United States Patent

[11] **3,567,084**

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[54] **DISPLAY SUPPORT DEVICE**
1 Claim, 8 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **223/120,** 40/126, 248/224
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47f 5/00,** A47f 7/00
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 269/; 223/75, 66, 120; 35/56, 57; 248/223, 224, 354 (sloping surface); 40/126

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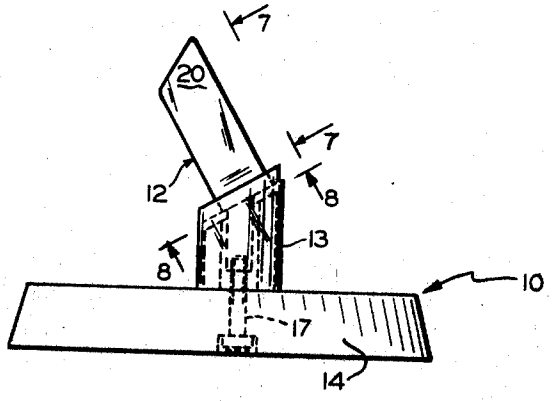
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Assistant Examiner—George H. Krizmanich
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ABSTRACT: A support for a form in the shape of a human body portion for displaying a garment has a clamp for embracing a portion of the form to hold it erect. The clamp has a downwardly projecting dovetail flange. A pedestal, secured to a flat base, has a complementary dovetail groove in its upper surface which is slanted at a large angle to the horizontal. The flange and groove are each similarly tapered from a wide upper end to a narrower lower end so that the clamp and pedestal can be locked together by sliding the flange into the groove.



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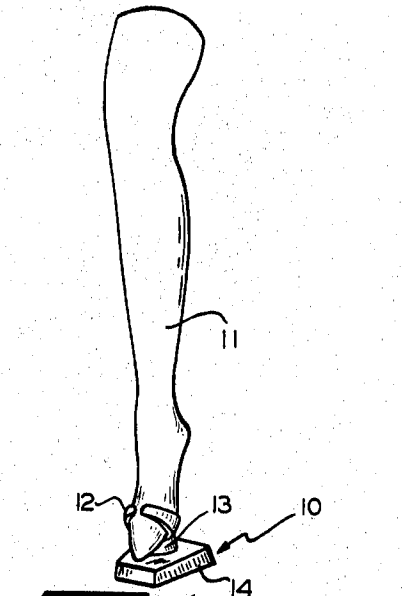


Fig. 1

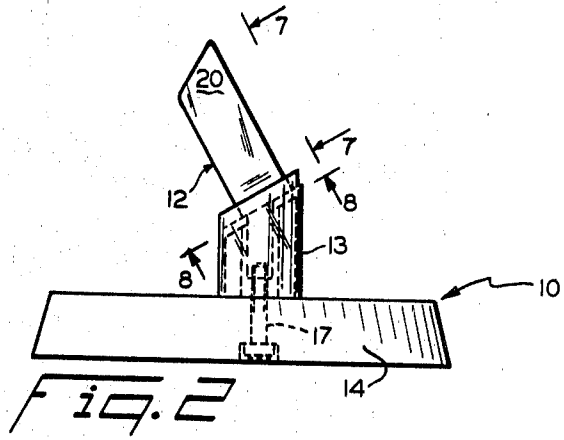


Fig. 2

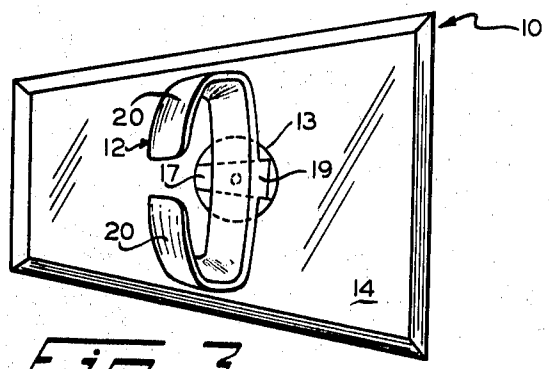


Fig. 3

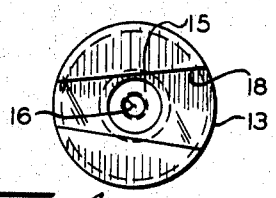


Fig. 4

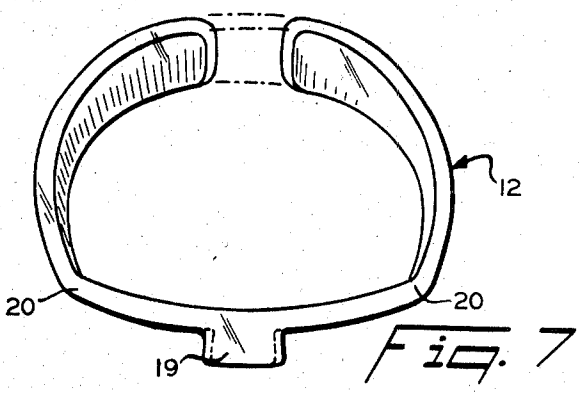


Fig. 7

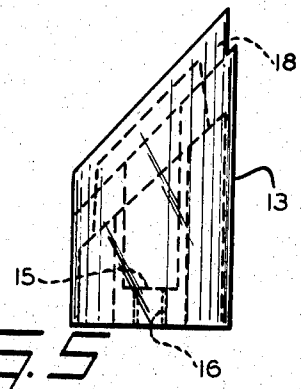


Fig. 5

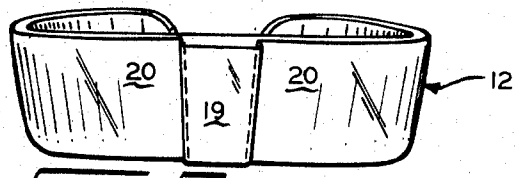


Fig. 8

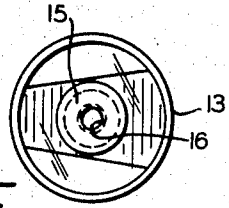


Fig. 6

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DISPLAY SUPPORT DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a support device for hosiery display forms and more particularly to means for releasably and quickly securing together the parts thereof.

Hosiery is displayed on hollow molded forms in the shape of a foot and a portion of the leg. For women's stockings, a form with the leg portion extending anywhere from above the ankle to above the knee is required and it is desirable to display the clothed form upright with the toe down. Since the stocking is on the form, means have heretofore been devised to support the form by means of a simple socket or clamp member into which the tapered toe portion of the form fits.

Since the toe end of the form projects down through the encircling clamp, the clamp is held above a flat base by a pedestal. The pedestal and clamp must be small and inconspicuous and, so as to show the color of the stocking, are usually made of clear plastic. Pedestal and clamp, being sa small as compared to the form, are difficult to secure together efficiently without employing conventional fasteners which are expensive and time consuming to use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention, therefore, contemplates forming, as by molding, the pedestal and clamp with a dovetail joint which may be quickly and easily assembled to lock the two parts together. One part has a projecting dovetail slide and the other part a complementary dovetail groove which are disposed at a large slant angle to the horizontal when assembled. The groove and slide each are tapered in the direction of the slant so as to lock into position and to be held in locked position by the weight of the form.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a clothed form and its support structure embodying the invention;

FIGS. 2 and 3 are side elevational and plan views, respectively, of the support structure of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 4, 5 and 6 are plan, side elevational and bottom plan views, respectively, of the pedestal member of the support; and

FIGS. 7 and 8 are views of the clamp member of the support as viewed in the direction of the arrows 7–7 and 8–8 of FIG. 2, respectively, a modified form of clamp being indicated by broken lines. In FIG. 7.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In FIG. 1 the support device **10** is shown supporting a stocking form **11** and comprises a clamp member **12**, a pedestal member **13** and a flat base **14** of wood or plastic having a base area sufficient to firmly support the form **11**.

The pedestal **13**, best seen in FIGS. **4**, **5** and **6**, is round and hollow with comparatively thin sidewalls and has a pendant central hollow pillar **15** therewithin whose bottom has a threaded hole at **16** for engagement with a screw **17** for securing it to the base. The base **14** is countersunk at its center, as shown in FIG. **2**, for containing the head of screw **17**. The top of pedestal **13** is solid and comparatively thick and has a dovetail groove **18** thereacross. Its top surface and the groove are slanted at such an angle to the horizontal as to hold the leg form in an upright position. The pillar portion **25** projects down from the bottom of the groove.

The clamp member **12**, best seen in FIGS. **7** and **8**, has a dovetail flange **19** projecting downward from its bottom surface. Flange **19** is complementary to the groove **18** and at the top of the flange two strap portions **20** project on either side of the flange. The strap portions **20** are comparatively flat at the bottom of the clamp **12**, conforming to the sole portion of

form **11**. At the sides of the clamp **12**, the strap portions **20** curve sharply upward and then curve toward one another so as to conform to the shape of the top of the toe portion of form **11** at the ball of the foot where the toe portion is at its widest. The strap portions **20** embrace the toe portion of form **11** almost completely and their inner surface is tapered to conform to the taper of the form from the ball of the foot toward the ends of the toes, as shown. The strap portion may also be made in one continuous, unbroken loop as indicated by broken lines in FIG. **7**.

Both groove **18** and flange **19** have sides which have a draft inward from bottom to top on the order of 5° to form the dovetail. Both are also tapered from a comparatively wide upper end to a comparatively narrow lower end, the sides of groove and flange extended meeting at an angle of the order of 10°. Groove **18** and flange **19** are proportioned so as to come into engagement at the upper end of the groove, as shown.

When assembling the support device **10**, the single screw **17** is quickly installed to secure pedestal **13** to the base **14**. The clamp **12** is then quickly and easily secured to pedestal **13** by sliding the flange **19** down in groove **18** to lock the two members together. When form **11** is placed within the encircling strap portions **20** of the clamp, its weight locks the two members in place more securely.

The clamp member **12** and pedestal member **13** are preferably molded of a clear and transparent plastic material such as methyl methacrylate, acetate butyrate, styrene or other thermoplastic material so that the color of the hosiery on the form may be seen through the strap portions **20**. Groove **18** and flange **19** are concealed by the clothed form and the two members appear to be a single unit. No screws or other fasteners are required to lock the two members together, saving expensive hand operations in assembly and eliminating the possiblity of stripped threads or other failures in the means securing the members together. The members being molded, the means for securing them together are integrally molded, keeping costs to a minimum for this display item.

It will be apparent that modifications may be made in the structure of the two interlocking members. For instance, the groove may be formed in the bottom of the clamp member and the flange formed projecting upward from the pedestal member, groove and flange being tapered from a comparatively narrow upper end to a comparatively wide lower end.

As will be apparent to those familiar with the art, the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristic thereof. The embodiment disclosed is, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative rather than restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claim.

I claim:

1. Support means for a form duplicating the foot and a portion of the leg with heel elevated of a standing human for displaying hosiery, comprising: a flat base, a pedestal member adapted to be narrower than the toe of the form secured to and projecting upward from the base, and a clamp member above the pedestal and having sidewardly and upwardly projecting portions for substantially encircling the downwardly tapering toe end of the form with hose thereon, the members being formed of transparent synthetic resinous material and having abutting and cooperating surfaces, one member having a dovetail flange projecting from its cooperating surface and the cooperating surface of the other member having a cooperating dovetail groove therein, the cooperating surfaces being inclined at an acute angle relative to said flat base, the groove and the flange each being tapered converging downwardly in the direction of the inclination and having inclined interlocking edges, whereby the clamp member is quickly and releasably locked to the pedestal member when assembled by sliding the flange in the groove and the groove and flange are substantially concealed by the projecting portions of the clamp member and form thereon.