Sept. 27, 1966 J. R. MARAS 3,275,065

CURTAINS

Filed Jan. 25, 1963

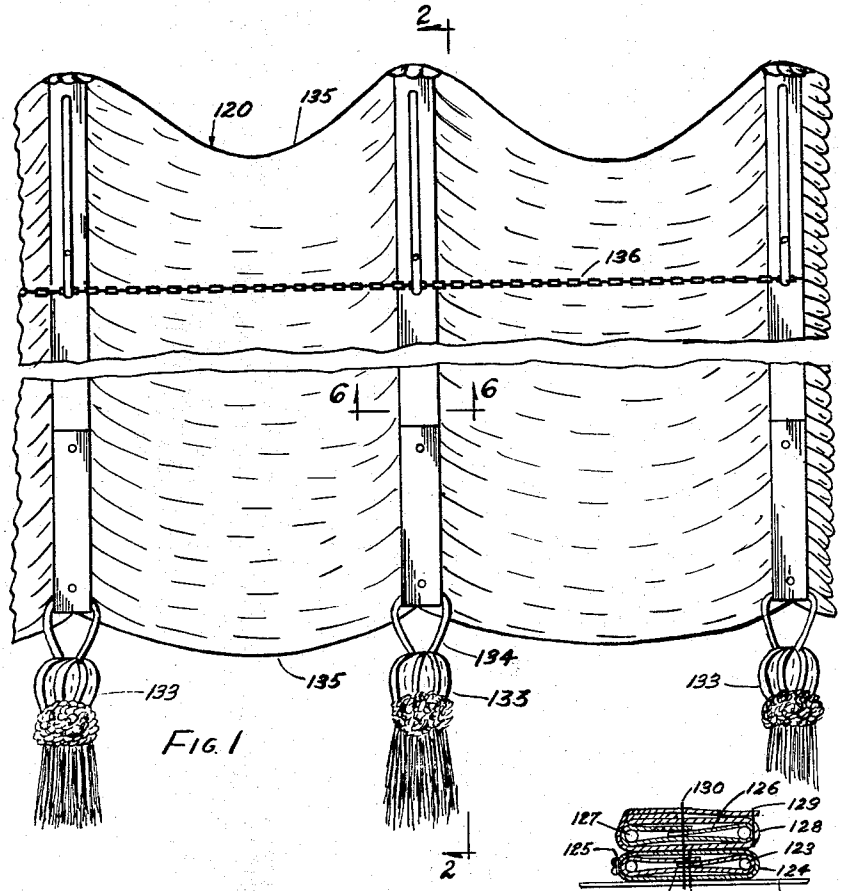


FIG. 1

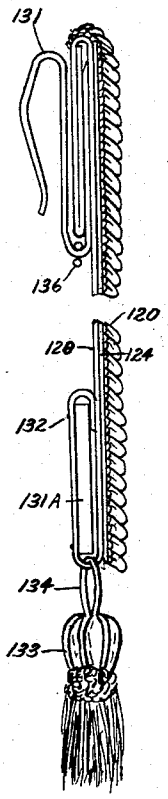


FIG. 2

FIG. 6

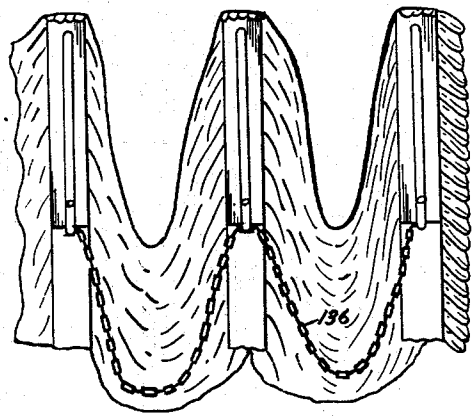


FIG. 3

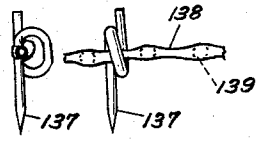


FIG. 4 FIG. 5

INVENTOR

JULIA R. MARAS

BY Milford A. Juster

ATTORNEY

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CURTAINS

Julia R. Maras, Buhl, Minn.
(1203 Pokigama Ave. S., Grand Rapids, Minn.)

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2 Claims. (Cl. 160—330)

This application is a continuation-in-part of my prior application Serial No. 4,653, filed January 26, 1960, now abandoned, which was a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 798,410, filed March 10, 1959, now Patent 3,093,187, issued June 11, 1963.

The present invention relates to curtains, and more particularly to draw curtains of the type mounted on slides to completely close an opening or to permit light to pass therethrough.

Heretofore, curtains have been provided with various types of draw string arrangements to close and open the curtains, but the prior arrangements have depended upon accurately making the curtains to fit the opening and therefore required skilled manipulation of the certain maker to accurately produce the desired result.

An object of the present invention is to provide a curtain structure which is adaptable to fill openings of different sizes by suitable adjustment of a flexible element arranged adjacent one edge of the curtain.

Another object is to provide a curtain structure which can be readily adjusted to different sized openings.

Other and further objects will be apparent as the description proceeds and upon reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:

FIG. 1 is a rear elevation with the mid-portion broken away of a curtain having gather retaining wire stiffened tapes and having chains at the top and/or bottom for maintaining the swirls of constant width and limiting the maximum width of opening of the draw curtain.

FIG. 2 is a section taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a rear elevation of the top portion of the curtain of FIG. 1 in open position.

FIG. 4 is a slide elevation of a pin holding a strand of weights in operative position to limit the opening of the curtain.

FIG. 5 is a front view thereof.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged section taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 1 showing the seam construction with the stiffening tapes and the ornamental coverings therefor.

The invention includes a draw type curtain supported from the usual slides in a curtain rod with the curtain being attached to the slides at spaced locations along the top edge of the curtain with the means for attachment being adjustable to vary the effective width of the space between the attaching means. Suitable means in the form of wire stiffened tapes are provided along the length of the curtain at the spaced locations to maintain the curtain in proper dimensional relation. Weights at the bottom of the tape assure that the curtain forms proper pleats or gathers with swirls being formed in greater or lesser extent in accordance with the closed or open condition of the curtain. Flexible strand elements or chains are provided to maintain the desired spacing between the slides and attaching means for obtaining the proper relation between the slides and the uniformity of swirls to assure attractive and neat appearance even with very light sleazy fabrics such as that used for lingerie.

Upon reference to FIGS. 1 to 6 a curtain panel **120** of lingerie type knitted fabric is gathered along vertically extending lines of stitching **121** which secures a first tape **122** stiffened by wires **123** and covered by a selvedge edged covering **124** secured by stitching **125** in place around the wire stiffened tape **122** with the covering **124** being of an attractive material preferably knitted to

smoothly cover and permit bending of the tape about lines parallel with the top of the curtain while assuring that a neat attractive appearance is obtained.

A second tape **126** stiffened by wires **127** is covered by an attractive covering material **128** having two selvedge edges with the covering **128** being wrapping around the tape **126** and secured in covering relation by stitching **129** passing through the exposed selvedge edge and a folded over portion of the other edge of the covering **128**. An additional row of stitching **130** secures the second covered tape **126, 128** to the curtain panel and to the first tape **122, 124**.

The two wire stiffened tapes **122–124** and **126–128** provide a tape-like structure and are used with the curtain gather retaining lines of stitching **121** and **130**. A single wire stiffened tape **122–124** is used in other gather retaining lines of stitching **121**. For purpose of identification the covers **124** and **128** respectively thereof are shown in the smaller scale general views of the drawing for simplicity of illustration.

The curtain is supported from conventional slides by the use of conventional hooks **131** passing through one or more tapes and located at the desired position along the tape to properly support the curtain in an attractive manner to cover the opening.

To assure that the tapes extend vertically even with light weight fabric in the curtain panel, flat lead weights **131A** having apertures in each end are positioned within a fold in the tape **128** and secured by stitching **132** passing through such apertures and through the tape. In addition to or as a substitute for weights **131**, tassle weights **133** having attaching loops formed of cord **134** are mounted with the cord passing through the bight of the fold at the bottom of the tape **128**. The weights effectively maintain the curtain with the lines of gathering stitching **121** in vertical and smooth condition.

A hem **135** is provided along the top and bottom edges of the curtain panel to prevent raveling and such hem may be formed merely by folding the material at such edges to prevent unraveling and applying a line of stitching to retain the hem. If desired a cord can be sewed to the hem **135**. The hem **135** of the top and bottom edges extends over the ends of wire stiffened tapes **122–124**.

To prevent uneven separation of the gather retaining tapes **122–124** and **126–128** and stitches **121** and **130** and to assure an even and uniform appearance of the swirls, a relatively non-stretchable and flexible strand shown as a link chain **136** is positively connected to the S-shaped hooks **131** by the hooks passing through selected links as shown and such chain will form a uniform catenary between the hooks and maintain the spacing between the tapes uniform due to the force of gravity on the chain. A similar chain is provided at the bottom edge and is attached to the tapes by eyed pins **137** which are adapted to penetrate the selected link at the desired spacing along the chain **136** and to be pinned to the tapes fixed to the curtains.

Alternatively a knitted fabric tube having lead shot **139** therein at spaced locations provides a weighted strand element which is used for the same function as chain **136** and the eyed pin **137** is passed through the fabric of the tube at the desired spacing to control the maximum width of the curtain and to predetermine the maximum spacing between the adjacent tapes **124** so that the tapes are in the desired spaced relation to each other to give the desired dip in the swirls of the curtain. It will be apparent that the strand element **138** can be used as a substitute for the link chain **136** or in addition thereto at the top and/or at the bottom and the same fastening S-shaped hooks **131** or pins **137** can be used for securing the strand element **138** or chain in operative position.

From the above description it will be apparent that a series of attractive, serviceable, and easily laundered curtains have been provided from a single fabric of relatively unstretchable, permanent finish nylon mesh fabric which is washable requiring no ironing to maintain its attractive original appearance.

The elongated stiffening tape-like structure **128, 124** is adapted to bend along a line transverse to the tape and lying in the plane of the tape with such line or lines being substantially parallel with the top and bottom of the curtain. The tape-like structure is relatively non-bendable about a line perpendicular to the tape and perpendicular to the curtain panel so that the swirls hang in a neat uniform arrangement.

It will be apparent that changes can be made within the scope of the invention as defined by the valid scope of the accompanying claims.

I claim:

1. An adjustable width continuous panel draw curtain for filling a desired width portion of an opening comprising a curtain panel of a maximum width greater than the width of the portion of the opening to be covered, slides attached to the curtain at a plurality of spaced locations along the top edge of the curtain, a flexible strand element extending along the said top edge of the curtain between the two side edges of the curtain, said flexible strand being of a length corresponding to the width of the portion of the opening to be covered by said curtain, means fastening said flexible strand elment adjustably to the top edge of the curtain at spaced locations with each spaced location being adjacent each slide with the length of the portion of the flexible element between adjacent slides being such as to limit the effective width of the curtain to less than said maximum width whereby when the curtain is extended to fill the said portion of the opening the said flexible element limits the width of the extended curtain and controls the fullness of each portion of the curtain between each pair of adjacent slides by the relation of the length of the flexible element between the said pair of adjacent slides relative to the width of curtain material between the said same pair of adjacent slides, said curtain having gathers extending between said side edges and generally parallel to said top edge, an

elongated stiffening tape-like structure extending transversely to said gathers and secured to said curtain from said top edge to the bottom edge and including relatively stiff strand means along each edge of the tape-like member, said tape-like member being readily bendable along a line parallel to said top edge and relatively non-bendable along a line transverse to the plane of the curtain whereby a neat appearance is maintained in said curtain.

2. The invention according to claim **1** in which said tape-like structure includes an elongated fabric tape having at least two layers extending transversely of the gathers, and a relatively stiff strand element adjacent each edge of the tape and lying between the layers, said layers being secured together retaining said stiff strands in position between said layers, stitches extending through said panel, the gathers therein and through the tape-like structure securing said tape-like structure to the curtain.

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HARRISON R. MOSELEY, *Primary Examiner.*

BENJAMIN BENDETT, *Examiner.*

R. R. RATH, P. C. KANNAN, *Assistant Examiners.*