

No. 719,322.

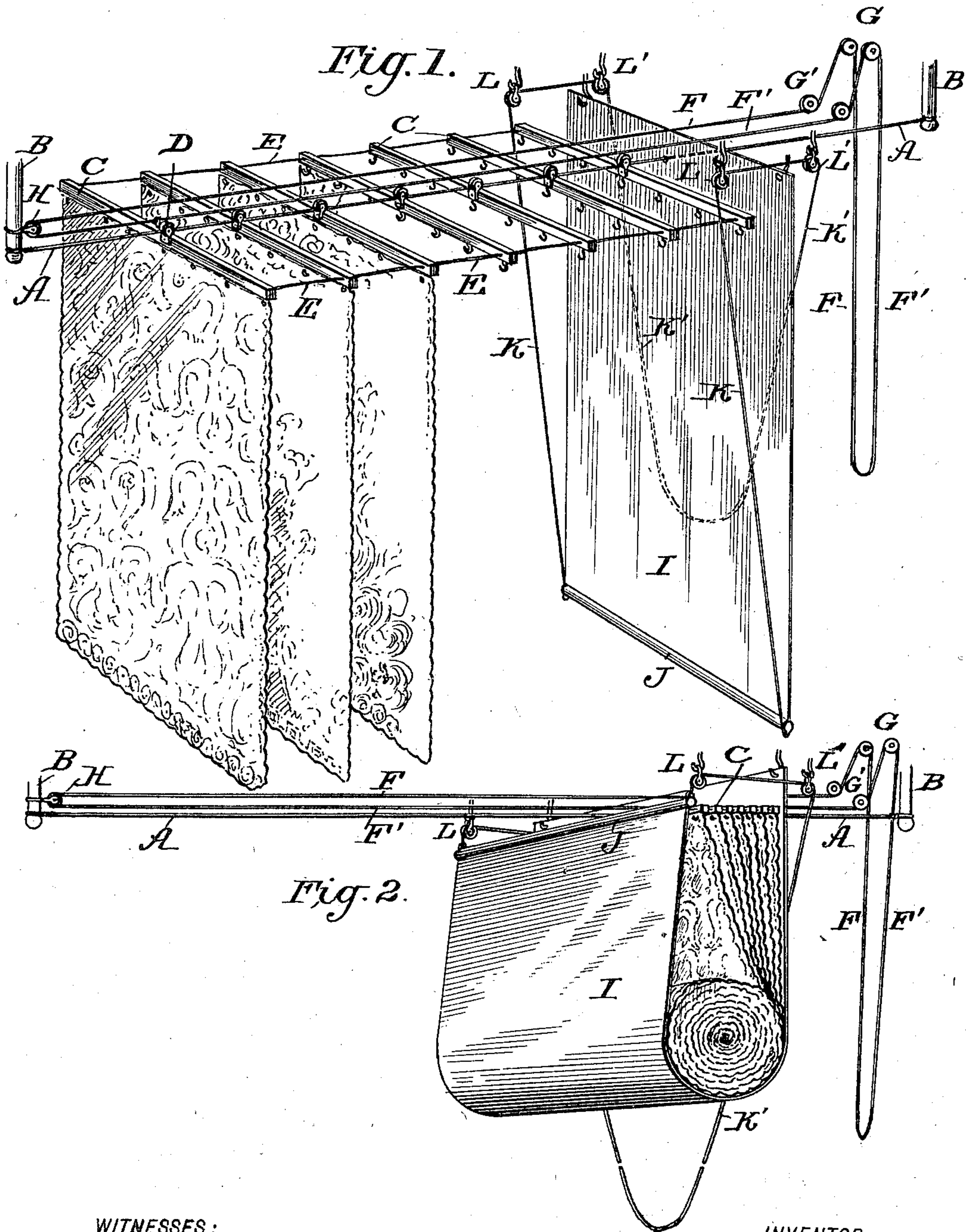
PATENTED JAN. 27, 1903.

G. W. FREESE.

EXHIBITOR.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 7, 1902.

NO MODEL.



WITNESSES:

Jos. A. Ryan  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. FREESE, OF CLINTON, MICHIGAN.

## EXHIBITOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 719,322, dated January 27, 1903.

Application filed March 7, 1902. Serial No. 97,092. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. FREESE, of Clinton, in the county of Lenawee and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and  
5 useful Improvements in Exhibitors, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in devices for displaying goods in stores, such as lace curtains, draperies, and the like.

10 One object of my invention is to provide a device adapted to exhibit at one time a number of such articles of goods.

Another object had in view is to provide means for covering the goods after inspection, and to such ends I have devised and constructed an exhibitor having peculiar means for displaying the goods in a hanging position and peculiar means for covering them  
15 after inspection, such as will facilitate the displaying of the goods when inspection is desired and returning them to position adapted to be rolled into compact form by a special arrangement and operations of the cover, all as hereinafter fully described, and shown  
20 by the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view embodying my invention with the curtains or the like drawn out for inspection, and Fig. 2 is a similar view with the goods drawn back and in a  
25 roll within the cover.

I am aware that it is not new to display lace curtains or the like in a hanging position; also, that goods of similar character have been suspended from rods supported  
30 by an overhead arrangement of wires, with means, such as cords, connecting the several rods and passing over rollers in a way adapting the goods to be drawn back to compact position or out for inspection, and do not,  
35 therefore, desire to broadly claim such an exhibitor as my invention; but I do think my special means for presenting the goods in position for inspection with my peculiar cover arrangement protecting the goods is new and  
40 original with me.

In carrying out my invention I arrange overhead a wire A, extending from wall to wall or other suitable position, such as projections B from the ceiling.

50 C denotes a series of rods each provided about midway with a roller D, traveling upon

the wire A. The ends of the several rods are fixedly connected by cords E E, as shown.

F F' indicate cords passing around rollers G G' and with a distant loop formed by the  
55 two cords passing around a suitably-located roller H. The cord F' has fixed connection with the outer bar C, adapting the latter to be drawn back thereby and pulled out by  
60 the cord F and the continuation thereof extending from the roller H to said bar C. The cord F' and the end of the continuation of the cord F extending from the roller H obviously must be secured to the outer bar C of  
65 the series thereof; but since I make no claim to any particular means for so doing and in view of the fact that the said connection of the cords may be effected by a simple loop connection with the roller D or be otherwise  
70 secured to the bar in a manner such as will readily suggest itself I do not deem it necessary to show in my drawings any particular detail means for effecting the said connection. The inner rod of the series may or  
75 may not be fixed. In the rear of the series of rods C, I suspend from hooks, substantially as shown, an apron or cover I, having at its lower end a slat J.

K denotes cords connected with the lower end of the cover and extending up over rollers L L', arranged, as shown, with the roller  
80 L in front of the cover and the roller L' in the rear thereof, the ends of the cord K' continuing down within easy reach from the floor. While I have shown each of the cords F F' and K K' continuous or in one length, it is obvious that separable cords may be employed,  
85 if desired, and some device to which the ends of the cords may be fastened should be provided.

90 Now with the curtains or the like in a stored or rolled condition covered by the apron, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, should it be desired to display the goods it is only necessary to pull the cord F', which extends around  
95 the roller H to the outer rod C of the series. Such action, obviously, with the cord K' freed, will draw out the rods C, since the series thereof are connected by cords E to extended position, where the curtains or the like depending therefrom may be advantageously inspected. After inspection the goods are re-  
100



stored by pulling the cord F', with effect to draw all the rods C and the goods depending therefrom back into compact position against the apron I. Now to roll up the goods it is  
 5 apparent that by simply pulling the cords K' K' the lower end of the apron will be drawn upwardly, turning the lower ends thereof, with effect upon a continued pull of the cords K' K' to roll the goods until the lower end of the  
 10 apron is elevated to the position shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. While I do not desire to confine myself to any particular means for fastening the curtains or the like to the rods C in illustrating my invention, I have  
 15 shown simple hooks on the under side of the rods. While the special means employed by me for supporting and drawing out the goods into position, affording advantageous inspection and restoring them in compact condi-  
 20 tion, involves more or less novelty, the leading feature of my invention resides in a special cover and means for working it in connection with the other features described for displaying the goods and then rolling them  
 25 into compact form, covered by the apron in a way to effectively exclude all dust and matter tending to render the goods injured or shop-worn, thereby taking up no floor-space when not in actual use.  
 30 In addition to the above points of novelty I would call attention to the increased facility with my exhibitor for showing all the goods and more of each article than possible with similar exhibitors. In having a single sup-  
 35 port for each bar as employed by me, and due to the fact that all the bars are flexibly connected together at their outer ends, it is apparent that the merchant can grasp the outermost article and by a slight pull swing  
 40 all the bars on the supporting-wire and, due to the flexible connection at the outer ends thereof, turn all the goods on the exhibitor sidewise, and thereby exhibit more of each

article from one point of view. Since the movement at the center of the bars in turn- 45  
 ing them, as stated, is very slight, the play of the rollers upon the supporting-wire is ample to permit of the slight necessary move-  
 ment.

Having thus described my invention, what 50  
 I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination in an exhibitor of the character described, of goods-supporting means, an apron suspended in rear of the 55  
 goods-supporting means, rollers located above the lower end of the apron, means for supporting the rollers, cords passing over said rollers and extending to and fixed to the lower free end of the apron, the other portion of 60  
 the cord within reach of the operator whereby the free end of the apron may be drawn up and at the same time roll the goods in compact form, substantially as described.

2. The combination with extensible and re- 65  
 tractable goods-supporting means, of an apron located in rear thereof and suspended at its upper end from fixed supports and means whereby the lower end of the apron may be drawn up to cover goods on the supporting 70  
 means substantially as described.

3. The combination in an exhibitor employ-  
 ing a single track extending from two spaced supports, of a series of bars each having about 75  
 midway of its length a roller adapted to travel upon said track, flexible connections at the outer ends joining all the bars in the series, and means connecting the outer bar of the series whereby all of them may be drawn from a closed to an open position and 80  
 then to a closed position, substantially as described.

GEORGE W. FREESE.

Witnesses:

WILLARD D. VAN TUYLE,  
 FRED KOERNIG.