June 14, 1966 L. EDELSON ETAL 3,256,038

TENSIONING DEVICE FOR FABRIC COVERS

Filed Sept. 15, 1964

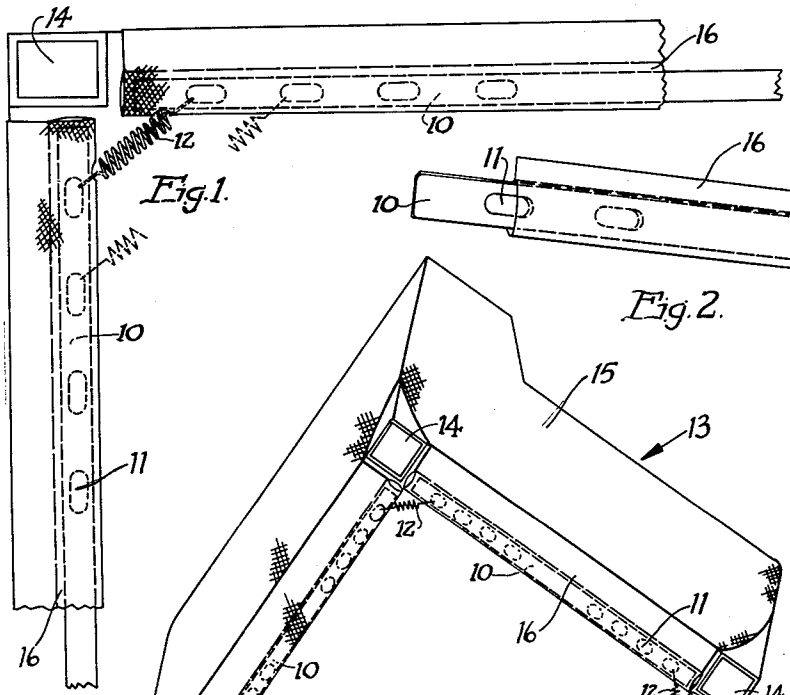


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

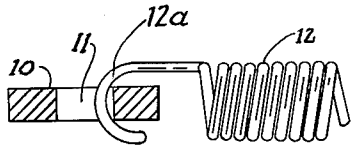


Fig. 4.

INVENTORS

Leo Edelson & Joseph Maca

BY

Arthur A. March

ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 3,256,038 Patented June 14, 1966

3,256,038

TENSIONING DEVICE FOR FABRIC COVERS

Leo Edelson, 1015 Old Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, N.Y., and Joseph Maca, 81 Frankel Road, Massapequa, N.Y.

Filed Sept. 15, 1964, Ser. No. 396,665
1 Claim. (Cl. 297—226)

This invention relates to a tensioning device for fabric covers and more specifically to a device for maintaining fabric covers in position under constant tension to prevent unsightly wrinkles and bulges and to inhibit movement of the cover.

Heretofore, attempts have been made to provide means for holding fabric covers in position on furniture or similar items. However, for the most part they comprised weighted objects or means for physically affixing the cover to the furniture and did not provide a constant tensioning positive arrangement to hold the cover in position at all times and under all circumstances. In addition, the prior art devices often caused damage to the cover itself due to its physical attachment to the furniture.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a tensioning device for locking fabric covers in position on furniture and the like which maintains the cover in a wrinkle-free, neat and attractive position at all times under substantially all circumstances.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a fabric cover tensioning device which is so constructed as to maintain the cover under constant tension.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a balanced system fabric cover tensioning device wherein forces applied to any area of the fabric cover will be distributed around the entire tensioning device.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a fabric cover tensioning device which may be readily and easily applied and removed from the cover itself with the consequent benefits.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a fabric cover tensioning device which is concealed from view.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a fabric cover tensioning device which is very economical to fabricate and assemble and may be used in connection with existing fabric covers as well as those of new manufacture.

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a cut-away portion of the tensioning device of the present invention shown in position on the fabric cover on the underside of a chair;

FIG. 2 is a view of a portion of one of the rigid members in position in the pocket of the fabric cover;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the tensioning device in position; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged view of the interconnecting resilient and rigid members of the tensioning device.

Referring specifically to the drawings, it will be noted that the tensioning device of the present invention comprises a plurality of substantially rigid members **10** illustrated in the form of elongate bars. It will be understood, of course, that these members may be made in the configuration shown, or in any other suitable shape, as for example, in tubular or other form. The bars, or slats **10**, are provided with a plurality of holes **11** located at predetermined positions. A resilient member **12** shown in the form of a coil spring provided with a hook portion **12***a* is adapted to engage the openings **11** in the slats **10** for the purposes hereinafter set forth.

As illustrated, the tensioning device is used in connection with a chair **13** having legs **14** and more particularly with the fabric in slip cover **15** over said chair. The fabric cover **15** has a free hanging lower edge therearound which is provided with a pocket structure **16** adapted to

accommodate the slats **10**. It will be understood that while the fabric cover shown as preformed pockets, it is possible to form the pockets at the time of affixation of the tensioning device by simply wrapping and affixing the free edge of the cover around the slat **10**.

As shown, the slats **10** are disposed within the pockets **16**. Each of the springs **12** is so constructed that its hook-like portion **12***a* passes through the fabric of the pocket **16** and engages in the openings **11** in the slats within said pockets. In the illustrated embodiment, each end of the spring **12** is hooked into the hole immediately adjacent the end of each slat **10**. In accordance with the invention, the tension on the fabric cover will be constant no matter what pressures are exerted on various areas of the fabric cover for the pressures are distributed around the complete tensioning device and not on any individual slat or spring. In the event additional tension is desired, as for example, with a new fabric cover before shrinkagfe, it is only necessary to affix the spring to openings **11** more remote from the ends of the slats **10**, as shown in dotted lines in FIG. 1. Larger distances between the holes **11**, engaged by the springs **12**, cause greater tension to be expected, on the fabric cover.

It will be understood that while the springs **12** pass through the pocket **16** of the fabric cover, there will be no tearing action, for the springs engage the slats **11** and the pull of the spring is on the slat rather than the cover. The spring shown is only for illustrative purposes and other formations of resilient members may be utilized, as for example, swivel springs or the like.

The arrangement of the present invention is such that, the tensioning device is carried completely below the furniture and is therefore hidden from normal view.

According to the present invention, the fabrication of the slats is very simple for, one long bar may be produced with the desired standard apertures and then cut to the desired lengths.

The foregoing specification is illustrative of the invention and in no way intended to limit the scope thereof. Modifications and variations may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claim.

We claim:

A cover for an article of furniture and tensioning means for the cover to hold it in place on an article of furniture, said cover being adapted to fit over an article of furniture having a front, back, opposing sides and a bottom, said cover having side sections adapted to overlie the front, back and sides of an article of furniture and said side sections having substantially right angularly related lower end portions defining flaps adapted to be folded under the bottom of an article of furniture, a pocket provided in each of said flaps and extending the full length thereof, said tensioning means including a plurality of individual rigid members sleeved in said pockets, each of said members fitting into one of said pockets, respectively and having a length substantially as great as the length of its respective pocket, said members being arranged in substantially right angular relationship and having adjoining end portions, each end portion being formed with a plurality of apertures spaced along the axis of the member, and a plurality of resilient tensioning members, each tensioning member having opposing hook ends engageable in one of the apertures in the adjoining end portions of the rigid members and being disposed diagonally of the adjoining end portions to connect said end portions and exert diagonal force to draw the end portions toward each other whereby adjustable tension may be exerted on the rigid members with the pressures distributed evenly around all of the rigid members achieving constant even tension on the cover.

(References on following page)

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,212,485	8/1940	Krasnor	297—224
2,383,687	8/1945	Saltz	297—226
2,589,901	3/1952	Van Doren	297—218
2,644,508	7/1953	Weill	297—218

2,727,253	12/1955	Tomsic	5—335
2,791,784	5/1957	Tomsic	5—354

FOREIGN PATENTS

895,550	5/1962	Great Britain.

FRANK B. SHERRY, *Primary Examiner.*
F. K. ZUGEL, *Assistant Examiner.*