Aug. 29, 1950 H. B. CHATFIELD 2,520,593

VENETIAN BLIND BRACKET

Filed Sept. 22, 1948

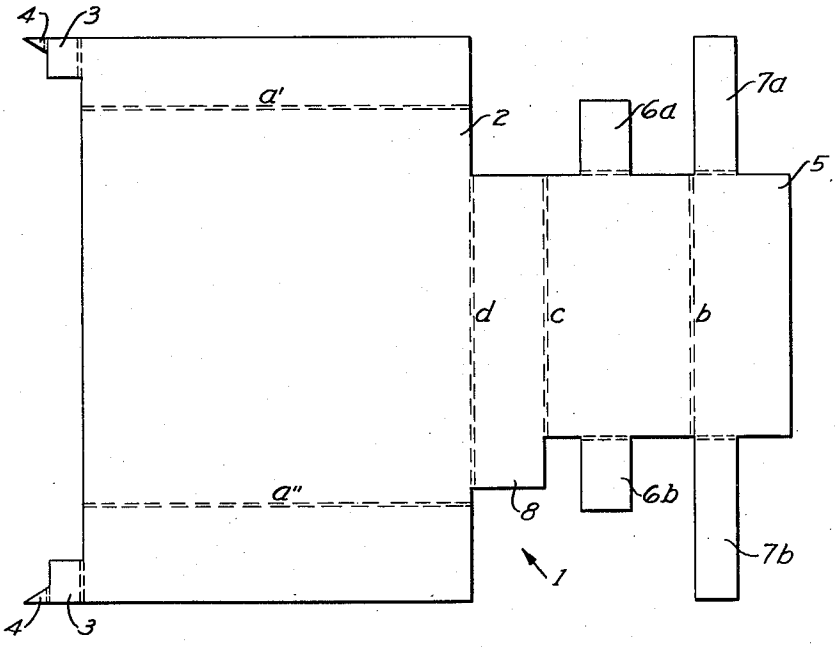


Fig. 1.

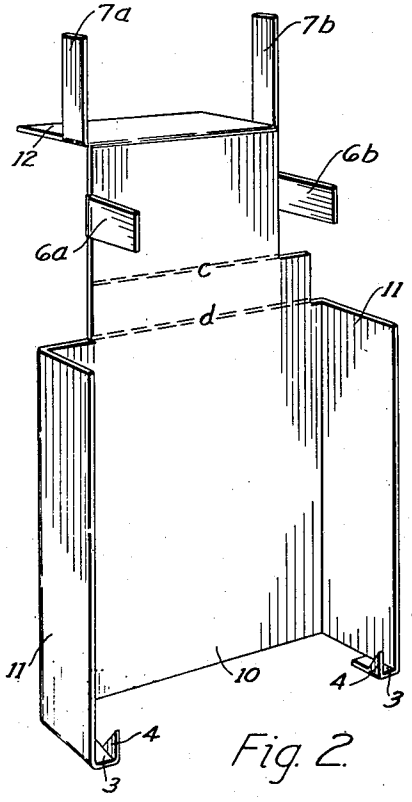


Fig. 2.

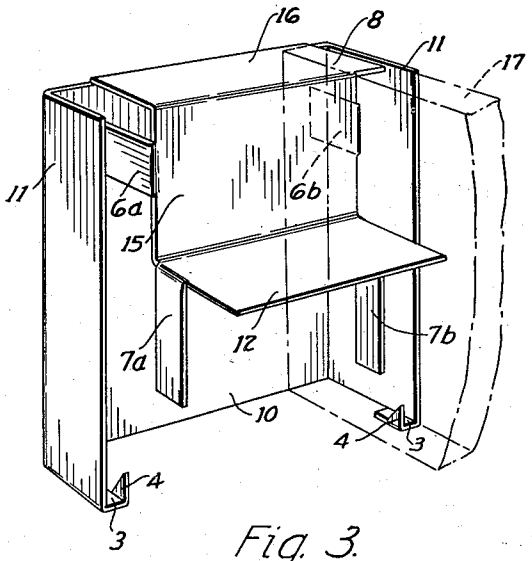


Fig. 3.

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Patented Aug. 29, 1950

2,520,593

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,520,593

VENETIAN BLIND BRACKET

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Application September 22, 1948, Serial No. 50,569

13 Claims. (Cl. 248—264)

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This invention relates to a bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like, particularly a one-piece bracket made from a metal stamping.

In the past, Venetian blind brackets have usually been made of two or more major parts, one of them taking the form of a pivoted clip for holding in place the front fascia board. Where such a construction is employed, it is possible for the clip to become unlatched, creating a hazard in that an outward pull on the cord may bring down the blind on the head of the person attempting to operate it. The present invention has for one of its principal objects to preclude this possibility by providing a simple, inexpensive bracket incorporating means rigidly opposing outward movement of the fascia board and therefore of the headrail and other parts of the blind.

In its preferred form, the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 represents a development or plan of the stamping from which the bracket is formed, the dotted lines indicating the lines on which the stamping is subsequently bent or folded. Figure 2 is a perspective of an incompletely formed bracket, the dotted lines indicating lines on which the remaining bends are to be made. Figure 3 is a perspective of a completely formed bracket omitting only representation of the screw holes or other means by which the bracket is fixed in place.

As indicated in Figure 1, the stamping 1 may be regarded as consisting of an oblong portion 2 having attached thereto, on one side of the oblong, bottom tabs 3 carrying the bottom tab tips 4 and, on the opposite side of the oblong, an irregularly formed extension 5. The latter includes laterally extending spacer tabs 6*a* and 6*b*, the same being of equal length; fascia board positioning tabs 7*a* and 7*b*, which may be of equal length but of which one is shown as being somewhat shorter than the other, and a corner portion 8, which, in the completed bracket, becomes a top stop for a fascia board. The lines along which bends are to be made are indicated by dotted lines, major bends being indicated by lines designated *a'*, *a''*, *b*, *c*, and *d*.

The stamping of Figure 1 may be formed from coil steel on a conventional punch press, the width of the stock used for the purpose determining the lengths of oblong portion 2 and fascia board positioning tabs 7*a* and 7*b*.

In forming the completed bracket from the

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stamping, it is possible to vary the order in which the parts are struck up from the stamping; consequently, it is possible to do little more than indicate in a general way what is regarded as a preferred method of procedure. Such procedure involves first striking up bottom tabs 3, this step being followed by a similar step involving bending bottom tab tips 4 at right angles to bottom tabs 3. This having been done, bends may be made on lines *a'* and *a''* of oblong portion 2, thereby forming mounting plate 10 and side flanges 11 as shown in Figure 2. Spacer tabs 6*a* and 6*b* and fascia board positioning tabs 7*a* and 7*b* may conveniently be formed in the following steps, tabs 6*a* and 7*a* being struck up together and 6*b* and 7*b* being struck up together.

The next step would preferably be to strike down on line *b* the portion of extension 5 that is to constitute shelf 12 (Figures 2 and 3), the same being struck down from the vertical by an angle which may be as little as 15° or as much as 90°. This operation gives rise to an incompletely formed product such as the one illustrated in Figure 2. As there represented, the portion that is to constitute shelf 12 is indicated as having been struck down from the vertical by the maximum angle of 90°.

There remains to fold the incompletely formed bracket on lines *c* and *d*, which is preferably done by bending first along line *c* and thereafter at right angles thereto along line *d*; if necessary, the step of striking down shelf 12 from some lesser initial angle, such as 15°, to the desired 90° angle is accomplished at this stage. This sequence of operations gives rise to a step-like structure consisting of shelf 12, shelf hanger 15 and top mounting 16. Respectively, these serve as the head-rail rest, as the head-rail stop, and as a support for the head-rail stop. Head-rail stop 15 is integral with, spaced from, and substantially parallel to mounting plate 10, from which it is separated by rearwardly extending spacer tabs 6*a* and 6*b*.

As will appear, the completed bracket shown in Figure 3 may be used as either a left-hand or right-hand bracket.

If, as would normally be the case, the bracket is mounted by means of screws extending through suitable screw holes (not shown) in mounting plate 10, the left-hand end of rear fascia board 17 may be inserted in the space between tabs 6*b* and 7*b*, both on the near side of the fascia board, and side flange 11 on the

far side of the fascia board. In these circumstances, top stop 8 and bottom tab tip 4 would cooperate to hold the fascia board in place, in addition to which tab 7b may, if necessary, be bent toward the fascia board to prevent it from rattling. The other end of rear fascia board 17 would in such case be mounted in a similar bracket in which, however, the opposite side of the bracket, that is to say, the side lacking top stop 8, would receive the fascia board. A front fascia board (not shown) would be inserted similarly into the two brackets.

Both fascia boards would in such case be held against outward movement by means of side flanges 11. Lacking the pivoted clip which in prior constructions tends to become disengaged as previously described, the front fascia board can be removed from the body of the bracket only by reversing the steps just described; it cannot pivot with a part or parts in which it is mounted to expose and release the head-rail. Thus rather than permitting the head-rail and other parts of the blind to descend on the operator in the event of an outward pull on the operating cord, the side flanges rigidly oppose outward movement of the front fascia board and other elements of the blind.

Apart from these advantages, the bracket to which the invention is directed, being of integral or unitary construction, is inexpensive to make up, involving neither the riveting of parts nor the welding of one element to another. A single bracket is adapted for use interchangeably at either end of the blind, the sole point of difference being that where both front and rear fascia boards are employed the rear fascia board will be restrained against upward movement by top stop 8 at one end of the blind and the front fascia board against like movement by a similar stop at the opposite end of the blind. Positioning tabs 7a and 7b may be bent to take up any play arising out of the fact that unusually thin fascia boards may happen to be employed. In addition, a short head-rail is made possible, with consequent saving of material: this follows from the fact that at both ends of the blind headrail stop 15 is spaced from mounting plate 10, as by spacer tabs 6a and 6b.

It is apparent that the bracket need not be made of coil steel, as hereinabove suggested, but instead be stamped from any one of various metals that lend themselves to the purpose. The method of manufacturing the bracket may be widely varied, particularly the manner in and the point at which the several bending steps are performed. The proportions of the various parts such as the spacer tabs and the fascia board positioning tabs may likewise be varied. Other changes will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains.

It is intended that the patent shall cover, by suitable expression in the appended claims, whatever features of patentable novelty reside in the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like comprising a stamping folded upon itself to provide an upright mounting plate and a step-shaped head-rail stop that is integral with, spaced from, and substantially parallel to said plate.

2. A bracket as in claim 1 in which an integrally formed spacer maintains the spacing between the mounting plate and the head-rail stop.

3. A bracket as in claim 1 in which the head-rail stop is provided with a plurality of rearwardly extending spacers that abut the mounting plate.

4. A bracket as in claim 1 in which the head-rail stop supports means holding the fascia board in position.

5. A bracket as in claim 1 in which the head-rail stop supports a shelf that serves as the head-rail rest.

6. A bracket as in claim 1 in which the head-rail stop supports a shelf carrying a depending tab that helps position a fascia board.

7. A bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like comprising a stamping folded upon itself to provide a mounting plate having along the vertical edges thereof angularly extending integral flanges opposing outward movement of front and rear fascia boards and, between said flanges, a step-like structure supporting the head-rail.

8. A bracket as in claim 7 in which the flanges extend at right angles to the mounting plate.

9. A stamping for forming a Venetian blind bracket comprising an oblong portion having attached thereto, on one side of the oblong, a pair of bottom tabs and, on the other side of the oblong, an irregularly formed extension including a plurality of laterally extending tabs.

10. A bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like comprising a stamping folded upon itself to provide an upright mounting plate having, along vertical edges thereof, integral flanges opposing outward movement of front and rear fascia boards and, between said flanges, a step-shaped head-rail stop that is integral with, spaced from, and substantially parallel to said plate.

11. A bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like comprising a stamping folded upon itself to provide an upright mounting plate having, along vertical edges thereof, integral flanges opposing outward movement of front and rear fascia boards and, between said flanges, a step-shaped head-rail stop that is integral with, spaced from, and substantially parallel to said plate, said head-rail stop being provided with an integral spacer separating it from said plate.

12. A bracket for mounting Venetian blinds and the like comprising a stamping folded upon itself to provide an upright mounting plate having, along vertical edges thereof, integral flanges opposing outward movement of front and rear fascia boards and, between said flanges, a step-shaped head-rail stop that is integral with, spaced from, and substantially parallel to said plate, said head-rail stop supporting a shelf that serves as the head-rail rest.

13. A bracket as in claim 1 in which the mounting plate is provided along a vertical edge thereof with an angularly extending integral flange opposing outward movement of a fascia board.

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