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FOLD RETAINING MEANS FOR DRAPERIES

Filed March 16, 1961

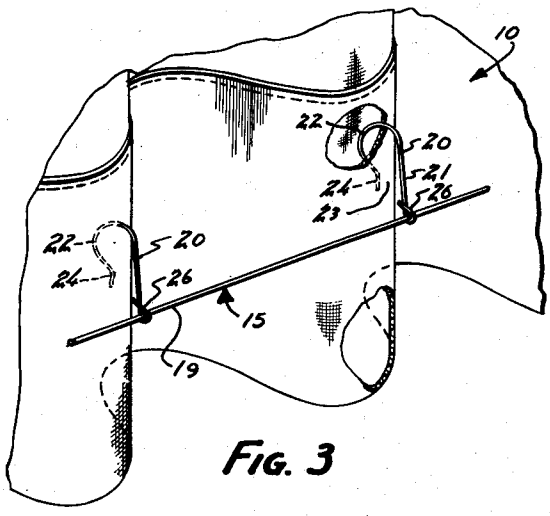


FIG. 3

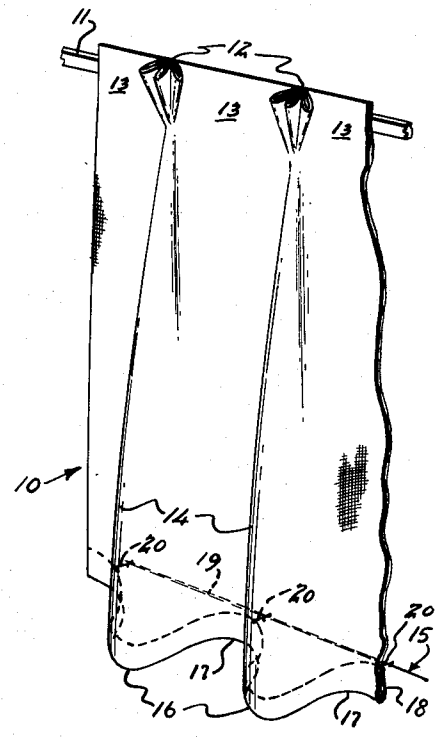


FIG. 1

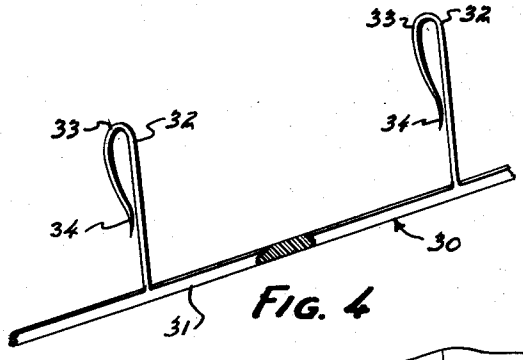


FIG. 4

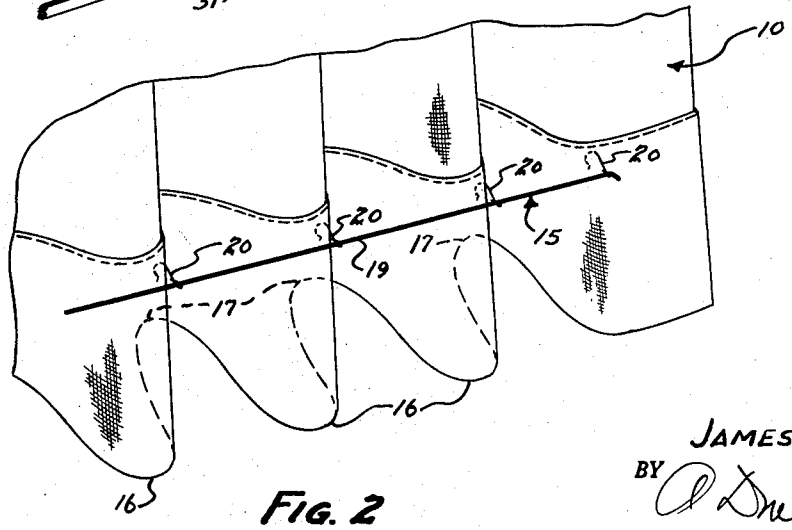


FIG. 2

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FOLD RETAINING MEANS FOR DRAPERIES

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1 Claim. (Cl. 160—349)

This invention relates to improvements in hangings such as curtains and drapes. More particularly, my invention relates to a novel stabilizing means for forming and retaining folds of uniform shape in hung draperies.

In the manufacture of draperies, the drapery material is generally gathered and sewed together at evenly spaced intervals along the top edge to form tucks or pleats. It is the purpose of these pleats to form downwardly extending folds of substantially uniform shape when the drapes are installed. These folds are an essential factor in providing the eye-pleasing appearance of the drapes. It has long been a problem in the art to provide draperies having uniform folds which will extend the full height of the drape and assume the same position each time the drape is extended along a traverse rod. With some types of material the folds may be established at least semi-permanently by pressing the pleats along the full length of the drape and bundling them together for a period of time to pre-form creases or folds before installing the drapes. However, with many types of drapery fabrics, especially in the new synthetic cloth materials such as fiber glass fabrics, this practice is not effective, and no amount of pre-pressing or bundling can form folds which will remain for even a short period of time in the drapery material. Thus, prior to my invention, the use of these fabrics was greatly limited because even with pleats sewed along the upper edge in the standard manner, the drapes would not hang with uniform folds that are essential to the attractive appearance of the drapes.

It is therefore one object of my invention to provide a novel stabilizing means for holding together draperies at predetermined intervals along their width so that uniformly shaped folds will be formed and retained permanently when the drapes are installed and extended along the traverse. The invention may be used with draperies having pleats of any suitable type that are permanently sewed along the top edge of the drape. In general, the invention provides a novel, flexible cord or thread, having attached hook-like members spaced along the cord for connecting it to the bottom edge of the drapes. The hook-like members on the cord or the thread may be connected to the drapes along the edges of the folds, preferably midway between the permanent top pleats. The fold-stabilizing cord is preferably attached in the rear lower side of the drapery, and with such an arrangement, it will never be visible and cannot detract from the appearance of the drape.

Another object of the invention is to provide a fold forming and stabilizing means that may be rapidly and easily attached to the drapery material without having to be sewed to it. One of the problems in manufacturing draperies is that of fitting the area to be covered with a certain size of material and with evenly spaced pleats and folds. Frequently alterations must be made by changing pleats to take-up or provide more material. Each change can effect the position of the fold between pleats and therefore the exact point of attaching the fold stabilizing cord will also shift. An important feature of my invention is that the fold stabilizing cord can be quickly and easily removed and adjusted to a new position when the situation calls for it, without having to remove and sew stitches or by using any other time-consuming procedure. In accordance with the principles of the invention, the hook-like connecting means attached to the stabilizing cord are shaped so that in assembly they can be quickly hooked to the drapery fabric with one simple hand movement. Also, when necessary, they can be easily removed without damaging the drapery fabric.

Another object of the invention is to provide a quick connecting means for retaining drapery folds that is inexpensive to manufacture, as well as being easy to install.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent from the following description. The illustrative embodiments set out in the drawings and described in detail herein are not intended to limit the scope of the invention as described in the appended claim, but rather is intended to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front view in perspective of a section of drapery extended along and supported by a traverse rod, showing the folds of the drape being held with their proper uniform shape by the fold-stabilizing device of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view in perspective showing the fold-stabilizing device attached to the lower rear side of a drape in accordance with the principles of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary view in perspective of one form of fold holding device according to the invention. Portions of the drapery are broken away in order to show how each hook member is attached to hold the drapery fold in its proper shape;

FIG. 4 is a view in perspective showing a modified form of fold stabilizing device with integral cord and hook members of plastic material.

In FIG. 1 a typical section of drapery 10 is shown as it appears when extended to its normal width along a traverse rod 11. Along the upper end of the drape 10 are formed a series of evenly spaced pleats 12 which are separated by flat sections 13 of unpleated material. The pleats 12 may be of any suitable type, but in every case they provide an excess of material at intervals along the width of the drape, and in a properly hanging drape, these intervals of extra material must be shaped to form vertical, uniformly spaced, wave-like folds 14 along the drape 10 as shown in FIG. 1. It is the folds 14 which give the drape 10 its attractive eye-pleasing appearance. To solve the problem of forming and maintaining the uniform folds 14 throughout the full length of the drape 10, the flexible fold stabilizing device 15 embodying the principles of the invention is attached at predetermined locations along a lower edge of the drape 10.

As shown in FIG. 1, each pleat 12 along the upper edge of the drape 10 creates an outwardly curving fold portion 16, and in between the pleats 12 are formed inwardly curving fold portions 17. The fold stabilizing cord 15 is preferably attached near the lower edge 18 of the drape and to each of the inwardly curved fold portions 17. When attached, my invention serves to hold the outwardly curved portions 16 of the folds 14 in their proper shape as the drapery 10 is extended along the traverse rod 11. Such an installation of a fold stabilizing device 15 on a drape 10 is shown in greater detail in FIG. 2.

My novel fold stabilizing device 15 as shown in FIG. 3, comprises a flexible cord or thread 19 which is at least as long as the drape section 10 and to which are attached a series of spaced apart attaching members 20. The stabilizing cord 19 may be made from any suitable material such as fabric or plastic and it can be of a relatively light gauge because the strain on it in holding the folds 14 is not great. Also, various colors of thread or cord 19 can be used to match the drapery materials.

The attaching members 20 are evenly spaced along the cord 19 and this spacing may vary for different types and spacing of the pleats 12 used in various draperies. The attaching members 20 have a general hook-like configuration and they may be formed from any suitable material such as any resilient metal or plastic. As shown in

the enlarged view of FIG. 3, each hook-like member 20 has a shank 21 and curved around end portion 22 which is preferably bent back near the shank 21 to form a narrow opening 23 for retaining the drapery material. A tip 24 of the curved end portion 22, which may be pointed for easy penetration of the drapery fabric, is bent outwardly somewhat away from the shank 21. The outwardly bent tip 24 functions as a barb to keep the attaching members 20 from falling out of the draperies 10, despite considerable back and forth movement of the drapes over long periods of time.

Each attaching member 20 is fixed to the cord or thread 19 by any suitable means such as by crimping, bonding, or tying. In the embodiment of FIG. 3 each hook-like member 20 has a bent back portion 26 at the end which is crimped against the thread 19 and preferably the shank 21 to keep the hook 20 from sliding along the thread 19. An advantage of this crimping arrangement is that, if necessary, the bent back portion 26 can easily be relieved slightly to loosen the hook 20 and allows it to be adjusted to a new position along the string 19.

Other suitable means may be used, of course, to attach the hooks 20 at predetermined spaced intervals along the cord or string 19. For example, I may plastically bond either metal or plastic hook-like members 20 to the string 19.

In FIG. 4, I have shown a slightly modified form of fold stabilizing device 30 which comprises a plastic cord 31 with integral hook-like plastic members 32 spaced at predetermined intervals thereon. Each integral hook member 32 preferably extends from and lies in a plane at right angles to the cord 31. The integral cord 31 and hooks 32 may be formed for any suitable plastic such as nylon by one of the well known plastic molding methods. The hook member 32 again has the same general configuration as the hook members 20 with a bent back end portion 33 and sharpened tip 34 which would enable each hook 32 to easily penetrate the drapery fabric.

One of the highly advantageous features of my invention is the ease and rapidity with which my novel fold stabilizing device 15 can be installed. For example, the locations of the points of attachment for the hook member 20 or 32 may be easily marked when the pleats 12 are marked by folding the bottom end 18 of the drape 10 up under the top edge and marking the hook attaching points in line with the center points of flat sections 13 between the pleats 12. With the drape section so arranged, the hook members 20 may be attached at the marked points equally distant from the rear lower side of the drape 10, each point being directly in line with the mid-point of an unpleated point 13. Each hook-like

member 20 is attached rapidly, and it need only pick up a few strands of the fabric between the shank 21 and the curved around end 22 in order to have adequate hold on the drape 10. The tip 24 of each hook 20 penetrates easily and yet its shape keeps it from coming free without being deliberately removed.

When adjustments need to be made in the spacing of the folds 14, the hook-like members 20 are easily removed and reset without having to remove or resew any stitches. This flexibility in adjustment is an important feature of my invention since it permits the installation of the drapes to be made efficiently without requiring modifications in the shop.

When equipped with the present invention, the drapery 10 will always have attractive, uniform folds 14, no matter what the actual tendencies of the drapery are to hold or not to hold its shape. My invention therefore greatly increases the range of fabrics which can be used on draperies by a unique device that is relatively inexpensive and easy to install.

To those skilled in the art to which this invention relates, many changes in construction and widely differing embodiments and applications of the invention will suggest themselves without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The disclosures and the description herein are purely illustrative and are not intended to be in any sense limiting.

I claim:

A fold stabilizing device for a drapery of the type having a series of spaced apart pleats along its upper edge separated by portions of unpleated material, said stabilizing device comprising: a flexible cord member adapted to extend along the width of the drapery; a plurality of attaching means spaced along said cord member and fixed thereto for rapidly attaching said cord member to said drapery at predetermined spaced apart intervals between said pleats, each said attaching means having a shank, a hooked portion at one end and a bent over end portion at the other end of said shank for crimping said cord against said shank, thereby retaining said attaching means in a predetermined fixed position on said cord.

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