

United States Patent

Schulze-Robbecke et al.

[15] 3,672,425

[45] June 27, 1972

[54] **CURTAIN SUSPENSION DEVICES WITH AN ELECTRIC MOTOR DRIVE**

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[22] Filed: **July 16, 1970**

[21] Appl. No.: **55,353**

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

July 18, 1969 GermanyP 19 36 521.0

[52] U.S. Cl.**160/331, 16/87.4, 16/95,**
160/345

[51] Int. Cl.**A47h 5/032**

[58] Field of Search.....160/344, 345, 346, 124, 125,
160/126, 331; 16/87.4, 87.6, 94, 96, 95; 74/230.3,
230.1, 230.15, 230.8

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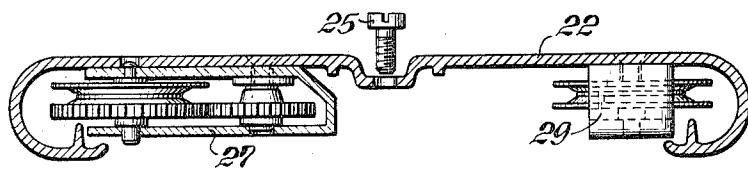
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[57]

ABSTRACT

A curtain suspension device comprising an upper rail member and a lower rail member joined together and mounting a drive motor for drawing curtains supported by the device, the drive motor being mounted on one of the members and the members being so shaped that they define a space to accommodate a drive pulley arrangement to act upon draw cords for the curtains.

16 Claims, 11 Drawing Figures



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FIG. 1

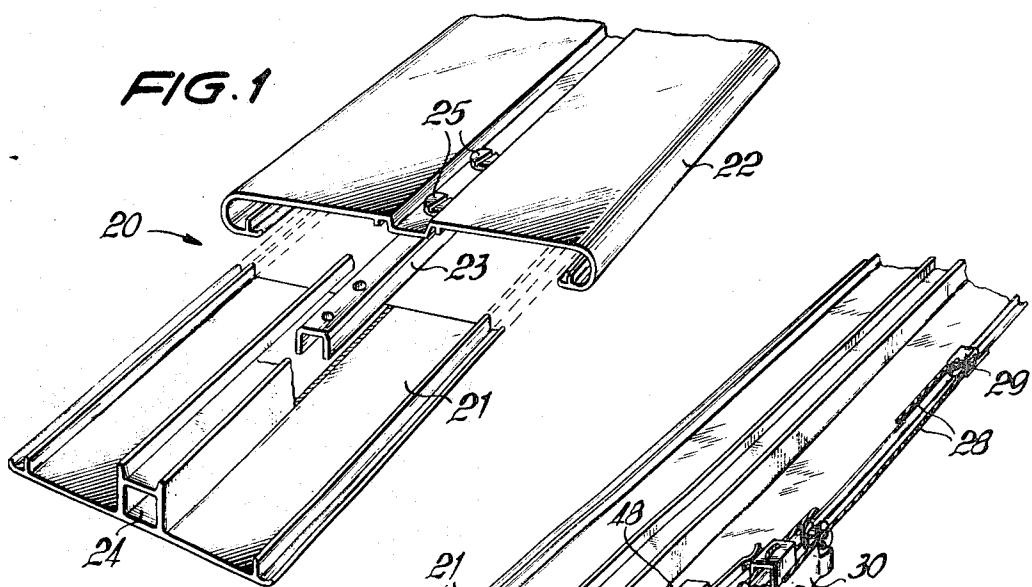


FIG. 2

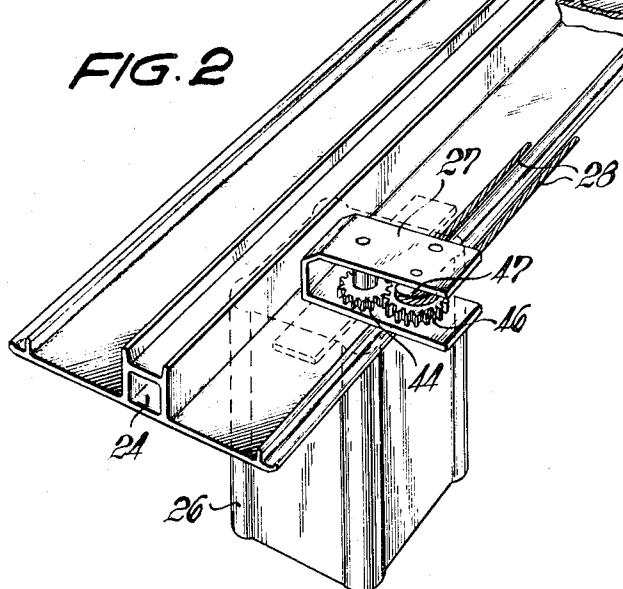
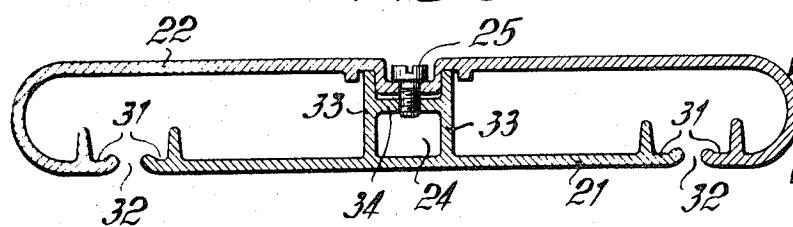


FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

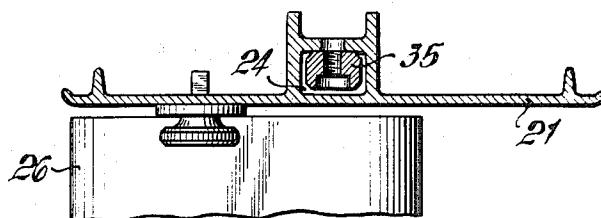
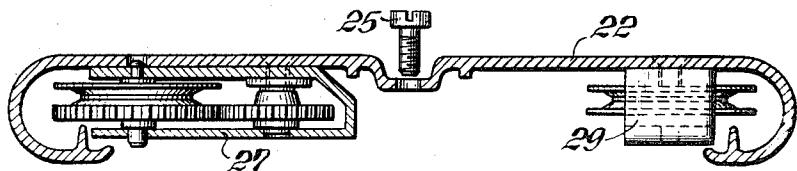
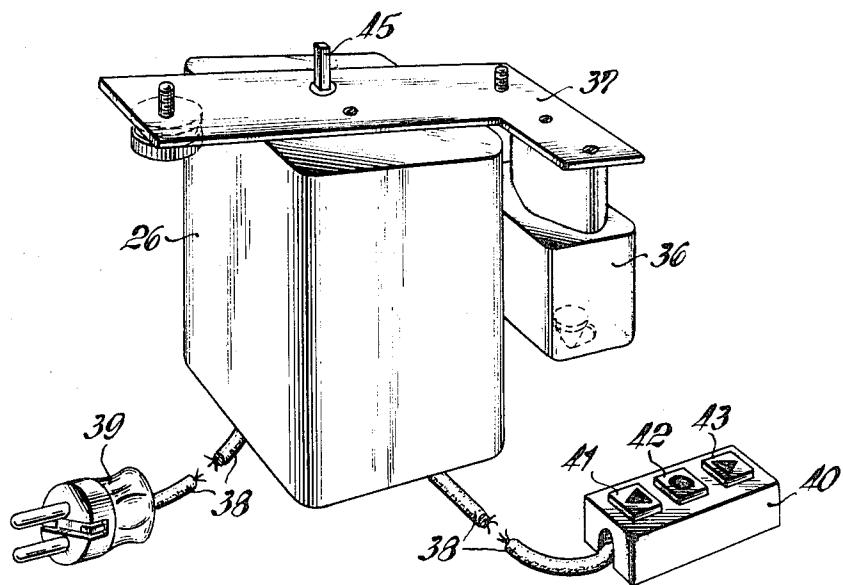


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

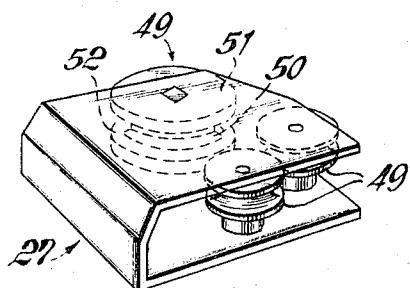


FIG. 7

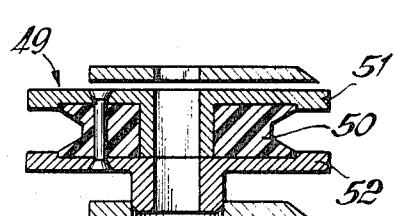


FIG. 8

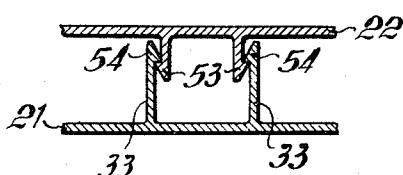


FIG. 9

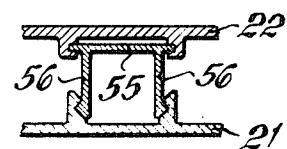


FIG. 10

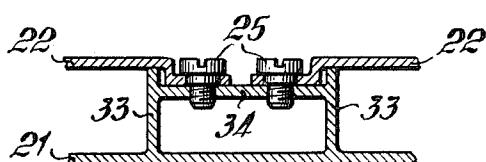
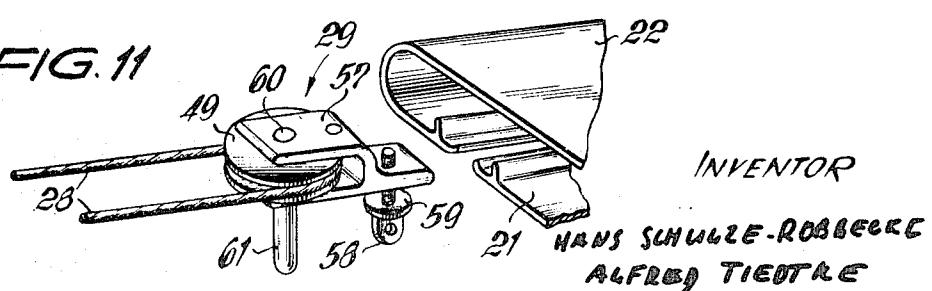


FIG. 11



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CURTAIN SUSPENSION DEVICES WITH AN ELECTRIC MOTOR DRIVE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a curtain suspension device with an electric motor drive.

It is an object of the invention to provide a device of this kind which is simpler in construction and more reliable in operation, than previously known devices of this kind, without increased technical expenditure.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention a curtain suspension device comprises in combination an upper rail member and a lower rail member provided with means whereby they can be secured together to form a rail body; an electric motor; draw cords for effecting opening and closing movement of curtains supported on said device; a pulley arrangement to cooperate with said draw cords and to be driven by said electric motor; said electric motor being mounted on one of said upper rail member and said lower rail member and said upper rail member and said lower rail member defining a substantially enclosed space to accommodate said pulley arrangement; guide tracks, for curtain supporting means, formed by adjacent but spaced apart surfaces of said upper rail member and said lower rail member; and switch members for controlling operation of the electric motor.

An advantageous arrangement is for the pulley arrangement with switch members and the cord guide elements to be mounted on the upper rail member which is desirably substantially of an inverted U-shape, and for the motor to be mounted on the lower rail member which advantageously substantially covers the open side of the upper rail member.

In this way there are provided structural units which not only have the parts thereof in a convenient grouping and which can be put together to form a closed installation unit, but it is also ensured that structural parts can be replaced for repair purposes.

The upper rail member and the lower rail member are advantageously joined to form a closed rail body, with spacer members being interposed.

The spacer members can carry the fixing members which join the upper rail member and the lower rail member to form a structural unit. The fixing members are advantageously formed by parts of the spacer members, as this enables a saving of material to be achieved.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention, the motor and the relay can be arranged on a common mounting plate which is releasably connected to the lower rail member.

The pulley arrangement of the device can include gear wheels. Associated with the pulley arrangement can be a cord tensioning device which ensures that the draw cords are seated firmly on their pulleys.

The cord tensioning device advantageously has a frame which can be inserted into the rail body so that it completely disappears in the interior of the rail body. The cord tensioning device can have a direction-changing pulley, the spindle of which is extended to form a handle member.

The drive cord pulley can advantageously have running surfaces comprising wear-resistant resilient plastics material, for example ethylene glycol-adipic acid polyester. The plastics member carrying the running surfaces can be arranged between two larger discs which preferably comprise metal.

The curtain support means which are in the form of draw carriages and which are located at the ends of the parts of the curtain, can carry trip members which cooperate with limit switches, preferably limit micro-switches arranged on the rail body.

The motor can be drivable in opposite directions by means of a changeover switch.

PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION

The invention is diagrammatically illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of part of a rail body of a device according to the invention before the upper rail member and the lower rail member thereof are secured together;

FIG. 2 shows a part of a lower rail member with an electric drive motor, pulley arrangement and switch members;

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view through a second embodiment of a rail body;

FIG. 4 is an exploded cross sectional view through a third embodiment of a rail body before the upper rail and lower rail thereof are secured together;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an electric drive motor, a relay and a change-over switch;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a pulley arrangement;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view through part of a cord tensioning device;

FIGS. 8 to 10 show further embodiments of rail bodies, and

FIG. 11 is an exploded perspective view of a cord tensioning device.

Referring to the drawings, a suspension device 20 comprises a rail body formed by a lower rail member 21 and an upper rail member 22, each formed of metal or plastics materials. In the embodiment of the rail bodies shown in FIG. 1, the lower rail member 21 and the upper rail member 22 are joined by an intermediate member 23 which is accommodated in a channel-shaped recess 24 in the lower rail member 21. The intermediate member 23 is secured in its operative position by means of screws 25.

FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of a part of a lower rail member 21 which carries a drive motor 26 at its underside. The drive motor is coupled to a gear pulley arrangement 27 secured to the upper face of the lower rail member 21 and is connected by way of draw cords 28 to a cord tensioning device 29. Connected to the draw cords 28 are curtain support means, of which only a draw carriage 30 is shown.

As shown in FIG. 3, the lower rail member 21 and the upper rail member 22 together form two pairs of parallel guide tracks 31 for the rolling or sliding draw carriages 30. The guide tracks 31 are formed by flange portions, the edges of which flange portions are rounded and curved slightly upwardly, thereby defining a guide slot 32. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3 there is no intermediate member 23 as shown in the embodiment of FIG. 1, and spacer members 33, formed by projecting flanges of the lower rail member 21, are joined together by a transverse web 34 to form a channel-like receiving space 24. The lower rail member 21 and the upper rail member 22 are secured together by screws engaging tapped holes in the transverse web 34.

The embodiment shown in FIG. 4 is of substantially the same construction as the rail body shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. In this case, however, the screws 25 cooperate with a screwhead 35 accommodated in the space 24. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 4, the gear pulley arrangement 27 and the cord tensioning means 29 are secured in the interior of the upper rail member 22, by means of rivets. As shown in FIG. 4, both the gear pulley arrangement 27 and also the cord tensioning means 29 are completely enclosed by the walls of the rail body.

FIG. 5 shows the drive motor 26 and a relay 36 which are secured to a common mounting plate 37. The mounting plate 37 can be secured to the underside of the lower rail member 21 by means of screws, in like manner to that shown in FIG. 4. The drive motor 26 is connected by way of electrical supply leads 38 to a power supply plug 39 and to a change-over switch 40.

The change-over switch 40 has three juxtaposed switch members 41, 42 and 43. In order to open curtains carried by the curtain support means, the switch member 41 is moved into its operative position by being pressed in, the drive motor 26 is thus set in operation and the curtains are moved into an open position by means of the draw cords 28. The switch member 41 is moved back into its starting position by actuating the switch member 42. When the switch member 43 is pressed in, the rotor of the drive motor 26 rotates in the reverse direction, thus closing the curtains.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, the gear pulley arrangement 27 comprises a gear heel 44 which is connected to a motor shaft 45 and which drives a gear wheel 46 coupled to a cord pulley 47. The cord pulley 47 is connected to the cord tensioning means by way of the draw cord 28 which is endless.

The distance of travel which the curtains cover when opening and closing, is fixed by means of micro-switches 48 which, as shown in FIG. 2, are secured, at desired limit positions, to the lower rail member 21. Switching is effected by means of trip members 62 arranged on the draw carriage 30.

FIG. 6 shows a second embodiment of the gear pulley arrangement 27, in which the gear pulley arrangement 27 comprises simple cord pulleys 49 of which the larger is coupled to the drive shaft 45. The drive cord pulley is shown in cross-section in FIG. 7. It comprises an inner plastics body 50 and two external discs 51 and 52. The plastics body 50 comprises a wear-resistant resilient plastics material, for example ethylene glycol-adipic acid polyester. When obstructions occur which prevent closing or opening movement of the curtains, the surface of this plastics material no longer entrains the draw cords 28 so that the motor 26 runs idle and damage to the device is avoided.

FIG. 8 shows another possible form of a rail body. In this embodiment, the upper rail member 22 carries holding claws 53 which cooperate with corresponding holding members 54 carried on the spacer members 33. With this construction, it is not possible to release the lower rail member 21 from the upper rail member 22 after they have been secured together.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 9, the upper rail member 22 and the lower rail member 21 are secured together by means of a U-shape intermediate member 55 which is fixedly connected at its upper end to the upper rail member 22 and which has on its free limbs 56 holding claws which cooperate with correspondingly formed members on the lower rail member 21.

FIG. 10 shows a further embodiment of a rail body. In this case the spacer members 33 are joined together by an intermediate web portion 34. In this case the upper rail member 22 is in two parts which are secured to the transverse web portion 34 by means of screws 25.

FIG. 11 shows a perspective view of the cord tensioning device 29. The cord tensioning device 29 comprises a U-shape frame 57 which can be inserted into the rail body and secured by a clamping screw 58 which is provided with a wide collar 59. After releasing the clamping screw 58, the cord tensioning means 29 can be displaced in the guide slot 32. The cord pulley 49 of the cord tensioning means 29 has a spindle 60 which is extended downwardly and forms a handle member 61.

As already mentioned, the embodiments illustrated are only given by way of example of the invention which is not restricted thereto. Still other uses and constructions are possible. Thus, when using the cord pulley 49 shown in FIG. 7, the limit micro-switches 48 can be omitted.

We claim:

1. A curtain suspension device comprising, in combination, an upper rail member; a lower rail member; means connecting said rail members in superimposed position; draw cords for effecting opening and closing curtains supported on said device; guide means for guiding said draw cords and including at least one drive pulley; motor means; and transmission means between said motor means and said drive pulley, said guide

means and said transmission means being mounted on said upper rail member and said motor means being mounted on said lower rail member to facilitate assembly of the device.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said upper and lower rail members have adjacent elongated portions forming a pair of parallel guide tracks and including curtain supporting means connected to said cords and guided on said tracks for movement in longitudinal direction of the latter.

3. A device as defined in claim 2, and including spacer means between said rail members for maintaining the same in spaced superimposed position, said draw cords, said guide means and said transmission means being located in the space between said rail members.

4. A device as defined in claim 3, wherein one of said rail members has a width smaller than the other rail member and wherein the other of the rail members curves at opposite sides toward opposite longitudinal edges of said one rail member so as to form with the latter a substantially closed hollow body.

5. A device as set forth in claim 3, wherein said spacer means are integral with one of said rail members and said connecting means connect the other of said rail members to said spacer means.

6. A device as defined in claim 3, wherein said connecting means form part of said spacer means.

7. A device as defined in claim 3, wherein said spacer means are connected to one of said rail members and wherein said connecting means comprise holding portions on said spacer means and complementary holding portions on the other of said rail members engaged with snap action with each other.

8. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said motor means comprise an electromotor and a relay, and including a common mounting plate mounting said motor and said relay and being releasably connected to said lower rail member.

9. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said transmission means comprises a gear transmission.

10. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said guide means comprise tensioning means for maintaining said cords in taut condition.

11. A device as defined in claim 3, wherein said guide means comprise tensioning means for maintaining said cords in taut condition, said tensioning means comprising a frame adjustably mounted in the space between said rail members.

12. A device as defined in claim 11, wherein said tensioning means comprise a guide pulley mounted on a spindle carried by said frame, said spindle having an end portion projecting beyond said lower rail for facilitating positioning of said guide pulley relative to said drive pulley.

13. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said drive pulley has a part forming cord-engaging surfaces, said part consisting of wear-resistant resilient plastics material, for instance ethylene glycol-adipic acid polyester.

14. A device as defined in claim 13, and including two disks of larger diameter than said part and arranged coaxially therewith and to opposite sides thereof.

15. A device as defined in claim 3, and including at least one limit switch in the space between said rail members and a switch-operating member on said curtain supporting means.

16. A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said motor means has a reversible electromotor and including switch means connected to said motor for reversing the direction of rotation of the same.

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