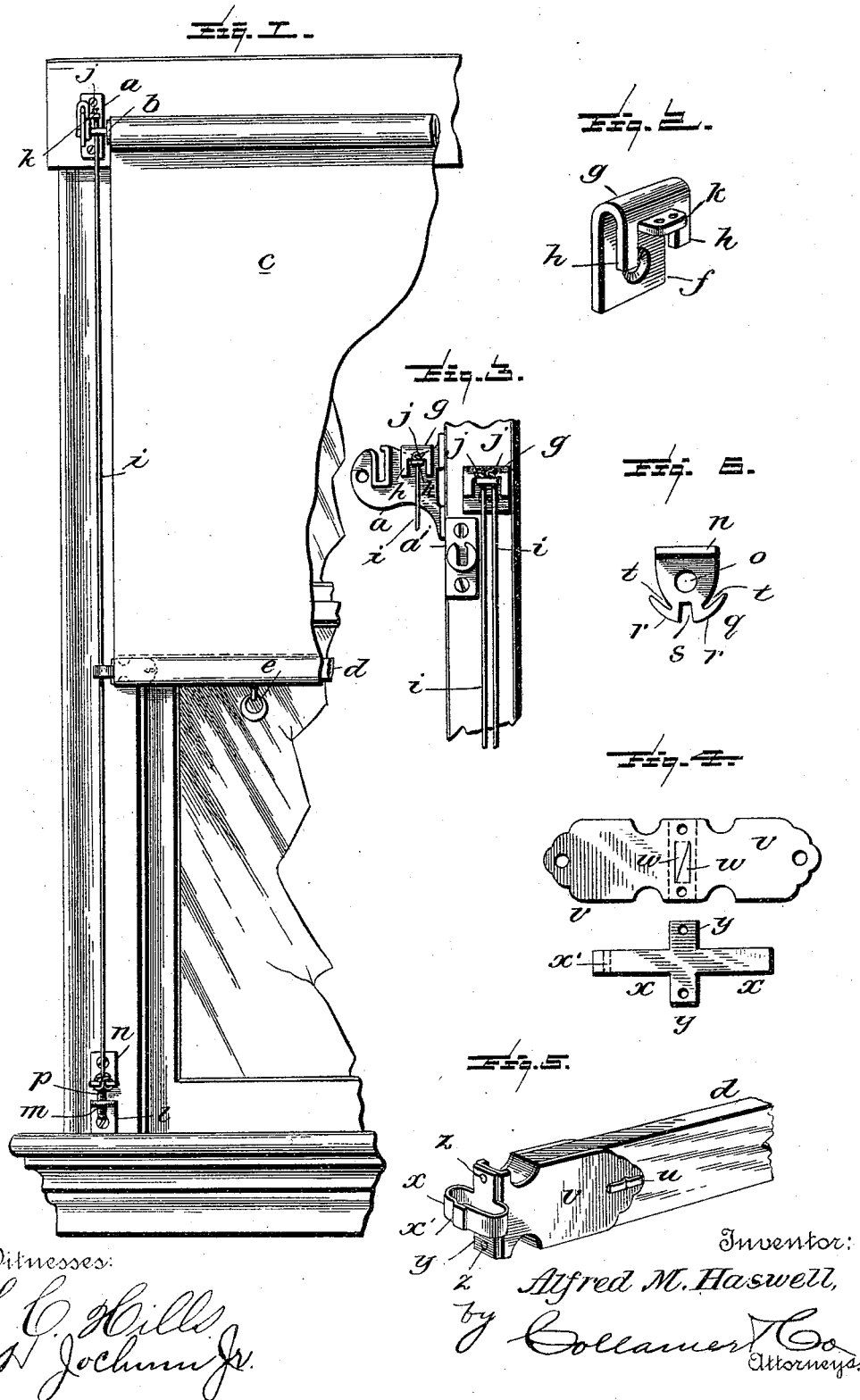


(No Model.)

A. M. HASWELL.  
SHADE GUIDE.

No. 493,162.

Patented Mar. 7, 1893.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED M. HASWELL, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## SHADE-GUIDE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 493,162, dated March 7, 1893.

Application filed November 23, 1892. Serial No. 452,930. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALFRED M. HASWELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, Cook county, State of Illinois, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shade-Guides, (Case C;) and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to window curtains or shades, and more especially to the fixtures used in connection therewith; and the object of the same is to produce an improved guide  
15 for the edges of the shade as it moves up and down over the window. This object I accomplish by the construction hereinafter more fully described and as illustrated in the drawings, wherein—

20 Figure 1 is an elevation of a window, showing a shade hung therein on an ordinary spring roller and guided by my improved devices along the vertical edge of the curtain. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of one of  
25 the brackets. Fig. 3 is an inside elevation showing the manner of application of this bracket to an outside curtain-fixture, and to the window-frame above an inside curtain-fixture. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the two  
30 blanks from which the clasp is made—the full lines indicating cuts, and the dotted lines indicating the positions of bends in the finished members. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the clasp complete and mounted on the end of the  
35 curtain-stick. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the tightener illustrated in elevation in Fig. 1.

In the usual fixtures *a* mounted on a window-frame is journaled the ordinary spring-roller *b*, or it may be a roller having cords by  
40 which it can be operated or provided with counterbalancing weights, or otherwise. The shade *c* is secured at its upper end to this roller, and at its lower end carries a stick *d* preferably having a tassel or ring *e* by which  
45 it may be handled.

The present invention contemplates the provision of guides standing along the vertical sides of the frame whereby the ends of the stick will be guided as the shade is raised and  
50 lowered—the object being that the stick, and hence the lower end of the shade, will not be

able to swing to and fro either in the wind or under the force of any other power, and hence cannot become entangled with the lace or other curtains and cannot have its edges torn  
55 or disfigured. Heretofore such guides have been made by stretching a wire tightly along each vertical side of the window-frame, sustaining its upper end by a bracket and applying to its lower end a tightener, and a clasp  
60 on the end of the stick loosely engaged the wire. In the present case I use practically the same general idea, with improvements in the construction of the bracket, clasp, and  
65 tightener serving to produce the advantages set forth below. It will be understood that there are two devices such as described, and only one of which is shown complete in Fig. 1, and hence a description of one will suffice  
70 for both.

The bracket best seen in Fig. 2 consists of a single piece of sheet metal (such as steel, brass, iron, or the like) of about the shape and size shown, and comprises a foot *f* which  
75 is flat and approximately square and has a hole with countersunk outer end—obviously for the reception of a screw as shown in Fig. 3 where this bracket is secured by such screw in position above an “inside” curtain-fixture  
80 *a'*. At the upper edge of the foot *f*, the metal of which the bracket is composed is bent sharply over as at *g* and carried down for about half the vertical length of such foot, standing preferably slightly forward of and  
85 out of contact with the front face of the foot. Two cuts or incisions are made in this bent-over portion, producing two side tangs *h h* and an intermediate lip *k*, and the former are  
90 permitted to remain in parallelism with the foot while the latter is bent out at about right angles thereto as shown and provided with one or more perforations. Through the latter  
95 is passed the wire or wires *i* which serve as the guides—a knot *j* being formed in each wire and resting upon the lip *k* to prevent the wire pulling through the perforation therein. It will be noticed that this lip stands  
100 above the line of the screw-hole in the foot so that no obstruction is offered for seating the screw when applying the bracket as in Fig. 3. When this bracket is to be used on an “outside” curtain-fixture as also shown in this

figure, the foot *f* is passed outside and the tangs *h* inside of the fixture, while the bend *g* rests on the upper edge thereof, and the stringing of the wire is the same. With  
 5 either fixture the bracket can be in the exact position desired, and will support the guide wire or wires exactly so that the end of the curtain-stick will pass up and down in close proximity to them.

10 From two pieces of sheet-metal shaped about as seen in Fig. 4 are cut the members of each clasp. One member *v* is of tin, brass, or other suitable material and of a size to embrace the end of the stick when bent on the  
 15 dotted lines, and a split pin *u* passes through this member and the stick to hold the parts together. In the body of this member between the dotted lines are formed two sharp pointed teeth or prongs *w w*, which—when  
 20 the member is applied to the stick and driven upon it—embed the end thereof as will be clear, and prevent any looseness between the parts. The other member is of tempered steel cut in about the shape shown and with  
 25 two arms *x x* which are bent finally into the position shown in Fig. 5 so as to form a perfect oval, their extremities lapping at the outer side of the oval and one of the arms having a slight double angle or offset *x'*  
 30 where it lies upon the other, in order that the interior of the oval shall be perfectly smooth. The body of this member between these arms is flat and extends above and below the line of the arms as at *y y* so as to be in vertical  
 35 length about the height of the end of the other member *v*, and through these ends *y* are passed rivets *z z* which also take into the end of the member *v* and connect this member therewith in a rigid and permanent manner.  
 40 One member may be nicked and the other member blued, and the appearance of the finished clasp will be most pleasing. No corners are offered to catch in the lace curtains, wood-work, or other objects, and a large smooth  
 45 oval is present for the guide wire or wires.

In Fig. 5 I have shown the clasp complete as attached to the end of the curtain-stick *d*.

The tightener which I preferably employ in this connection is exactly or nearly the same  
 50 as one used by me in an invention for which United States Letters Patent No. 471,114 were granted to me on March 22, 1892—with trivial variations when I use two guide-wires *i* as described below. That is to say, there are two  
 55 members, the lower one *l* being simply a stiff L-shaped piece of metal (a casting if desired), through whose depending arm is passed a screw taking into the window-frame to hold the tightener in place, and through whose upper  
 60 horizontal arm is a screw-threaded hole *m*. The upper member *n* is also of L-shape, but its vertical arm projects upwardly and slides against the face of the window-frame. Its lower horizontal arm has a smooth hole *o*;  
 65 and *p* is a screw passing downwardly through this hole and taking into that lettered *m*, whereby when the screw is turned the two

members can be adjusted as desired. The front end of the lower member is preferably rounded as shown for the sake of ornamentation and to prevent clothing &c. from catching thereon; but the front end of the upper member is reduced or beveled on its side edges to a narrow neck *q*, forward of which it is laterally enlarged to form a head *r* of considerable width. The side arms of this head form acute angles with the edges of the member as at *t*. In the front end of the head *r* is preferably cut a notch *s*. A single guide wire  
 70 *i* as it passes down from the bracket is led through one angle *t*, along under and across beneath the head *r* at its neck, up in the other angle *t*, across on top of the head *r* and in front of the wire body, and then again down through the first-mentioned notch  
 75 *t* where its extremity wedges tightly therein with the other strand of wire already in place. If the guide wire be double—which I find in many cases to be a great advantage—the two strands thereof as they come down  
 80 from the bracket, are led first through the central notch *s*, then separated and passed outward under the arms of the head *r* and beneath the neck *q*, then upward in the angles *t t*, then across on top of the head behind  
 85 the double strand already in place, crossing each other at the center or thereabout, and finally their extremities are forced or wedged tightly down into the angles with the single strands already therein: whereby the wires  
 90 are securely connected with the tightener. Of course I do not limit myself to this precise winding or tying of the wire, but experience has proven that it secures the ends of the wires so that they will not slip out of place  
 95 and so that no ends or extremities will remain to catch and tear the clothes, lace curtains, or other articles. After such fastening, the screw *p* is adjusted to give the guide the proper tension, and all is ready for the shade. 100

It will be readily observed that this device can be applied to curtain-shades which are already in place. First the roller is removed from the fixtures, and the clasp attached to the end of the stick. The bracket is then  
 105 brought into place and screwed to the window frame if the curtain-fixture be of the "inside" type, or passed over the fixture if it be of the "outside" type—being so located and secured that the lip *k* shall not strike the  
 110 end of the roller and the perforations therein shall be properly located. The wire (or wires) *i* is then knotted as at *j* and its plain end passed down through said perforation to the tightener. Here it is secured in the manner  
 115 described, whether it be a single or double guide-wire; after which the screw is adjusted to give the guide the proper tension. The roller is now inserted in the fixtures and the shade partly unwound. The clasp is then  
 120 brought close to the guide, and the arm *x* thereof which stands inside the other arm is pressed against such guide, when this arm will yield by its resilience and the guide will

pass within the oval. Herein is present almost absolutely no friction to prevent the free play of parts as the shade is raised and lowered. The enlarged size of the oval permits the shade to have some considerable play and the clasp to pass kinks or bends that sometimes occur in the guides, without binding or catching at all. To detach the clasp from the guide, the latter is brought into position just inside the offset  $x'$  and a slight pressure in the proper direction will release it therefrom: unless this is done manually the parts cannot become accidentally disconnected. The uses and advantages of guide-wires and tighteners of this character are too well known to need repetition here; and the capabilities of this particular construction are believed to be obvious to those skilled in the art.

20 What is claimed as new is—

1. In a window-shade guide, the combination with a bracket consisting of a single piece of plate metal bent over to form two vertical arms one of which is provided with a screw-hole and the other of which has a lip with laterally separated perforations, a shade, a clasp at the end of its stick having a laterally elongated opening, and a double guide wire depending from said bracket and passing loosely through said opening; of a tightener comprising two L-shaped members, the uppermost sliding upon and the lowermost secured to the window-frame, and an adjusting screw connecting said members, the front end of the upper member being reduced to form a narrow neck and having a laterally elongated head outside said neck, the side arms of said head forming acute angles with the side edges of said front end and the face of the head having a notch at its center, the guide wires being

woven into and connected with said head substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a window-shade guide, the combination with the guide wire, the tightener therefor, and the shade having a clasp at the end of its stick loosely embracing said wire; of a bracket consisting of a single piece of plate metal and comprising a flat foot with a screw-hole therethrough, the metal being bent over forward at the upper edge of said foot and carried down in front of said foot in two side tangs separated farther than the width of the screw-head, and the lip between said tangs being bent forward above said screw-hole and provided with a perforation for the reception of said guide wire, all as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a window shade guide, the combination with two guide wires, and fixtures for holding them under tension in a plane at right angles to that of the shade and along its vertical edge; of a clasp consisting of two members, the first embracing and being secured to the end of the stick, and the second member being of spring metal, secured to the end of the first member, and having laterally extending integral spring arms curved into a horizontal oval in the ends of which the two wires normally slide, the extremity of one arm having an outward offset which rests upon the extremity of the other arm so that the interior of the oval shall be smooth, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature on this the 21st day of November, A. D. 1892.

ALFRED M. HASWELL.

Witnesses:

THOMAS F. BARRY,  
MAUDE L. BUELL.