No. 812,262. PATENTED FEB. 13, 1906.

A. B. DUNKLE.

WINDOW SHADE BRACKET.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 15, 1903.

Fig. 1.

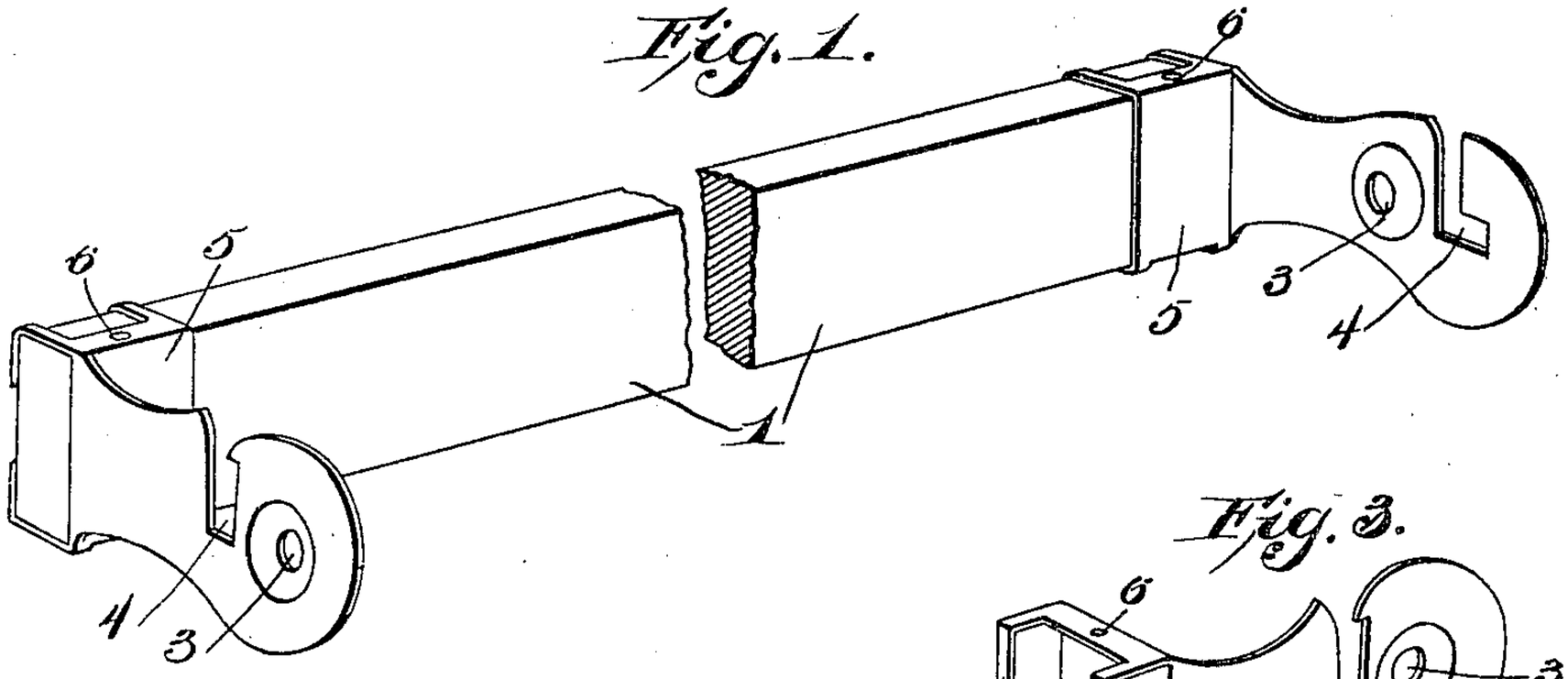


Fig. 2.

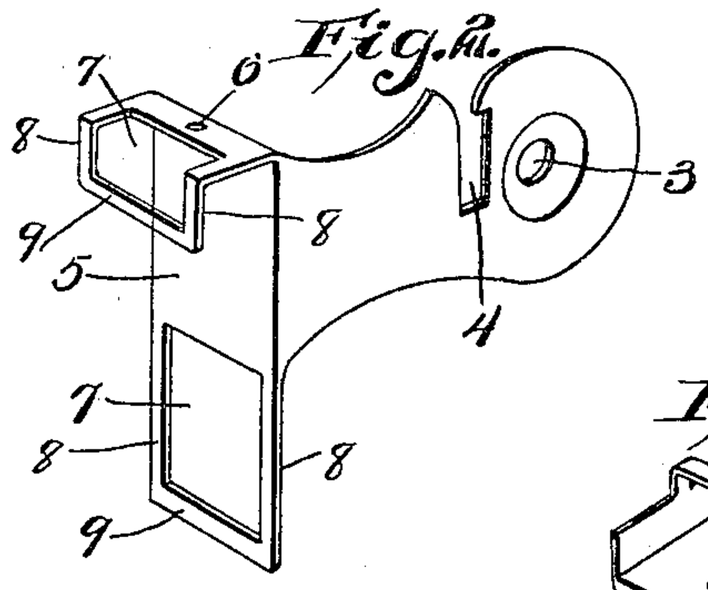


Fig. 3.

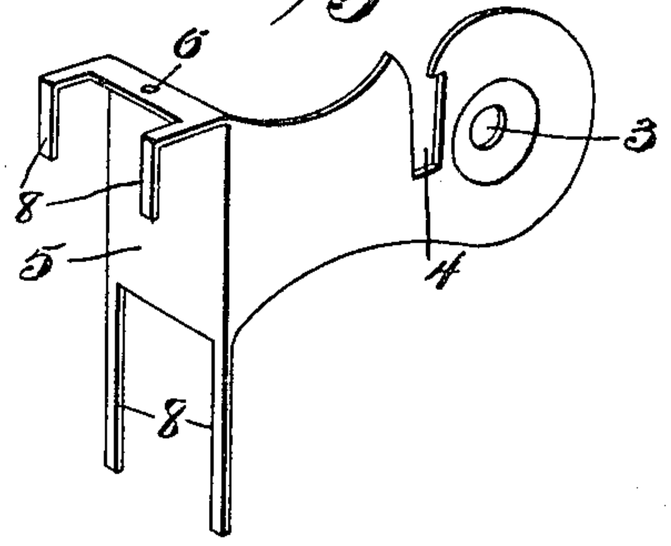


Fig. 4.

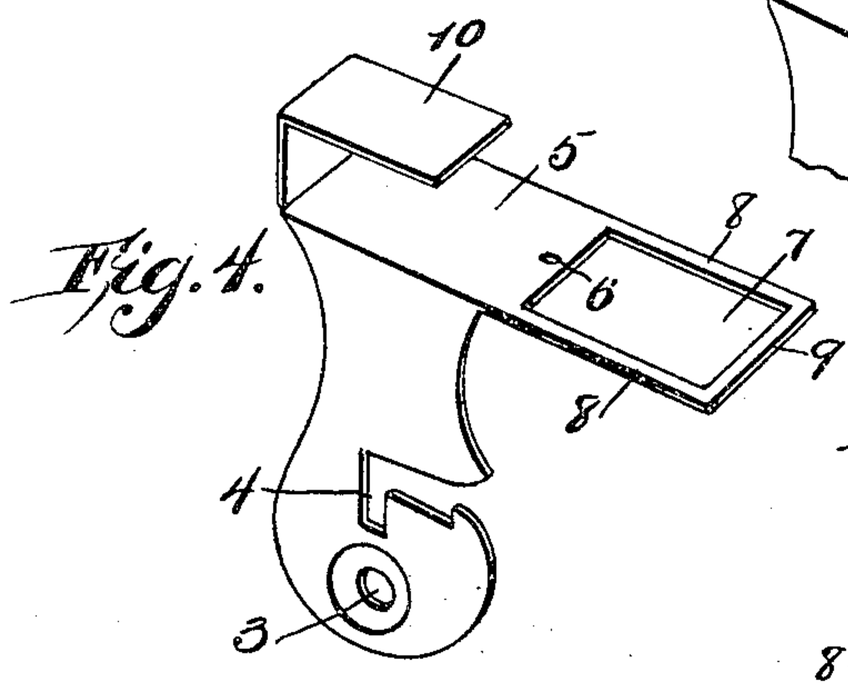


Fig. 7.

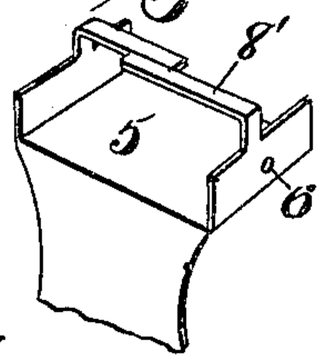


Fig. 5.

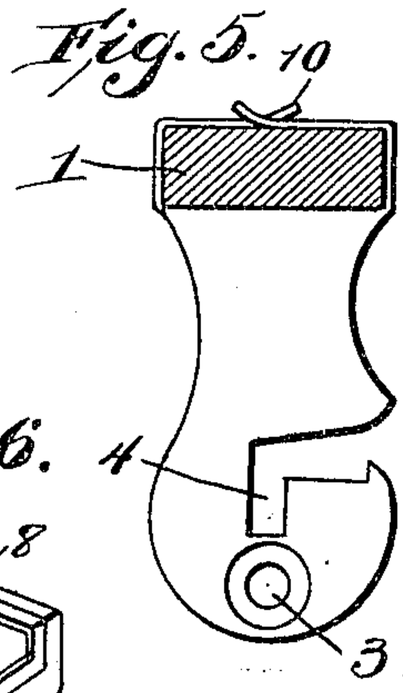
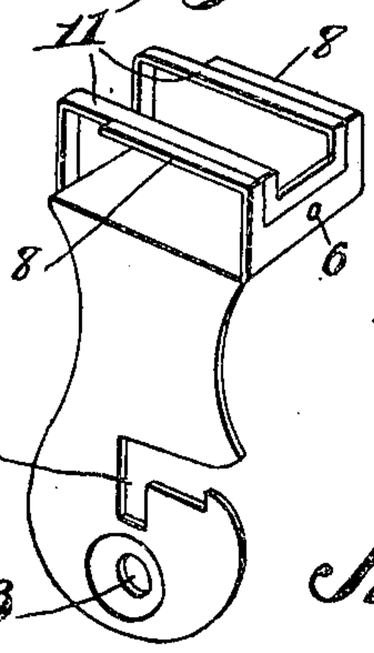


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABRAM B. DUNKLE, OF STEELTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

WINDOW-SHADE BRACKET.

No. 812,262. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 13, 1906.

Application filed October 15, 1903. Serial No. 177,191.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABRAM B. DUNKLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Steelton, in the county of Dauphin and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Window-Shade Bracket, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in brackets or supports for window-shades, curtain-rods, and the like, and has for its principal object to provide a novel form of curtain-holder that may be readily secured in position and in which the distance between a pair of brackets or holders may be readily adjusted for the support of curtains or rods of different length.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bracket or holder of that class in which a pair of holders are secured to a connecting-rod with a base portion formed of flexible metal that may be readily bent in such manner as to clamp against the rod without the employment of tools, the holders being preferably so formed and placed on the market that one side of the base may be engaged over one edge of the rod and the other bent around the rod by the fingers to firmly clamp the bracket in place.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bracket with a base portion in which one or both ends of the base are rendered freely flexible by cutting away a portion of the metal without materially weakening the base or its engagement with the connecting-bar.

A still further object of the invention is to construct the brackets in such manner that the position of the shade-roller may be readily reversed end for end, so that its spring winding-rod may be placed at either side of a window without altering the position of the brackets.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportions, size, and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating a pair of brackets constructed in accordance with the invention and illustrating the same engaged with the connecting-bar. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing one of the brackets detached and in the shape in which it is placed on the market. Figs. 3 and 4 are views similar to Fig. 2, illustrating slight modifications of the invention. Fig. 5 is an elevation with the bar in section, showing the manner in which a base of the character shown in Fig. 4 may be clamped on the bar. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view illustrating a still further modification of the invention. Fig. 7 is a perspective view illustrating a further modification.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In the drawings, 1 designates a connecting-bar, to which the brackets are to be secured, the brackets being disposed at a distance apart governed by the length of the shade-roller or the curtain-rod, and the connecting-bar is then secured to the window-frame in any desired manner. The brackets are arranged in pairs, one being secured at or near one end of the bar and the other at the opposite end of said bar, and in each of the brackets is an opening 3 for the reception of the round pintle usually projecting from the shade-roller and a slot 4, having parallel walls for engaging a non-circular portion of the spring-rod of the roller, so that the position of the shade-roller may be reversed end for end in order that the curtain may be placed close to the window-sash or may be moved to a distance therefrom in accordance with the direction of winding of the roller.

The bracket is formed of stamped sheet metal of which the base 5 is of sufficient length to nearly or quite encircle the connecting-bar and of sufficient width to present an extensive surface to the bar and hold the bracket steady under the strain to which it is subjected while the curtain is being raised or lowered.

In devices of this class as usually constructed the base portions which enclasp the connecting-bar are formed of sheet metal bent at the factory to finished shape, and the metal is so heavy that the base portions cannot be readily straightened out and clamped on the bar in the desired position. It is necessary to slide the brackets longitudinally of the connecting-bar until the desired position is reached and then secure the same in position by means of a screw or brad. In such cases

the adjustment of the brackets scratch or mar the finished surface of the connecting-bar, or if the base fitted loosely to the bar the bracket would not be firm enough to resist the strain. In the present case these difficulties are overcome by constructing the base portions in such manner as to permit of the attaching of the bases to the connecting-bars at any desired point and practically without the aid of tools, the bases being weakened, so that they may be readily clamped around the bar by the fingers and the connection in most cases being sufficiently firm to render the use of auxiliary fastenings unnecessary; but as a matter of precaution each base is provided with a small opening 6, through which a brad or other securing device may be passed. In weakening the base an intermediate portion may be cut out to form a space 7 and side bars 8, connected by a transverse bar 9, the side bars or strips being in alinement with the longer edges of the base, so that when bent around the connecting-bar the stability of the bracket will not be affected, inasmuch as the widely-separated edges extend throughout the length of the base and form binding-points, which tend to bite into the bar when the bracket is subjected to strain. If the pressure or strain on the bracket is lateral or in a direction longitudinally of the shade-roller, as often happens where the shade is unevenly wound, the widened places will form a rigid brace for the bracket and prevent its bending to such an extent as to allow the roller-pintles to escape. In some cases the cross bar or strip may be omitted and the side bars only retained, as shown in Fig. 3, and this in some cases will be convenient, especially in attaching brackets formed of heavy metal, where the strips or bars may be separately bent by hand to the desired position. The base portion may also be formed in the manner shown in Fig. 4, wherein one end of the base is of the construction shown in Fig. 2, while the opposite end is in the form of a tongue 10, which may be passed through the loop formed at the opposite end of the base and interengage therewith in such manner as to form a positive lock, as shown in Fig. 5, and this structure will be advantageous where heavy shades or curtains are to be supported.

In the structure shown in Fig. 6 the length of the base is increased and the strips or side bars are retained at one end, while on the opposite end is formed a tongue 11 of a width just about equal to the distance between the two side bars or strips, so that it may enter between them and in a measure become interlocked therewith and held from independent lateral play. This tongue may be weakened by the removal of a portion of the metal, as shown in Fig. 6, or if sufficiently light the metal may be continuous for the full width of the tongue, or the full-width tongue may receive its bend at the factory, and thus render it necessary to bend the side bars or strips in attaching the bracket to the connecting-bar.

In Fig. 7 is illustrated a still further modification of the invention, a single flexible bar or strip 8′ being employed at a point intermediate of the width of the base.

With a device of this character it will be seen that the brackets may be applied to the connecting-bar in the exact position in which they are to be secured and the ends of the bases then bent in such manner as to embrace or partly embrace the connecting-bar, so that it will be unnecessary to slide the brackets longitudinally of the bar, as commonly practiced.

In placing the articles in the market it is preferred for convenience to previously bend one of the ends of the base portion in the manner shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, so that it is merely necessary to slip this bent end from the rod, and after adjusting the bracket to proper position the opposite end is readily bent by hand in order to secure the bracket in place.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a window-shade bracket having roller-engaging means and provided with an elongated base-plate, the upper end of which is bent in readiness to be suspended on a supporting strip or bar, the lower end of said base-plate being weakened by the removal of a portion of the metal to form a bar or strip that may be bent by the fingers in a direction transverse of the length of the base.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a window-shade bracket formed of a piece of sheet metal bent to form an elongated base, and a shade-roller-supporting arm at an angle to the base, one end of the base, from a point adjacent to the juncture of the latter with the arm, being bent in readiness to engage a supporting strip or bar, and the opposite end of the base being weakened by cutting away a portion of the metal, thereby to form a manually-bendable portion, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ABRAM B. DUNKLE.

Witnesses:
J. H. JOCHUM, Jr.,
J. ROSS COLHOUN.