

A. C. HOUGH.
SLAT FOR PORCH SHADES AND THE LIKE.
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932,127.

Patented Aug. 24, 1909.

FIG. 1.

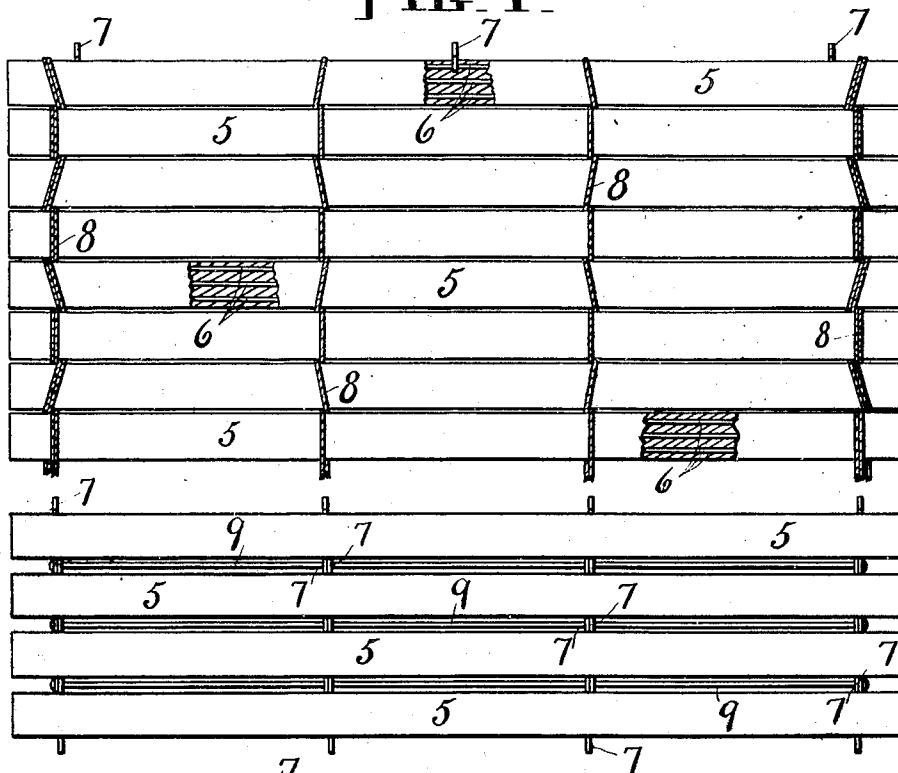


FIG. 2.

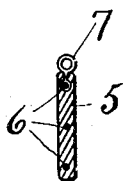


FIG. 3.

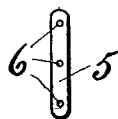


FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.

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SLAT FOR PORCH-SHADES AND THE LIKE.

932,127.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 24, 1909.

Application filed October 5, 1907. Serial No. 396,004.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AZEL C. HOUGH, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Janesville, in the county of Rock and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Slat for Porch-Shades and the Like, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the manufacture of porch and window shades, Venetian blinds, and the like, which have a substantial weft, and more particularly to such weft itself, which latter in the present case consists of slats made of molded material having a basis of wood or other vegetable matter, or of any substance in fact that can be formed and pressed into shape in a practical manner while in a pulpy condition so as to produce slats suitable for the purpose, such slats having reinforcing members incorporated therewith to impart thereto the necessary strength and rigidity and at the same time leave them sufficiently flexible, all as hereinafter set forth.

The object of my invention is to produce a strong, durable, uniform, and in every way practicable slat adapted to be utilized as a weft unit in shades of the class specified, which is an inexpensive substitute for the wood slat commonly used.

A further object is to provide a slat of this kind with means of attachment for cords, rods, etc., such means consisting of members partially embedded in the slat and having protruding parts adapted to afford the required points for attachment.

I attain these objects by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view on a reduced scale of the upper part of a shade which embodies a practical form of my invention, portions of some of the slats being broken away to show their construction; Fig. 2, an elevation of a part of a shade in which fastening attachments and rods are employed, in place of the usual textile warp, for connecting the slats to form the shade; Fig. 3, a cross-section of a slat provided with the fastening attachment; Fig. 4, an end view of a slat without such attachment, and, Fig. 5, an end view of a slat showing a modified form of attachment.

Similar figures refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

Having reference to the drawings, it will be observed that this device primarily consists of a slat 5 within the body of which three reinforcing members 6 are embedded, the latter extending lengthwise of the former. The slat 5 is molded and pressed into shape out of any suitable material or substance while in the form of pulp, with the members 6 therein, said members having been introduced into the plastic mass at an early stage in the process of manufacture. The configuration of the slat may vary more or less, although probably it will not depart widely from that of those made of wood. The members 6 are preferably made of wire, and more or less than three may be embedded in a single slat.

The slat 5 reinforced as above described may be equipped on one or both longitudinal edges with any desired number of fastening attachments 7, such devices being in the general form of eyes or loops having their shanks embedded in the slat. These attachments may be made of wire bent or twisted into shape, or they may be cut out of sheet-metal as shown; and when there is a wire rod 6 near the edge of the slat where the attachments are located I prefer to fasten the inner terminals of the latter directly to such rod. One side of the eye or loop in each attachment 7 might be left open so as to transform as it were such eye or loop into a hook which would nevertheless amount to the same thing and serve the same purpose as the complete eye or loop—see Fig. 5.

The fastening attachments 7 may be employed as a means of suspension for the shade, or as a means for connecting two or more slats together, or they may be omitted altogether. In Fig. 1 a portion of a woven shade appears, the upper edge of the upper slat 5 of which is equipped with fastening attachments 7 for the reception of a supporting rod, cord or cords (not shown) provided to support the shade. In this view 8 represents the warp.

It is obvious that by providing both longitudinal edges of the slats with the fastening attachments provision is made for securing such slats together with cords or rods which are passed through such attachments, and so producing a shade without the usual textile warp, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

The various kinds of shades into the con-

struction of which my improved slat enters are found to possess not only advantages peculiar to themselves, but also all of the advantages which pertain to the old style of shade; the reinforced molded slat without being too inflexible or rigid is strong and durable, and also comparatively light. As has already been pointed out, this slat can be made of any suitable shape in cross-section, which is not the case with a slat made of wood.

I am aware that rods for the purpose of binding together and strengthening have been used before in molded material, hence do not claim broadly such material having other materials or substances embedded therein, but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a shade, of the class described, consisting of a

plurality of molded slats spaced apart and having longitudinally-extending reinforcing members within, means for uniting such slats to form the shade, and fastening means partially embedded in the top slat of the shade so formed and secured to an adjacent reinforcing member.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a shade, of the class described, consisting of a plurality of molded slats spaced apart and having longitudinally-extending reinforcing members within, warp strands uniting such slats to form the shade, and fastening means partially embedded in the top slat of the shade so formed and secured to an adjacent reinforcing member.

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Witnesses:

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