April 20, 1965 S. A. SIERADZKI 3,179,315

GARMENT HANGER SHEATH

Filed Aug. 21, 1962

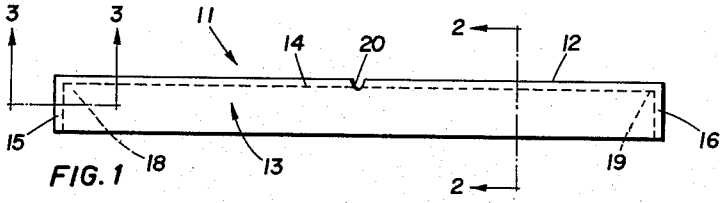


FIG. 1

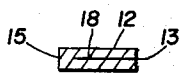


FIG. 3



FIG. 2

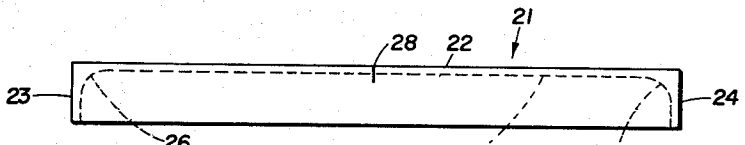


FIG. 4

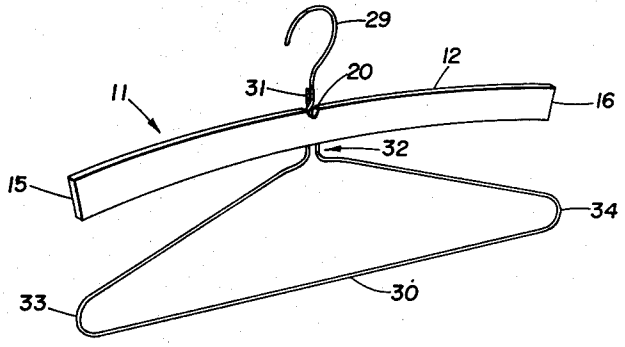


FIG. 5

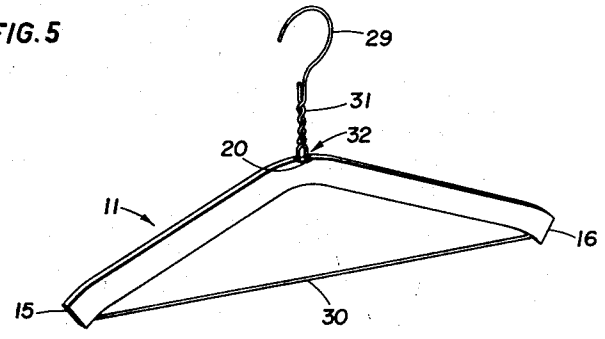


FIG. 6

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GARMENT HANGER SHEATH

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1 Claim. (Cl. 223—98)

This invention relates to a protective and decorative sheath for use with garment hangers, whereby protection for a garment hung thereon can be had.

The use of formed wire garment hangers or, more commonly coat hangers, is quite extensive, being used by most dry cleaning establishments to return cleaned garments. A major disadvantage of these hangers is the rather thin narrow support surface offered, whereby garments, notably padded coats, hung thereon are often misshaped in the shoulder regions. In addition, the wire is normally supplied with a smooth surface such as plating or painting which, in the case of dresses and the like, affords no resistance to the shoulder straps with the frequent result of the garment slipping from the hanger. Moreover, damage to the garment often results from stains originating from the wire.

Prior attempts have been made to overcome these difficulties with varying degrees of success. One such method is the provision of a mechanically fastened sheath of plastic or the like material draped over the wire portions in order to negate the above disadvantages. However this method is costly which prohibits its general use and in addition, the sheath frequently pulls loose from the hanger due to the rather poor attachment means used.

Another method is to place a preformed sheath made from a sheet material, such as pasteboard, over the hanger. This method also suffers from the aforementioned defects, as well as presenting a rather drab appearance.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a garment hanger sheath that will protect a coat or similar garment hung thereon from undue creasing.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a sheath that will offer resistance to slipping for a garment hung thereon.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a sheath that will offer protection for a garment from stains originating from the hanger material.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a sheath that is adapted to fit a variety of hanger types and sizes.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a sheath that while incorporating all the above objects will also be decorative.

These and other objects and features of this invention will become apparent from the following discussion and accompanying drawings of a presently preferred embodiment.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of the hanger sheath showing one method of forming the cuts therein;

FIGURE 2 is a section through the sheath taken on the line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a section through the sheath taken on the line 3—3 in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of the hanger sheath showing a second method of forming the cuts therein;

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view of the sheath in the partially installed position on a conventional wire coat hanger; and,

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the sheath in the fully installed position on a conventional wire coat hanger.

With reference to FIGURE 1, FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 3, one preferred embodiment of this invention is illustrated and indicated generally as **11** and comprises a one-piece body **12** formed of strip-like material and having a generally elongate, rectangular configuration. It is preferable that the body be formed from a foamed plastic, however this is not to be construed as being the only material possible since the requirements are for a resilient, elastic, rough-surfaced material having the additional desirable property of being easily colourable. Since foamed plastic possesses these qualities, as well as having a comparatively low cost, it is chosen as a preferred material.

The body is parted lengthwise for a portion thereof to form a slit **13** being closed along one edge **14** and at both ends **15** and **16**. An open edge **17** is thus formed along one side of body **12** ending in pockets **18** and **19**. A hook cutout **20** is formed along edge **14** substantially midway of ends **15** and **16** and is in communication with slit **13**.

Referring to FIGURE 4 a second preferred embodiment, indicated generally as **21**, is illustrated and comprises a body **22** similar to body **12** and having ends **23** and **24**. A slit **25** is formed in body **22** in a manner similar to slit **13** except the pockets so formed have a rounded configuration as shown at **26** and **27**. Other configurations of the pockets can also be resorted to, such as angular or pointed, according to the preferred method of manufacture and use.

FIGURE 4 also discloses a second method of forming a hook cutout **28** which in this case is merely a slit in the material which communicates with slit **25**. It will also be appreciated that although the drawings show a substantially rectangular form for body **12** or **22**, this is a presently preferred method of shaping, however other shapes such as tapered and the like can also be resorted to if so desired, the main features being apparent from the following description of use.

In use the hook **29** of a conventional wire hanger **30**, as shown in FIGURE 5, is slipped through the hook cutout **20** of shield **11**, having the open edge **17** of slit **13** facing in the direction of hanger **30**. As illustrated in FIGURE 5, the free length of shield **11** is substantially less than that of hanger **30**. The shield is pushed down over the hook shank **31** to come to rest at the hook root **32**, where it joins hanger **30** as shown in FIGURE 6.

The ends **15** and **16** of shield **12** are stretched and placed over ends **33** and **34** of hanger **30**, said hanger ends being biased into pockets **18** and **19** by the resilience inherent in the shield material. Thus it can be seen that the shield forms a tensioned, anti-slip protective cover over the hanger and at the same time improves the appearance thereof especially if the shield material is supplied in bright colours. It is also worthwhile to note that the shield has a further advantage in that it provides a sound-absorbing covering, preventing often annoying rattles when such are hung on door hooks and the like.

It will be further appreciated that the device may also be utilized with other styles of coat hangers if so desired, since being elastic it will readily conform to a variety of shapes and sizes.

While preferred embodiments of the invention have herein been described, various alterations in design can be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention and while still falling within the scope of the appended claim.

What I claim is:

An improved sheath for garment hangers of the type having shoulders sloping from a suspension apex to a

brace spanning said shoulders, said sheath tensionable for accommodation over said shoulders and comprising:

a slit in said sheath defining

a pair of substantially rectangular flank portions formed of resilient rough-surfaced elastic foamed plastic of identical dimensions lying side by side in parallel planes;

a common edge portion of resilient rough-surfaced elastic foamed plastic integrally joining said flank portions together substantially normal thereto along one side thereof and defining a generally U-shaped cross-section therewith along the entire length of said flank portions when said sheath is in untensioned condition;

a pair of end portions of resilient rough-surfaced elastic foamed plastic integrally interconnecting said flank portions substantially normal thereto along both ends thereof and closing said U-shaped cross-section at both said ends;

said flank portions, edge portion and end portions forming an integral block-like substantially rectangular elongate sheath structure in their untensioned condition;

and a hole extending through said edge portion midway between said end portions.

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