132)

This invention relates to radiator grille covers for automobiles, and is more particularly directed to a device which may be detachably connected to the grille or shield covering an automobile radiator, during cold weather, to lessen the cooling action of the radiator and avoid the disadvantages of overcooling.

It has been found, in practice, that satisfactory installation of fabric covers has been difficult to attain since the available supports are vertically disposed and hence the fabric usually buckles, due to slipping of the fastening elements in a vertical direction. The looseness of the cover results in a flapping action of the material, which may damage the finish of the car and which is otherwise annoying.

It has also been a disadvantage in fabric covers that their adaptability was usually limited to one particular make of car, since the fit must have been made as close as possible with no material overlapping the edges of the grille. Any excess material was liable to flap when the car was in motion.

The object of the present invention is to overcome the above, and other, disadvantages, and to provide a cover which is sufficiently rigid to prevent flapping, and which is adaptable to a large number of makes of cars with no alteration other than re-location of the fastening elements.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cover of this character which, for efficient mounting, requires fewer fastening elements than previous fabric covers, and which is more easily installed.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device installed on a radiator grille, which is V-shaped in horizontal cross-section; Fig. 2 is a front elevation, with parts broken away, and with one of the hinged closure members opened and one closed; Fig. 3 is a similar rear elevation, and Figs. 4, 5, and 6 are sections on lines 4—4, 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates the body of the cover, which is preferably made of fabric, or other suitable sheet material, pliable in its nature. The body 1 is turned back on itself at the marginal edges, or otherwise shaped to provide pockets 2 extending entirely around the edges of the cover for the reception of stiffening members 3. The stiffening members are preferably made of a heavy wire material so that they may be bent to any desired configuration and will retain their adjusted shape. A finishing strip 4 is stitched to the edge of the cover to complete the assembly.

In the form shown, the cover is rounded in outline at the lower edge so as to conform in shape to the great majority of grilles. Most of the grilles now in use are either substantially V-shaped in horizontal cross-section or are rounded on this plane to present a convex surface to the air when the car is moving. When it is desired to attach the cover to a grille so formed, the part of the stiffening member 3 across the top of the cover is bent to conform to the shape of the grille, as illustrated in Fig. 4. The cover is held in place by suitable fastening elements 5 which extend through the cover and engage the grille. The fastening members in the present instance are four in number and are located adjacent the top and sides of the cover and may be re-located simply by punching a small hole in the fabric.

Hinged closure members 7 are formed from the body 1 to cover correspondingly shaped openings 8 in the fabric, so that a predetermined portion of the grille and radiator may be exposed to selectively increase or decrease the cooling action of the radiator. Obviously, when both closure members 7 are open, the cooling action is at its maximum, and, correspondingly, when both are closed the cooling action is at its minimum. Snap fasteners 9, or other suitable retaining means, are provided to hold the closure members 7 in open or closed position.

On the rear surface of the body 1 a centrally located stiffening strip 10 is fixed as by stitching, and is scored down the middle in a fold line 11. The user is thus enabled to locate the exact center of the cover when it is desired to bend the stiffening members to conform to a given grille conformation. The member 10 also aids in keeping the fabric body taut to prevent flapping. The central stiffening means is stopped short of the bottom of the cover so that the latter is easily bent out of a single vertical plane to conform to the shape of such grilles as project forwardly at the bottom edge, as shown diagrammatically in Fig. 5.

It will be seen that the present invention provides a cover which is entirely surrounded by a stiffening member so that the marginal edges are effectively prevented from flapping and are held in a taut position during the entire time that the cover is used. Obviously, the cover so constructed is superior in appearance to one which is

buckled and deformed by reason of insufficiency of support.

While the invention has been described in connection with a particular type of stiffening element, namely, the wire member 3, it should be expressly understood that any other suitable stiffening elements may be used to accomplish the desired results. It will also be understood that my invention is not limited to any specific construction, arrangement or form of the parts, as it is capable of numerous modifications and changes without departing from the spirit of the claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent, is:

1. A radiator grille cover of the type set forth, composed of a body of flexible material having an opening therein, said body having a flap movably connected thereto for closing the opening, marginal stiffening means connected to the body, a vertical stiffening element connected to the body and located centrally between the sides of the body, said marginal stiffening means being bendable so that the side portions of the body on opposite sides of said vertical stiffening means can be curved or bent at an angle thereto to dispose said side portions to conform to grilles of the rounded or V-type, and means to attach the side portions of the body to the grille of a radiator.

2. A radiator grille cover in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vertical stiffening element is composed of a strip of material, the lower end of which terminates above the bottom of the body so that the said bottom of the body may be bent to conform to grilles of the type having their lower portions projecting forwardly.

HARRY E. KAEMMER.