UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,653,657

VENETIAN BLIND COVER

Marion E. Skwark, Binghamton, N. Y.

Application July 24, 1950, Serial No. 175,510

3 Claims. (Cl. 160—34)

1. This invention relates to covers for Venetian blinds and more particularly to transparent covers to enclose the blinds in order to protect them against the gathering of dust and the like.

In recent years the modes of fashion have laid particular emphasis on the appearance of windows in houses, and pursuant to this the Venetian blind has progressed in popularity. It has become more popular because in addition to its esthetic appeal it has the unique ability of regulating the amount of light which passes through while to some extent permitting one to look through the entire area of the window before which the blind is arranged. One disadvantage, however, characteristic of such blinds, is their tendency to gather dust and the consequent extreme difficulty in keeping them clean.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a means of eliminating this previously mentioned difficulty while still permitting efficient operation of the blind to control the amount of light passing therethrough and while still permitting one to obtain a view through the window inhibited only by the elements of the Venetian blind.

More particularly, it is an object of this invention to provide a cover for Venetian blinds while still allowing the blinds to operate in the same efficient manner as before and to perform their same function.

BROADLY this invention relates to a transparent cover for a Venetian blind to protect said blind from gathering dust, said cover being mounted to the Venetian blind head and encasing the slats thereof, said cover including means to permit outside control of the blind, and means to prevent the interference of the cover with the free operation of the blind.

Other and further objects of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the cover encasing the blind and showing the blind and cover mounted to a window frame;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary top plan view of the structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a view taken along the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective of one end of the cover shown with the necessary attachments to mount the cover to the top casing for the Venetian blind and the means of preventing the interference of the cover with the operation of the blind;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective of one of the bottom corners of the cover;

Figure 7 is a view taken along the line 1—1 of Figure 4;

Figure 8 is a front elevation of a modification of the cover;

Figure 9 is a side elevation of the structure shown in Figure 8; and

Figure 10 is a perspective of the structure shown in Figures 8 and 9 with the front of the cover unzipped.

The cover which is constructed in accordance with the present invention finds utility with all types of Venetian blind. In the usual case the blind consists of a plurality of parallel slats arranged in vertical relation and maintained in this relation by a system of cloth strips. In the usual case there are four such strips, two in the front and two in the back of the slats, all strips extending vertically of the blind from the blind head to the last or bottommost slat. Each pair of strips, that is one in the back and one in the front, is mounted opposite to each other and held together by short strips of cloth or the like arranged as supports for the ends of the slats. Cords are usually provided for independently changing the "pitch" of the slats and for raising the entire blind. One of the cords, either in one or two sections, is attached to a tilt rail which is pivotally mounted in the blind head. The two pairs of vertically arranged cloth strips are mounted to opposite sides of the tilt rail. When the cord attached to the tilt rail is pulled so as to pivot the tilt rail in one direction, the back strip rises and the front strip lowers. This changes the "pitch" of the slats and permits more or less light to pass therebetween as the case may be.

The blind head also contains a roller mounted for rotatable movement therein. To this roller, at one end thereof, is mounted a pulley. About the pulley is mounted an operating cord. This cord is for the purpose of raising the entire blind. Also about the pulley are mounted two other cords, each of which is passed down through all of the slats at points removed from each other and preferably towards the extremes of the slats, but for esthetic reasons hidden from view by the vertical strips. As the operating cord is pulled the pulley rotates causing the other two cords to raise the entire blind. There is usually a means provided for step-by-step operation so that the height of the blind may be easily regulated.

The cover which constitutes the subject matter of this invention finds utility with just such
blinds as previously described. It must be re-
membered, however, that the blind forms no part of the presen
t invention, the only require-
ment being that it be of the type commonly re-
ferred to as a Venetian blind. With this in
mind, attention is directed to the drawings which
accompany this specification.
Referring to Figures 1 to 7, inclusive, the cover
generally designated by numeral 20 in these fig-
ures is made of some sort of transparent or trans-
luent plastic or other similar material, usually
including a substance such as cellulose. It is,
in the usual case, although not necessarily, made
in three pieces, one piece serving as the front
of the cover, another as the back, and a third
as the strip to connect the back and the front.
These three pieces are usually bound together
by cloth stripings or the like to form a five-sided
figure like a box having one open end. The sixth
side is closed by making the back of the cover
longer than the front and causing the back to
overlap the front slightly and to be held thereto
by snap locks or the like.
What have we called the front side of the cover
is designated in these figures by numeral 21, the
back side by numeral 22, the narrow strip en-
closing the two by numeral 23 and the folding
of the portion of the back by numeral 24.
With the top flap unattached, the cover is fit-
ted over the slats 25 of the Venetian blind and
extended upward to what might be called the
blind head assembly 26. This assembly 26 is
typical of those found in the art and includes
a three-sided casing 27, usually of metal, which
casing is mounted to the window frame 28. In
convenient means and is used primarily to hid
for aesthetic reasons the more awkward looking
members of the blind itself. These elements in-
clude a roller 29 mounted for rotatable move-
ment to the casing 27. The rotation of this roller
is in a controlled counterclockwise and clockwise
manner, said control being obtained by element
30 mounting the roller 29 to the casing 27. This
roller is rotated in one direction or the other by
cords 35 and 36. Means is provided for holding
the slats in a desired tilt or "pitch" after the
roller has been rotated a desired number of de-
grees.
The slats are moved to respond to the rota-
tion of the roller by virtue of the cloth strips
31. These strips 31 are usually mounted to op-
posite sides of the roller 29. The strips 31 have
bridging them a plurality of strips 32 for sup-
supporting the slats 25 and for changing the "pitch"
thereof. This operation is performed as previ-
ously described.
The other cord 36 shown at the right hand
side of Figure 1 is for pulling the entire blind
up or letting it down as the case may be. This
cord works through an arrangement such as a
pulley 31 to rotate a tilt roll 38. The cord 36
lies over one groove in the pulley and extends
downwardly through each of the slats to the bot-
tommost where it is anchored. This may be ac-
complished by one cord or three cords, the pul-
ley being provided with, in the latter case, two
other grooves, one to be anchored to the right
hand side of the bottommost flap and the other
to the left hand side of the bottommost flap, both
operating in conjunction with cord 36. Means
is provided for step-by-step operation of the pul-
ley and consequently step-by-step operation of
the raising or lowering of the blind.
As particularly shown in Figure 4, the cover
encloses the whole blind with the exception of
the cords. The flap portion 24 overlies the front
piece 21 and is attached thereto by a series of
snap locks or the like 21a. (see Figure 1). The
cords extend between these overlying portions
and the front piece and are thereby made pas-
able through the aperture so formed to operate
the blind from the outside. Of course the cords
may also extend through apertures made in the
flap itself.
As mentioned heretofore, the cover is made of
a plastic material which is in most cases not of
a too rigid texture. To prevent the cover from
interfering with the operation of the blind, cer-
tain provisions now to be described are made.
It is important that the cover maintain a sub-
stantially rectangular shape on all sides. To ac-
throplicate this, pockets are placed in the cover at
four well-chosen points therein. Referring par-
ticularly to Figure 5, a pocket is positioned in
each upper corner as shown. This pocket re-
cieves a guide 39. The guide is usually of plastic
material or something similarly rigid and is dis-
gn-in a particular manner to hold the shape
of the upper part of the cover so as not to allow
it to interfere with the operation of the blind.
Additionally, the guide is constructed so as to
have recesses to receive a clip 40. This clip as
shown has four prongs 41 which engage in the
cooperating recesses in the plastic guide 39. The
clip when mounted to the guide has a small space
between it and the guide to permit the insertion
therein of a fastener 42. This fastener friction-
ally engages the clip through the casing 27. The
fastener, after it is engaged between the clip
35 and the guide, is held frionally thereto by the resilient nature of the
fastener. The cutout portion 43 of the cover al-
ows the guide and clip to be inside the cover
while permitting the fastener to protrude to the
outside thereof and to engage the casing 27.
Another rectangular opening 44 is provided in
the cover 20 to permit the side pieces 23 to slide
over the metal holder 45 as shown in Figure 2
which provides the top holding piece for the ele-
ments of the Venetian blind head. This opening is
reinforced by an extra lining 46 to prevent teared
thereof. This lining is shown in dotted lines in
Figure 5 and designated as 46.
Referring now to Figures 8, 9 and 10, there is
shown in these figures another embodiment of
the invention. The transparent cover 49 is made
of the same material as the first embodiment pre-
viously described and serves the same pur-
pose. This particular cover includes a zipper
arrangement indicated as 50. The use of a zipper
eliminates the use of clamps, guides and said
stiffening devices and allows freedom of move-
ment and good operation of the Venetian blind.
The top of the cover is provided with snap locks
or the like which are both inside and outside el-
ments, the inside elements being used to close
the cover to make it dust-free and the outside ele-
ments for the purpose of fastening curtains thereto.
The embodiment shown in these figures is par-
ticularly useful with Venetian blinds of the
metal box type which do not have a headboard
such as that shown in the Figures from 1 to 7, inclusive. This type contains a metal box which encloses all of the elements of the blind head. The cover in this embodiment is adapted to completely cover this box except for the ends. Openings 84 allow for any protrusion of this metal box which might occur while still completely enclosing the slats. The flap portion of the cover indicated as 52 lies over the metal box and is by snap locks 53 attached to the front portion 54 of the cover 45. The zipper arrangement adds to the rigidity of the entire cover and by itself prevents the interference of the cover with efficient operation of the Venetian blind. The zipper arrangement as shown in Figure 10 includes two separate zippers but it is apparent that one zipper may be substituted for this arrangement. This one zipper would commence, for instance, at the top left hand side and continue down the side and around the bottom to the lower right hand corner, thus eliminating two zippers and the front cover would open up like a book cover. This of course would mean the reduction of cost to the manufacturer and also a more convenient method of opening the cover. The flap over portion 52 of the cover may be made a continuation of the back portion thereof or may be made a separate piece sewed to the back portion. The front portion may be an extension of the side or a completely separate piece.

What have been described are preferred embodiments of the invention but other embodiments obvious to those skilled in the art from the teachings herein are contemplated to be within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A cover for a Venetian blind of the type having a casing member to encase and support the elements of the head of said blind and to mount said blind to a window frame, said cover including a back portion, a front portion, a bottom portion and two side portions, all of transparent material arranged in an open-ended box-like structure open at the top thereof, to partially enclose said blind, a flap forming an extension of the said back portion to overlie the said blind head, said side portions having pockets at the ends thereof to receive rigid guide members to supply added rigidity to said cover to prevent said cover from interfering with the operation of said blind, means to attach said flap to the said front portion to form a closed box-like structure when so attached to completely enclose said blind, said flap forming apertures when so attached for the passage therethrough of the controlling cords of said blind, and means to mount said cover to said casing.

2. A cover for a Venetian blind of the type having a casing member to encase and support the elements of the head of said blind and to mount said blind to a window frame, said cover including a back portion, a front portion, a front portion and two side portions, all of transparent material arranged in an open-ended box-like structure open at the top thereof, to partially enclose said blind, a flap forming an extension of the said back portion to overlie the said blind head, said side portions having pockets at the ends thereof to receive rigid guide members to supply added rigidity to said cover to prevent said cover from interfering with the operation of said blind, means to attach said flap to the said front portion to form a closed box-like structure when so attached to completely enclose said blind, said flap forming apertures when so attached for the passage therethrough of the controlling cords of said blind, fastening means mounted to said cover at the upper ends thereof to secure said cover to said casing.

3. A cover as claimed in claim 2 further characterized by a clip member mounted to said guide member and providing a recess therebetween for receiving therein the cover-securing end of the said fastening means.

MARION E. SKWARK.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,185,688</td>
<td>Hargis</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,385,053</td>
<td>Bohn</td>
<td>Sept. 18, 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,690,063</td>
<td>Sutz</td>
<td>June 10, 1952</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>