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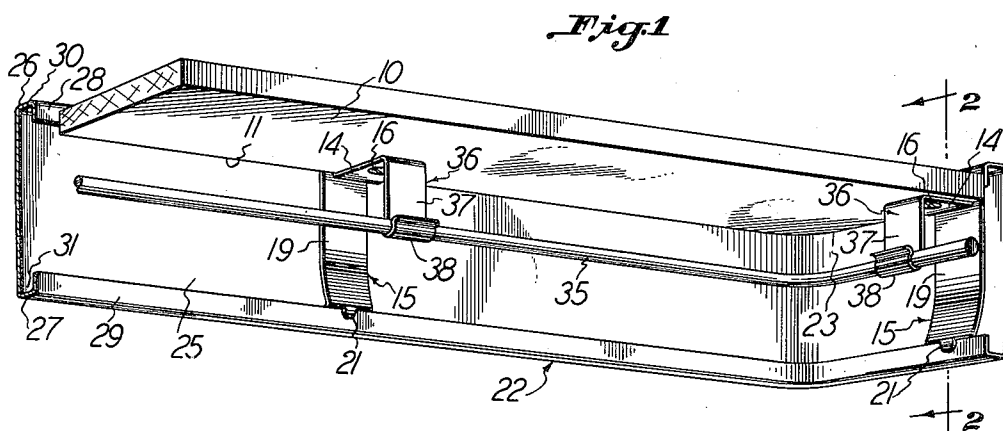
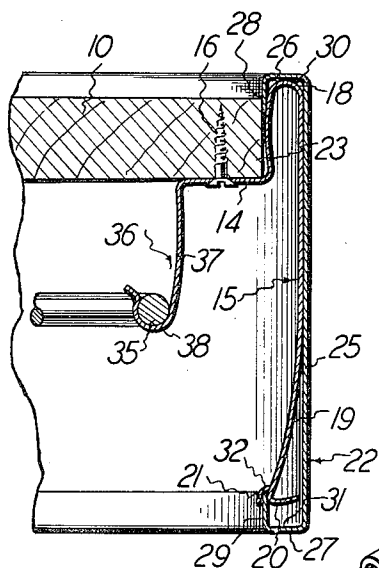
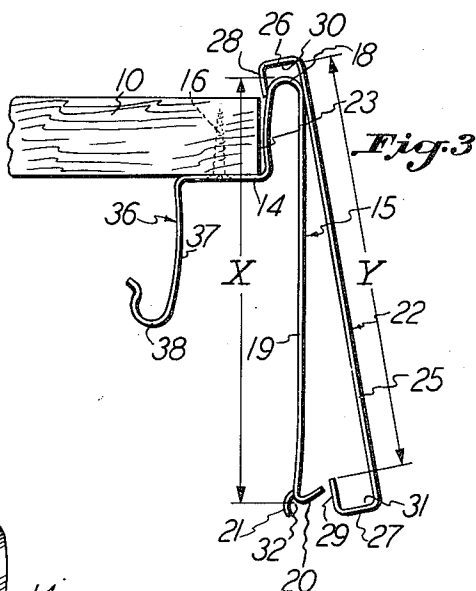
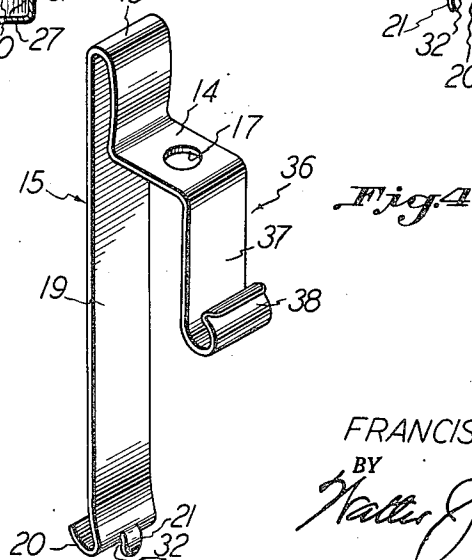
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2,597,578

HANGER MEANS FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



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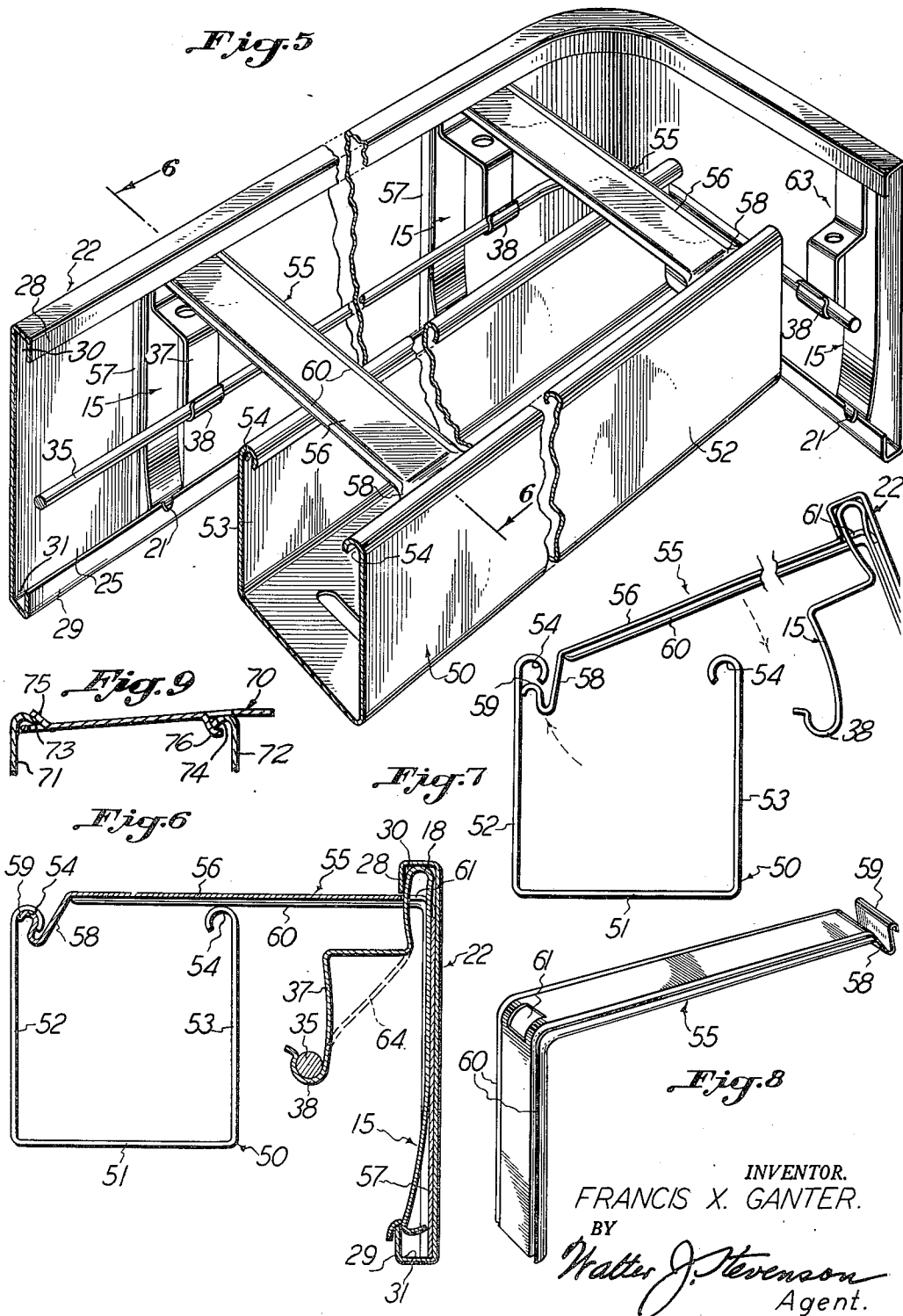
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,597,578

HANGER MEANS FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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18 Claims. (Cl. 160—19)

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This invention relates generally to Venetian blinds, and more particularly to a Venetian blind assembly having a cornice or fascia for concealing the upper end of the blind and enclosing the mechanical elements for operating the blind. Specifically, the invention pertains to hanger means for mounting the fascia or covering band to either a wooden headboard or to the metal channel or holder of a Venetian blind unit, and for supporting a curtain or drapery rod behind the fascia.

Conventional Venetian blind structures usually include a wooden cornice having a top board, a front wall, and end walls, the partial box-like structure being suitably secured against the top rail of the window frame and serving as a support for the Venetian blind unit which is suspended from the head board within the cornice, a curtain or drapery rod being usually supported within the cornice by means of hangers. Such a cornice and hanger means is disclosed in my Reissue Patent No. 22,989, issued May 23, 1948, for a Window Drape Rod Hanging Means. As is well recognized by those versed in the art, while such wooden cornices are especially pleasing in appearance and efficient in use, they are relatively expensive to manufacture since their front and end sections must be expertly fitted together to avoid unsightly misjoined corners. Moreover, when the Venetian blind unit is attached to the under side of the headboard after completion of the cornice, it is difficult to secure the hanger brackets for the blind unit in place, and much time is consumed in so assembling the entire structure.

It has therefore been proposed to employ a cornice in which the covering band or fascia is made from sheet metal, such a fascia having rounded corners to enhance the appearance of the Venetian blind assembly. As in prior Venetian blinds, a wooden top board is employed and the blind is suspended therefrom by suitable brackets. While such an assembly is efficient in use, it has the disadvantage of necessitating the use of small nails or brads for attaching the fascia to the edge of the top board, and these fasteners detract from the appearance of the article.

It is therefore an important object of this invention to provide a Venetian blind assembly of the type employing a metal fascia, and more particularly to provide mounting means by which the metal fascia may be quickly and securely attached to the wooden headboard of the cornice, said mounting means being disposed entirely at

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the rear of the fascia and thus wholly concealed from view.

Another object is to provide a Venetian blind assembly in which the sheet metal fascia has longitudinally extending channels at its upper and lower edges, and in which the mounting means consists of a spring clip member attached to the under side of the wooden headboard and provided with a substantially vertical support portion, the upper and lower ends of which are adapted to engage in the channels of the fascia to retain the latter in place.

Another object is to provide a fascia mounting or attaching means in which the vertical support portion of the clip member has a reversely-bent upper loop receivable in the upper channel of the fascia, and a slanted cam or lock portion at its lower end adapted to snap across an edge of the lower channel when the support portion is flexed or bowed laterally to facilitate such engagement, said support portion also having a stop lug or ear engageable against the side of the lower channel to limit the movement of the lock portion into said channel, the lock portion and stop lug defining between them a notch for receiving the edge of a flange of the lower channel.

Another object is to provide a mounting means, of the character referred to, which has a horizontal attaching portion adapted to underlie the headboard adjacent the front edge thereof and to be attached thereto by a screw passing through an aperture in the attaching portion and screwed into the headboard.

A further object is to provide a mounting means which has a downwardly-projecting hanger portion formed integrally therewith and adapted to receive and support a curtain or drapery rod, the single, one-piece mounting member thus serving a double purpose.

It has recently been the practice in Venetian blind installations to utilize a relatively long, sheet metal holder of channel shape for suspending the blind slats, such a holder being disposed either within the opening of a window frame or against the upper horizontal rail of the window frame. The upper tiltable operating bar of the Venetian blind is disposed within the channel-shaped holder, and the cords for operating the blind extend downwardly through apertures in the bottom of the holder. In such Venetian blind assemblies, the metal holder or channel may serve as the cornice, but in other instances a separate ornamental cornice may be employed as a covering for the holder. It is therefore another object of this

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invention to provide additional mounting or supporting means by which a metal fascia may be supported from such a metal channel-like holder to serve as a covering therefor.

Another object is to provide a supporting member which is detachably connectible to the upper open end of the channel-shaped holder without the use of screws, bolts, or other separate fastening means, said supporting member being of angular shape to provide a horizontal leg having a hook at one end adapted to be snapped into place beneath the rolled upper edge of the rearward flange of the holder, the intermediate portion of said horizontal leg resting against the upper rolled edge of the other flange of the holder. The supporting member thus provides, in effect, a cantilever which has a depending vertical leg at its unsupported free end.

A further object is to provide a fascia support which includes mounting means by which the fascia can be mounted on the outer vertical leg of the supporting member. As an important feature of this invention the mounting means consists of one of the flexible mounting clips referred to above, the vertical leg of the supporting member being disposed against the inner or back side of the fascia and having an aperture at the intersection of the horizontal and vertical legs through which the upper looped end of the clip projects into the upper longitudinal channel of the fascia, the lower end of the clip engaging the fascia in the manner previously explained. Thus, by this construction, the same clip member is interchangeable and can be used in connection with either a wooden headboard or a metal channel-shaped holder, and in the latter case the clip member forms the connection between the angular supporting member and the fascia to retain the latter in a position to conceal the holder.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a supporting or mounting device in which the parts lend themselves to mass production from metal strip stock so as to maintain the cost thereof at a minimum.

Further objects will appear from the following description and from the drawings, which disclose an exemplary embodiment of the invention. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one end of a support for a Venetian blind, as observed from below;

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and showing the sheet metal band or fascia detachably secured in place against the forward edge of the top board of the Venetian blind;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, illustrating the manner of applying the fascia to a clip member or hanger of the blind assembly;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one of the clip members;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one end of the fascia, showing it applied to use in connection with a channel-shaped sheet metal holder of a Venetian blind assembly;

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view, taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6, showing the method of mounting the fascia in place on the holder;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the angular supporting member forming part of the mounting means shown in Fig. 5; and,

Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the upper

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portion of a holder, showing a modified form of supporting member.

Referring first to Figs. 1 through 4, the present improved hanger or mounting means is shown as applied to use in connection with a wooden headboard 10, the latter being secured in place against the top rail of a window frame by means of suitable brackets, not herein shown. The headboard 10 is employed as a support for a conventional Venetian blind unit (not shown) which is suspended therefrom in the usual manner.

Secured against the under side of the headboard 10, adjacent its forward edge 11, are the horizontal portions 14 of sheet metal clip members 15, the members being fastened in place by means of wood-screws 16, each passing through an aperture 17 in the horizontal portion and being screwed into the headboard. Several of the clip members 15 are employed in the assembly, but since they are identical only one will be described in detail.

Forwardly of the edge 11, the metal of the clip member 15 extends upwardly to a point slightly above the top surface of the board 10 where it is looped forwardly and downwardly as indicated at 18. From the loop 18, the sheet metal extends downwardly in a vertical portion or stanchion 19, the lower end of which is disposed at a considerable distance below the headboard 10. At its lower end, the vertical portion 19 is bent forwardly to provide a hook-shaped cam portion 20. Centrally of its vertical edges, the cam portion 20 is provided with a U-shaped slit and the metal within the confines of the slit is struck downwardly to provide a depending stop lug or ear 21.

The clip members 15, as thus far described, are employed for the purpose of detachably securing an ornamental covering or fascia 22 to the front and end edges of the headboard 10. A suitable number of the clip members 15 may be secured to the headboard at spaced intervals along its front edge 11, and at least one clip member is similarly applied to each end 23 of the headboard.

The fascia 22 is made from sheet metal and has a vertical wall 25, upper and lower rearwardly bent webs 26 and 27, a downwardly projecting flange 28 at its upper end, and an upwardly projecting flange 29 at its lower end. The wall 25 defines, with the webs and flanges, an upper channel 30 and a lower channel 31. The fascia is, of course, generally U-shaped in plan view to adapt it to follow the contour of the front and end edges of the headboard 10.

To apply the fascia 22 to the headboard 10, the upper channeled end of the fascia is placed over the upper looped ends 18 of the clip members 15, which are already fastened in place against the under side of the headboard, and the fascia is forced downwardly on the looped ends. The clip members are made from spring metal so that the sides of their loop portions 18 may flex toward each other to allow downward movement of the fascia from the position illustrated in Fig. 3 to that shown in Fig. 2, at which time the inherent tendency of the loop 18 to spread open causes the upper end of the fascia to be frictionally gripped by the loops.

It is to be noted that the length of the vertical portion 19 of each clip member 15, that is, the dimension "X" in Fig. 3, is slightly greater than the internal vertical dimension "Y" of the fascia. Consequently, when the lower portion of the fascia is moved inwardly toward the clip mem-

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bers 15, the curved cam portions 20 engage and ride across the upper edge of the flange 29, the vertical portion 19 flexing or bowing to permit such relative movement. Eventually, the stop ears 21 engage against the flange 29 to limit movement of the fascia in this direction, at which time the upper edge of the flange snaps into V-shaped notches 32 formed between the curved corners of the cam portions 20 and the stop ears 21. Since the vertical portions 19 must be shortened in length to accommodate such placing of the fascia on the clip members, the vertical portions are caused to assume the bowed shape shown in Fig. 2 so as to retain the flange 29 within the notches 32. The fascia 22 thus is securely held in place by the clip members, and provides, in effect, a skirt which surrounds the front and ends of the headboard 10 and serves to conceal the operating mechanism of the Venetian blind. If for any reason it becomes necessary to remove the fascia 22, this may be readily accomplished by simply prying the clip portions 19 inwardly toward the headboard so as to free the ends 20, 21 from the flange 29.

In Venetian blind structures of the general type disclosed herein, it is customary to provide hanger means for supporting a rod 35 from which a curtain or drape may be suspended. Each mounting means 15 embodies such a hanger 36 which consists of a leg 37 bent downwardly from the inner end of the horizontal portion 14 and terminating in a hook 38 into which the rod 35 can be readily snapped. It is thus seen that the clip members 15 serve the double function of mounting the fascia 22 and supporting the curtain or drapery rod 35.

Referring now to Figs. 5 to 8, the present invention also contemplates a mounting means which is adaptable for use in connection with a Venetian blind having a channel-shaped holder 50 in which the upper operating elements of the blind are located. Such a holder may be located within the upper portion of a window frame or against the side of the upper horizontal rail of the frame, and in either case the ends of the holder are closed by means of brackets (not shown) which retain the holder in place on the window frame. The holder 50 is constructed from sheet metal, and has a bottom portion 51 and upstanding side walls 52 and 53. At their upper edges, the walls 52 and 53 are rolled inwardly to provide small longitudinal channels or recesses 54.

An angular sheet metal supporting member 55 has a horizontal leg 56 and a vertical leg 57. At its free end, the leg 56 slopes downwardly at 58, the metal then being bent upwardly and laterally to provide a hook-like bead 59 of arcuate cross-sectional shape. The legs 56 and 57 are provided with longitudinally extending ribs 60 to add strength and rigidity to the member. At the intersection of the legs 56 and 57, the member 55 is provided with a rectangular aperture 61.

The supporting member 55 is, in effect, an adapter making it possible to utilize the mounting clips 15 in supporting the fascia 22 from the channel-like holder 50. To support the fascia from the holder, two or more of the supporting members, depending upon the length of the holder, are employed. Each supporting member 55 is placed against the inner side of the fascia 22 with its lower end disposed within the lower channel 31 of the fascia. A clip member 15 is then applied to the fascia in substantially the same manner as explained hereinbefore, that

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is, by inserting its upper looped end 18 into the channel 31 and thereafter flexing its lower cam portion toward the flange 29 to cause the upper end of this flange to snap into the notch 32. In inserting the looped end 18 in the channel 30, the end is first passed through the aperture 61 of the supporting member 55 so that when the clip member is in place against the fascia the supporting member is locked against the fascia and a unitary structure, composed of the fascia and the several supporting members and clip members, is provided. This unitary structure is detachably connected to the channel-shaped holder 50 by simply hooking the beads 59 of the legs 56 into the channel 54 of the rear wall 52 of the holder with a snap action, this operation being shown in Fig. 7.

Referring to Fig. 6, it will be seen that the free ends of the legs 56 are disposed in the channel 54 while the intermediate portions of these legs rest upon the upper end of the front wall 53 of the holder 50. The members 55 thus provide cantilever supports for the fascia 22 which is held against the legs 57 by the bowing of the resilient clip members 15. The mounting means 55, 15 rigidly support the fascia in position to conceal the holder 50 and may be disconnected from the holder when necessary by simply prying the beads 59 downwardly from the inner channel 54 and lifting the assembly 55, 15, 22 from the holder.

Since the clip members 15 used with the supporting members 55 are identical with those employed in connection with the wooden headboard 10 of Fig. 1, it will be apparent that they are interchangeable. In the installation shown in Fig. 5, clip members 15, placed at the ends of the fascia as indicated at 63, serve merely as supports for the bent ends of the drapery rod 35. If it is desired to conserve material, the clip members 15, when used as shown in Fig. 5, may assume the shape indicated by the broken lines 64.

Referring now to Fig. 9, the invention further contemplates a supporting member 70 of alternative form. This holder member is designed primarily for use in connection with a channel-shaped holder having vertical walls 71 and 72, the upper edges of which terminate in inwardly and downwardly directed curved flanges 73 and 74. The supporting member 70 has an upwardly bent curved ear 75 at its rearward end adapted to overlie the flange 73. The member also has a downwardly projecting ear or dog 76 adapted to underlie the flange 74.

To apply the supporting member 70 to use, it is placed with its rearward end in the position shown in Fig. 9, that is, underlying the flange 73 and with its ear resting upon this flange. With the forward portion of the supporting member 70 resting upon the flange 74, the forward wall 72 is sprung forwardly and the dog 76 is positioned under the flange 74, after which the wall 72 is released. The ear 75 and dog 76 thus lock the supporting member in place on the holder.

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, I have described the principle of operation of my invention together with the mounting means which I now consider to represent the best embodiments thereof, but I desire to have it understood that the devices shown are only illustrative and that the invention may be carried out by modified means.

I claim as my invention:

1. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind

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from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: a resilient clip member having connecting means at its ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member; and attaching means associated with said clip member and detachably connectible to the holder of the Venetian blind.

2. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower flanges defining upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: a resilient clip member having a loop at one end insertable in one of said channels and detent means at its other end engageable with the flange defining the other channel to detachably connect the fascia to said clip member; and attaching means associated with said clip member and detachably connectible to the holder of the Venetian blind.

3. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member; and attaching means associated with said clip member and extending laterally with respect to its said vertical portion, said attaching means being detachably connectible to the holder of the Venetian blind and supporting said fascia from said holder.

4. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member; and attaching means for detachably connecting said clip member to the holder of the Venetian blind, said vertical portion being spaced laterally from said holder.

5. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: a supporting member having a first end detachably connected to the holder and a second end disposed against the inner surface of said fascia; and a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member, said clip member overlying said second end of said supporting member and retaining the latter against said fascia.

6. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, comprising: an angular supporting member having a first leg detachably connected to the holder and a second leg disposed against the inner surface of said fascia; and a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and

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lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member, said clip member overlying said second leg and retaining the same against said fascia.

7. A mounting means as defined in claim 6 in which said supporting member has an aperture at the intersection of its legs, and in which the connecting means at the upper end of said clip member extends through said aperture and into the upper channel of said fascia.

8. A mounting means as defined in claim 6 in which said supporting member has an aperture at the intersection of its legs, the end of said second leg being disposed in the lower channel of said fascia, and in which the connecting means at the upper end of said clip member consists of a loop extending through said aperture and into the upper channel of said fascia.

9. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the channel-shaped holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, said holder having a longitudinally extending recess in one of its sides, comprising: an angular supporting member having a horizontal leg and a vertical leg, the free end of said horizontal leg having a hook-like bead engageable in said recess, and an intermediate portion of said horizontal leg resting upon the other side of the holder, said supporting member having an aperture at the intersection of its legs; and a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member, one of said connecting means extending through said aperture to lock said second leg against the fascia, said fascia, said clip member, and said supporting member being detachable as a unit from the holder by tilting the unit upwardly to disengage said bead from said recess.

10. A Venetian blind upper assembly, including: a holder adapted to be secured to a structure adjacent a window and to support a plurality of blind slats; a fascia for surrounding said holder and concealing the same, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels; a plurality of clip members each having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends engageable in said channels to support said fascia; and attaching means for detachably connecting said clip members to said holder with said fascia spaced from said holder.

11. A Venetian blind upper assembly, including: a headboard; a fascia surrounding the exposed edges of said headboard and concealing the same, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels; and a plurality of clip members each having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends engageable in said channels to support said fascia, said clip members having horizontal portions secured against the under side of said headboard.

12. A Venetian blind upper assembly, including: a headboard; a U-shaped fascia surrounding the exposed edges of said headboard and concealing the same, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels; and a plurality of resilient clip members each having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends en-

gageable in said channels to support said fascia, said clip members having horizontal portions secured against the under side of said headboard.

13. A Venetian blind upper assembly, including: a headboard; a U-shaped fascia surrounding the exposed edges of said headboard and concealing the same, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels; and a plurality of resilient clip members each having a vertical portion provided with a loop at its upper end receivable in the upper channel of said fascia and each having a cam portion and a notch at its lower end, said cam portion being movable across an edge of said lower channel to cause said edge to snap into said notch, said clip members having horizontal portions secured against the under side of said headboard.

14. A Venetian blind upper assembly, including: a headboard; a U-shaped fascia surrounding the exposed edges of said headboard and concealing the same, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels; a plurality of resilient clip members each having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends engageable in said channels to support said fascia, said clip members having horizontal portions secured against the under side of said headboard, each of said clip members also having a leg depending from its said horizontal portion and provided with a hook at its lower end; and a drapery rod receivable in said hooks to adapt it to be supported from said clip members.

15. A mounting device for use in connection with a Venetian blind assembly having a holder for supporting a plurality of slats, a fascia for concealing the holder, and a drapery rod, said device consisting of a resilient clip member having a substantially horizontal portion adapted to be connected to the holder, a substantially vertical portion at one side of said horizontal portion adapted to support the fascia, and a depending leg at the other side of said horizontal portion, said leg having a hook adapted to receiving the drapery rod.

16. A mounting device for use in connection with a Venetian blind assembly having a holder for supporting a plurality of slats, a fascia for concealing the holder, and a drapery rod, said device including: an angular supporting member having a first leg detachably connectible to the holder and a second leg against which the fascia is adapted to be disposed; and a spring clip member detachably connectible to the fascia and engageable with said second leg to retain the latter against the fascia, said clip member having a downwardly extending portion formed with a hook adapted to receive and support the drapery rod.

17. A mounting device for use in connection

with a Venetian blind assembly having a holder for supporting a plurality of slats, a fascia for concealing the holder, and having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels and a drapery rod, said device including: an angular supporting member having a first leg detachably connectible to the holder and a second leg against which the fascia is adapted to be disposed; and a spring clip member having a vertical portion provided with locking means at its ends engageable in said channels, said vertical portion being engageable with said second leg to lock the same against the fascia, said clip member having a downwardly extending portion formed with a hook adapted to receive and support the drapery rod.

18. Mounting means for supporting a fascia in position to conceal the channel-shaped holder of a Venetian blind from which the blind slats are suspended, said fascia having upper and lower longitudinally extending channels, said holder having spaced forward and rearward vertical walls provided with inturned flanges at their upper edges, comprising: an angular supporting member having a horizontal leg and a vertical leg, the free rearward end of said horizontal leg underlying the flange of the rearward wall of said holder, and an intermediate portion of said horizontal leg resting upon the flange of said forward wall of said holder, said rearward end having an upwardly bent ear underlying said flange of said rearward wall and said intermediate portion having a downwardly bent ear underlying the flange of said forward wall, said supporting member having an aperture at the intersection of its legs; and a resilient clip member having a vertical portion provided with connecting means at its upper and lower ends releasably engageable in said channels to detachably connect said fascia to said clip member, one of said connecting means extending through said aperture to lock said second leg against the fascia, said fascia, said clip member, and said supporting member being detachable as a unit from the holder by springing the forward wall of said holder away from said rearward wall thereof so as to release said ear and permit upward tilting movement of said supporting member.

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