

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : A47K 3/22	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/18697 (43) International Publication Date: 30 September 1993 (30.09.93)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB93/00587 (22) International Filing Date: 22 March 1993 (22.03.93) (30) Priority data: 9206047.4 20 March 1992 (20.03.92) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PROSHIELD LIMITED [GB/GB]; Brambles, 64 Hilltop Way, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3QQ (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only) : THOMAS, Nigel, Gwyn [GB/GB]; Brambles, 64 Hilltop Way, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3QQ (GB). (74) Agents: JAMES, Michael, John, Gwynne et al.; Wynne-Jones, Lainé & James, 22, Rodney Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 1JJ (GB).		(81) Designated States: FI, NO, PL, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO CURTAIN RETAINING MEMBERS		
(57) Abstract An edge portion (4) of a shower curtain (1) is held by a retaining member (5). This retaining member (5) is attached to an existing wall surface by a layer of adhesive material (6) provided on the rear surface of the member (5). Flexible tapered skirts (7) at the sides of the member (5) are thus pressed against the wall surface to create a substantially waterproof seal and a smooth transition to the body of the retaining member (5). A mouth (8) is formed in the retaining member (5) by arms (9). This mouth (8) opens out inwardly to form the internal space (10). A mounting strip (11) of a semi-flexible nature is pressed into the mouth (8) so as to trap the free edge (4) of the curtain (1). The arms (9) are relatively rigid so that the curtain (1) is held very securely in place. The mounting strip (11) can readily be removed in order to release the curtain (1) as required.		

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Improvements relating to Curtain Retaining Members

There is a need to provide a secure means of retaining the edge of a curtain particularly for a shower curtain used to retain water within a showering area.

5 In accordance with the present invention there is provided a curtain edge retaining member comprising an elongated mounting strip for securing to a wall surface and defining a groove with a substantially rigid internal wall surface and forming a mouth opening onto the front face of
10 the mounting strip and a flexible retaining strip dimensioned to fit within the groove along the length thereof with a tolerance sufficient only to enable the thickness of a curtain to be trapped within the groove by the retaining strip, with the curtain projecting through the
15 mouth of the groove.

By use of such a member the edge of the curtain can be held in position adjacent to a wall surface thus preventing water from escaping along that edge of the curtain.

In the preferred arrangement the groove will open out
20 inwardly from the mouth which is defined by a relatively thin wall section on at least one side of the entry mouth, thus providing an adequate space in the interior of the curtain at the outer end of the entry mouth, the mouth opening being similar in width to the thickness of the
25 retaining strip. The retaining strip itself is preferably of a general oblong cross-section.

The curtain edge can readily be secured in place by

pushing the retaining strip into place to trap the curtain edge. If required, the curtain can then be released by easing the retaining strip out of the groove in the mounting strip.

5 As an alternative the groove can be formed to have a restricted mouth opening for receipt of the curtain with the retaining strap being designed to slide into the enlarged section of the groove, from one end of the mounting strip. Preferably in this arrangement, the retaining strip and the
10 enlarged section of the groove are of circular cross-section.

Ideally the base of the mounting strip is formed with flexible tapered skirts at both sides. This provides a smooth transition from the wall surface to the projecting
15 mounting strip portion and helps to create a waterproof barrier where the member is attached to a wall. The preferred form of securing means is a layer of adhesive material provided on the rear face of the mounting strip.

The invention may be performed in various ways and one
20 preferred embodiment will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is an illustration of a shower curtain held at one edge by a retaining member of this invention;

25 Figure 2 is a horizontal cross-section through the retaining member illustrated in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is a cross-section through an alternative form of curtain retaining member of this invention.

Referring now to Figures 1 and 2 a shower curtain 1 supported slidably by rings 2 on a curtain pole 3 has a edge portion 4 held by a retaining member 5. This retaining member is attached to an existing wall surface by pressing a layer of adhesive material 6 provided on the rear surface of the member 5 into contact with the wall. Flexible tapered skirts 7 at the sides of the member 5 are thus pressed against the wall surface to create a substantially waterproof seal and a smooth transition to the body of the retaining member 5. A mouth 8 is formed in the retaining member by arms 9. This mouth opens out inwardly to form the internal space 10. A mounting strip 11 of a semi-flexible nature is pressed into the mouth 8 so as to trap the free edge 4 of the curtain 1. The arms 9 are relatively rigid so that the curtain is held very securely in place. The mounting strip 11 can readily be removed in order to release the curtain as required.

In the alternative arrangement shown in Figure 3, the groove 10A in the retaining member 5A is of a generally circular cross-section and has a restricted mouth 12 through which the folded end of the curtain 1 will project. The end of the curtain is wrapped round a flexible mounting strip 11A of circular cross-section and this combination is then slid into the groove 10A from one end of the retaining member 5A. Again the main body of member 5A is relatively rigid and provided with flexible tapered skirts 7 at the sides.

The retaining member 5 can be constructed to any

desired length (and indeed can be cut to any length as necessary). Whilst the device is intended generally for use with shower curtains it will be appreciated that the retaining member can be used for fixing the edges of
5 curtains or similar items in other situations.

CLAIMS

1. A curtain edge retaining member comprising an elongated mounting strip for securing to a wall surface and defining a groove with a substantially rigid internal wall surface and forming a mouth opening onto the front face of the mounting strip, and a flexible retaining strip dimensioned to fit within the groove along the length thereof with a tolerance sufficient only to enable the thickness of a curtain to be trapped within the groove by the retaining strip, with the curtain projecting through the mouth of the groove.

2. A member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the groove opens out inwardly from the mouth, which is defined by a relatively thin wall section on at least one side of the entry mouth, the mouth opening being similar in width to the thickness of the retaining strip.

3. A member as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the retaining strip is of a generally oblong cross-section.

4. A member as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the groove has a restricted mouth opening for receipt of the curtain and the retaining strap is designed to slide into the enlarged section of the groove, from one end of the mounting strip.

5. A member as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the retaining strip and the enlarged section of the groove are of circular cross-section.

6. A member as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5

wherein the base of the mounting strip is formed with flexible tapered skirts at both sides.

7. A member as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein securing means in the form of a layer of adhesive material is provided on the rear face of the mounting strip.

8. A curtain edge retaining member substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 and 2 or Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

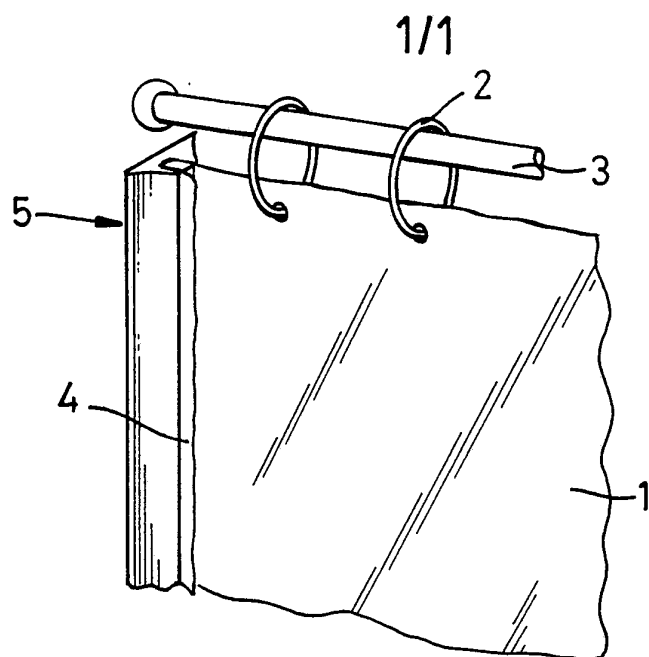


Fig. 1

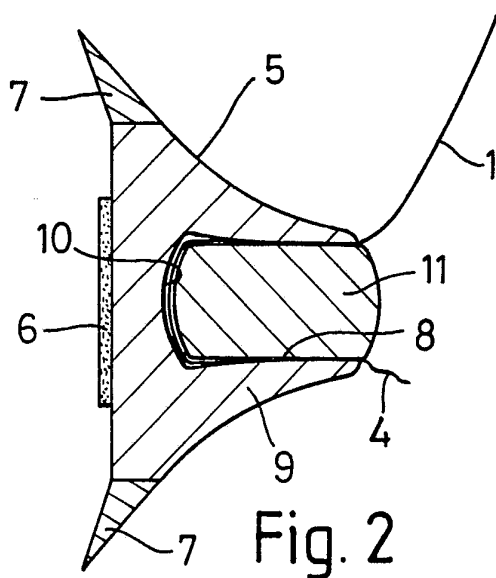


Fig. 2

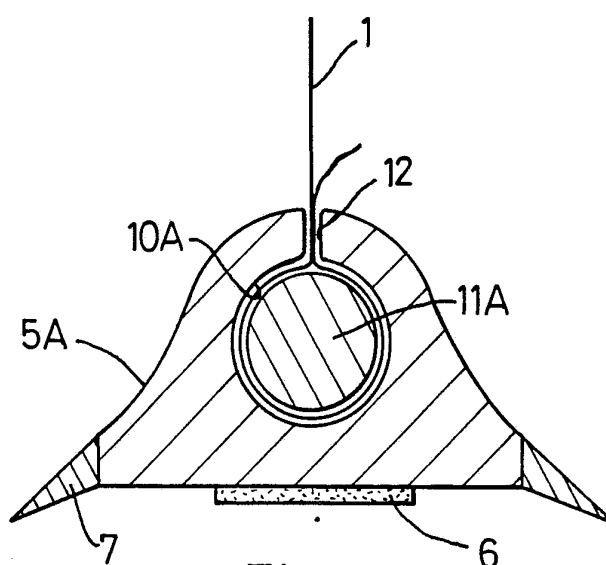


Fig. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 93/00587

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int.Cl. 5 A47K3/22		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	A47K	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	US,A,3 639 919 (WHITE) 8 February 1972	1,2,5,7
Y	see column 1, line 62 - column 2, line 47; figures 1-3,5	3,6

X	US,A,2 049 061 (HOEGGER) 28 July 1936	1,4
	see page 1, line 44 - page 2, line 18; figures 1-3	

Y	FR,A,2 651 426 (DUSAR) 8 March 1991	3
	see page 6, line 13 - line 20; figures 2,3	

Y	US,A,4 759 087 (ZEILINGER) 26 July 1988	6
	see column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 5; figures 1,2,4,5	

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¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
23 JUNE 1993	19 -07- 1993	
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III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)		
Category °	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	US,A,3 879 806 (AMSTRONG) 29 April 1975 see column 3, line 51 - column 4, line 7; figures 1-3 -----	2

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

GB 9300587
SA 72605

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.
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		DE-A- 4027000	04-04-91
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