Nov. 1, 1938. C. P. SCHLEGEL Re. 20,904

WINDOW CHANNEL

Original Filed March 11, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

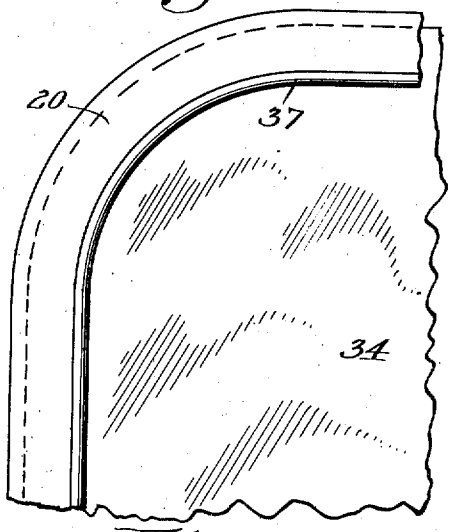


Fig. 5

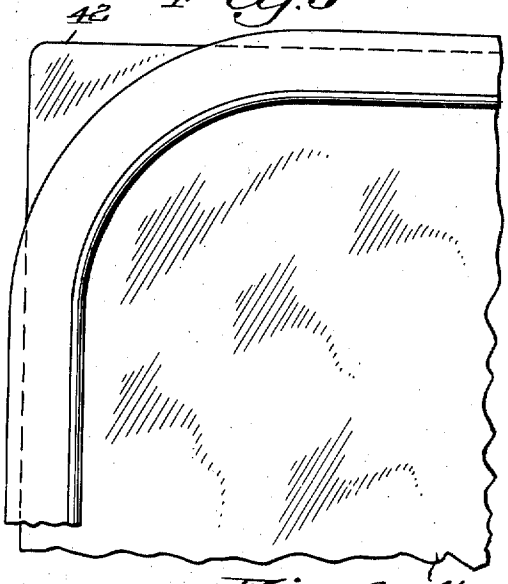


Fig. 4

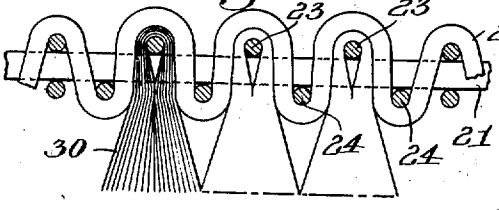


Fig. 6

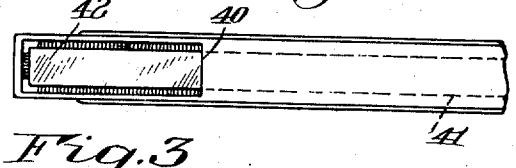


Fig. 3

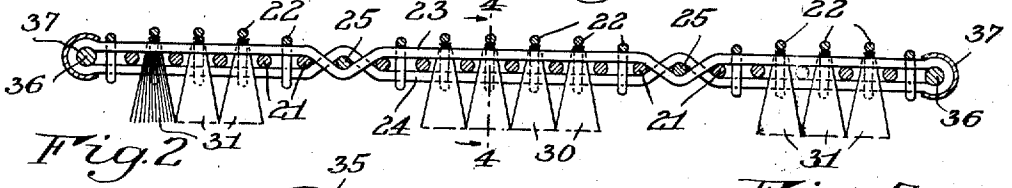


Fig. 2

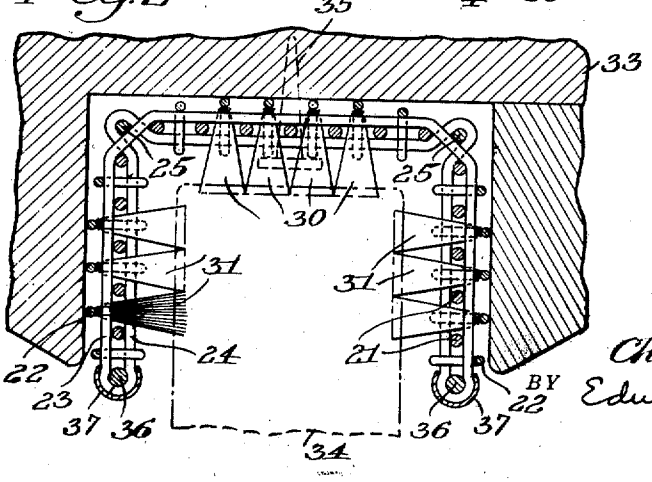
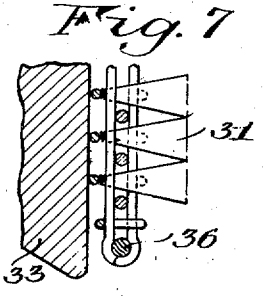


Fig. 7



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Fig. 9

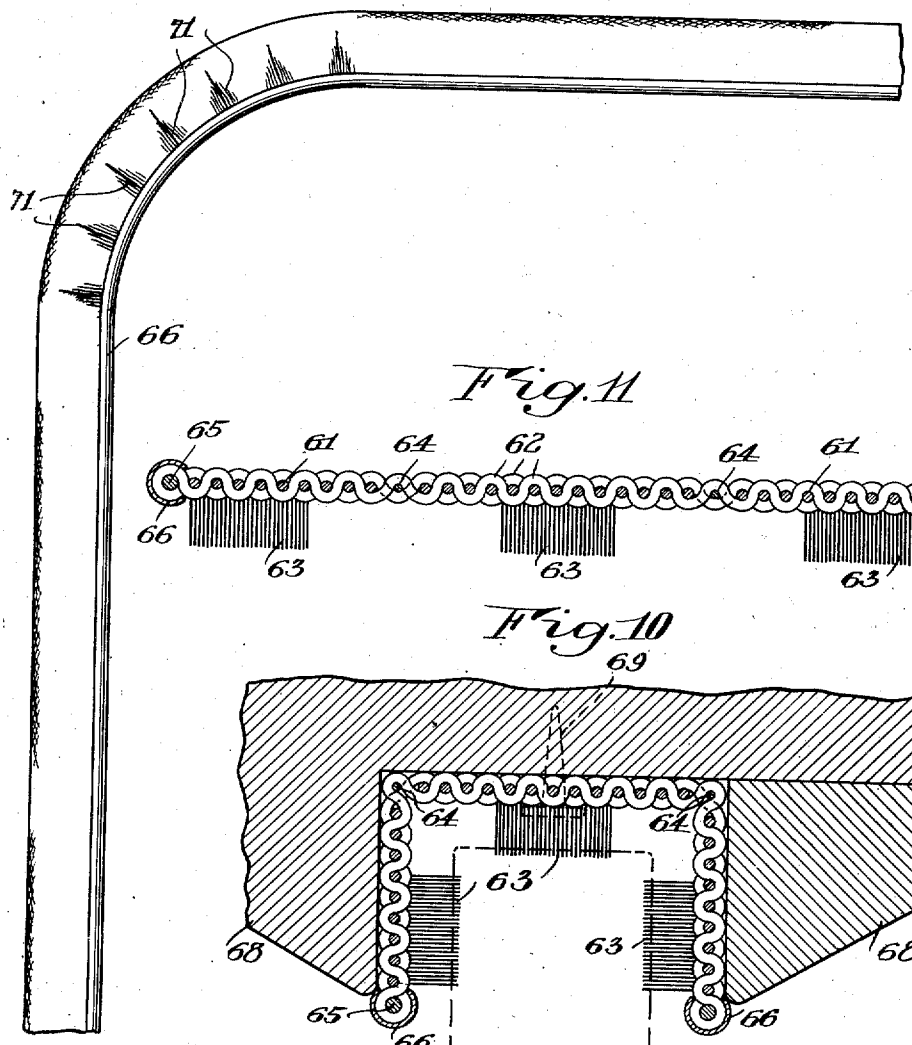
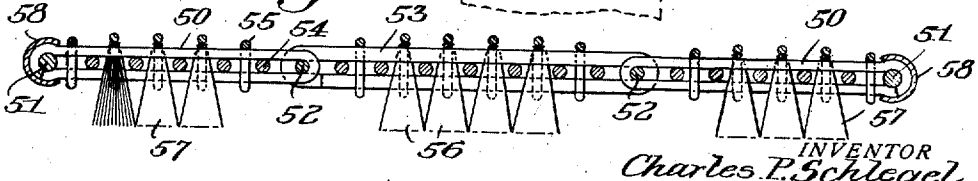


Fig. 11

Fig. 10

Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

20,904

WINDOW CHANNEL

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Original No. 2,012,354, dated August 27, 1935, Serial No. 660,402, March 11, 1933. Application for reissue August 25, 1936, Serial No. 97,832

23 Claims. (Cl. 296—44.5)

This invention relates to window channels such as are used, for example, as guideways or runways for movable windows of automobiles and other vehicles, or as supporting and mounting channels for set or immovable windows in aeroplanes and other vehicles.

An object of the invention is the provision of a generally improved and more satisfactory channel of this kind, which is easy and inexpensive to construct, easy to install, and effective in use.

Another object is the provision of a window channel which can be readily bent to any reasonable curvature in the plane of the glass embraced by the channel, so that it may be fitted easily around the corners of the window opening.

A further object is the provision of a channel having a body sufficiently stiff to be substantially self-supporting under normal conditions of use, while at the same time it may be flattened transversely substantially into a plane, for ease of packing and transportation.

A still further object is the provision, in such a channel, of a reinforcing and finishing member which will assist in holding the edges of the channel in position, which will furnish a decorative finish for one or both of the edges of the channel, and which will not interfere with easy bending of the channel to make it conform to corners of the window opening.

An additional object is the provision of a simple self-contained window channel ready for direct application to a vehicle body, which requires no filler or deadener between the channel and the vehicle body, and which may be bent readily into any shape desired.

To these and other ends the invention resides in certain improvements and combinations of parts, all as will be hereinafter more fully described, the novel features being pointed out in the claims at the end of the specification.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a window channel constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, illustrating it bent around a corner of a pane of glass or the like;

Fig. 2 is a horizontal cross section on an enlarged scale of a window frame with the channel applied thereto, the parts being illustrated diagrammatically;

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic transverse section through the window channel detached from the frame and flattened out substantially into a plane;

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic view on a larger scale, taken longitudinally of the channel substantially on the section line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of construction;

Fig. 6 is an edge view of the construction shown in Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary transverse section similar to a portion of Fig. 2, illustrating a modification of the invention;

Fig. 8 is a view similar in general to Fig. 3, illustrating still another form of the invention;

Fig. 9 is a side elevation of a window channel constructed in accordance with another embodiment of the invention, illustrating it bent around a corner;

Fig. 10 is a horizontal diagrammatic cross section on an enlarged scale of a part of the window frame with the channel applied thereto, and

Fig. 11 is a transverse section through the channel of Figs. 9 and 10 detached from the window frame and flattened out substantially into a plane.

The same reference numerals throughout the several views indicate the same parts.

This application is a continuation in part of my copending application for patent on a Window channel, Serial No. 643,073, filed November 17, 1932, which application, in turn, is a continuation in part of my copending application for patent on Window channel, Serial No. 494,348, filed November 8, 1930.

The channel of the present invention comprises a main body of material sufficiently stiff to be substantially self-supporting when placed in a window frame under normal conditions of use, but nevertheless sufficiently flexible so that it may be transversely flattened substantially into a plane for convenience of packing and transportation. The channel body is preferably of woven or textile material. It may be a heavy fabric woven from non-metallic fibers, or it may and preferably does include metallic filaments such as wires woven into the fabric to give it added stiffness without interfering with the necessary amount of flexibility.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive, the channel comprises a main body woven from warp strands indicated diagrammatically at 21 and 22 and from weft strands indicated diagrammatically at 23 and 24. Any of these strands may be made, as desired, from either metallic or non-metallic material, so that part or all of the warp strands may be metallic and part or all of the weft strands may be metallic.

Preferably the warp strands 21 are of heavy cotton or linen and extend substantially straight along the material. Preferably the weft strands 23 and 24 are of metallic filaments such as wires, and part of the strands are placed in one plane and part of the strands in another plane spaced from and substantially parallel to the first plane. For example, the weft strands 23 run transversely or crosswise of the material in a plane just above the heavy warp strands 21 when viewed as in Fig. 3, and the other weft strands 24 run

in the same direction in another plane just below the heavy warp strands **21**. Preferably also the strands **23** and **24** alternate with each other as shown in Fig. 4, so that there will be first a strand **23** in the plane above the strand **21**, then a strand **24** in the plane below, then another strand **23** in the plane above, and so forth. Obviously the arrangement of the strands may be altered as desired.

The other warp strands **22** are preferably likewise of non-metallic material such as cotton or linen, but may frequently be lighter than the strands **21**, and are intertwined around the warp strands **23** and **24** as best shown in Fig. 4, passing above the upper or outer weft strands **23** and below the lower or inner weft strands **24**, so that these strands **22** tend to hold the strands **23** and **24** against the strands **21** and tend to pull the weft strands in the spaced planes substantially into a single plane.

In order to form lines along which the body may be readily bent transversely into channel shape, the weft strands **23** and **24** preferably cross each other at points corresponding to the corners of the channel, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and at such points the strands may be held in crossed relation by the corner warp strands **25**, as indicated diagrammatically in the drawings.

The channel body is preferably provided with any suitable cushioning or lining means for supporting and cushioning the sash or glass embraced by the channel, and for providing a smooth runway for the glass if it is of the sliding or movable variety. This lining means may be formed of pile or any other suitable cushioning material, and may be formed as part of the channel body or as a separate piece or pieces secured to the channel body, as desired. Preferably the lining comprises strips of relatively long, stiff pile woven integrally with the channel body, the strips extending longitudinally along the inner surfaces of the side portions and of the back or bottom portion of the channel.

The pile on the bottom portion of the channel body is indicated diagrammatically at **30**, while that on the side or wing portions is indicated diagrammatically at **31**. The strips of pile **30** and **31** need not be the full width of the bottom or side portions of the channel, but may be relatively narrow strips occupying but a part of the width of those portions of the channel to which they are attached, as plainly shown in the drawings. The pile may be formed in any suitable or convenient manner. For example, the pile strands may be formed from a pile warp which is engaged around the upper or outer weft strands **23** and placed between them and the warp strands **22**, as indicated diagrammatically in Fig. 4, for example.

It will be understood that in all of the figures of the drawings, the weaving is shown diagrammatically and that in the actual article, the strands are usually greater in number and closer together so that the parts are all held firmly in a manner well understood by those skilled in the art. It is also to be noted that the various details of weaving herein described, while preferred, are not to be taken in a limiting sense, and are mentioned as examples of satisfactory constructions. The details of the strands, the manner of weaving, and so forth, may be varied at will.

Fig. 2 illustrates the channel described above, as applied to a window frame **33** having a rabbet or groove therein in which the woven channel is placed and to which it is fastened as by tacks **35** driven at intervals through the back or bottom of the channel. The glass or sash supported by the channel is indicated at **34**, and may be either fixed or movable along the channel, as desired. As above stated, the woven channel of the present invention, while sufficiently flexible to be bent up into channel form or flattened transversely substantially into a plane, is nevertheless sufficiently stiff to be substantially self-supporting in use. By this is meant that when the channel is bent into channel shape and placed in the groove of the frame **33** and attached to the frame as above indicated, it will maintain its shape and the side walls will stay in proper position in an effective manner without collapsing inwardly and without the necessity of fastening the side walls themselves directly to the frame **33**. Thus it is not necessary to employ a sheet metal channel encasing and holding the woven channel, as is done according to some prior constructions. It is noted also that due to the woven construction, tacks or other fastening means may be driven through the channel member at any desired point, and it is not necessary to provide preformed apertures for the fastening means to pass through.

Preferably the channel construction includes means running longitudinally along one or both edges of the channel to reinforce the edges and to provide a more decorative finish or appearance for the edges. To this end, the channel is provided with enlargements running longitudinally along one or both edges, which may be formed by warp strands **36** at the edges of the channel member which are enlarged, that is, formed of cords or wires of somewhat larger size or diameter than the other warp strands such as **21**. These strands **36** are preferably woven right into the material and surrounded at least to a substantial extent by the weft strands. The strands **36** may themselves form reinforcing members (especially if made of wire or the like), or preferably one or both of these enlarged edges are embraced by the reinforcing and finishing member **37** in the form of a hollow member or bead of sheet material open at one side, as plainly shown in the drawings. This member **37** may be formed of any suitable material, such as metal, celluloid, composition, or the like. In practice, it is found that a thin sheet of metal is satisfactory for forming the bead.

It is to be noted that the bead **37** is sufficiently strong so that it assists in holding the edge of the channel true and straight, but at the same time it is of such small dimensions transversely that the entire channel may readily be bent transversely or in the plane of a window embraced by the channel, by the application of slight force, as by hand.

The bead **37** embraces the enlargement at the edge of the woven channel body sufficiently tightly to be held thereby against transverse displacement, yet at the same time it is sufficiently loose on the channel body so that the bead may slide longitudinally along the body when the body is bent in a curve in the plane of the glass, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Such longitudinal sliding occurs during the bending operation, to compensate for the difference in length between the bead and the outer edge or back of the channel when thus bent.

When some or all of the weft strands of the channel are of wire, as above described, the weave of the channel body is preferably sufficiently loose so that this bending in the plane of the glass may

take place readily. That is to say, the weft strands are preferably spaced slightly from each other, so that the weft strands in the side portions of the bent section of the channel may move closer to each other and converge toward the center of curvature, with the result that these side portions bend smoothly and substantially without puckering.

As above set forth, the reinforcing and finishing bead **37** may be applied to one or both of the edges of the channel, being shown on both edges in Fig. 2 of the drawings. When such a bead is used, the edge of the channel may project slightly beyond the edge of the window casing or frame **33**, as shown in Fig. 2, so that the bead **37** may be visible and will lend its decorative effect to the trim of the vehicle. It will be apparent that the beads **37** may be made in various forms, styles, colors and finishes, as desired.

When a less expensive channel construction is desired, or whenever preferred for other reasons, the beads **37** may be entirely omitted, such a construction being illustrated in Fig. 7. When no finishing bead is employed, the edge of the window frame **33** preferably projects slightly beyond the edge of the channel member so that the channel member is largely hidden in the groove or rabbet of the window frame, although it may project into view if preferred.

The pile **31** at the sides of the channel is preferably sufficiently long and stiff so that it holds the sash or glass **34** spaced from the beads **37**, or from the enlargements at the edges of the channel if no beads are used. Thus, if the glass is movable, it slides smoothly on the pile alone, and remains out of contact with the beads or enlargements.

A slight variation of the construction above described is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 of the drawings, in which a portion of the bottom or back of the channel member is cut away or apertured as indicated at **40**, where the channel is curved or bent around the corner. This aperture permits the edge of the window pane or sash **41** to project out through the aperture as indicated at **42**. Thus, for example, the window opening in the side of the vehicle may have rounded corners and the channel body may be conformed to this rounded configuration as illustrated in Fig. 5, while at the same time the glass or sash itself may have square or substantially square corners which thus project through the aperture **40** without interference.

In Fig. 8 of the drawings there is shown a slightly different embodiment of the invention in which the weft strands of wires or metallic filaments do not extend entirely across the transverse dimension of the channel, but only through part of the width of the channel. For example, in this construction, the weft strands **50** may be of metallic filaments or wires, and may extend inwardly from the enlarged warp strands **51** to certain other warp strands **52**. Other weft strands **53**, of cotton or linen or other suitable non-metallic material, may furnish the weft in the central part of the channel, between the two warp strands **52**. The other warp strands **54** and **55** may be substantially the same as the warp strands **21** and **22**, respectively, previously described, and the piles **56** and **57** may be placed and held in the same manner above described in connection with the piles **30** and **31**. When the channel is formed or bent up from the flat form illustrated in Fig. 8 to the channel shaped cross section for use, the bends at the corners of the channel may come substantially at the warp strands **52** or at any other desired points.

With this construction, it is seen that metallic strands **50** are used in the side portions or wings of the channel, to stiffen these side portions and cause them to hold their shape properly in use, but that the bottom or back portion of the channel may have few wires or none at all woven in it, thus reducing the amount of wire in the channel while still maintaining the side portions with satisfactory stiffness.

In this embodiment of the invention, as in the embodiments previously described, reinforcing and finishing beads **58** may be employed on one or both edges if desired.

Still another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 9 to 11 inclusive of the drawings, to which reference is now made. Here the main body of the channel is woven entirely or substantially entirely from non-metallic textile material such as cotton, linen, or the like, and contains little or no metallic strands or fibres. The warp strands are indicated diagrammatically at **61**, and the weft strands at **62**, the pile for supporting and cushioning the window sash being held in any suitable manner and indicated diagrammatically at **63**. Weakened lines may be formed longitudinally of the channel member at points corresponding to the corners of the channel for easy bending, which weakened lines, for example, may be formed by spacing the warp strands slightly farther away from each other along the corners and by using one or more slightly smaller warp strands **64** at the corners.

As before, the warp strands **65** at the edges of the channel may be enlarged, and the enlarged edges of the channel may be embraced by beads **66** similar to the beads **37** previously described, if desired.

As shown in Fig. 10, such a channel may be placed in a rabbet or groove in a window frame **68**, and held therein in any suitable manner, such as by tacks or nails **69** driven at intervals through the base or back of the body portion, and the pile **63** serves to support and cushion a window sash or pane **70** which may be either fixed or movable as desired.

This form of channel, like the previous forms, may be readily bent through a curve in the plane of the glass, as illustrated in Fig. 9. The beads **66**, if used, slide longitudinally to a slight extent along the edge of the channel during the bending operation, so as to compensate for the difference in length between the inner and outer edges of the bent portion of the channel, and the side walls of the channel may pucker somewhat as indicated at **71**, to accommodate themselves to the curved shape.

When such a channel is made of relatively heavy and tightly woven textile material mainly or entirely of non-metallic strands, it is found in actual practice to be sufficiently stiff so that it is satisfactory and self-supporting in use, but nevertheless sufficiently flexible so that it may be readily flattened out transversely substantially into a plane, as shown in Fig. 11, for convenience of packing and shipping. Even when no reinforcing wires or metallic filaments are used, the sides of such a channel of relatively tightly woven non-metallic textile material, will remain in place and hold their proper shape satisfactorily under normal conditions of use, as described above in connection with the other embodiments of the invention, especially when the edges are reinforced by the beads **66**.

It will be seen that all of the various embodiments of the invention above described comprise channel members of which the main body portion is of woven or textile material or fabric, sufficiently flexible to be flattened substantially into a plane, and yet sufficiently stiff to be substantially self-supporting when placed in the window frame under normal conditions of use as above described, and without the necessity of employing a sheet metal embracing channel or similar holding means for maintaining the sides of the woven channel in place. The stiffness of the sides of the channels of the present invention is sufficient so that sliding movements of the glass or sash will not displace the sides of the channels or cause them to buckle or bulge. At the same time, the channels may be easily bent, as by hand for example, to any desired shape, so that they may be readily and quickly applied to window openings of any shape or size, and need not be specially shaped or formed at the factory for each different size or shape of window opening.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that the window channels of the present invention require no deadening material or filler between the channel and the vehicle frame. The woven channel body itself acts as a sufficient deadener even when placed in contact with metal frame parts. In the preferred form of construction, the non-metallic warp strands **22** are principally in contact with the vehicle frame and keep the metallic strands **23** and **24** largely out of contact with the frame, so that there is little or no metal-to-metal contact between the window channel and any metallic frame parts. Thus there is provided, in the preferred form, an extremely simple, self-contained, ready-to-apply channel which is highly satisfactory in use, and which is light and small.

It is to be understood that the terms "fabric" and "textile fabric" and "textile material" and "woven material" as used in this specification and in the accompanying claims, are not intended to be limited to fabric or material woven from non-metallic strands, but are intended to to be interpreted broadly to include material in which some or all of the strands are of wire or metallic filaments, as well as material in which some or all of the strands are of animal or vegetable fibers.

While certain embodiments of the invention have been disclosed, it is to be understood that the inventive idea may be carried out in a number of ways. This application is therefore not to be limited to the precise details described, but is intended to cover all variations and modifications thereof falling within the spirit of the ininvention or the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A window channel comprising a textile body including non-metallic strands and metallic strands interwoven with said non-metallic strands to impart stiffness to said body and render it substantially self-supporting under normal conditions of use.

2. A window channel comprising a woven body having a plurality of weft strands of metallic filaments and a plurality of warp strands of non-metallic textile material.

3. A window channel comprising a main body of textile material including metallic strands woven into the body and extending transversely of the body to lend stiffness thereto, so that said main body of the channel may be substantially self-supporting under normal conditions of use.

4. A substantially self-suporting window channel comprising a main body of textile material including normal warp strands and also a warp strand of larger than normal size running substantially along an edge of the body, and weft strands including a plurality of metallic filaments.

5. A window channel comprising a main body of textile material including normal warp strands and also a warp strand of larger than normal size running substantially along an edge of the body, weft strands including a plurality of metallic filaments, and a hollow bead running longitudinally along an edge of said body and embracing said larger warp strand and retained thereby against transverse displacement.

6. A woven window channel having enlarged warp strands at opposite edges, and metallic reinforcing strips enclosing those portions of the channel that enclose said warp strands.

7. A window channel comprising a single channel shaped body of fabric having an enlargement running substantially continuously along each edge, and a reinforcing and finishing member of relatively rigid material embracing each enlargement and running longitudinally along the enlargement to reinforce and finish the edge of the channel, said finishing members being capable of sliding longitudinally along said enlargement so that said body and said finishing members may be bent readily in the plane of a window embraced by the channel.

8. A window channel comprising a channel shaped member of textile material having woven in it a relatively large strand running substantially along one edge of the channel, and a reinforcing and finishing bead of relatively rigid material running along said edge and embracing said strand and retained thereby against transverse displacement.

9. A window channel comprising a channel shaped member of textile material having woven in it a relatively large strand running substantially along one edge of the channel, and a metallic reinforcing and finishing bead running along said edge and embracing said strand and movable longitudinally with respect to the strand so that the channel may be bent readily in the plane of a window embraced by the channel.

10. A window channel comprising a main channel shaped body of fabric sufficiently stiff to be substantially self-supporting in use but capable of being flattened transversely substantially into a plane, and a reinforcing and finishing member of relatively rigid material embracing an edge of said body and slidable longitudinally with respect to the body so that the body and member may be bent readily in the plane of a window embraced by the channel.

11. A window channel comprising a main channel shaped body of non-metallic flexible material sufficiently stiff to be substantially self supporting in use, an enlargement substantially at one edge of said body, and a reinforcing and finishing member of relatively rigid material embracing said enlargement and running longitudinally along an edge of said body, said reinforcing and finishing member being slidable longitudinally with respect to said body so that the body and member may be bent readily in the plane of a window embraced by the channel.

12. A window channel formed by a substantially U-shaped textile body of metallic and non-metallic strands interwoven with each other comprising transversely extending metal wire weft

strands for reinforcing and supporting the side walls of the channel and textile coverings for the inner faces of said side walls woven to provide soft pads of substantial thickness for cushioning engagement with the sides of the window, said channel being readily flexible in the plane of a window embraced thereby.

13. A window channel formed by a substantially U-shaped body of integrally interwoven strands comprising transversely extending metal wire strands for reinforcing and supporting the side walls of the channel and textile fiber strands interwoven with and sheathing said wire strands, said fiber strands being woven to provide soft pads of substantial thickness on the inner faces of said side walls for cushioning engagement with the sides of the window, said channel being readily flexible in the plane of a window embraced thereby.

14. A window channel formed by a substantially U-shaped body of integrally interwoven strands comprising transversely extending metal wire strands for reinforcing and supporting the side walls of the channel and textile fiber strands interwoven with said wire strands to provide soft pads of substantial thickness on the inner faces of said walls for cushioning engagement with the sides of the window, said side walls having enlarged edge portions, and flexible, hollow beads embracing and supporting said edge portions, said channel being readily flexible in the plane of a window embraced thereby.

15. A window supporting channel for insertion in the rabbet of a window frame comprising a substantially U-shaped textile body of interwoven weft and warp strands including metallic and non-metallic strands interwoven with each other, the side walls of said channel body being relatively stiff and self-supporting in use, said body being capable of being readily curved in the plane of the window to fit a curved line of a window frame and also of being laid flat in the plane of the intermediate or base portion of said channel body, and textile coverings for the faces of said side walls woven to provide soft pads of substantial thickness for cushioning engagement with the sides of a window supported by said channel.

16. A window channel formed by a substantially U-shaped body of material comprising transversely extending metal wire strands for reinforcing and supporting the side walls of the channel and longitudinally extending non-metallic strands interwoven with said wire strands, and padding material of substantial thickness on the faces of said side walls for cushioning engagement with the sides of the window, said channel being readily flexible in a transverse direction to fit the curved outline of a window embraced thereby.

17. A window channel for insertion in a rabbet of a window frame, comprising a woven textile body including transverse strands sufficiently stiff to hold said body in proper channel shape when in normal position within said rabbet, and longitudinal strands crossing and interwoven with said transverse strands and sufficiently flexible so that said body may be readily bent to a curve in the plane of a window to be embraced by said channel, certain of said strands being non-metallic.

18. A window mounting and cushioning construction comprising a strip of textile material woven from strands partly of metallic wire and partly of non-metallic material, and relatively long stiff non-metallic pile strands interwoven with said other strands to form a cushioning pad projecting laterally from one side of said woven textile body for contacting with and supporting a window.

19. A window mounting and cushioning construction comprising a woven strip having a plurality of weft strands of metallic filaments to stiffen the strip and a plurality of warp strands of non-metallic textile material, and a body of relatively long stiff pile projecting from one side of said strip to contact with and cushion a window.

20. A window mounting and cushioning construction comprising a strip of woven textile material having relatively long stiff pile extending along one side of said woven strip and projecting therefrom to contact with a window, and a readily bendable metallic element of relatively small cross section running longitudinally along said woven strip to stiffen the same and slidable longitudinally relatively to said strip so that said strip may be readily bent.

21. A window cushioning and guiding strip including a body formed at least in part of woven textile material having relatively long stiff pile extending from a face of said material to form cushioning pad means for contact with an adjacent window, said body including two bendable metallic stiffening elements extending longitudinally along opposite marginal edges of said strip and longitudinally slidable with respect to other parts of said body to facilitate bending said body around corners, and also including transverse stiffening wire means extending approximately straight across the width of said strip when said strip is in flat condition substantially from one of said longitudinal stiffening elements to the other thereof.

22. A window cushioning and guiding strip including a body formed at least in part of woven textile material and having cushioning pad means extending from a face of said material to contact with an adjacent window, said body including two bendable metallic stiffening elements extending longitudinally along said body adjacent opposite marginal edges thereof and longitudinally slidable with respect to other parts of said body to facilitate bending said body around corners, said body also including transverse stiffening wire means extending across the width of said strip from one of said longitudinal stiffening elements to the other and extending around both of said elements in embracing relation thereto.

23. A window mounting and cushioning construction comprising a strip including woven textile material and having metallic wire means extending generally transversely with respect to the strip to stiffen it in a transverse direction, said strip having relatively long stiff pile on one side of said strip and projecting therefrom to contact with a window, and a readily bendable metallic element of relatively small cross section running longitudinally along said strip to stiffen the same and slidable longitudinally relatively to said strip so that said strip may be readily bent.

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