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2,332,339

VALANCE OR THE LIKE

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1

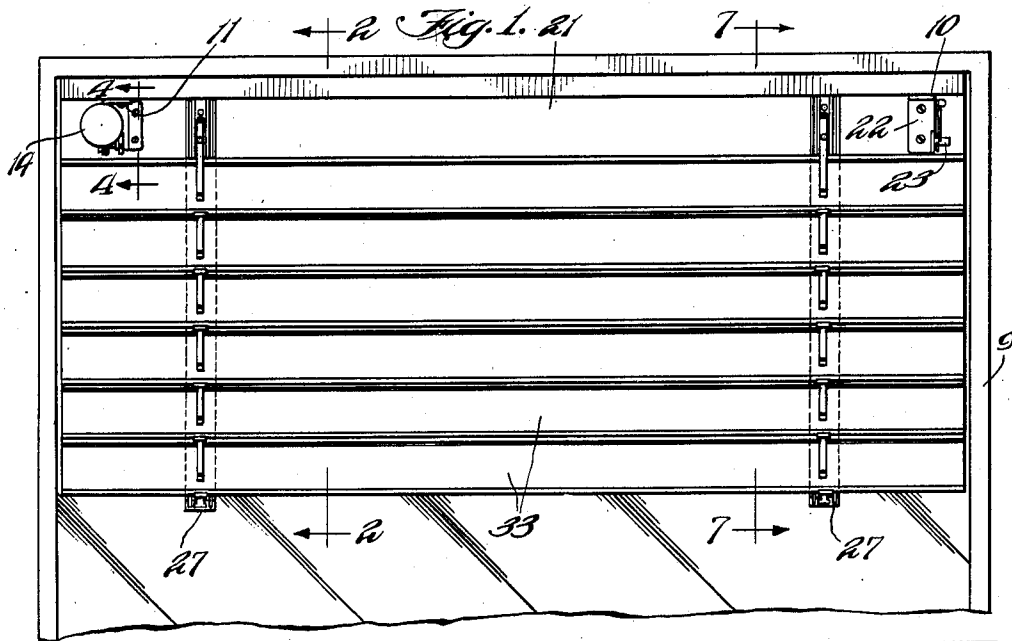
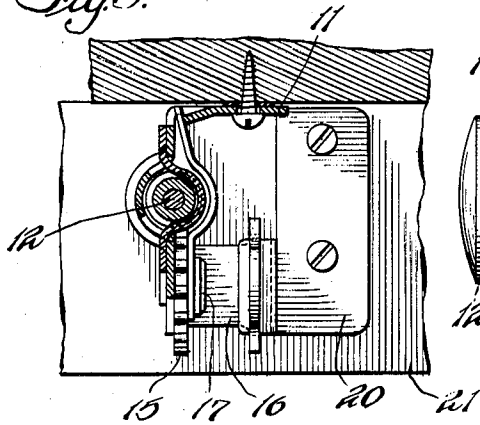
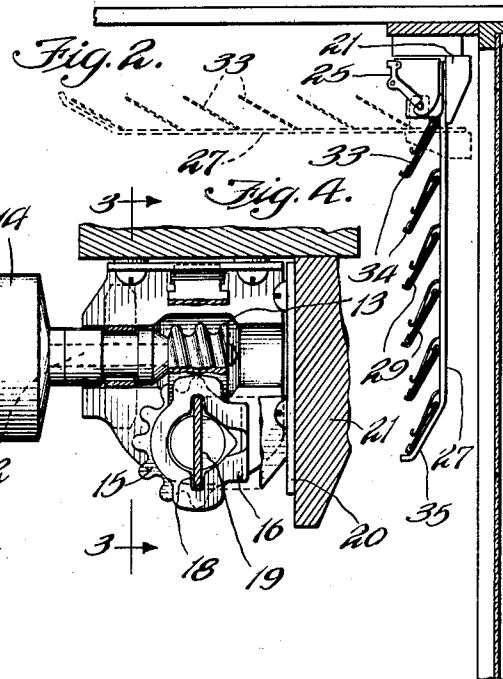
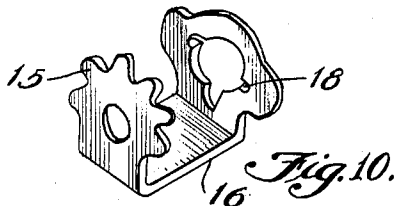


Fig. 3.



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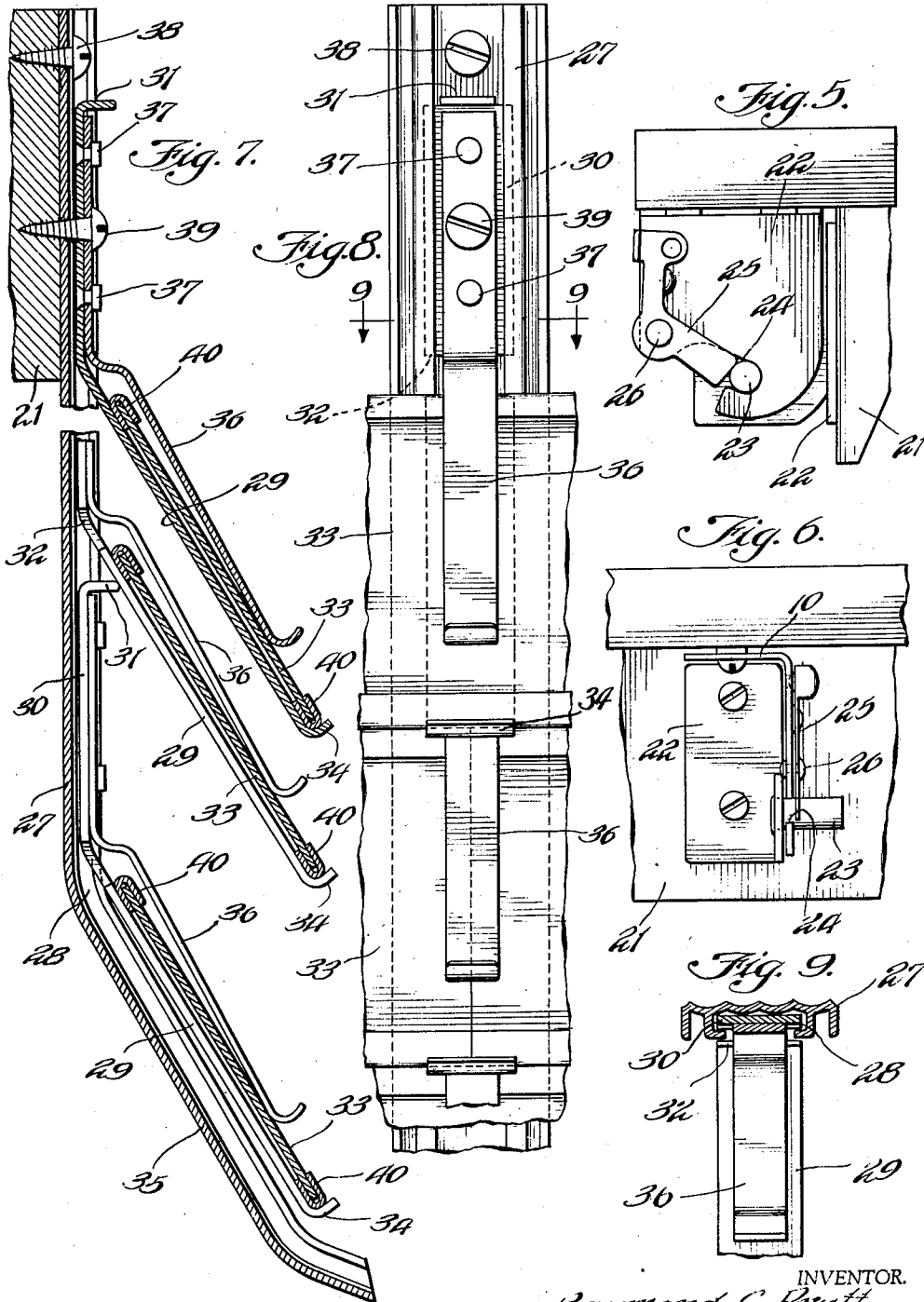
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VALANCE OR THE LIKE

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Application August 1, 1940, Serial No. 349,347

7 Claims. (Cl. 20—57.5)

This invention relates to valances of the type used in store windows for ornamental purposes and also for shielding the lights used for illuminating the windows. Certain features of the invention are also adapted for other purposes such as for awnings or the like, screens or backgrounds for windows.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a valance preferably of the Venetian blind type which will be particularly pleasing and attractive in appearance, which may be readily installed, and which may be adjusted so that it will be out of the way when the windows are to be cleaned.

Other objects are to provide a device of this kind in which the main portion may be readily detached from the support; to provide improved slats; to provide novel rails or bars and hooks or clamping means for detachably holding the slats and to provide such other novel features of construction and improvements in operation as will appear more fully from the following description.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating this invention,

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a window as seen from the inside of a room with my improved valance in position;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional detail taken approximately on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail side view of one of the supporting brackets;

Fig. 6 is a front view of the part shown in Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged sectional detail taken approximately on the line 7—7 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 8 is a front view of the parts shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a cross section taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8; and

Fig. 10 is a perspective detail of a bearing member.

The window frame or housing 9 illustrates generally any window opening such as a display window which is provided with lights (not shown) for illuminating goods in the window. Brackets 10 and 11 are secured to the top of the window frame or other fixed portion of the building and serve to support the valance proper. The bracket 11 has a shaft 12 rotatably mounted in suitable bearings in the bracket and provided at its inner end with a worm 13 and at its outer end with a

knob or handle 14 for turning the same. The worm engages with a segmental worm gear 15 which is formed on one of the branches of a U-shaped bearing member 16, the toothed branch of which is pivotally connected at 17 to the bracket 11. The opposite branch of the bearing member 16 has a slot or key-hole opening 18 for receiving a flat tang or projection 19 on a bracket 20 which is secured to the top bar 21 of the valance.

The opposite end of the bar 21 is provided with another bracket 22 having a pivot or trunnion 23 which engages with a slot or recess 24 in the bracket 15. A catch 25 is pivotally mounted at 26 on the bracket 22 and serves to hold the trunnion 23 normally in engagement with the slot or bearing 24. The slot or recess is also arranged at such an angle that the valance cannot be removed except when in predetermined position.

The bar 21 carries a plurality of rails or channels 27 having guideways 28. Hooks or fingers 29 have slide portions 30 which engage with the guideways 28 and are slidable therein. The upper ends of these slide portions have outwardly extending projections or stops 31. The sides of the hooks 29 are notched or recessed at 32 to clear the inwardly extending flanges of the guideway as shown in Fig. 9, and the lower ends of these hooks are bent to extend outwardly as shown to provide a plurality of supports or holders for the slats 33. The lower ends of the hooks are bent outwardly as shown in 34 to engage with the lower edges of the slats as shown particularly in Fig. 7. The lower or free ends of the rails or channels 27 are bent forwardly or out of alignment as shown at 35 to provide stops for the lowermost hooks or finger members 29. Each of the hooks or fingers 29 has a spring clip 36 secured thereto, as by means of rivets 37, which extend down over the outwardly projecting portions of the hooks and coact therewith to hold the slats in position, and may serve to hold the ends of spliced slats. The projections 31 of the lower hooks are engaged by the outwardly extending portions of the next succeeding hooks whereby the hooks are held in predetermined spaced positions. Screws 38 and 39 serve to fasten the rails 27 to the bar 21 and the screws 39 also pass through the topmost hook and finger whereby all the hooks are held securely in position in the rails.

Any desired forms of slats or slats made of any suitable material may be used in my improved valance, but instead of the usual wooden slats, I may utilize the novel forms shown in which the

main portion or strip forming the slat **33** is made of plastic material, metal, wood or the like and may be either transparent, opaque, or translucent. The slat is bound along the edges with U-shape binding strips **40**. These strips are preferably made of extruded metal and placed in engagement with the edges of the slats and then rolled or pressed in position whereby the strips will firmly bind the edges of the slats and will serve to reinforce, stiffen and protect the same.

The valance when placed in the usual manner on the inside of the window will be arranged with the rails or channels **27** vertical, and the slats will be properly positioned to perform their usual functions in the way of cutting off the light and also serving to ornament the window. When the window is to be cleaned, the operator may turn the knob **14** which will swing the top bar **21** with the parts attached thereto out of vertical position or to a horizontal position as shown in Fig. 2 thus leaving the window clear. This adjustment may also be used when the device is placed on the outside of the window and utilized as an awning. If it is desired to remove the valance, the catch **25** is swung to position to free the trunnion **23** and the trunnion may then be drawn out of the slot **24** which will permit the tang or projection **19** to be drawn out of the slot **13** and thus free the top bar with the parts attached thereto. It will also be noted that the individual slats may be readily removed for cleaning or the like by slipping them out from under the spring fingers.

While I have shown and described a valance or the like embodying the essential features of my invention, changes may be made in the construction and in the arrangement of the parts in order to adapt the same for different windows or uses, therefore, I do not wish to be limited to the particular construction shown and described except as specified in the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character set forth, the combination of brackets adapted to be secured to a window frame member, a bar pivotally mounted in said brackets, means coacting with one of the brackets and with the bar for swinging the bar, and light retarding and deflecting means carried by the bar and extending downwardly therefrom.

2. In a valance, the combination of a pair of supporting brackets, a bar pivotally and detachably connected with said brackets, worm and gear means coacting with one of the brackets and the bar for adjustably swinging the bar on its pivots, rails secured to said bar and slats carried by said rails.

3. A device as per claim 2, having a worm mounted in one of the brackets, a U-shaped bearing member pivotally mounted in the bracket, and having one branch provided with gear teeth engaging with the worm and the other branch having a slot therein, and a bracket secured to the bar and having a projection engaging with said slot for the purposes described.

4. In a valance, the combination of a supporting bar, a plurality of channels each having grooves therein carried by said bar, hook members slidably mounted in said grooves, slats severally engaging with opposite pairs of hooks, and clips coacting with the hooks for holding the slats in position.

5. A valance comprising a bar or plate, a plurality of rails secured to said bar, said rails having under-cut grooves therein, hook strips slidably mount in said grooves, means on said hook strips for holding the same in spaced positions in the rails, stops at the free ends of the rails for holding the lower-most hook strips, spring clips carried by each of said hook strips, and slats engaging with the hook strips and held in position by the spring clips.

6. A hook member for a valance, comprising a straight supporting portion having a projection at one end thereof, and a slat holding portion bent at an angle to the straight portion and having notches in the sides thereof at the bend, and a spring clip secured to said straight supporting portion, and coacting with the slat holding portion.

7. In a valance, the combination of a bar, a rail having a groove therein carried by said bar, hook members slidably mounted in said groove, slats severally engaging with said hooks and clips coacting with the hooks for holding the slats in position.

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