Oct. 29, 1929. Z. R. MAULSBY ET AL 1,733,353

FABRIC FORMING MACHINE

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Fig. 1

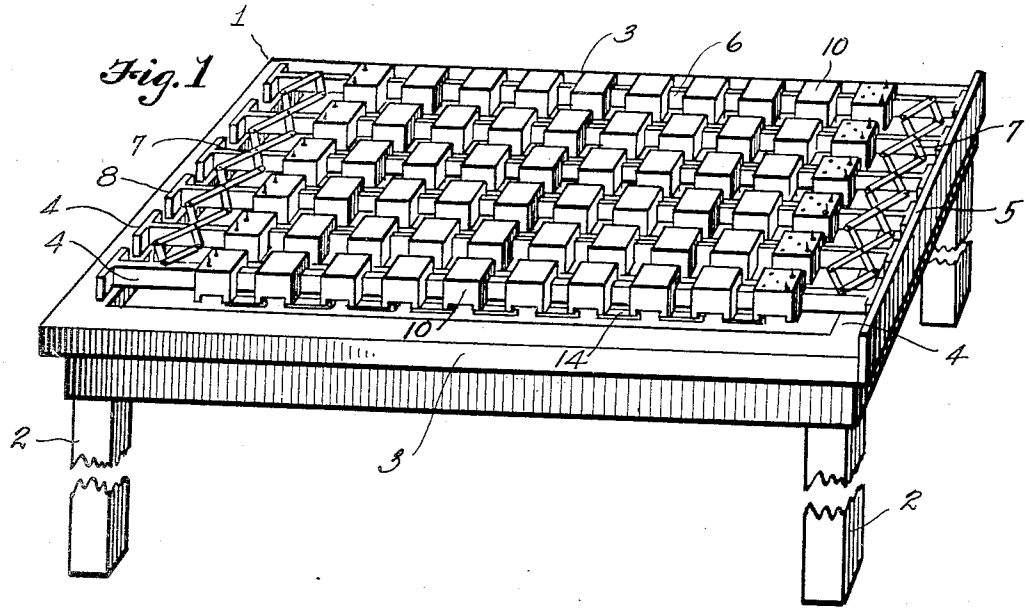


Fig. 2

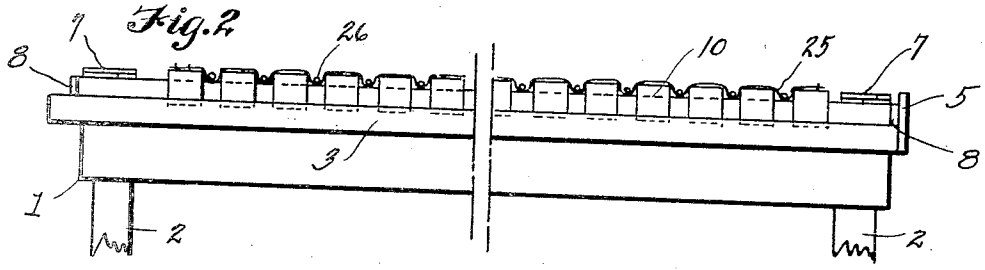
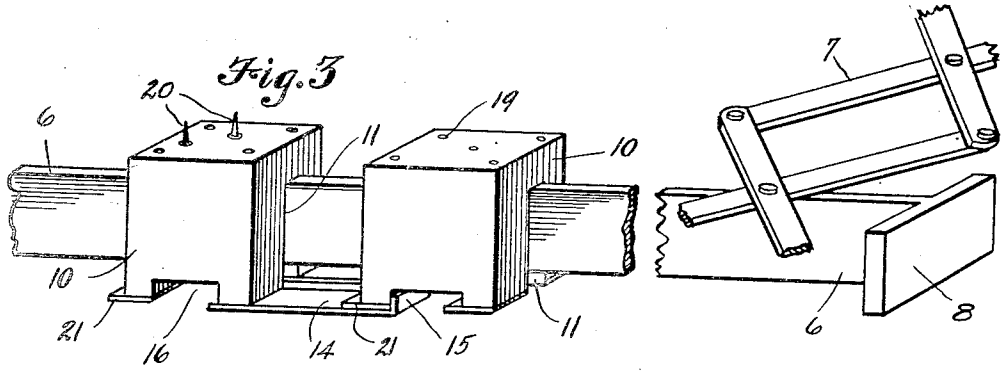


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

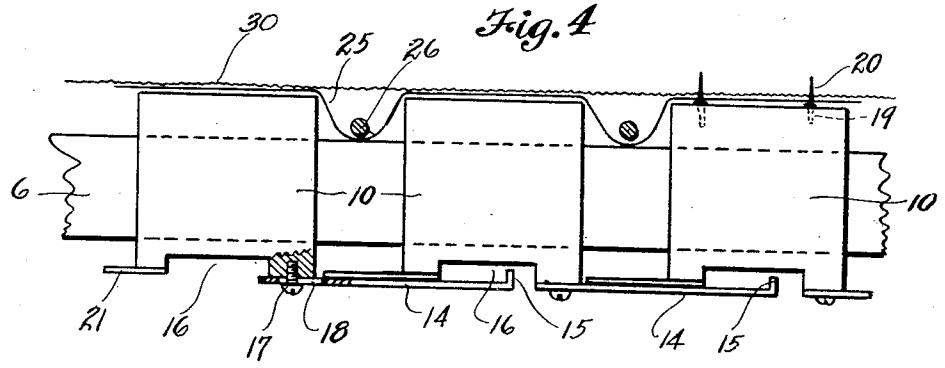


Fig. 5

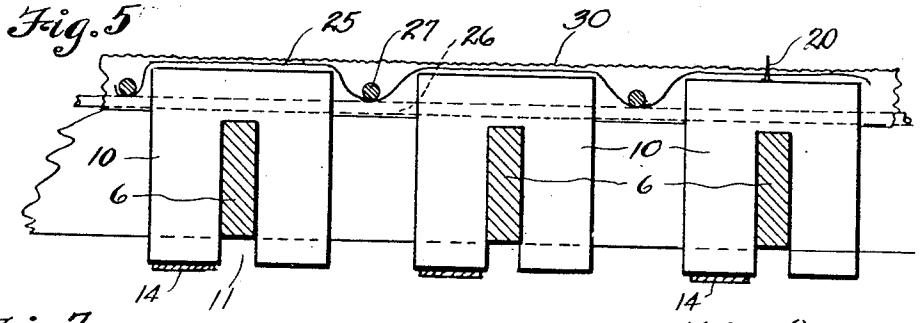


Fig. 7

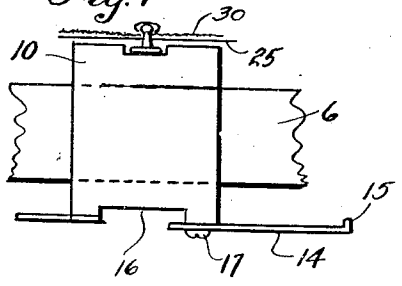


Fig. 6

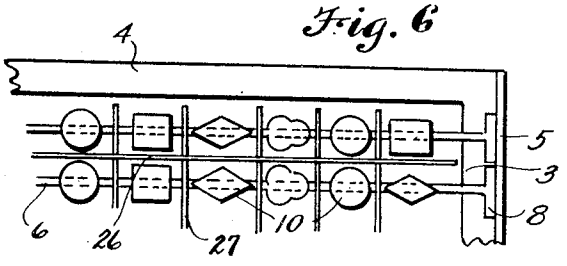
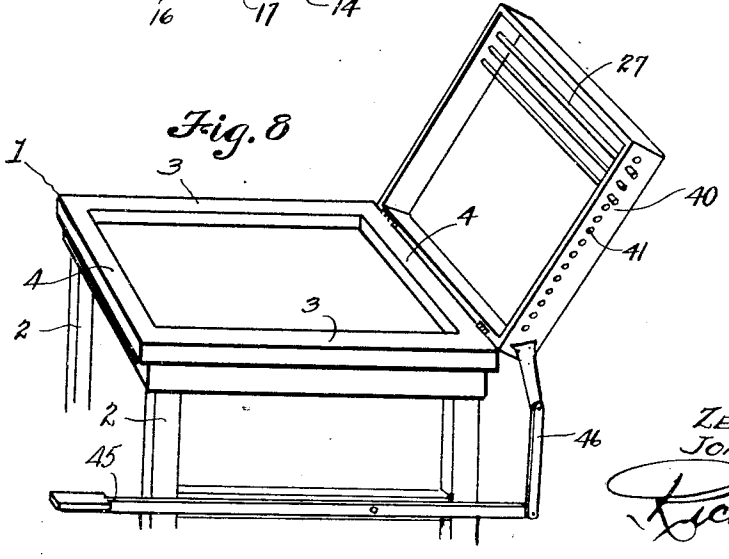


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FABRIC-FORMING MACHINE

Application filed September 24, 1925. Serial No. 58,354. REISSUED

This invention relates to improvements in forming machines, and more particularly to machines for forming fabric into decorative designs; it being the principal object of the invention to provide a machine for crimping or shaping fine fabrics into designs suitable for decorative purposes such as for the lining of caskets and the like.

More specifically stated, the object of the invention resides in the provision of a machine for the above stated purpose embodying a horizontal frame on which the members over which the cloth is formed may be arranged and a series of rods adapted to be disposed over the cloth to crimp it about the forms while it is tacked to a suitable backing which retains it in its given shape after being removed from the machine.

Other objects reside in the various details of construction and combination of parts embodied in the invention and in their mode of operation as will hereinafter be described.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the invention, we have provided the improved details of construction, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cloth forming machine embodied by the present invention.

Figure 2 is a side view of the same.

Figure 3 is an enlarged perspective view of a bar and some of the forming blocks thereon.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmental section longitudinally of the machine.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmental section transversely of the same.

Figure 6 is a partial plan view showing forming blocks of different design.

Figure 7 is a detail view of an alternative type of block and fastener.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of an alternative construction.

Referring more in detail to the several views of the drawings—

1 designates a rectangular frame or table supported at a suitable working height by legs 2 placed at its four corners. The frame comprises the longitudinal, opposite side rails 3—3 and the opposite end rails 4—4, one of the latter having an upstanding flange 5 provided along the outer edge against which the ends of bars 6 supported on the frame may be alined.

The bars 6 are arranged in parallel relation on the frame and may be adjusted from and toward each other. It is preferred that the ends of all the bars be joined by the lazy tong mechanism as at 7 so that when adjustment of the bars from or toward each other is made, an equal spacing between the several bars will be automatically maintained.

The bars 6 preferably would be flat iron pieces placed on edge and provided at their ends with cross pieces 8 whereby the movement of the bars together is limited.

Slidably mounted on each of the bars 6 are the forming blocks 10, each of which is provided with a downwardly opening slot 11 which receives its supporting bar and which permits the blocks to be adjusted from or toward each other. The blocks may be made in various shapes such as round, square, or oblong. They may also be made to represent characteristic designs, as shown in Figure 6, which shows a clover leaf, diamond and circular forms.

In order to limit the distance of spacing of the blocks apart on each bar, we have fixed plates 14 to the under side at one edge of each block and these plates extend beneath an adjacent block and have upturned hooks 15 at their ends adapted to engage with the ends of slots 16 in the under sides of the blocks, as shown in Figure 3. The plates 14 are adjustably fastened to the blocks by means of set screws 17 extended through slots 18 in the

plates and this provides for adjusting the plates so as to vary the spacing distance.

To limit the distance of movement of the blocks toward each other, heel plates 21 are fixed to the edges of the blocks opposite the edges to which plates 14 are fixed and these are adapted to engage the edges of adjacent blocks.

On the upper surface of each of the end blocks, and on the intermediate blocks if desired, there is provided a plurality of holes 19 in which short upwardly directed pins 20 may be removably inserted to serve as a means for retaining the cloth in place when it is placed over the blocks for forming.

In using the device, the bars 6 are first moved apart to a desired spacing and the blocks are spread apart on the several bars and the pins 20 are placed in the end blocks and others at places desired. The piece of cloth which is to be formed, as designated at 25 in Figures 4 and 5, is placed over the forming blocks and is pressed down over the pins so that it will be held thereby. Rods 26 are then placed upon the cloth longitudinally of the frame between each row of blocks and other rods 27 are placed transversely thereof between the alined blocks of the several rows. The bars 6 are then moved toward each other to the distance provided for and the blocks are closed together on the bars so that the cloth is crimped downwardly between each bar and also between each transversely alined row of blocks.

After this is done, a piece of heavy fabric 30, as a backing, is placed over the frame and it is tacked by stitching to the formed fabric. The rods 26 and 27 are then withdrawn and the shaped cloth removed.

If it is desired, snap fasteners such as indicated in Figure 7, may be used to attach the formed piece of material to the backing, or paste may be used for certain work.

In an alternative construction shown in Figure 8, we have shown a frame 40 hingedly attached to the frame 1 to swing upward from and downwardly over the forming blocks. This frame 40 has end and side rails provided with holes 41 for receiving the cross rods 26 and 27 so that they may be moved bodily against the cloth so as to facilitate the crimping of the cloth between the forming blocks. This frame could be operated by a foot pedal 45 connected operatively to the frame by suitable mechanism as indicated at 46.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new therein and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is—

A fabric shaping machine comprising a horizontal frame structure, a plurality of bars mounted on the frame structure, lazy tong mechanism joining the ends of the bars to retain them in parallel relation during adjustment from and toward each other, a plurality of forming blocks mounted slidably on each of the bars, having slots in their under sides, a plate fixed to the under side of each block and extended beneath the adjacent block and there provided with an upturned portion projecting into the slot of the block as a means of limiting the extent of their spacing from each other and rods adapted to be placed over the fabric to depress it about the forming blocks.

Signed at Everett, Snohomish County, Washington, this 13 day of June, 1925.

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