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FASCIA BOARD AND END FITTING THEREFOR

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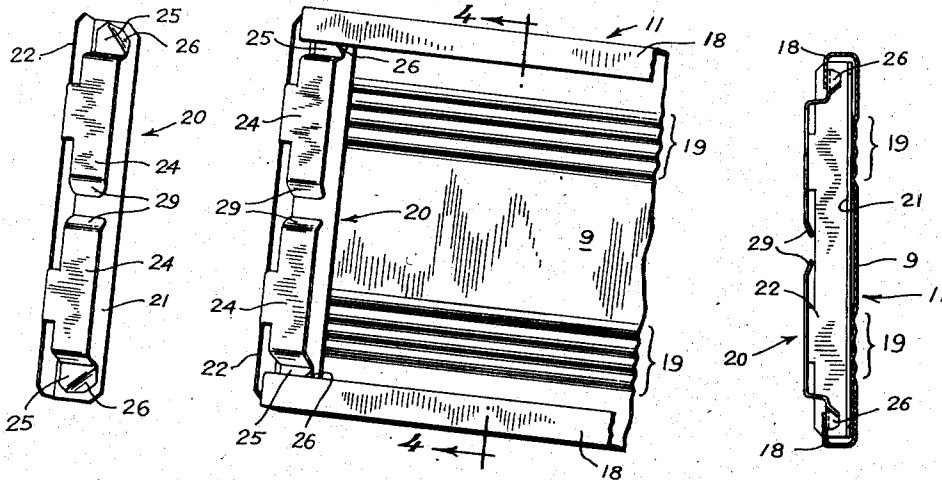


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

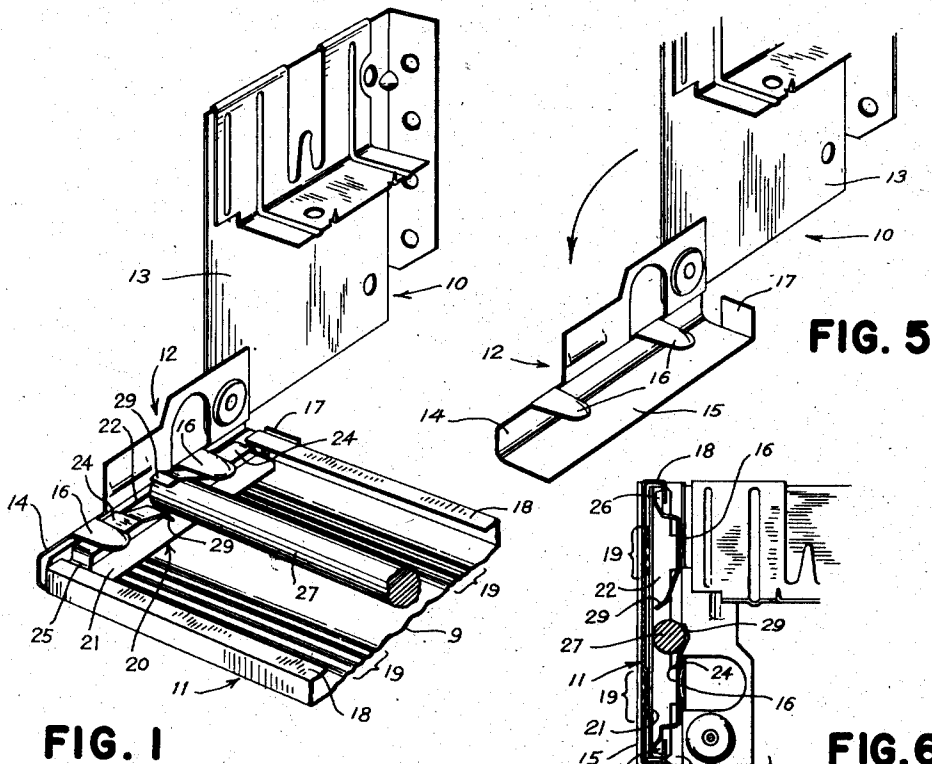


FIG. 1

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

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FASCIA BOARD AND END FITTING
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This invention relates to Venetian blinds and more particularly to fascia boards used in conjunction with such blinds.

It is customary to provide a fascia board or valance extending in front of the usual head bar and tilt bar of a Venetian blind, to conceal these and certain related parts and thus enhance the appearance of the blind. The fascia board or valance, which is a wide strip of small thickness, is often carried by the so-called installation brackets which support the head bar of the blind.

In the above-described organization, a fascia carrier is provided on the front of each of the installation brackets for supporting the ends of the fascia board. The fascia board carrier is usually pivoted to a front corner of the installation bracket and may comprise a front flange and one or more fingers or flanges behind and generally parallel to the front flange for retaining a fascia board therebetween. An installation bracket embodying this form of carrier is shown in the accompanying drawings and is also shown and described in my copending application S. N. 623,970, which has matured into Patent No. 2,473,293.

Fascia boards have commonly been made of wood, but fascias or valances have also been made of sheet metal. When made of sheet metal, they have in common parlance still been called fascia "boards"; and such terminology will be used herein.

The fascia carriers of the installation brackets which have been referred to previously are adapted for wooden fascia boards of rectangular cross section. In the form shown of the present invention, metal fascia boards having inturned upper and lower edges have been adapted for use with the same installation bracket without any change whatsoever in the bracket. This is accomplished by the provision of an end fitting for each end of the metal fascia board, the fitting telescopically engaging with the fascia board and building the end portions of the board to suitable thickness for proper engagement of the fascia board with the installation brackets. In addition, these end fittings are provided with deformable flanges for retaining the ends of a curtain rod that is supported behind the fascia board, the curtain rod serving to support curtains in the usual manner. For convenience, the fitting and fascia board are described herein as in their oriented installed position.

Among the objects of the present invention are to provide an end fitting for a metal fascia board that will adapt the fascia board for use with an

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installation bracket of existing design that has heretofore been used with wooden fascia boards, that will resiliently engage the metal fascia board, that will aid in engagement of the fascia board with an installation bracket, that will serve to retain a curtain rod in back of the fascia board, and that may be rapidly and economically manufactured as a sheet metal stamping.

Further objects and objects relating to details and economies of construction, manufacture and use will more definitely appear from the detailed description to follow.

My invention is clearly defined in the appended claims. In the claims, as well as in the description, parts may be identified at times by specific names for clarity and convenience, but such nomenclature is to be understood as having the broadest meaning consistent with the context and with the concept of my invention as distinguished from the pertinent prior art. The best form in which I have contemplated applying my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part of this specification, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the organization of a Venetian blind installation bracket, a portion of a fascia board and a curtain rod, the end fitting of the present invention being assembled with the fascia board. In this view, the fascia board carrier of the bracket is in open position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view, on a larger scale, of the end fitting shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view, on the scale of Fig. 2, of the end portion of the fascia board organization shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a portion of the installation bracket shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is a vertical cross section through the fascia board and curtain rod in installed position, the end fitting and a portion of the installation bracket appearing in elevation.

The present invention is adapted for use in the securing of metal fascia boards to installation brackets for Venetian blinds. In the accompanying drawings, only the left-hand bracket and left-hand end portion of the fascia board has been shown. It is to be understood that the organization at the other end of the fascia board is similar, the installation bracket there used being the same as shown in the accompanying drawings but of opposite hand.

Referring now to Fig. 1, the present invention

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is shown applied to an organization including an installation bracket generally indicated as 10 and a fascia board assembly designated as a whole by 11. The installation bracket 10 is provided with a fascia board carrier 12 pivoted to the lower front portion of the bracket body 13. This fascia board carrier comprises a side flange 14 pivotally connected with the bracket body 13 and a front flange 15, the carrier being adapted to be oscillated between the positions shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

A pair of rear fingers or flanges 16, 16 project from the side flange 14 behind and generally parallel to the front flange 15. The front flange 15, rear flanges 16, 16 and a bottom flange 17 which projects rearwardly from the front flange serve to retain the end portion of the fascia board assembly 11. The installation bracket 10 is similar to that disclosed in my copending application S. N. 623,970 to which reference is made for a more detailed description of the bracket and its use for supporting a conventional fascia board.

The fascia board assembly 11 consists of a fascia board strip 9 and two end fittings such as 20. The board 9 is formed from a relatively rigid metal strip of indeterminate length which is cut to the length desired. This fascia board has a channel-shaped cross section as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4, the strip being formed with longitudinal edges 18, 18 which are turned rearwardly and then inwardly as shown in Fig. 4. This gives the board, when viewed from the front, much the appearance of a wooden fascia board. The rearwardly- and inwardly-turned edges 18, 18 of the fascia board not only enhance its appearance, but also contribute materially to the rigidity of the board. In addition, longitudinal beads or corrugations 19 extending along the front of the fascia board further enhance its appearance and further reinforce the board.

To adapt the end portions of the fascia board 9 for engagement with the fascia board carrier 12 of the installation bracket 10, the end fitting 20, best shown in Fig. 2, is employed. The end fitting 20 is adapted to be telescoped into the ends of the fascia board 9 for this purpose.

The end fitting 20, which is reversible for insertion into either end of the fascia board, comprises a sheet metal body having a flat face or flange 21 adapted to lie transversely along the rear side of the fascia board 9 and within the intumed edges 18, 18. A flange 22, which is substantially perpendicular to flange 21, extends rearwardly from the flange 21 and closes substantially the entire end of the fascia board 9. The flange 22 extends rearwardly sufficiently so as to engage the ends of the inwardly-turned edges 18, 18 of the fascia board 9 (Figs. 3 and 4) and thus limit telescoping movement of the end fitting 20 within the end of the fascia board.

A pair of inwardly-turned rear flanges 24, 24 extends from the rearward edge of the flange 22 behind and generally parallel to the face 21 of the end fitting. These flanges have a general T form, being attached by the stem of the T to the flange 22. The proportions of the end fitting 20 are such that when it is applied to the end of the fascia board 9, the total thickness between the front face of the fascia board and the rear of the flanges 24, 24 is approximately equal to the thickness of a wooden fascia board customarily used with Venetian blinds and shown in my above-mentioned application S. N. 623,970. The relationship of the assembled end fitting 20

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and fascia board 9 to the fascia board carrier 12 will be explained later.

The outer ends 25, 25 of the flanges 24, 24 are stepped forwardly toward the face 21 of the end fitting so that these ends of the flanges may be inserted beneath the intumed edges 18, 18 of the fascia board 9. To facilitate such insertion, the entering corners 26, 26 of these flanges are inclined forwardly toward the face 21 of the end fitting 20. Preferably the parts are so proportioned that upon the end fitting 20 being telescoped into the end of the fascia board 9, the flanges 24, 24 are flexed toward flange 21 and, due to the resiliency of the end fitting, frictional holding engagement is established between the end fitting and the fascia board.

The fascia board assembly 11, having an end fitting 20 in each end of the board 9, may be inserted within the fascia board carrier 12 of the installation bracket 10 when the fascia board carrier is in open position as shown in Figs. 1 and 5. To insert the fascia board assembly, the front face of the board is placed on the rear face of the front flange 15 of the carrier and the fascia board assembly slid edgewise into the carrier between the front flange and the flanges 16, 16 until the board engages the bottom flange 17 of the carrier. This insertion of the fascia board assembly 11 is accomplished similarly to the insertion of a conventional wooden fascia board.

Upon insertion of the fascia board assembly 11 into the carrier 12 as shown in Fig. 1, the mid portions of the flanges 24, 24 are located directly beneath the flanges 16, 16 of the carrier 12, thereby retaining the fascia board against the front flange 15 of the carrier.

The two end fittings 20 of the fascia board assembly are also adapted to retain a curtain rod 27 if desired, this curtain rod extending along the rear side of the fascia board 9 and between the rearwardly-extending flanges 22, 22 of the end fittings 20, 20. Each end fitting 20 is initially formed with the flanges 24, 24 and their confronting ends 29, 29 in the relationship shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4. To prepare the end fitting to receive the curtain rod, the upper end 29 is bent forwardly out of the way to the position shown in Fig. 6, and the lower end 29 is bent rearwardly sufficiently to receive the curtain rod as shown in Fig. 6. If the lower end 29 is bent correctly, it will receive the curtain rod with a snap engagement.

The bending of the confronting ends 29, 29 of the flanges 24, 24 to receive the curtain rod is done at the time of installation, rather than at the time of manufacture of the end fittings, because the end fittings at the two ends are duplicates and are inserted in reversed relationship. Thus, the flange end 29 which is uppermost at one end of the board assembly, is the one which is lowermost at the other end of the board assembly.

The above-described end fitting serves as an economical and easily manufactured and applied fitting for adapting a metal fascia board for engagement with an installation bracket designed for use with a wooden fascia board, thus making it unnecessary to manufacture and stock different forms of installation brackets for use with wooden and metal fascia boards.

I claim:

1. An end fitting for adapting a sheet metal Venetian blind fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the

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top and bottom and rear faces thereof for support by a bracket having spaced, generally parallel fascia board engaging flanges, said end fitting comprising a metal stamping having spaced, generally parallel flanges telescopically engageable with the fascia board with one flange lying against the front face of the fascia board and a pair of resilient rear flanges adapted to be engaged beneath the intumed longitudinal edges of the fascia board and projecting centrally from the ends of the fitting for engagement by a fascia board engaging flange of the bracket.

2. An end fitting for a sheet metal Venetian blind fascia board having a flat front face and rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof, said end fitting comprising a sheet metal stamping having a front flange and a pair of spaced, aligned, generally parallel resilient rear flanges adapted to be telescoped within the end of the fascia board with the front flange against the front face of the fascia board and the rear flanges adapted to be engaged beneath the intumed longitudinal edges of the board, said rear flanges extending centrally from the ends of for fitting to form an extension of the rear face of the fascia board, and an end portion joining the front and rear flanges of the fitting and projecting beyond the rear flanges to limit the telescoping movement within the end of the fascia board.

3. An end fitting for a sheet metal Venetian blind fascia board having a flat front face and rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof, said end fitting comprising a sheet metal stamping having a front flange and a pair of spaced, aligned, generally parallel resilient rear flanges, each rear flange extending to an end of the fitting, the fitting being adapted to be telescoped within the end of the fascia board with the front flange against the front face of the fascia board and the rear flanges engaged beneath the intumed longitudinal edges of the board, said rear flanges extending centrally from the ends of the fitting to form an extension of the rear face of the fascia board and having inwardly-directed inner end portions for receiving and supporting a curtain rod behind the fascia board.

4. An end fitting for a Venetian blind fascia board, said fitting comprising a metal stamping adapted to telescope within the end of a sheet metal fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and said end fitting having front and side flanges for extending across the rear face and the end respectively of the fascia board and a pair of rear flanges extending behind and generally parallel to the front flange and joined to the rear edge of the side flange intermediate of their length, the outer end portions of the rear flanges being located at the ends of the fitting and engageable beneath the inwardly-directed edges of the fascia board.

5. An end fitting for a Venetian blind fascia board, said fitting comprising a metal stamping adapted to telescope within the end of a sheet metal fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length, said end fitting having front and side flanges for extending

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across the rear face and the end respectively of the fascia board and a pair of rear flanges extending behind and generally parallel to the front flange and joined to the rear edge of the side flange intermediate of their length, the outer end portions of the rear flanges being located at the ends of the fitting and stepped towards the front flange for engagement beneath the inwardly-directed edges of the fascia board and the inside end portions of said flanges being deflectable to engage a curtain rod between one of the rear flanges and the front flange of the fitting.

6. A fascia board assembly, comprising a sheet metal fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof and an end fitting having a pair of spaced, generally parallel flanges telescoped within an end of the fascia board and lying against the front and rear faces thereof, and rearward one of the pair of spaced flanges extending centrally of the fascia board to form an extension of the rear face thereof.

7. A fascia board assembly, comprising a sheet metal fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof and an end fitting having a pair of spaced, generally parallel flanges telescoped within an end of the fascia board and resiliently engaging the front and rear faces thereof, the rearward one of the pair of spaced flanges extending centrally of the fascia board to form an extension of the rear face thereof, and an end flange joining the spaced flanges and engaged with the end of the fascia board to limit the telescoping of the fitting within the fascia board.

8. An end fitting for a Venetian blind fascia board, said fitting comprising: a unitary sheet metal stamping adapted to telescope within an end of a fascia board having rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length, said end fitting having front and side flanges for extending across the rear of the front face and the end of the fascia board, respectively, and a pair of rear flanges extending behind and generally parallel to the front flange and joined to the rear edge of the side flange at a point remote from the outer ends thereof, the outer end portions of the rear flanges being located at the ends of the fitting and stepped towards the front flange for engagement beneath the inwardly-directed edges of the fascia board.

9. An end fitting for a sheet metal Venetian blind fascia board having a flat front face and rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof, an end fitting comprising a unitary sheet metal stamping adapted to telescope within an end of the fascia board, said fitting having a flat front flange adapted to lie against the front face of the fascia board, a side flange adapted to extend across and substantially close the end of the fascia board, and a pair of resilient rear flanges extending from the rear edge of the side flange in generally parallel spaced relation to the front flange, the outer ends of said rear flanges terminating adjacent the ends of the front flange and being connected to the side flange remote from said outer ends.

10. A fascia board assembly, comprising a sheet

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metal fascia board having a front face portion and rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions extending throughout its length and defining the top and bottom and rear faces thereof, and an end fitting having a pair of spaced, generally parallel flanges telescoped within an end of the fascia board and resiliently engaging the front and rear faces thereof and an end flange joining the spaced flanges and engaged with the end of the fascia board to limit the telescoping of the fitting within the fascia board, an outer end of the rearward one of the pair of spaced flanges being engaged beneath the inwardly-directed edge portion of the fascia board at an end thereof, said rearward flange extending centrally of the rear side of the fascia board and having its surface lying in a plane substantially further from the front face portion of the fascia board than the inwardly-directed edge portions of said board.

11. A fascia board assembly, comprising a sheet metal fascia board having a front face portion and rearwardly- and inwardly-directed longitudinal edge portions defining the top and bottom and rear faces at the ends thereof and an end fitting having front and side flanges extending across the rear of the front face and the end of the

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fascia board, respectively, and a pair of rear flanges extending behind and generally parallel to the front flange and joined to the rear edge of the side flange at a point remote from the outer ends thereof, said front and rear flanges being telescoped within an end of the fascia board and resiliently engaging the front and rear faces thereof, the outer end portions of the rear flanges being stepped towards the front flange and engaged beneath the inwardly-directed edges of the fascia board, the rear flanges extending centrally of the rear face of the fascia board and having their rear surfaces lying in a plane substantially further from the front face portion of the fascia board than the inwardly-directed edge portions of said board.

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