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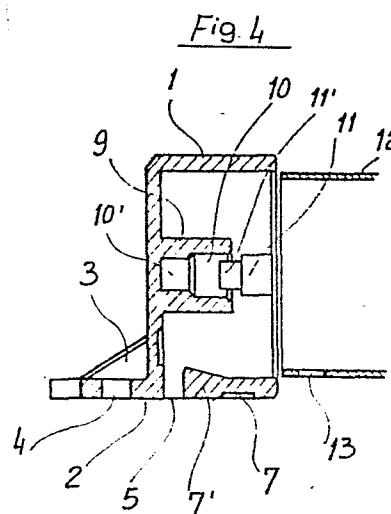
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54 A mounting for a roller blind.

57 A roller blind is carried on a tubular element (12) fitted at each end into a socket defined by a cup-shape body (1) having a foot (2) for securing it to a fixed support. The cup-shape body (1) is provided with an aperture (5) partly spanned by a projecting tongue (7) with an enlarged head end (7') which engages into an aperture (13) in the end of the tubular body (12) when this is fitted into the cup shape body (1) and turned in to register with the projection (7).



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A Mounting for a Roller Blind

The present invention relates generally to roller blinds, and particularly to a mounting for a roller blind, suitable for use on a motor vehicle.

Conventionally a roller blind is carried on a cylinder which is mounted to a motor vehicle by means of suitable supports each provided with a socket of appropriate shape into which one end of the cylinder of the roller blind is inserted upon assembly. After these supports have been fixed in position with the two ends of the said cylinder inserted into them, it is then necessary to fix the cylinder in position securely against movement on the supports. Currently this

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operation is performed with the aid of a clamping screw which is introduced through a suitable threaded hole in the wall of the support and screwed tight in order securely to lock the cylinder into the support. This operation takes a certain amount of time which is reflected in a significant manner in the costs of fitting the roller blinds to the vehicle.

The present invention seeks to provide a support for a roller blind in which the fixing between the support and the cylinder carrying the blind itself can be effected in a substantially automatic manner upon assembly of the blind to the support, thereby reducing significantly the costs of installation.

According to the present invention, there is provided a support for a roller blind carried on a tubular element which can be fitted to a motor vehicle, characterised by the fact that it comprises a generally cup-shape body into which is fitted one end of the tubular element upon assembly of the roller blind, the said cup-shape body having means for attaching it to a fixed support for the blind and being provided with interlock means which co-operate with corresponding interlock means on the tubular element upon insertion of the latter into the cup-shape body whereby automatically to retain the said tubular element in the cup-shape body against removal therefrom.

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The present invention also comprehends a roller blind incorporating such a support.

One embodiment of the present invention will now be
5 more particularly described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view from below of a support constituting an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an end view of the embodiment
10 illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a plan view from above of the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2; and

Figure 4 is a sectioned side view of the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1 to 3.

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Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a support for a roller blind, particularly a sun blind for a motor vehicle, the support comprising a cup-shape casing body 1, having an attachment foot projecting
20 from its periphery, beyond the bottom wall of the cup-shape body. Two reinforcing ribs 3 are provided for the portion of the foot 2 which projects beyond the bottom wall of the cup-shape body, and this projecting portion has a through-hole 4 for attaching
25 the foot 2 to a fixed support.

In the region of contact with the foot 2 the side wall of the casing body 1 is provided with an aperture 5 which also passes through the foot 2.

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From the rim 6 of the cup-shape body 1 a projection 7 extends across the said aperture 5. The projection 7 has a cross sectional shape similar to that of an inclined plane (see Figure 4) and a rounded end portion 7' (see Figure 1).

The cup-shape body 1 defines in effect a cylindrical socket 8. From the bottom wall of the cup-shape body 1 a hollow tubular element 9 projects axially into the socket 8. The tubular element 9 has an axial hole 10 for receiving a shaft 11 carrying the blind.

This axial hole 10 has a shaped inner end portion 10', having flats which can be seen in Figure 2, for forming a prismatic connection with the end portion 11' of the said spindle, which has a corresponding shape in cross-section.

The blind is carried on a tube 12 having longitudinally open ends. At each end the wall of the tube 12 has a through-hole 13 in a pre-established position, into which the rounded end portion 7' of the said projection 7 can engage.

By this means, the locking of the tube 12 carrying the blind into the associated support can be affected substantially automatically upon assembly. In fact, it will be sufficient for the operator, after having preliminarily inserted the two ends of the blind-carrier tube 12 into the supports 1 and having fixed the two

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supports into the required positions, merely to rotate
this tube about its longitudinal axis until the
projections 7' of the supports 7 engage in the holes
13 of the tube 12, thereby retaining the tube 12 in
5 position without requiring clamping screws as before.

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Claims:

1. A support for a roller blind carried on a tubular element (12), which can be fitted to a motor vehicle characterised by the fact that it comprises a generally cup-shape body (1) into which is fitted one end of the tubular element (12) upon assembly of the roller blind, the said cup-shape body (1) having means (2, 3) for attaching it to a fixed support for the blind and being provided with interlock means (7, 7') which co-operate with corresponding interlock means on the tubular element (12) upon insertion of the latter into the cup-shape body (1) whereby automatically to retain the said tubular element (12) in the cup-shape body against removal therefrom.

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2. A support for a roller blind according to Claim 1, characterised by the fact that the cup-shape body (1) has a generally cylindrical side wall and the said attachment means comprise a projecting foot (2) extending beyond the base of the cup-shape body (1) and having at least one reinforcing rib (3) and a through-hole (4) for fixing the foot (2) to a fixed support for the blind, and the said interlock means includes an aperture (5) in the said cylindrical side wall of the cup-shape body (1), which aperture also passes through the said foot in its region of contact with the casing body (1).

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3. A support for a roller blind according to Claim 2, characterised by the fact that the said interlock means includes a resilient tongue (7) projecting part way across the said aperture (5) for engaging
5 in an opening (13) in the said tubular element (12), the said resilient tongue (7) having an enlarged free end (7') and a generally wedge-shape cross section.

4. A support for a roller blind according to
10 Claim 2, characterised in that the aperture (5) in the cylindrical side wall of the cup-shape body (1) is adapted to receive a resilient detent on the said tubular element to retain the latter in position upon insertion.

15 5. A support for a roller blind according to any preceding Claim, characterised by the fact that the said cup-shape body has a central projection (9) coaxial with the cylindrical side wall extending from the bottom of the cup-shape body (1), the said central
20 projection having a cavity (10) constituting a socket for receiving a spindle (11) supporting the wound roller blind.

6. A support for a roller blind, according to
25 Claim 5, characterised by the fact that the said cavity (10) has a bottom portion (10') of polygonal cross section for receiving a prismatic end portion (11'), of corresponding cross section, of the said spindle (11).

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7. A roller blind characterised by comprising a tubular element carrying the blind curtain and supported at each end on a support according to any preceding Claim.

