

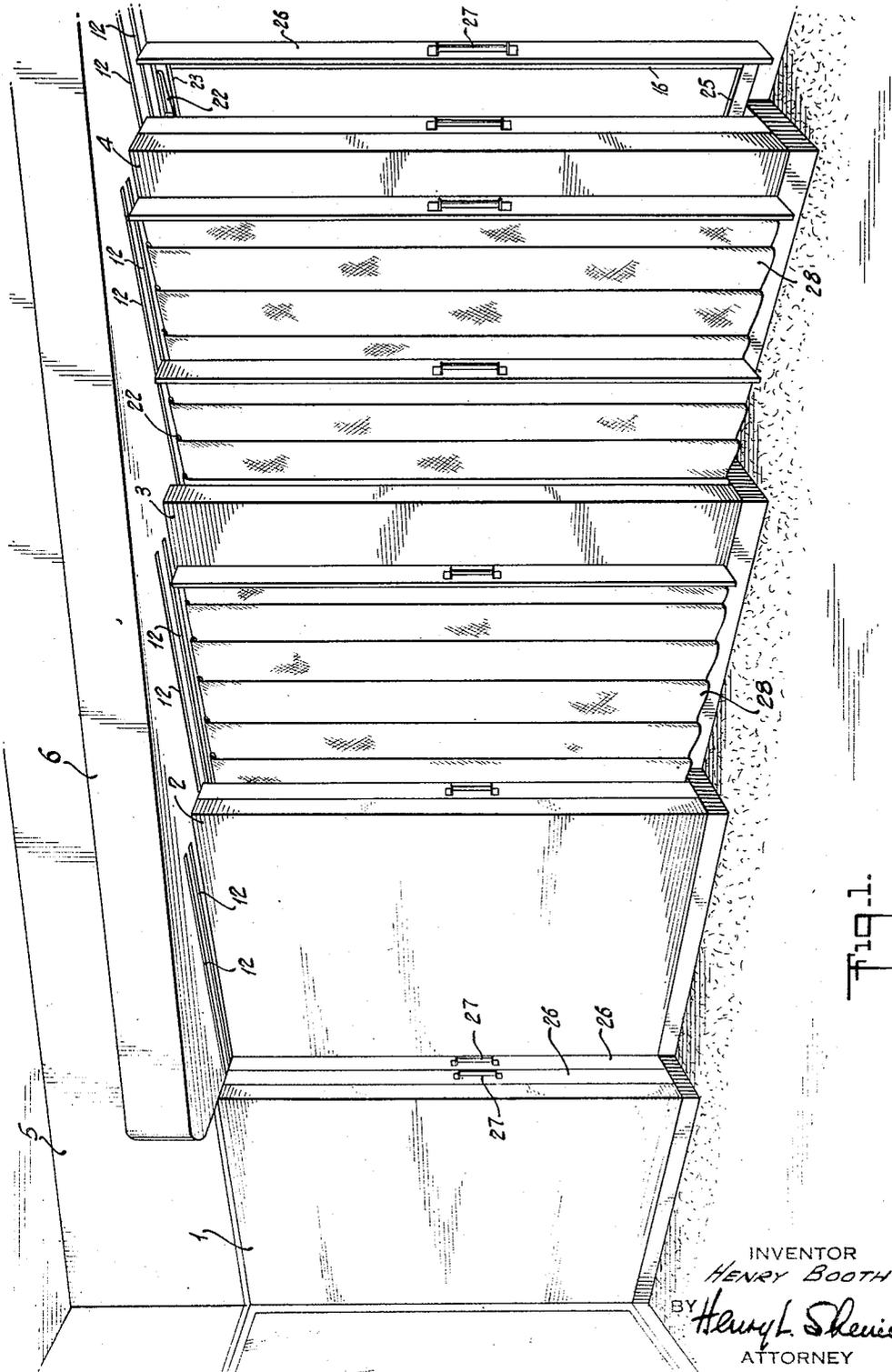
April 3, 1951

H. BOOTH
CLOTH RACK

2,547,368

Filed Sept. 28, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 2.

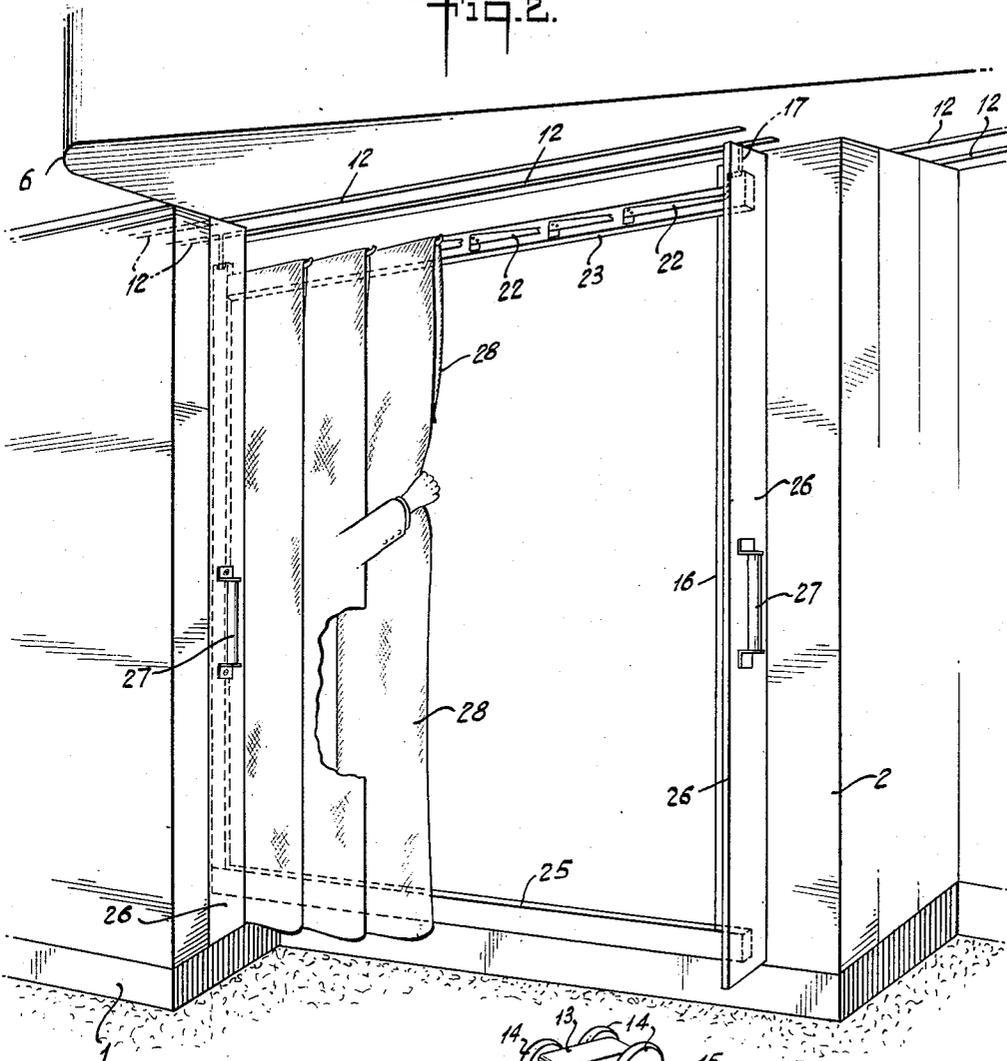
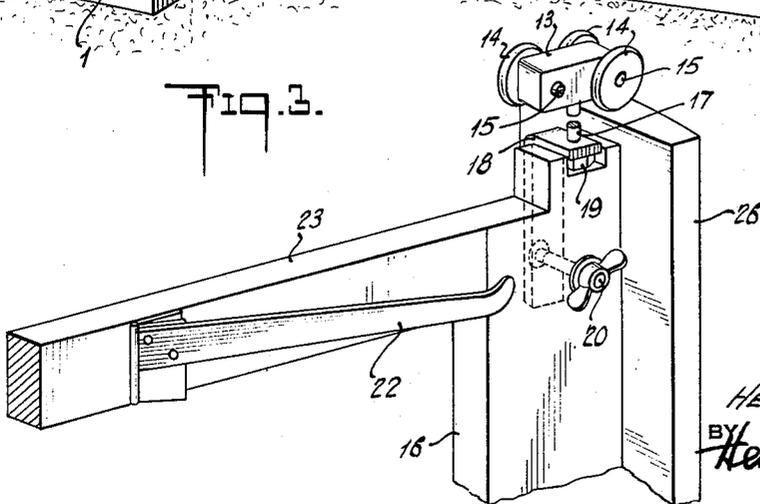


Fig. 3.



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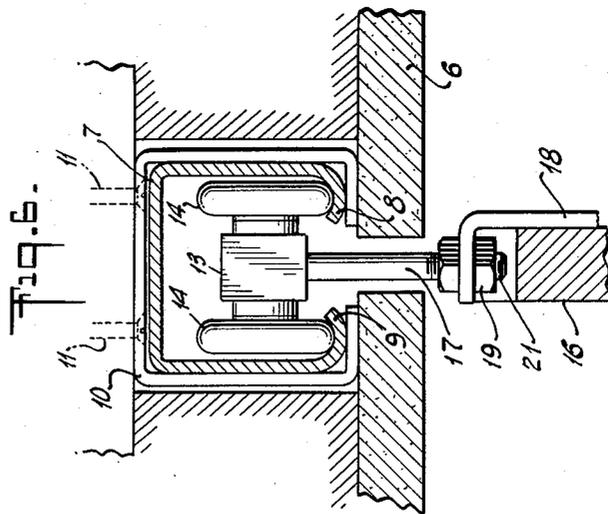
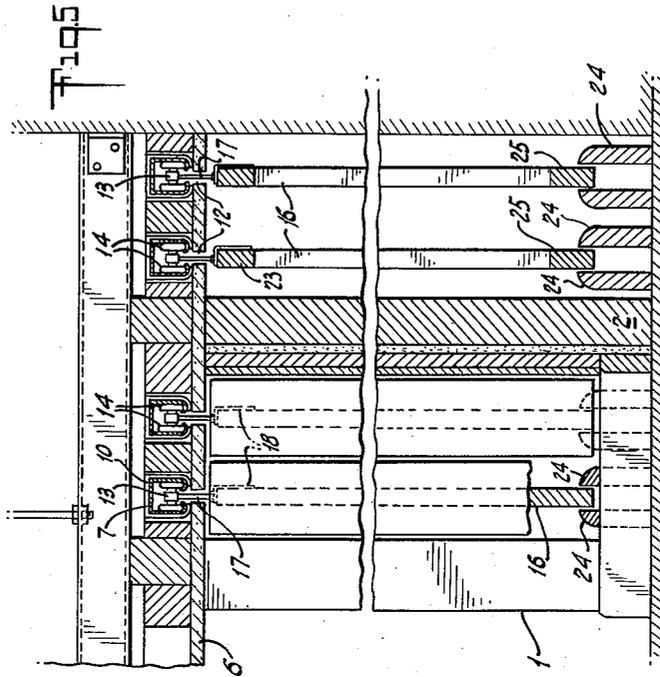
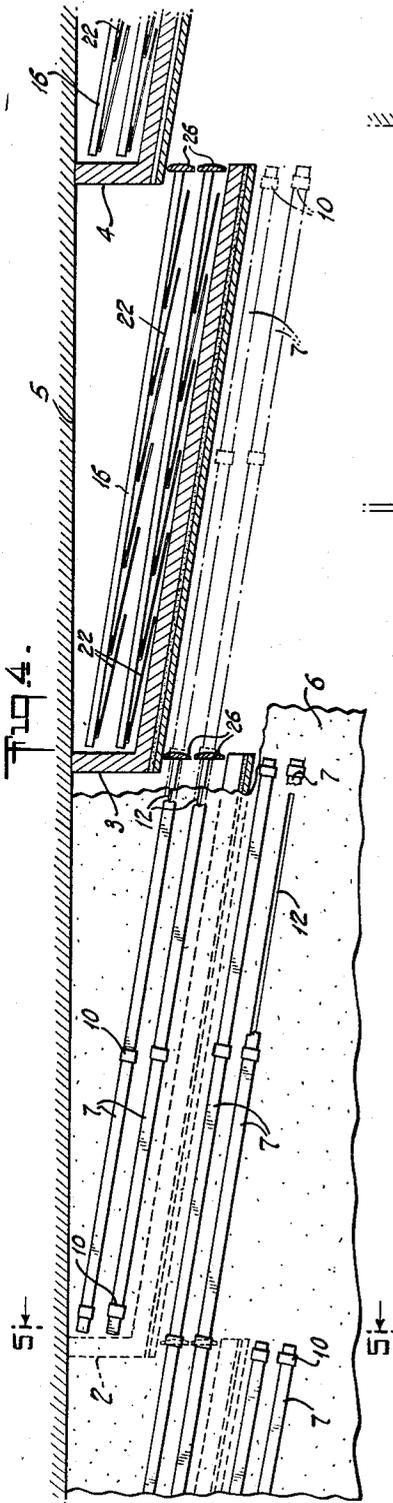
April 3, 1951

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Filed Sept. 28, 1946

3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,547,368

CLOTH RACK

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Application September 28, 1946, Serial No. 700,124

4 Claims. (Cl. 312—198)

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My invention relates to cloth racks and more particularly to a combined display and storage rack for housing lengths of fabrics in a convenient, expeditious, space-saving and eye-appealing manner.

Heretofore in the establishments of merchant tailors, bolts of fabrics were stored on shelves. When the tailor desired to show cloth to a prospective customer, it was necessary for him to remove a bolt and unroll a length of cloth for the customer's inspection. This is a time-consuming and burdensome task and fails to display the cloth to its best advantage. Furthermore, the bolts of cloth become dusty and frequently become soiled from handling. Due to the difficulty of handling bolts of cloth, the practice of showing swatches was adopted by many tailors. A fragment of cloth, however, fails to display the overall effect of the texture, color and design of the fabric or to create the impression conveyed by a broad expanse of fabric such as would be presented by a suit of clothes. Frequently customers find that they dislike a suiting in finished form which they liked when viewed as a small sample.

One object of my invention is to provide an improved cloth rack housing lengths of cloth in a convenient and accessible manner.

Another object of my invention is to provide an improved cloth rack for displaying lengths of fabric, each of which is of sufficient length for a suit of clothes for ready and accessible inspection by a prospective customer.

Another object of my invention is to provide a cloth rack for displaying a large number of different fabrics in a manner to maintain the fabrics clean and free from dust.

A further object of my invention is to provide a combined cloth housing and display rack which will occupy a minimum area in a merchant tailor's establishment.

Other and further objects of my invention will appear from the following description.

In general my invention contemplates the provision of a plurality of angularly disposed housings adjacent a wall of a merchant tailor's establishment, sales room or the like. Each housing is provided with one or several sliding panels or frames. Each panel is provided with means for supporting a length of suiting sufficient for a suit of clothes. The supporting means I prefer are hinged brackets adjacent the top of each frame. The brackets overlap so that a large number of lengths of cloth may be supported from a single panel. The pivoting of the bracket will permit a particular length of cloth to be inspected in detail. When not in use the panel is adapted to be rolled into its housing.

In the accompanying drawings which form part of the instant specification and which are

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to be read in conjunction therewith and in which like reference numerals are used to indicate like parts in the various views,

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved cloth rack with various panels in housed and partially opened positions.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of my improved rack showing the panel construction.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view of a detail of a panel drawn on an enlarged scale.

Figure 4 is a top plan view with parts in section.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Figure 4 drawn on an enlarged scale.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the panel supporting structure.

More particularly, referring now to the drawings, I provide a plurality of angularly disposed housings 1, 2, 3 and 4, constructed adjacent a wall 5 of a display room. In the ceiling of the room or in a false ceiling 6, I support, in any suitable manner, a plurality of channel irons 7 having their lower ends 8 and 9 bent upwardly to form tracks as can readily be seen by reference to Figures 5 and 6. The track channels 7 are shown supported by brackets 10 which are bolted to the overhead building structure by means of bolts 11. The overhead structure which may be the ceiling or false ceiling 6 is provided with a plurality of slots 12 to permit the panel suspension to slide freely into and out of the housing along the tracks.

A plurality of carriages 13 are supported by a number of wheels 14 journaled on suitable axles 15. The wheels 14 are adapted to ride in the guideways 7. Panels or frames 16 are supported from the carriages 13 by means of suspension rods 17. Secured to each end of the frame or panel 16 in any suitable manner as by bolts 20, are a pair of brackets 18. As can readily be seen by reference to Figures 3 and 6, the brackets 18 are secured to the suspension rods 17 of the carriages 13 by nuts 19, the lower ends of the suspension rods being threaded at 21. A plurality of hinged brackets or hangers 22 are secured to the upper rail 23 of each frame 16, as can readily be seen by reference to Figures 2 and 3. The brackets are positioned so that they normally overlap one another as shown in Figure 4. Each bracket may be of any desired length though I prefer to make each bracket about the length of half of the width of a bolt of cloth. The length of the frame or panel is such that a length of suiting, say 3½ yards to 4 yards, suitable for one suit of clothes, may be readily draped over each hanger.

Within each housing I provide guide members 24 into which the lower rails 25 of the frames or panels depend. The guide rail limits the amplitude of motion of the lower rails of the frames

though the clearance between the guide members 24 and the lower rails is sufficient for frictionless movement.

For purposes of illustration and not by way of limitation, I have shown each housing with two sliding frames. It is to be understood that a single sliding frame may be employed or a greater number than two if desired. Similarly, any suitable number of housings may be employed, the only limitation being the length of the wall along which they are to be installed.

The end of each sliding frame carries a closure strip 26 of such width that when the sliding frames are in housed position, adjacent closure strips 26 will close the end of the housing in a comparatively dustproof relation. Each closure strip carries a handle 27 so that frame may be readily pulled out to display its burden.

In use the panels or frames are pulled out one at a time and lengths of cloth 28 are draped on the hangers 22 such that the lengths of cloth hang the full length of the panel. The upper end of each cloth length may be pinned, basted or secured in any suitable manner. Each frame is filled and my improved rack is ready for use. Normally at night or when the establishment is closed the racks are slid to housed position as shown in Figure 1 by the racks in housing 1. A length of fabric on an individual hanger may be readily inspected by swinging the bracket hanger away from the rail. The brackets extend in such direction that should one or more be inadvertently extended, the sliding of the panel to housed position will automatically swing the bracket adjacent the rail. The entire stock of fabrics can be inspected very quickly, simply and conveniently. The labor of carrying bolts of cloth is eliminated. The risk of soiling cloth is greatly minimized inasmuch as the inspection is visual and handling is reduced and in some cases eliminated entirely.

It will be observed that I have accomplished the objects of my invention. I have provided a novel, improved cloth rack for displaying fabrics and housing them in a manner to reduce handling. The inspection of a large piece of cloth gives the prospective customer a more accurate appraisal of how a suit of clothes will look when tailored from the fabric. This cannot be conveyed by the inspection of swatches and to a less complete degree by the inspection of the end of a bolt of cloth. If desired a length of fabric can be quickly and easily slid from the end of the hangers 22 and inspected in daylight where a customer wishes such inspection as may be the case in establishments using artificial lighting. My cloth rack occupies a minimum amount of space and eliminates expensive and unappealing shelving. The display of fabrics in my cloth rack enhances the appearance of a tailor's establishment or showroom and saves time not only for the merchant tailor but also for prospective customers who can inspect a large number of fabrics almost at a glance.

It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of my claims. It is further obvious that various changes may be made in details within the scope of my claims without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is

therefore understood that my invention is not to be limited to the specific details shown and described.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A cloth rack including in combination a plurality of housings mounted in substantially vertical position adjacent the side wall of a building structure, a common roof formed with a plurality of elongated slots, said roof extending over the housings, each housing being laterally displaced from its adjacent housing and forming substantially the same angle with the side wall, a plurality of guide tracks mounted above the roof, each guide track extending over and beyond its respective housing and in overlapping relation to an adjacent housing, carriages mounted upon the guide tracks for movement therealong, frames extending through the slots for suspending the frames from the carriages for movement into and out of respective housings, and a plurality of brackets each adapted to support a length of cloth mounted upon each of the frames adjacent the upper portions thereof.

2. A cloth rack as in claim 1 in which the brackets are pivoted and disposed in position to overlap when lying adjacent the frame.

3. A cloth rack as in claim 1 in which each of the frames is provided with a closure strip carried by the frame, the closure strip adapted to close the housing when the frame is moved to housed position.

4. A cloth rack including in combination a plurality of housings, a roof for each housing formed with a plurality of elongated slots, a plurality of guide means positioned above each of the roofs and extending over and beyond each of the housings, carriages mounted on respective guide means for movement therealong, a plurality of frames for each housing, means extending through the slots for suspending respective frames from the carriages for independent movement into and out of each housing, a plurality of brackets carried by respective frames adjacent upper portions thereof for supporting respective lengths of cloth, each of the housing and frame assemblies being disposed adjacent a side wall of a building structure in substantially the same angular relation therewith and positioned substantially adjacent each other so that a frame, when extended, will overlap an adjacent housing.

HENRY BOOTH.

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