US011317750B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Mailach et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 11,317,750 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: May 3, 2022**

(54) **TRIPARTITE TELESCOPING TENSION ROD ASSEMBLY**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 111 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/670,492**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 31, 2019**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2021/0127883 A1 May 6, 2021

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47H 1/022 (2006.01)
A47H 1/142 (2006.01)
A47H 1/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A47H 1/022*** (2013.01); ***A47H 1/142*** (2013.01); *A47H 2001/021* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC .. A47H 1/022; A47H 1/142; A47H 2001/021; F16B 7/044; F16B 7/048; Y10T 403/7194; Y10T 403/7182; Y10T 403/7171
See application file for complete search history.

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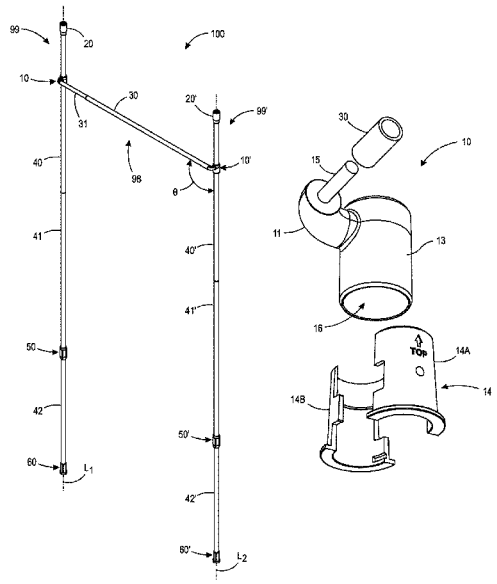
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A tripartite tension rod assembly, including a first vertical telescoping tension rod, the first tension rod having a first spring loaded endcap and a second non-spring-loaded foot, the first tension rod having a first longitudinal axis; a second vertical telescoping tension rod, the second tension rod having a first spring loaded endcap and a second non-spring-loaded foot, the second tension rod having a second longitudinal axis; a first arcuate bracket arranged to be fixedly secured to the first vertical tension rod; a second arcuate bracket arranged to be fixedly secured to the second vertical tension rod; and, a horizontal telescoping rod extending between the first and second arcuate brackets, the horizontal rod having a third longitudinal axis which, when assembled, is substantially perpendicular to the first and second longitudinal axes.

1 Claim, 7 Drawing Sheets



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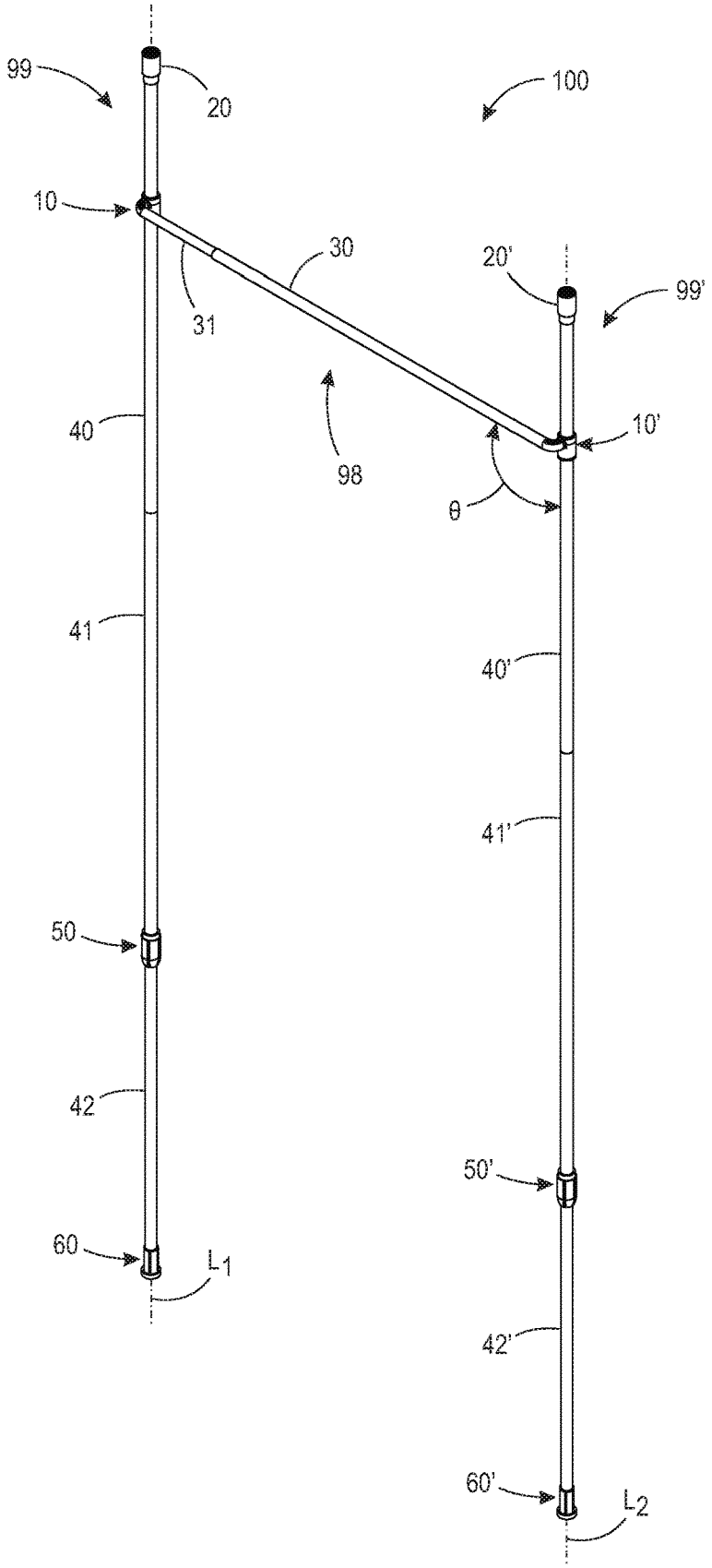


FIG. 1

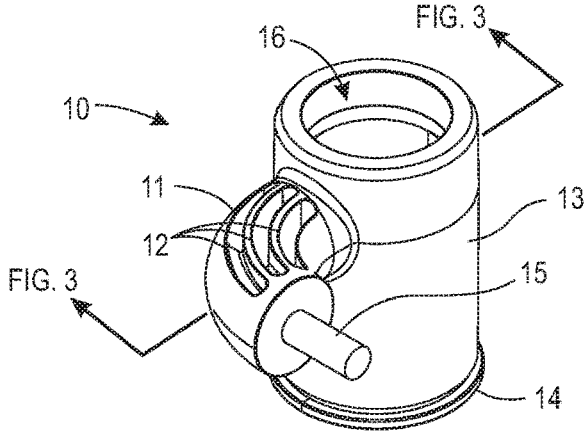


FIG. 2

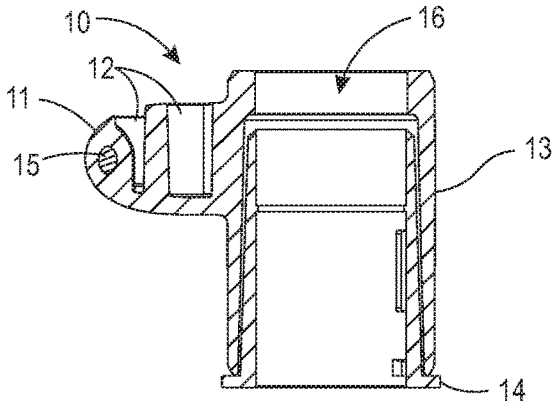


FIG. 3

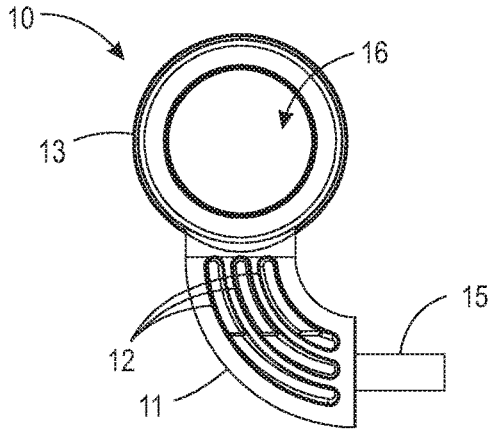


FIG. 4

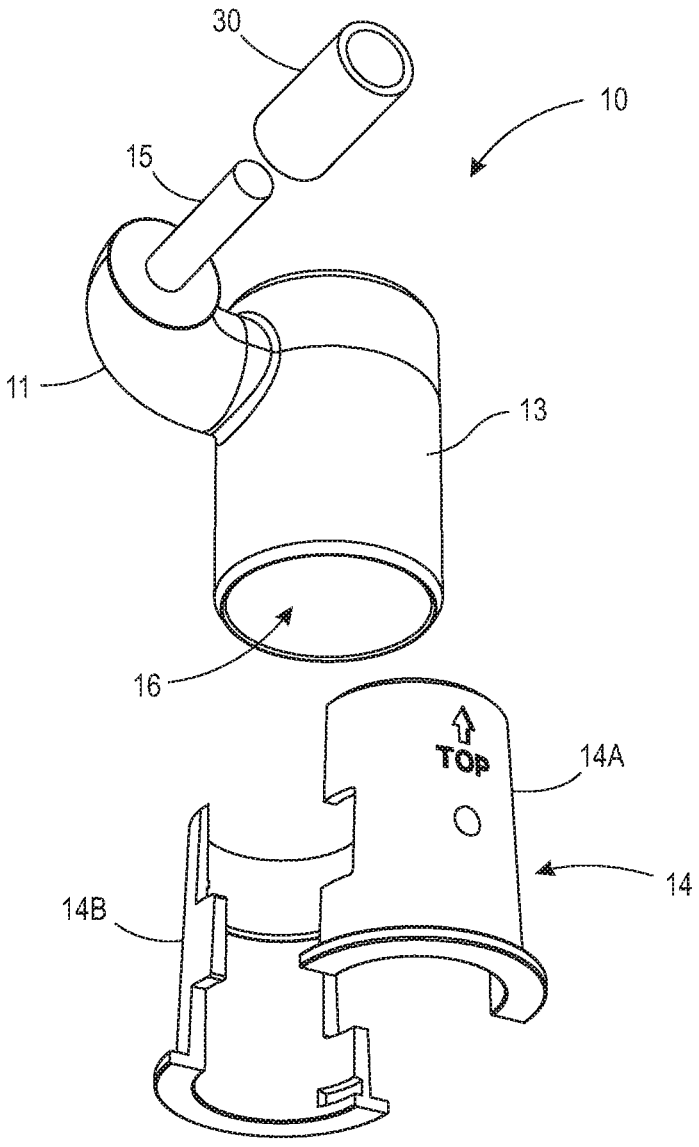
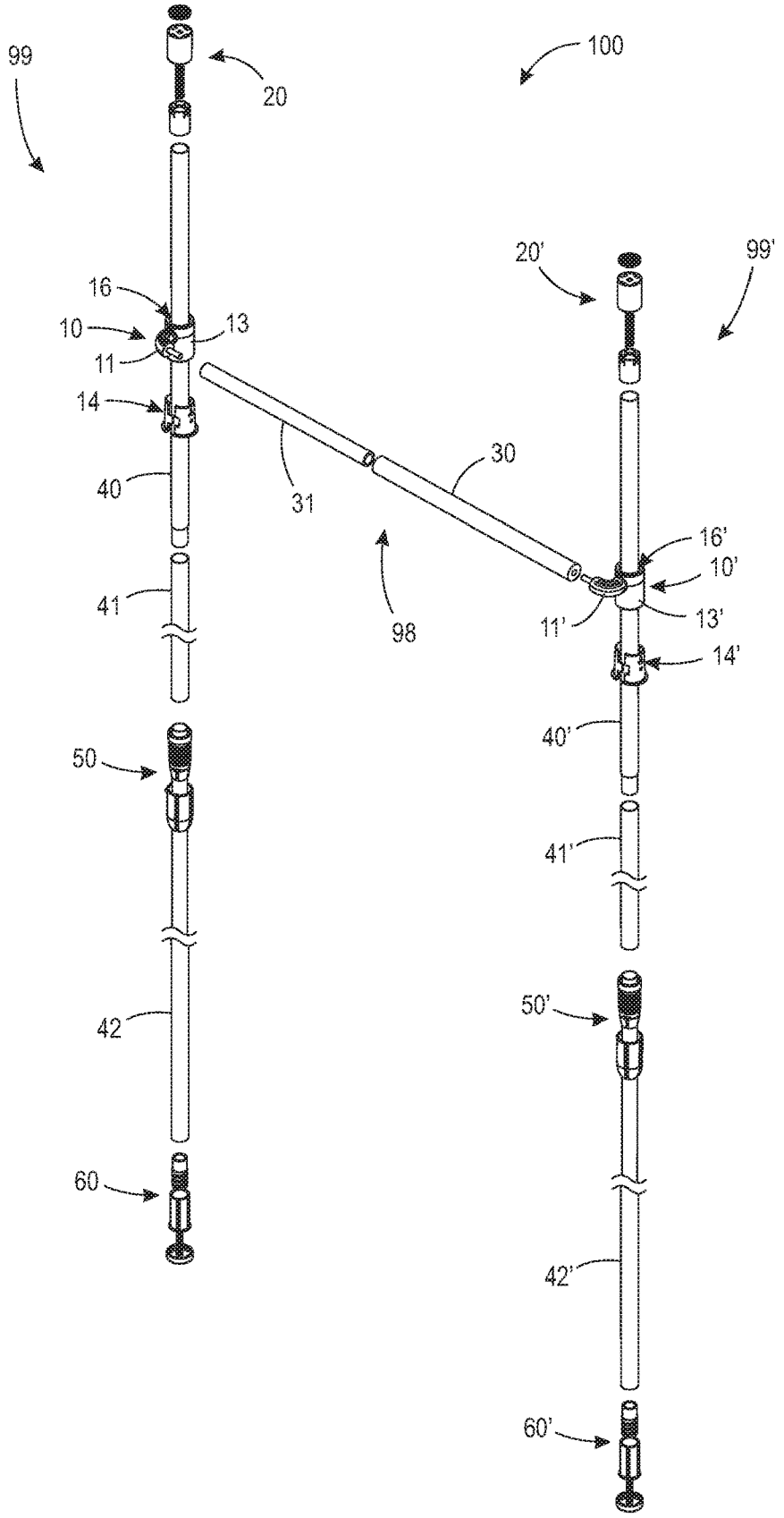


FIG. 5


99
20
100
20'
99'
16
10
13
11
14
40
31
30
16'
10'
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40'
50
41'
42
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60
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60'

FIG. 6

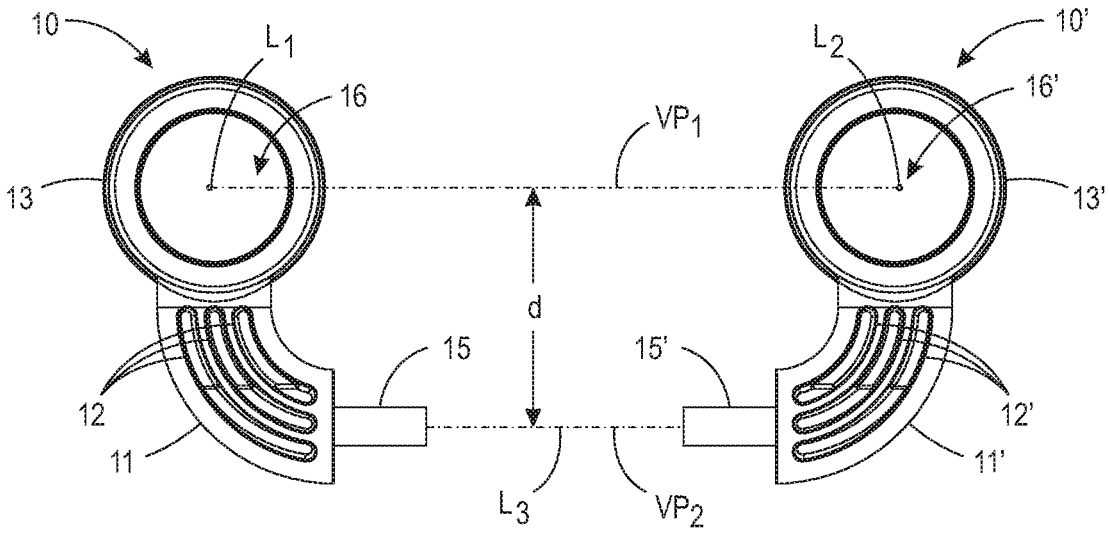

FIG. 7

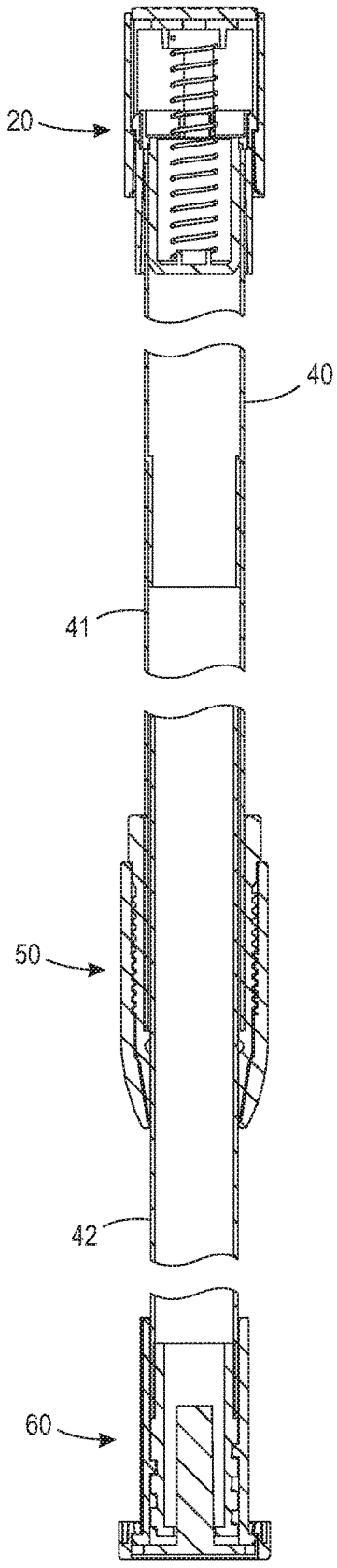

FIG. 8

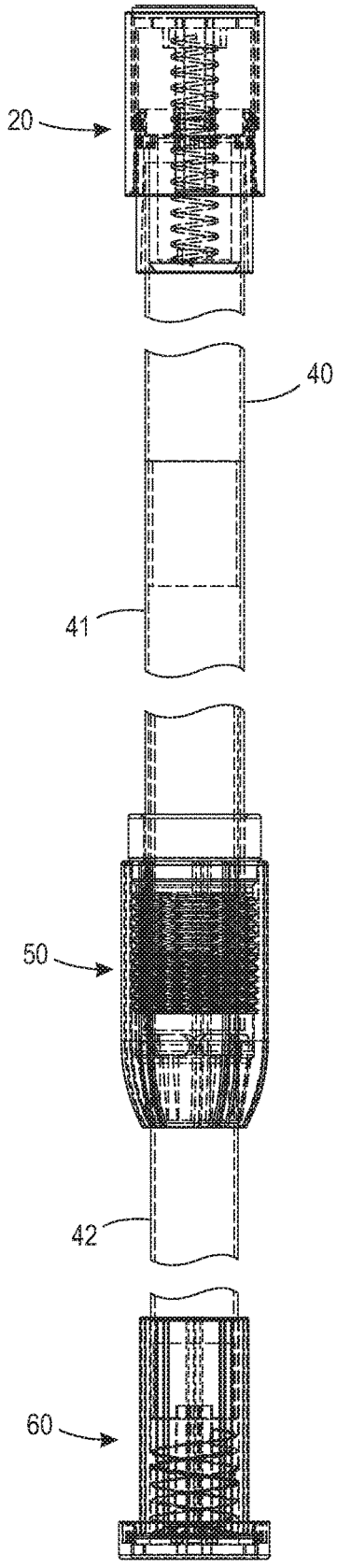

FIG. 9

TRIPARTITE TELESCOPING TENSION ROD ASSEMBLY

FIELD

The present disclosure relates to a tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly to hang drapery and the like.

BACKGROUND

Drapery is often an imperfect solution to incoming and unwanted natural light. Many households, offices, restaurants, stores, and other places have installed various drapery bracket systems, tension rod assemblies, adhesive brackets, nail-in brackets, suction cup brackets, and many other products, and attached drapery to those assemblies to block or redirect this unwanted light. Almost all of these options are damaging solutions. They leave holes in the window frame or wall. They peel the paint off the frame or wall. And those that are not damaging, end up falling to the floor. Simply put, these "solutions" often create more problems than they solve. Essentially, more often than not, a sliver of light still rushes in, permanent holes are made in the drywall, the tension rod eventually falls or causes damage to the structure it is putting stress on, the product is an imperfect fit, or the product is simply not aesthetically pleasing.

It may also be desired to use draperies and curtains internal to a room or space (not proximate a window) for interior design or aesthetic reasons.

It may also be desired that the draperies and/or curtains to be suspended by a horizontal drapery rod are spaced apart from a vertical plane defined by a pair of telescoping vertical tension rods.

Thus, there is a long felt need for a tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly having at least two vertical telescoping tension rods, at least one horizontal telescoping non-tension rod, and arcuate brackets that address and solve these problems.

SUMMARY

The present invention broadly comprises a tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly, comprising a first vertical telescoping tension rod, the first tension rod having a first spring loaded endcap and a second non-spring-loaded foot, the first tension rod having a first longitudinal axis; a second vertical telescoping tension rod, the second tension rod having a first spring loaded endcap and a second non-spring-loaded foot, the second tension rod having a second longitudinal axis; a first arcuate bracket arranged to be fixedly secured to the first vertical tension rod; a second arcuate bracket arranged to be fixedly secured to the second vertical tension rod; and, a horizontal telescoping rod extending between the first and second arcuate brackets, the horizontal rod having a third longitudinal axis, wherein, when assembled, the first and second longitudinal axes are parallel to one another, the third longitudinal axis is substantially perpendicular to the first and second longitudinal axes, the first and second longitudinal axes define a first vertical plane, and the third longitudinal axis is spaced apart from the vertical plane.

A general object of this invention is to provide a tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly, comprising two vertical spaced apart telescoping tension rods, and a horizontal telescoping rod extending between the first and second vertical rods, attached to each with an arcuate bracket, such that the horizontal rod defines a vertical plane which is spaced apart from a vertical plane defined by the two vertical rods, resulting in a more aesthetically pleasing display of the drapes/curtains.

These and other objects, features, and advantages of the present disclosure will become readily apparent upon a review of the following detailed description of the disclosure, in view of the drawings and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various embodiments are disclosed, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying schematic drawings in which corresponding reference symbols indicate corresponding parts, in which:

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of a tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly;

FIG. **2** is a front perspective view of the arcuate bracket of the assembly;

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view of the arcuate bracket shown in FIG. **2**, taken generally along line FIG. **3**—FIG. **3** in FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a top view of the arcuate bracket shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**;

FIG. **5** is an exploded view of the arcuate bracket and bracket clamp of the assembly;

FIG. **6** is a fragmented exploded front perspective view of the tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **7** is a top view of the first and second arcuate brackets **10** and **10'** shown in FIGS. **1** and **6**;

FIG. **8** is a front fragmentary cross-sectional view of one of the vertical telescoping tension rods of the invention, showing a spring-loaded endcap, a height adjuster, and a non-spring-loaded foot; and,

FIG. **9** is a front fragmentary cross-sectional view of one of the vertical telescoping tension rods of the invention, showing a spring-loaded endcap, a height adjuster, and a non-spring-loaded foot, similar to that shown in FIG. **8**, except with rods **40**, **41** and **42** removed (and shown in dotted outline) to show additional internal structure of the assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

At the outset, it should be appreciated that like drawing numbers on different drawing views identify identical, or functionally similar, structural elements. It is to be understood that the claims are not limited to the disclosed aspects.

Furthermore, it is understood that this disclosure is not limited to the particular methodology, materials and modifications described and as such may, of course, vary. It is also understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular aspects only and is not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure pertains. It should be understood that any methods, devices or materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the example embodiments.

It should be appreciated that the term "substantially" is synonymous with terms such as "nearly," "very nearly," "about," "approximately," "around," "bordering on," "close to," "essentially," "in the neighborhood of," "in the vicinity of," etc., and such terms may be used interchangeably as appearing in the specification and claims. It should be appreciated that the term "proximate" is synonymous with

terms such as "nearby," "close," "adjacent," "neighboring," "immediate," "adjoining," etc., and such terms may be used interchangeably as appearing in the specification and claims.

Referring now to the figures, FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly **100**. Tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly **100** comprises vertical telescoping tension rods **99** and **99'**, horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98**. Vertical telescoping tension rod **99** comprises non-spring-loaded foot **60**, lower vertical rod **42**, height adjuster **50**, middle vertical rod **41**, upper vertical rod **40**, arcuate bracket **10**, and spring-loaded endcap **20**. Vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** comprises non-spring-loaded foot **60'**, lower vertical rod **42'**, height adjuster **50'**, middle vertical rod **41'**, upper vertical rod **40'**, arcuate bracket **10'**, and spring-loaded endcap **20'**. Vertical telescoping tension rod **99** has a longitudinal axis L**1**, and vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** has a longitudinal axis L**2**. Longitudinal axes L**1** and L**2** are substantially parallel and define vertical plane VP**1** (not shown in FIG. **1**). Plane VP**1** intersects all of the points in axes L**1** and L**2**. Lower vertical rod **42** has a slightly smaller circumference than middle vertical rod **41**, this allows lower vertical rod **42** to insert into middle vertical rod **41**. Notwithstanding one end of upper vertical rod **40**, middle vertical rod **41** and upper vertical rod **40** have the same circumference. One end of upper vertical rod **40** has a slightly smaller circumference compared to the rest of upper vertical rod **40** and middle vertical rod **41** (not shown in FIG. **1**). The smaller circumference of upper vertical rod **40** allows it to insert into the top of middle vertical rod **41**, wherein the point where upper vertical rod **40**'s circumference changes rests on the top of middle vertical rod **41**. Arcuate bracket **10** can be positioned at any location along vertical rods **40** and **41** by resting it on top of and around clamp **14** (not shown in FIG. **1**). Non-spring-loaded foot **60** is threadably secured to the bottom of lower vertical rod **42**. Height adjuster **50** is fixedly secured around the point of insertion between lower vertical rod **42** and middle vertical rod **41**. Spring-loaded endcap **20** is fixedly secured to the top of upper vertical rod **40**. The structure and means by which each component of vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** is attached to it are substantially identical to that of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. Horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98** comprises large horizontal rod **30**, and small horizontal rod **31**. Small horizontal rod **31** has a slightly smaller circumference than large horizontal rod **30**, allowing one end of small horizontal rod **31** to insert into one end of large horizontal rod **30**. At the opposite ends of both horizontal rods **30** and **31** is a cap (not shown in FIG. **1**). The caps have a hole in them where pegs **15** and **15'** (neither shown in FIG. **1**) can insert the hole in the respective caps. This will allow horizontal rod **98** to rest in a substantially perpendicular position to that of vertical telescoping tension rods **99** and **99'**. This is shown by angle θ, wherein the angle is ninety degrees. Additionally, horizontal non-tension rod **98** has a longitudinal axis L**3** (not shown in FIG. **1**) which is coincident to vertical plane VP**2** (not shown in FIG. **1**). Due to arcuate brackets **10** and **10'**, VP**1** and VP**2** (neither shown in FIG. **1**), while substantially parallel, are spaced apart a distance d (not shown in FIG. **1**).

The insertion of lower vertical rod **42** into middle vertical rod **41** allows vertical telescoping tension rod **99** to telescope to different heights. The farther lower vertical rod **42** inserts into middle vertical rod **41**, the lesser the height of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. The height adjuster **50** will lock lower vertical rod **42** in the desired position so that the height of vertical telescoping tension rod **99** remains static. Non-spring-loaded foot **60** is generally planar and meant to abut against a floor surface (not shown). Spring-loaded endcap **20** is also generally planar and is meant to abut against a ceiling surface (not shown). The compression spring in spring-loaded endcap **20** creates the tension in vertical telescoping tension rod **99** by pressing outwardly causing non-spring-loaded foot **60** to press against the floor surface, and spring-loaded endcap **20** to press against the ceiling surface. The tension causes vertical telescoping tension rod **99** to remain in a substantially vertical and stable position. The components of vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** interact in an identical manner. The insertion of small horizontal rod **31** into large horizontal rod **30** allows horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98** to be adjusted to different lengths or widths. The telescoping features of the vertical rods and the horizontal rods allow tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly **100** to take on various shapes and sizes. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, drapery is meant to be suspended from horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98**. The drapes or curtains can hang in front of a window, or in any desired location. Arcuate brackets **10** and **10'**, which cause the distance d between VP**1** and VP**2**, allow the drapery to wrap around the edge of a window frame, or any object. This helps the drapery to block the slivers of light that sneak in through the sides of traditional drapes or curtains.

FIG. **2** is a front perspective view of arcuate bracket **10**. Arcuate bracket **10** comprises clamp **14**, cylindrical base **13**, arcuate piece **11**, and peg **15**. Cylindrical base **13** has a hollow middle **16** so that vertical telescoping tension rod **99** and clamp **14** can fit inside it. Vertical telescoping tension rod **99** inserts hollow middle **16** of cylindrical base **13**. Arcuate bracket **10** will then come to rest at the point in which clamp **14** is secured around vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. Arcuate piece **11** is fixedly secured to cylindrical base **13**. Peg **15** is fixedly secured to the end of arcuate piece **11**. Peg **15** will insert into a capped end of horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98**.

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view of arcuate bracket **10** along line **3-3** shown in FIG. **2**. FIG. **3** further illustrates the interaction between cylindrical base **13** and clamp **14**. Notably, hollow middle **16** of cylindrical base **13** is not perfectly cylindrical. Hollow middle **16** is tapered wherein the bottom is wider than the top. This allows clamp **14** to fit within cylindrical base **13** when it is secured around vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. Cylindrical base **13** will simply rest on clamp **14** by gravitational means.

FIG. **4** is a top view of arcuate bracket **10** further illustrating cylindrical base **13**, hollow middle **16**, the arc of the arcuate piece **11**, and peg **15**. FIG. **4** more clearly shows the structure of arcuate bracket **10** and how arcuate piece **11** provides the spacing apart of the vertical planes VP**1** and VP**2** (not shown in FIG. **4**).

FIG. **5** is an exploded view of arcuate bracket **10** and clamp **14** of the assembly. Clamp **14** comprises clamp **14**A and **14**B which engage one another and latch around vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. When latched, similar to FIGS. **2** and **3**, clamp **14** will fit within hollow middle **16**. The flat lip at the base of clamp **14** allows cylindrical base **13** to come to rest upon it. Additionally, FIG. **5** helps illustrate the interaction between peg **15** and large horizontal rod **30** (same interaction could take place with small horizontal rod **31**) wherein peg **15** inserts into the cap (not shown in FIG. **5**) at the end of large horizontal rod **30**.

FIG. **6** is a fragmented exploded front perspective view of tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly **100**. FIG. **6** further illustrates the end of upper vertical rods **40** and **40'** that have a smaller circumference than the remainder of

upper vertical rod **40** and **40'**. It also helps illustrate how clamps **14** and **14'** and arcuate brackets **10** and **10'** wrap around vertical telescoping tension rods **99** and **99'** respectively. FIG. **6** also shows the cap on large horizontal rod **30** where peg **15'** (not labeled in FIG. **6**) will insert. It should be appreciated that the end of horizontal rod **31** that is not visible will interact with peg **15** (not labeled in FIG. **6**) in a substantially identical manner as horizontal rod **30** and peg **15'** so that pegs **15** and **15'** can insert into either horizontal rod **30** or **31**.

FIG. **7** is a top view of the first and second arcuate brackets **10** and **10'** as shown in FIGS. **1** and **6**. FIG. **7** further illustrates the location of longitudinal axes L**1**, L**2**, and L**3**, and vertical planes VP**1** and VP**2**. Vertical telescoping tension rod **99** (not shown in FIG. **7**) has a first longitudinal axis L**1**, vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** (not shown in FIG. **7**) has a second longitudinal axis L**2**, and horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98** (not shown in FIG. **7**) has a third longitudinal axis L**3** as it extends between arcuate brackets **10** and **10'**. Longitudinal axes L**1** and L**2** are substantially parallel to one another and define a first vertical plane VP**1**. Longitudinal axis L**3** is substantially perpendicular to L**1** and L**2** and is coincident to a second vertical plane VP**2**. Vertical planes VP**1** and VP**2** are substantially parallel to one another, however, due to arcuate brackets **10** and **10'**, VP**2** is spaced apart from VP**1** a distance d. This allows anything hung or suspended from horizontal telescoping non-tension rod **98**, such as a drape or curtain, to wrap around the edge of whatever it is protecting, such as a window frame. In the example of a drape and window frame, the arcuate brackets **10** and **10'** allow the drape to slightly wrap around the edge of the window frame so slivers of light cannot enter the room from the edge of the window frame.

FIG. **8** is a front fragmentary cross-sectional view of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**, spring-loaded endcap **20**, height adjuster **50**, and non-spring-loaded foot **60**. FIG. **8** illustrates the relationship between the different rods of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**. Lower vertical rod **42** inserts into middle vertical rod **41**. This is shown in the area within height adjuster **50**. Additionally, the end of upper vertical rod **40** that has a smaller circumference inserts into the end of middle vertical rod **41**. This is illustrated in FIG. **8** as you can see the inserted member of upper vertical rod **40** inside middle vertical rod **41**. Additionally, FIG. **8** shows the spring in spring-loaded endcap **20** which causes the tension in vertical telescoping tension rod **99**, along with the internal structure of height adjuster **50** and non-spring-loaded foot **60**. It should also be appreciated that the structure of vertical telescoping tension rod **99'** is substantially identical to that of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**.

FIG. **9** is a front fragmentary cross-sectional view of vertical telescoping tension rod **99**, showing spring-loaded endcap **20**, height adjuster **50**, and non-spring-loaded foot **60**, similar to that shown in FIG. **8**, except with rods **40**, **41** and **42** removed to show additional internal structure of the assembly.

It should be appreciated that the embodiment as shown is only one of a variety of possible embodiments of the claimed invention. For example, another embodiment could have three vertical telescoping tension rods and two horizontal telescoping non-tension rods, as well as four arcuate brackets and not just two.

It will be appreciated that various aspects of the disclosure above and other features and functions, or alternatives thereof, may be desirably combined into many other different systems or applications. Various presently unforeseen or unanticipated alternatives, modifications, variations, or improvements therein may be subsequently made by those skilled in the art which are also intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

REFERENCE NUMERALS

10 Arcuate bracket
10' Arcuate bracket
11 Arcuate piece
11' Arcuate piece
13 Cylindrical base
13' Cylindrical base
14 Clamp
14' Clamp
14A Clamp
14B Clamp
15 Peg
15' Peg
16 Hollow middle
16' Hollow middle
20 Spring-loaded endcap
20' Spring-loaded endcap
30 Large horizontal rod
31 Small horizontal rod
40 Upper vertical rod
40' Upper vertical rod
41 Middle vertical rod
41' Middle vertical rod
42 Lower vertical rod
42' Lower vertical rod
50 Height adjuster
50' Height adjuster
60 Non-spring-loaded foot
60' Non-spring-loaded foot
98 Horizontal telescoping tension rod
99 Vertical telescoping tension rod
99' Vertical telescoping tension rod
100 Tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly
L**1** Longitudinal axis
L**2** Longitudinal axis
L**3** Longitudinal axis
VP**1** Vertical plane
VP**2** Vertical plane
θ Angle of 90°

What is claimed is:

1. A tripartite telescoping tension rod assembly, comprising:

a first telescoping vertical tension rod, said first telescoping vertical tension rod having a spring-loaded endcap and a non-spring-loaded foot, said first telescoping vertical tension rod arranged about a first longitudinal axis;

a second telescoping vertical tension rod, said second telescoping vertical tension rod having a spring-loaded endcap and a non-spring-loaded foot, said second telescoping vertical tension rod arranged about a second longitudinal axis;

a first two-piece clamp arranged to frictionally secure to said first telescoping vertical tension rod, said first two-piece clamp arranged to removably accept a first arcuate bracket thereon, said first arcuate bracket having an arc extending therefrom, said arc arranged perpendicularly to said first telescoping vertical tension rod, said arc having a peg extending therefrom;

a second two-piece clamp arranged to frictionally secure to said second telescoping vertical tension rod, said second two-piece clamp arranged to removably accept

a second arcuate bracket thereon, said second arcuate bracket having an arc extending therefrom, said arc arranged perpendicularly to said second telescoping vertical tension rod, said arc having a peg extending therefrom; and,

a horizontal telescoping rod extending between said first and second arcuate brackets, said horizontal telescoping rod arranged to engage said peg of said first arcuate bracket at a first end and to engage said peg of said second arcuate bracket at a second end, said horizontal rod arranged about a third longitudinal axis wherein, when assembled, said first and second longitudinal axes are parallel to one another, said third longitudinal axis is substantially perpendicular to said first and second longitudinal axes, said first and second longitudinal axes define a first vertical plane, and said third longitudinal axis is coincident with a second vertical plane spaced apart from and parallel to said first vertical plane.

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