

REMOVABLE DEVICE FOR BALLASTING A SHOWER CURTAIN
WITHOUT PERFORATING SAME

5 The present invention relates to a removable device, which can be used to ballast a shower curtain without perforating the same, such that the curtain remains vertically in place and does not stick to a person taking a shower.

 To solve this inconvenience of the shower curtain sticking to a person taking a
10 shower, there are notably 2 devices (US 4,723,326 and US 3,282,328) depending on the state of the prior art.

 The new technical solution provided here provides a different principle for anchoring to the curtain, allowing it to be integrally manufactured in a same dense
15 material (metal), and to be comprised of 2 elementary shaped parts only.

 This device is universal; it can be adapted to any curtain.
It comprises only two parts. The first ballast part (1) is provided with a hole (3). Part of the curtain (4) is passed through the hole (3), followed by the second elongated
20 element (2), the device is then fixed to the curtain (4) by positioning this second part (2) across the hole (3) once it has been passed fully through the same. The length of the second part is greater than the diameter of the hole (3) and as a result the curtain (4) cannot pass back through the hole.

 The said system is duplicated across the lower end of the curtain (4) in order to
25 provide adequate, uniform ballast.

 Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of page 1/1 illustrate the different steps for assembling the device.

30 The device is very simple. It comprises only two parts:

- The first part is the one that will make up the ballast.

This first part will be called the "anchored part" (1) in this document.

It is characterised by a hole (3), and can have the shape of a washer (like a tool washer used with a nut and bolt).

5 A great number of shapes provided with a hole would be suitable but they cannot all be listed. Opting for a shape like the washer allows to avoid angles and any risk of tearing the curtain (4).

A flat, relatively thin shape adapts more easily and traps the curtain (4) better by gripping it over a greater surface area (Fig. 4).

10 The central hole (3) provides uniform mass distribution, so the ballast does not turn on itself under the effect of its weight when fitted to the curtain (4).

As this part acts as a ballast, it would be wise to manufacture it in a dense material like a metal or an alloy (preferably stainless one).

15 - The second part allows the anchored part (1) to be fixed to the curtain (4).

This second part will be called the "anchoring part" (2) in this document.

It is elongated and can take the shape of an ice-cream stick.

Its dimensions correspond to the following restrictions:

- 20 - Having a length strictly greater than the diameter of the hole (3) of the anchored part (1) in at least one spatial configuration.
- Having a width strictly lower than the diameter of the hole (3) of the anchored part (1) in at least one spatial configuration.

A great number of shapes would be suitable but they cannot all be listed. Here are a few non-exhaustive examples of the most suitable shapes:

- 25 - a rod in the shape of an "ice-cream stick",
- a rod in the shape of a bowtie,
- a cylinder rounded at the ends,
- a thin metal or alloy stem folded in the shape of an 8,
- a thin metal or alloy stem folded in an oval shape.

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The anchorage principle is similar to the way you button up a shirt! The technique for fixing this device to the curtain (4) is very simple and takes only a few seconds.

5 In an first step (Fig. 1), the curtain (4) must be placed between the anchored part (1) and the anchoring part (2), preferably with the anchored part (1) situated on the outside of the curtain (4) and the anchoring part (2) situated inside the curtain (4).

 In a second step (Fig. 2), the anchoring part (2) just needs to be passed through the hole (3) of the anchored part (1) by passing it with part of the curtain (4) around it.

10 Then once the anchoring part (2) has been passed fully through and comes out the other side of the hole (3) (Fig. 3), it is turned so as to be sandwiched on the anchored part (1) so the longitudinal axis of the anchoring part (2) is perpendicular to the axis of the hole (3) (Fig. 4).

 The result of this handling is that the curtain (4) is trapped between the two parts, 15 the anchored part (1) remains in place, likewise for the anchoring part (2) that cannot pass back through the hole, as its length is greater than the diameter of the hole (3). Remember too that its width is lower than the diameter of the hole (3), without which it would be impossible to pass it through.

 To dismantle it, the sequence of the anchorage procedure described above is 20 applied in reverse order (Figs. 4, 3, 2 and 1 of page 1/1).

 This ballast device ballasts the area of the curtain to which it is fixed in a targeted way (selective). Therefore it is advisable to duplicate the installation of this device (with as many identical devices as proves necessary) on the whole width of the curtain to 25 uniform the ballast and ballast the curtain to the desired level. A device staggered in rows across the lower end of the curtain proves to be particularly efficient (Fig .5).

 For marketing and aesthetic reasons a decorative patch can be fixed onto the device's anchored part (already installed), this does not alter its functionalities in any

way. This patch could be clipped on or be fixed by elastic deformation or any other way (non-exhaustive fixing examples).

- According to the invention the device is notably intended to ballast shower and
- 5 bath curtains. But its range of use can be extended to ballast:
- indoor curtains,
 - theatre or cinema curtains,
 - fabrics.

CLAIMS

5 1) Removable device for ballasting a shower curtain or a fabric without perforating it, characterised by two parts:

 an anchored part (1) intended to ballast,

 provided with an hole (3) contained in a washer or in any
 other shape with no protruding angles to avoid tears to the
10 curtain (4) or fabric,

 and an anchoring part (2), intended to fix the anchored part (1) to
the curtain (4) or the fabric,

 shaped so it can be passed fully through the hole (3),

 the width of the anchoring part (2) being lower than the
15 diameter of the hole (3) of the anchored part (1) in at least one
spatial configuration,

 and the length of the anchoring part (2) being greater than
the diameter of the hole (3) of the anchored part (1) in at least one
spatial configuration.

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2) Removable device according to claim 1), characterised by the anchored
part (1), manufactured in a dense material such as a metal or a stainless alloy,
being flat and relatively thin.

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3) Removable device according to claim 1) or 2), characterised by the
anchoring part (2) having one of the following shapes:

 - a rod in the shape of an ice-cream stick,

30 - a rod in the shape of a bowtie,

- a cylinder rounded at the ends,
- a thin metal or alloy stem folded in the shape of an 8,
- a thin metal or alloy stem folded in an oval shape.

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4) Removable device according to one of claims 1) to 3), characterised by a decorative patch being fixed onto the device after it has been placed onto the curtain (4) or the fabric, fixed by clipping or by elastic deformation.

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5) Application of the device according to one of claims 1) to 4) for ballasting without perforating:

- shower curtains,
- indoor curtains,
- 15 - theatre or cinema curtains,
- fabrics.

6) Method for ballasting a shower curtain or fabric, using a device according
20 to any of claims 1) to 4), characterised by it consisting of passing part of the curtain (4) or fabric from the same side of the anchored part (1) through the hole (3), followed by the anchoring part (2), the latter being put across the hole (3) after being passed fully through the hole (3), thus trapping the curtain (4) or the fabric, and as a result the anchoring part (2) cannot pass back through the hole (3) thanks to its suitable
25 dimensions.

7) Method for ballasting according to claims 6), characterised by fitting several of these removable devices onto the whole width of the curtain (4) or the fabric,
30 so as to uniform the ballast and ballast the curtain (4) or the fabric until the desired level.

8) Method according to claim 7), characterised by the removable devices being spread out in staggered rows across the lower end of the curtain (4) or fabric.

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9) Method for dismantling a removable device according to claims 1) to 4) that ballasts without perforating a shower curtain or fabric, characterised by the dismantling being carried out by applying the strict sequence of the specific ballast method in reverse order according to claim 6).

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