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BRACKET FOR VALANCED SHADES

Filed June 22, 1964

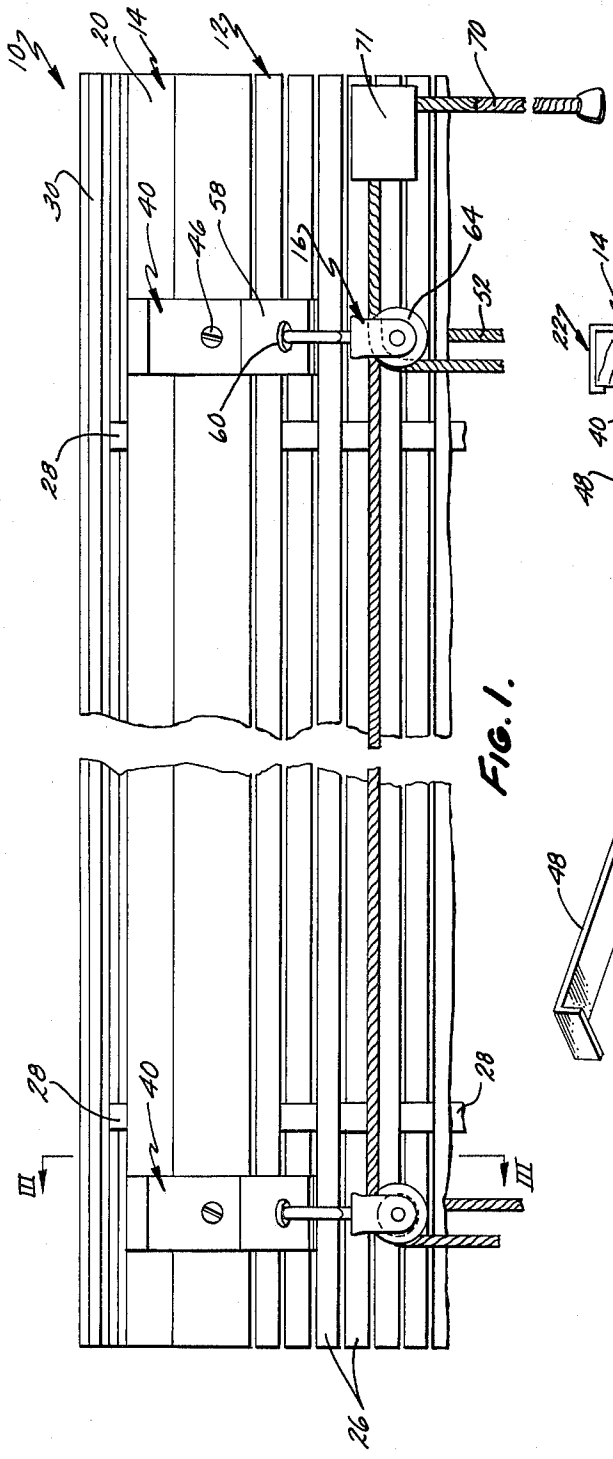


FIG. 1.

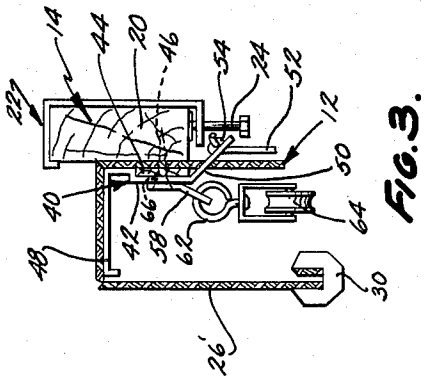


FIG. 3.

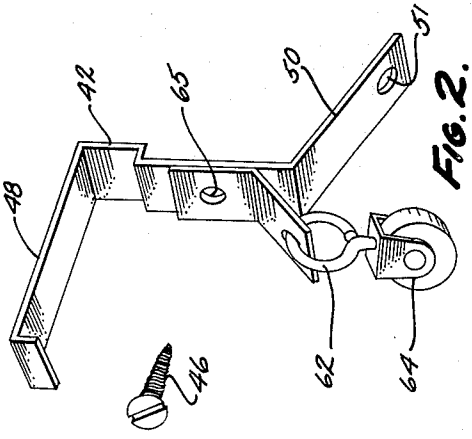


FIG. 2.

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BRACKET FOR VALANCED SHADES

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This invention relates to valance-type shades for windows, porches, and related usage, and particularly relates to a unique bracket structure used in combination with valanced shades.

Roll-up shades composed of a plurality of suspended and interconnected slats, e.g. of wood, conventionally utilize underslung looped cords to controllably roll and unroll the shades for raising and lowering. The shades are mounted at their upper ends, and preferably have an overlapping upper end portion which forms a valance. Such shades require support means for the valance portion in a plane displaced out in front of the plane of the main portion of the shade. They also require mounting means for the cord pulleys mounted between the plane of the shade and that of the valance. They further must have attachment means for the fixed cord ends behind the plane of the major portion of the shade. These mounting and attachment means normally add complexity and manufacturing costs to a highly competitive article, and are therefore disadvantageous.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a novel bracket structure that, when used in pairs, performs the functions of (1) attaching the shade to a mounting beam, (2) suspending the cord pulleys in front of the shade and behind the valance, (3) mounting the fixed cord ends behind the shade, and (4) forming configurated support means for the overlapping shade valance portion. The bracket itself, even though performing all of these functions, is inexpensive to form using conventional techniques and materials. It has a unique construction which considerably lessens the overall cost of the shade.

Another object of this invention is to provide a valance shade assembly enabling simple convenient cut-down of the shade by relocation of a bracket, pulley, valance support and fixed end support of the draw cord, all by removal and reinsertion of one screw.

These and several other objects of this invention will become apparent upon studying the following specification in conjunction with the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational fragmentary view of the top portion of the novel shade, shown with the valance lifted for viewing of the components thereunder;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of one of the two like novel brackets used with this assembly; and

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on plane III—III of FIG. 1, but with the valance lowered in its usual position.

The complete combination **10** includes the shade subassembly **12**, the supporting beam subassembly **14**, and the cord and pulley operating mechanism **16**.

The support beam subassembly **14** basically is centered around a wooden, elongated beam **20**, generally rectangular in cross section. It extends the length of the shade. It is conventionally attached to a portion of the building (not shown) by C-shaped clamps **22**. The clamps **22** are previously screwed to the building structure. Beam **20** is received in the clamps which retain it by threaded tighteners **24**. Beam **20** therefore has an exposed front face for attachment of the shade subassembly.

The shade is composed of a plurality of like, elongated, narrow slats **26**, usually narrow wood splints, but conceivably of other materials forming the shade fabric. These are interconnected by a pair of spaced, vertically

extending seine cords **28** in conventional fashion. It includes a main shade body portion and a forwardly extending and downwardly depending valance portion formed of like slats **26'**. A bottom rail or molding **30** is attached to the lowermost slat of the valance to maintain its position.

The important part of this combination is the pair of novel brackets **40**. Each bracket includes a main body **42** having a slight offset to receive and rest on a spacer **44**. The spacer is secured to beam **20** by nails (not shown) which extend through the woven panel of the shade for partial securement of the shade and for support of the brackets. Securement of each bracket is by a wood screw **46** extending through the bracket. Each is of sheet metal material. Each includes a forwardly extending horizontal flange **48** on the upper end to cause the valance portion of the shade to extend out in front of the main plane of the shade. Also, extending diagonally, rearwardly and downwardly from the body of the bracket is a lower leg **50** which extends between two of the slats of the shade to a position behind the plane of the shade, inclined about 45° to the horizontal. This leg includes an opening **51** which receives the fixed end of one of the draw cords **52**. The cord has a knot **54** above this leg to be fixed thereto so that downward thrust can be applied to the cord. A second, lower, forwardly and downwardly extending diagonal leg **58**, inclined about 45° to the horizontal, terminates between the plane of the main portion of the shade and that of the valance. This leg also includes an opening **60** on its lower end which receives the eye **62** supporting one cord pulley and bracket **64**. This second leg is secured to the main body of the bracket by screw **46** with its opening **65** and the aligned opening **66** in the bracket body. A supplemental spot weld can be used to reinforce the securement between this leg and the bracket body. The screws help attach the bracket to the beam and help secure the shade.

It will be realized that supporting and attachment functions of the components of the shade are performed by this pair of like brackets. Although the brackets were explained specifically in respect to that one shown on the right-hand side of the apparatus in FIG. 1, the bracket on the left-hand side will be attached and function in the same manner. Further, although two are shown and normally used, three or more valance supports may be needed for wide shades.

The two draw cords passing around the two respective pulleys are operably connected with the normal manual pull cord **70** in conventional fashion.

Packaging of the total shade assembly is quite complete so that mounting to beam **20** is achieved merely by attaching the spacer, and then by insertion of two screws **46**. The entire assembly is then mounted and ready to operate. Pulley on the draw cords **70** causes the cords to pass around their respective pulleys which are securely anchored between the plane of the shade and the plane of the valance. A conventional cord lock pulley mechanism **71** is normally employed. The opposite fixed ends of both ropes are simply, yet effectively, anchored by being knotted through openings **51**. The entire structure is attractive, since the operative mechanism and bracket assembly are covered by the valance, which is shaped and supported by a portion of the brackets.

Various additional advantages may readily occur to those skilled in this field upon studying the foregoing form of the structure. Also, it is conceivable that the minor structural changes could be made without departing from the concept taught. The invention is therefore to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a valance-type, roll-up, slatted window shade assembly supported on a beam, and having cords and

pulleys; a plurality of like, integral brackets; each of said brackets having a vertical body with means for attachment to the support beam, an outwardly horizontally protruding upper flange comprising valance shaping and supporting means, a backwardly projecting lower leg extending through the slats of the shade and having means receiving the fixed end of one cord, and a forwardly projecting lower leg between the shade and valance having means engaging and supporting the pulleys.

2. In a valance-type, roll-up window shade having a pair of underslung roll-up cord means looped under the shade and passing around a pair of suspended pulleys, and a support beam for suspending the shade; a plurality of spaced like support brackets, each having a body portion secured through said shade to said beam, and a forwardly projecting upper flange supporting the upper shade portion out away from the main portion of said shade to cause the latter to form a valance; threaded fastener means securing said brackets to said beam

against said shade; each of said brackets having a diagonally, downwardly, rearwardly extending leg projecting through said shade and having a fixed cord end attached thereto; each bracket also having a diagonally, downwardly, forwardly extending leg between said valance and main shade portion, interfitted with and suspending a cord pulley; and each of said latter legs having an opening also receiving said threaded fastener means.

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