Aug. 21, 1923. 1,465,659

F. G. WHEELER

CLOTHES HANGER

Filed Sept. 20, 1920

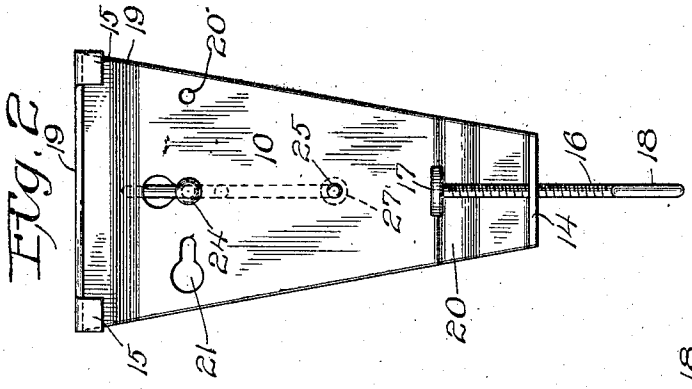



Fig. 2.

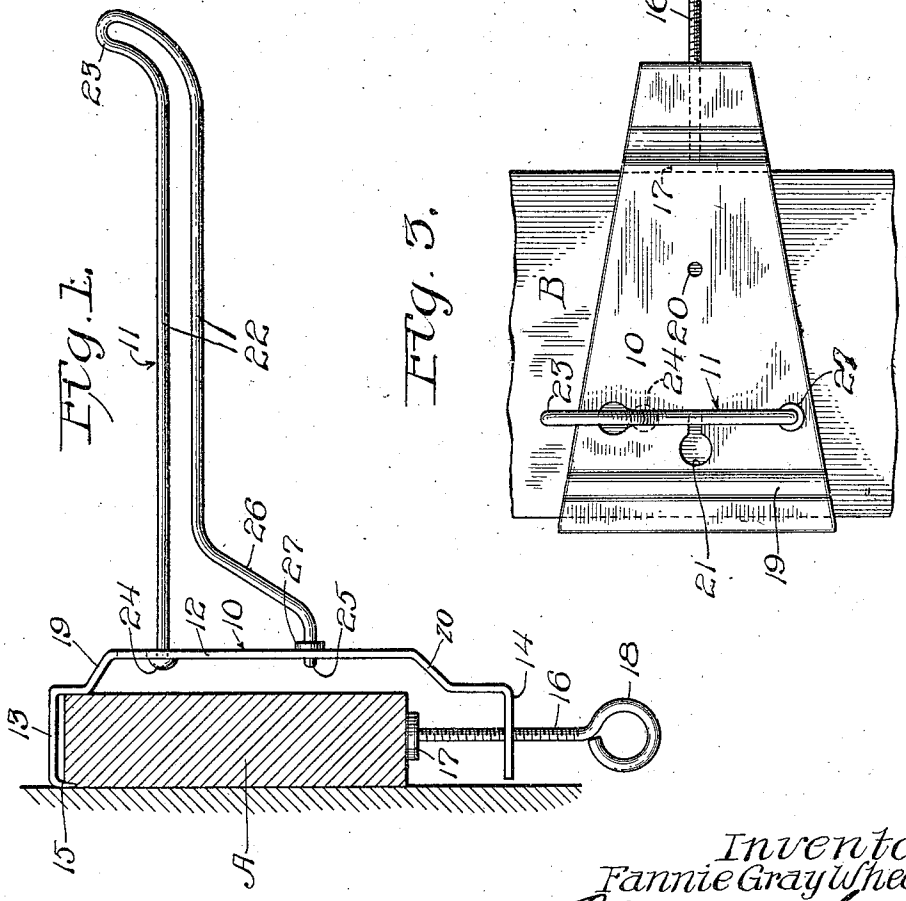



Fig. 1.




Fig. 3.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FANNIE GRAY WHEELER, OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS.

## CLOTHES HANGER.

Application filed September 20, 1920. Serial No. 411,535.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FANNIE GRAY WHEELER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Bloomington, in the county of McLean and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes Hangers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in clothes hangers and refers more particularly to improvements designed to knock down or collapse the elements of the hanger so that they may be shipped or stored in small space, and also to improvements designed to enable the hanger to be clamped to a wall board without the necessity of using screws or without in any way marring the board. In this latter respect the improvements relate to a hanger plate that is designed to be attached to both a horizontal and a vertical wall board, and provided with means whereby the hook element can be detachably fixed thereto in the same horizontal positions with both adjustments of the supporting or clamping plate.

The invention consists in the combination and arrangement of the elements shown in the drawings and described in the specification and is pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of a clothes hanger embodying my invention showing the wall board in section.

Figure 2 is a rear elevation of the hanger.

Figure 3 is a front elevation of the hanger adjusted to a vertical wall board.

As shown in the drawings, the hanger embraces, in general terms, a mounting plate 10 and a hanger element 11 which is detachably fixed to the mounting plate and extends horizontally therefrom.

The mounting plate 10, in accordance with one phase of the invention, is provided with means whereby it may be detachably clamped to the wall board, and by means which will not mar or objectionably mutilate the wall board. Said mounting plate is made of sheet metal, being shown of generally triangular form, and comprises an intermediate portion 12 adapted to lie parallel to the face of the wall board, an upper hook portion 13 which engages over the top of the wall board, and a lower hook portion 14, which is spaced from the hook portion 13 a distance at least as great as the widest wall board in connection with which the hanger is to be used. The upper hook portion 13 has one or more spurs 15, two being herein shown, which are adapted to bite into the upper edge of the wall board, or to fit back of the same between said board and the wall, depending upon the thickness of the wall board. The lower hook portion 14 is pierced with a threaded opening to receive a threaded clamping screw 16 that is provided at its upper end with a bearing head 17 adapted to bear against the lower edge of the wall board. Said head is preferably swiveled to the screw. The screw is provided at its lower end with an operating hand piece 18, herein shown as having the form of an eye, by which the screw is manipulated to force the head 17 against the lower edge of the wall board, when the hook 13 is engaged with the upper edge thereof. The said intermediate portion 12 of the mounting plate is spaced a distance from the adjacent face of the wall board, and connected by oblique portions 19, 20 with the parts of the plate which carry the hooks 13, 14 so that thereby the plate may be adjusted to wall boards of different thickness without bringing the plate in contact with the lower edge of the wall board.

In accordance with one phase of the invention, the said mounting plate is provided with two pairs of openings to receive the hook element 11, hereafter to be described, in a manner to detachably lock the hook element to the mounting plate. One of the openings $20^1$ of each pair is a plain round opening, while the other opening 21 is of key slot formation; and the openings of one pair are disposed in a plane that intersects a plane passing through the openings of the other pair.

The hook element 11 of the hanger is herein shown, and preferably will be made of a single piece of wire, bent upon itself

near the intermediate portion of the wire, and with the principal portions of the arms or members 22 thereof lying parallel. The outer or closed portion of the hanger element, when thus made of a single piece of wire, is turned upwardly at 23 to form the hook.

The terminal of one of the arms, the upper arm as herein shown, is formed to provide a head 24 which is adapted to pass through the enlarged portion of the key slot opening 21 of either pair of the hook mounting openings, and the other hole $20^1$ of each pair is made only of a diameter to receive the terminal 25 of the other or lower arm or member of the hook element, as shown in Figure 1. Preferably, the said lower arm or member of the hook element 11 diverges downwardly from the other arm or member to form a brace 26 to brace the hook structure against a load suspended thereon. Desirably also the terminal of said brace member is provided with a shoulder 27 which may be formed by a collar fitted thereover and brazed or otherwise fixed thereto, and this shoulder is adapted to bear on the outer face of the mounting plate when the elements of the hook structure are assembled so as to afford a definite stop element for the said brace member 26 which will prevent the hook element sagging downwardly under load.

It will be observed by an inspection of Figures 1 and 3 that the clamping means whereby the mounting plate is fastened to the vertical or horizontal wall boards A, B respectively, is such that the said mounting plate may be clamped to both boards in substantially the same way; and the distance between the clamping screw hook 14 and the under or side face of the wall board is such as to allow for considerable variation in the widths of the supporting wall boards.

The hook element 11 is detachably fixed to the mounting plate by first inserting the terminal 25 in one of the holes or openings $20^1$ of the mounting plate, and thereafter inserting the headed terminal 24 of the other arm of the hook member through the enlarged portion of the opening 21; and the permanent spring or tension of the arms 22 relatively to each other is such that said spring or tension, after the head 24 is inserted through the upper part of the opening 21, will force the shank of the associated arm or member into the smaller or slotted portion of said opening or hole 21. As shown in the present instance, the permanent tension or spring of the two hook members or arms are toward each other so that it will be necessary to spring the upper arm or member upwardly away from the lower arm or member when inserting the headed terminal 24 through the opening 21, after the terminal 25 has been set in place. If the permanent tension or spring of the arms or members of the hook element be away from each other, the larger and slotted portions of the openings 21 would be reversed.

From what has been said, it will be observed that I have produced an exceedingly simple, efficient and economical hanger device which is capable, when the parts are detached, of being stored in a very compact space, and have also produced a device which well adapts itself to both horizontal wall boards, vertical boards, door panels, and the like. It will also be observed that the construction is such that the attachment between the hook element and mounting plate is a rugged attachment and that the hook element is capable of supporting substantial weights, and that the weights sustained by the hook element tend to hold the parts of the structure together.

I claim as my invention:

1. A clothes hanger comprising a mounting plate adapted to be interchangeably and detachably connected to an upright and to a horizontal wall board comprising a body of greater length than the board and adapted to extend across said board and having rearwardly extending end hooks to extend across the edges of said board, one of said hooks being spaced from one edge of said board and having a threaded aperture, a clamping screw extending through said aperture and engaging its threads and bearing against the adjacent edge of said board, the other hook being shaped to interlock on one edge of said board and offset from the body to space the latter from said board, said body being provided between said hooks with two pairs of spaced openings, with the openings of one pair in a plane which intersects the plane of the openings of the other pair, and a hanger having a pair of special terminals, one of said terminals being adapted to engage openings of like kind of the two pairs in the two positions of said plate, and the other terminal being likewise adapted to interchangeably engage the other openings of like kind, whereby said hanger occupies the same position relatively to a vertical plane regardless of the position of said plate on the wall board.

2. A clothes hanger comprising a mounting plate, having end hooks adapted to interchangeably and detachably connect it to an upright and a horizontal support, said body being provided between said hooks with two pairs of spaced openings, with the openings of one pair in a plane which intersects the plane of the openings of the other pair, one opening of each pair being a key slot opening, and a hanger having a pair of terminals springable towards and from each other, one of said terminals having a projection which interchangeably engages

openings of like kind of the two pairs, and the other terminal being headed to be insertable interchangeably through the larger parts of the key slot openings, and the springing function of the latter member holding it normally in the smaller part of the key slot opening, whereby said hanger occupies the same position regardless of a vertical or horizontal position of the mounting plate on its support.

In witness whereof I claim the foregoing as my invention, I hereunto append my signature this 17th day of August, 1920.

FANNIE GRAY WHEELER.

## Certificate of Correction.

It is hereby certified that in Letters Patent No. 1,465,659, granted August 21, 1923, upon the application of Fannie Gray Wheeler, of Bloomington, Illinois, for an improvement in "Clothes Hangers," an error appears in the printed specification requiring correction as follows: Page 2, line 108, claim 1, for the word "special" read *spaced;* and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 9th day of October, A. D., 1923.

[SEAL.]

WM. A. KINNAN,
*Acting Commissioner of Patents.*