

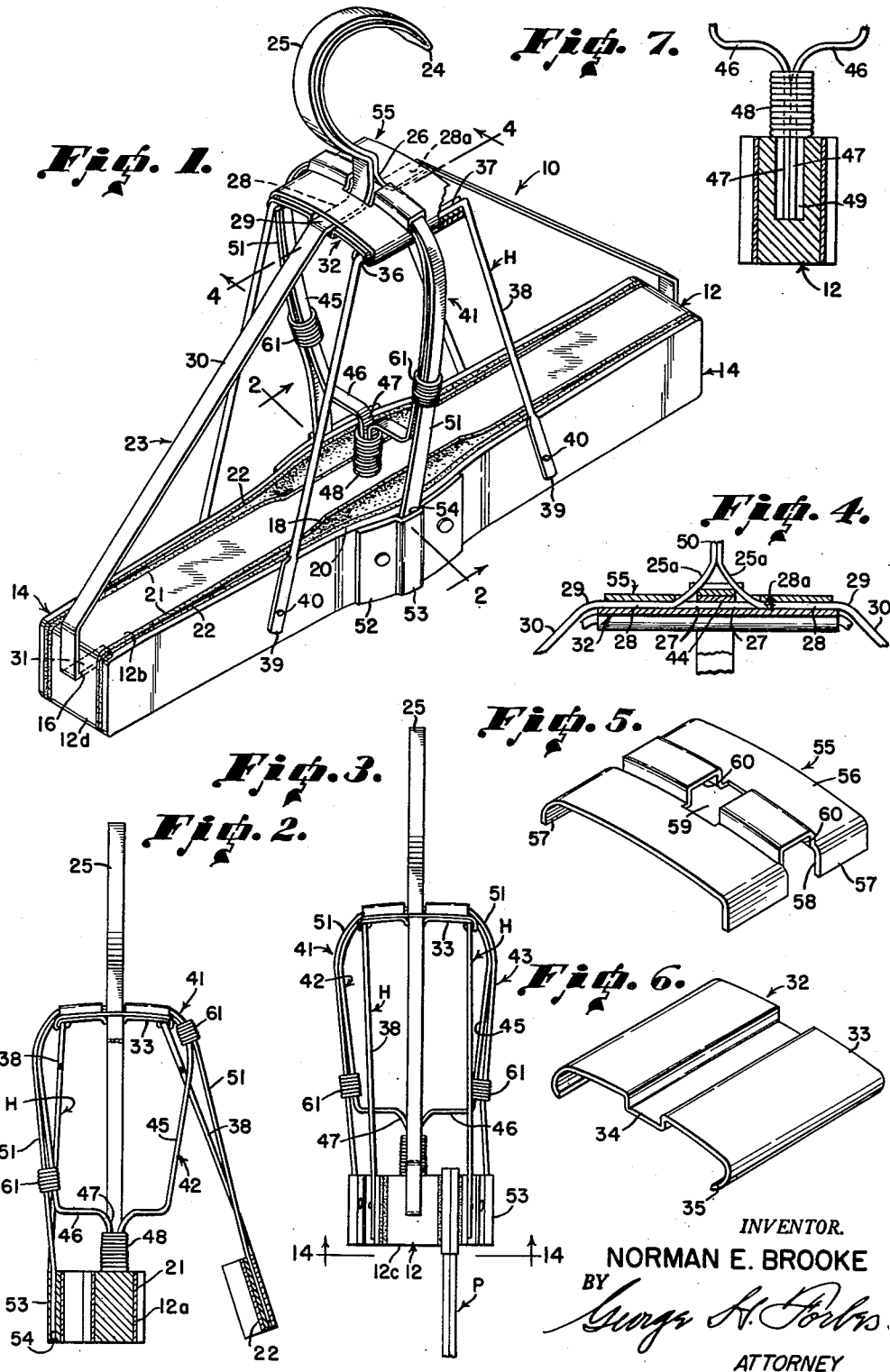
Aug. 27, 1957

N. E. BROOKE
GARMENT HANGERS

2,804,246

Filed June 23, 1955

3 Sheets-Sheet 1



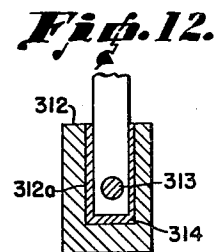
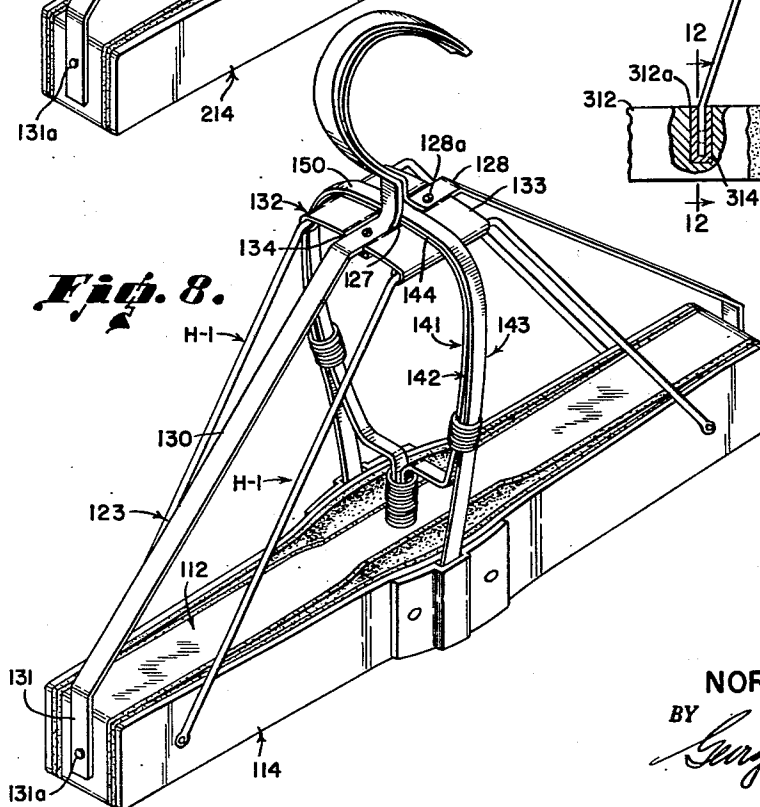
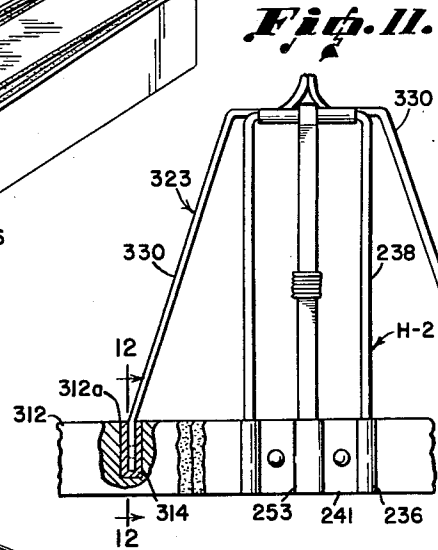
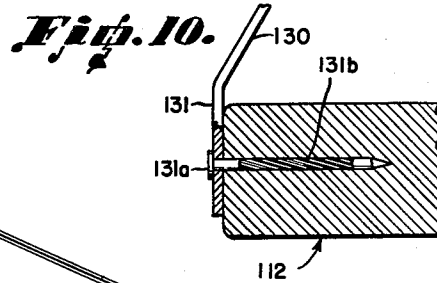
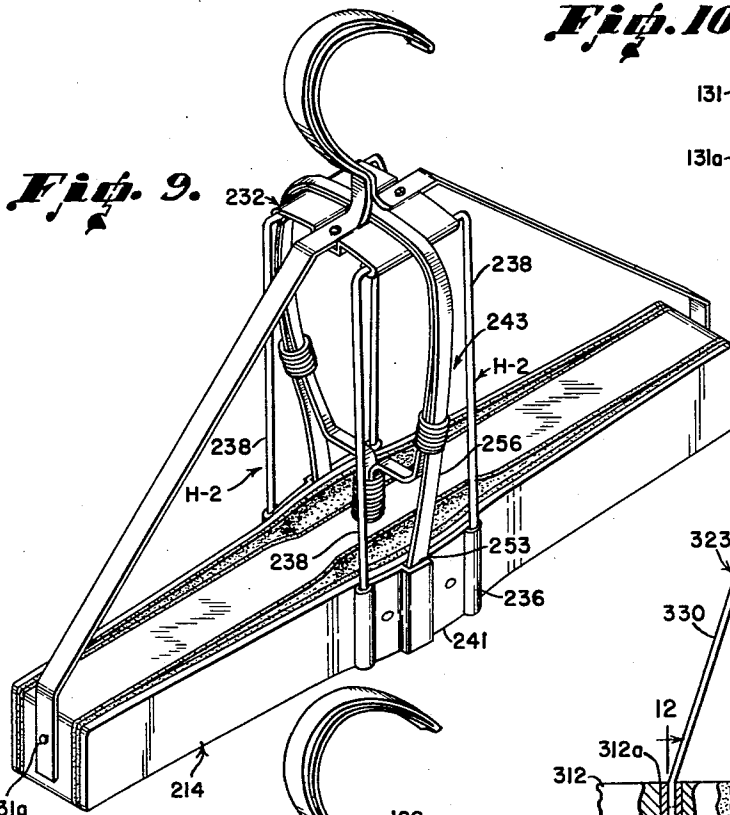
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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2,804,246

GARMENT HANGERS

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Fig. 13.

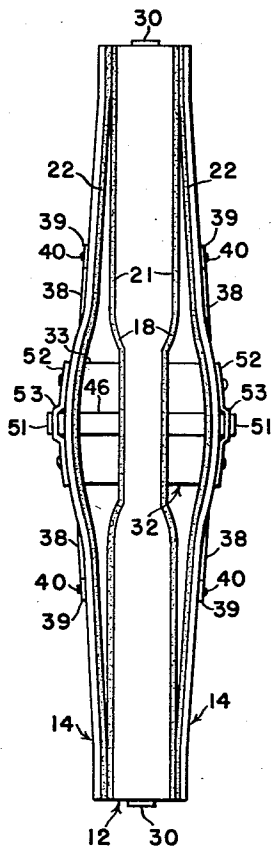


Fig. 14.

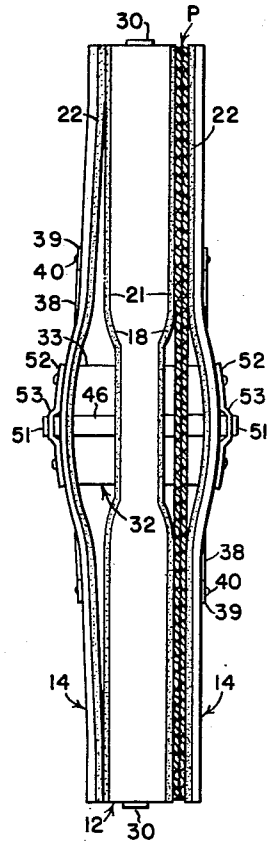


Fig. 15.

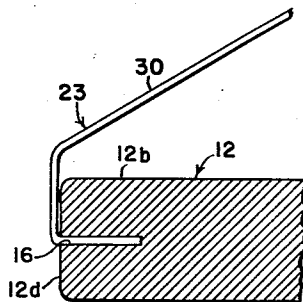
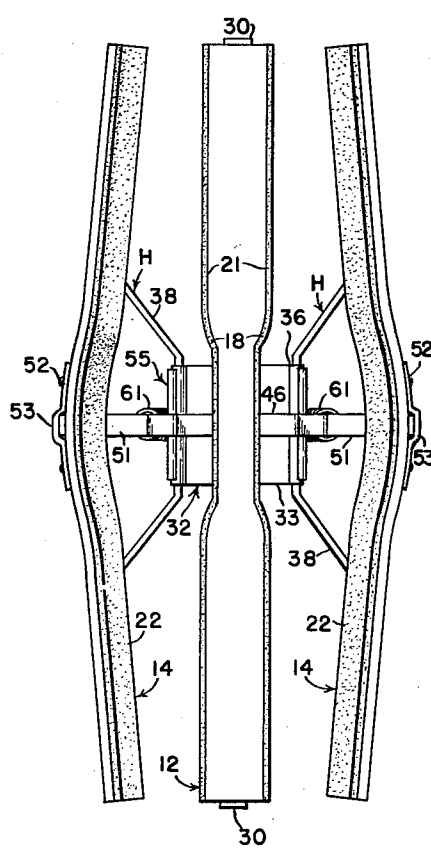


Fig. 16.

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2,804,246

GARMENT HANGERS

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Application June 23, 1955, Serial No. 517,588

18 Claims. (Cl. 223—96)

This invention relates generally to the class of apparel apparatus and is directed particularly to improvements in garment hangers, more especially hangers of the type adapted for hanging or suspending men's trousers.

The present invention is directed to a hanger of the same general type or character as that disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 476,870 filed December 22, 1954, now Patent No. 2,777,620, dated May 15, 1957 and embodies certain patentably distinct refinements, or improvements, thereover.

As pointed out in my prior application the majority of hangers for suspending men's trousers, women's skirts and the like embody two cooperating jaw members between which the garment is gripped. The jaw members are usually attached each to a leg of resilient or springy material and the legs are connected to a hook or other means by which the device may be hung up.

The legs of resilient or springy material are held in drawn together relation to grip the garment therebetween by some means, such as an encircling slide ring, and they are biased so that when the holding slide ring is shifted upwardly thereon they will spring apart.

When a part of a garment is placed between the jaws, the slide ring must be forced down to bend or spring the legs together to close the jaws. The legs are thus under tension and because of this and also because of the fact that they are upwardly convergent, there is a camming force imposed on the connecting slide ring tending to move the ring upward and this condition is made increasingly worse with the increasing of the thickness of material placed between the jaws. While attempts have been made to prevent this slipping of the lock ring by roughening or serrating the surfaces of the legs over which the ring slides, this does not wholly remove the difficulty since the roughened surfaces eventually become smooth and the ring will then slip and fail to hold the legs together and the jaws closed.

A particular or principal object of the present invention, as was the object of my prior invention, disclosed in the above identified application, is to provide a hanger having co-operating resilient, or spring, legs, connected together at one end and carrying at their other ends co-acting gripping jaws of novel form whereby when they are sprung into working position by a slide or slip ring therearound, they will not impose a camming force on the ring tending to reversely shift it, regardless of the bulk or thickness of material placed between the gripping jaws of the amount of strain imposed on the spring legs.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a garment hanger embodying co-operating jaw members between which a garment is gripped wherein a pair of leg members connects the jaws with a means by which the hanger may be suspended and which leg members are designed in novel form whereby one is flexed into a substantially parallel relation with the other when a sliding coupling surrounding the two legs is shifted toward the jaws, the form of the legs being such that when they are drawn together no such angular convergence will exist

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which would tend to cause the coupling to slip away from the jaws and thus allow the same to spring open.

The present general practices of providing men's suits with two pairs of trousers makes it desirable to have hangers which will properly support both together in such a way that one may be put on or taken off without disturbing the other one which may be already secured thereon.

With the type of conventional trousers hanger designed to hold one pair only it is sometimes possible to grip the cuffs of two pairs of trousers between the jaws thereof but this puts a great strain on the spring legs of the hanger because the legs are prevented from coming together to the extent they should and the slide ring or coupling must be pushed down with great force. The spring legs are thus flexed under great strain and they are also disposed at a wide angle so that the slide will not stay in place but tends to slip up and release the jaws. Also, when it is possible to put more than one pair of trousers on a hanger intended to hold only one pair it is not possible to release one pair without releasing the other.

A further object of the present invention, in view of the foregoing, is to provide a new and novel device for hanging, or suspending, men's trousers by the cuffs, which overcomes the difficulties described in connection with the hanging of two pairs of trousers by the provision in a unitary structure of two pairs of gripping jaws having associated therewith co-acting supporting spring legs which are so designed that either pair of jaws may be opened independently of the other and also so that exceptionally thick folds or layers of material may be placed between either pair of jaws and the slide member coupling the legs may be moved to jaw closing position where it will remain without danger of slipping.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a new hanger device for men's trousers, or other garments, wherein two adjoining but separately operable pairs of jaws are provided with one jaw forming member being common to both pairs and wherein a new and improved spring leg assembly is employed which is strong and durable and easy to assemble and connect with the other elements of the hanger structure.

Still another object of the invention is to provide in one embodiment thereof, a construction in which a number of the elements are so formed as to be interchangeable or usable in more than one location in the structure thereby reducing the number of different parts designs.

Another important object of the invention is to provide in another embodiment, a novel constructional feature by which certain parts may be securely locked together after assembly, thereby avoiding the necessity of employing bolts or rivets for maintaining the parts together.

The foregoing and possibly other objects are attained by the provision of a central jaw bar having on either side an outer jaw bar which forms with the adjacent side of the central bar, a working pair of jaws. A frame comprising two long side parts or legs joined together by a hook part lies over and longitudinally of the central bar. In one arrangement the side parts have their outer ends secured to the ends of the central bar and slope upwardly in convergent relation to join the hook which lies above the transverse center of the central bar. In another arrangement the side parts, or legs are secured to the central bar inwardly of the ends of the latter and converge upwardly to join the hook. A hinge plate is secured to and beneath the convergent ends of the side parts below the hook and to each side of this plate there is pivotally attached a hanging, outwardly swingable suspension hinge having two spaced arms across and between the lower ends of which an outer, or lateral, jaw bar is secured.

The hinge plate also carries two nested spring leg units which straddle the plate between the same and the convergent ends of the frame side parts. The inner one of these units embodies two legs which have lower ends secured in, or to, the central bar while the outer one of the units also embodies two legs which lie against or substantially parallel with, the inner unit legs and have their free ends each loosely, or slidably, coupled with an outer jaw bar. Each leg of the outer unit and the adjacent leg of the inner unit is encircled by a slide ring and the outer legs are spring biased to swing out away from the adjacent leg of the inner unit when the ring is slid upwardly. The outer legs thus, when released, swing the attached jaw bar out away from the central jaw on the suspension hinge. Because of the arrangement whereby the adjacent slide encircled legs are substantially parallel throughout the major portion of their length, the angle formed when the jaws are separated is very narrow. Thus the slide is movable up or down with little effort and when it is down so that the outer jaw is drawn in to grip a part of a garment between it and the adjacent face of the central jaw the legs are so nearly parallel that no force is imposed on the slide tending to move it upwardly on the legs.

In one embodiment of the invention, the assembled parts comprising the frame, hinge plate and nested spring units are secured together by welding or riveting the frame to the hinge plate in such a manner that the spring units will be locked in position to the hinge plate.

In the hereinbefore referred to other embodiment a cap plate overlies the hinge plate and is locked thereto by bending parts thereof around adjacent parts of the hinge plate and clamps portions of the frame and of the nested spring units to the hinge plate without employment of rivets, welding or the like.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description of the same proceeds and the invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings forming a part of the specification with the understanding that the invention may be changed or modified so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a garment hanger constructed in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a transverse section on a reduced scale, taken substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, showing one side jaw bar in open position.

Figure 3 is an end elevation on a reduced scale of the hanger showing a garment secured in one side thereof.

Figure 4 is a detail section taken substantially on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Figure 5 is a view in perspective of the clamp plate per se, before being fixed in the assembly.

Figure 6 is a view in perspective of the hinge plate per se, before being fixed in the assembly.

Figure 7 is a sectional detail showing how the ends of the legs for the inner spring yoke are fixed to the central jaw bar.

Figure 8 is a view in perspective of another embodiment of the invention.

Figure 9 is a view in perspective of still another embodiment of the invention.

Figure 10 is a sectional detail showing one means of securing an end of a frame leg to an end of the central jaw bar.

Figure 11 is a detail showing another way of securing the legs of the frame to the central jaw bar.

Figure 12 is a sectional view taken substantially on the line 12—12 of Fig. 10.

Figure 13 is a view in bottom plan of the hanger of Figure 1 illustrating the way in which the jaw bars in closing, or when closed with a garment therebetween, engage first at their outer ends.

Figure 14 is a view similar to Figure 13 but showing one pair of jaws with a part of a garment gripped therebetween and showing how the outer jaw bar is somewhat more flattened to tightly grip the garment.

Figure 15 is a bottom view of the hanger showing the jaw bars in fully open position.

Figure 16 is a sectional detail, the section being taken on the line 16—16 of Figure 1.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, it will be seen that three embodiments of the invention have been disclosed but it will also be seen that certain new and novel features are presented in each.

The form or construction of the invention constituting the first embodiment, is illustrated in Figures 1 to 7. This is generally designated 10.

Where in the different embodiments the same or duplicate structural elements are shown the same reference characters will be employed to simplify the description.

The hanger generally designated 10, comprises a main or central jaw bar 12, which may be formed of wood, metal, plastic or any other suitable material as may be found desirable. Wood, however, is preferred.

The central bar 12, is between, or has extending along the sides thereof, the movable, or side jaw bars 14, which are preferably of thin metal, such as aluminum, although any other suitable metal, plastic or other material which will serve the desired purpose, may be used.

The central bar is of rectangular cross section and it is preferred that the side faces 12a be of a width, or height, slightly greater than the width of the top and bottom faces 12b and 12c, respectively.

The ends 12d are flat, or cut square with the longitudinal faces, and each end face has a slot 16 (Fig. 16), formed therein for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

The central jaw bar 12 is approximately the same in vertical width as the side jaws 14 and each side jaw coacts with the adjacent side of the central bar to form a garment clamp for securing the cuffs of a pair of pants or a part of another garment.

Midway of its ends the vertical sides of the central bar are provided with the long inbowed recesses 18 and the mid-portion of each outer jaw bar 14 is outwardly bowed as indicated at 20. Also as is clearly shown, particularly in Figures 13 and 14, the portions of the outer jaws extending from opposite sides of the bowed mid-portion are slightly convergent toward the mid-portion. Thus, when the opposing jaw bars 12 and 14 are pressed together, the outer ends of the bar 14 will engage first against the opposing outer ends of the bar 12 and when fully pressed thereagainst this bar, a space is provided between the confronting bowed portions 18 and 20 to accommodate extra thickness of material. With this construction it will be seen that the maximum gripping action occurs between the outer ends of the jaw bars when the jaws are closed so that slipping of this material from between the jaws cannot occur.

The opposed faces of the central jaw bar and the side or movable jaw bars are covered with felt or other suitable friction material as indicated respectively at 21 and 22.

The numeral 23 generally designates a frame which is connected to the central bar in the manner about to be described. By means of this frame the hanger is suspended and this frame also assists in maintaining certain of the parts of the hanger together.

The frame 23 is preferably formed of a single length of metal of narrow band form, such as steel, or it may be formed of any other material suitable for the purpose,

or it is possible to employ a heavy gage wire if desired although band material is most satisfactory.

The material of the frame 23 is bent or shaped by being folded on itself midway of its ends as at 24. The double thick portion thus formed is then bent in a curve or arc to form the hook 25, terminating in the shank portion 26 which is made up of the two substantially parallel portions 25a.

The lower ends of the two parts 25a of the hook shank merge into the oppositely directed curved knees 27 each of which leads into a short foot portion 28. These foot portions each joins by a slight down curved part 29 with the upper end of a long downwardly and outwardly directed arm 30.

Each arm 30 terminates in the inturned finger 31 which is secured by friction in the slot 16 in the adjacent end of the central bar, being forced by pressure into the slot to effect such securement.

The numeral 32 generally designates a hinge plate which lies beneath the hook shank portions 25a and the outwardly directed foot portions 28.

The hinge plate 32 comprises the substantially rectangular metal piece 33 which is pressed to form the channel 34 which extends from one edge to the other.

Paralleling the channel, the metal piece has a portion of each side turned or rolled under forming the flanges 35 shown in Fig. 6, which in the assembling of the device are further turned or rolled under to form hinge sleeves as shown in Fig. 1, which finished sleeves are designated 36.

As illustrated, the foot portions 28 lie, in the assembled device, in the channel 34.

The hinge sleeves 36 parallel the central bar 12 and each has extending loosely therethrough to turn therein, the connecting portion 37 between the two side arms 38 of an inverted substantially U-shaped hinge frame, generally designated H.

The arms 38 in this preferred form of the invention are in divergent relation in the direction of the outer or swingable jaw bars 14. Each arm terminates in a flattened part 39 which is secured in an approved manner, as by a spot weld 40, for example, to the outer side of the jaw bar.

The numeral 41 generally designates the actuating and locking mechanism for the movable or swingable jaw bars 14 and which mechanism is carried by the hinge plate 32.

The mechanism 41 comprises an inner yoke 42 of spring steel preferably in the form of a flat strip or band and an outer yoke 43 of the same band or strip steel within which the inner yoke is framed.

The inner spring yoke comprises a top cross piece 44 which joins together the side legs 45 which have the inwardly extending lower end portions 46, which terminate in the downwardly directed anchoring portions 47. These terminal anchoring portions are secured or held together by an encircling band or collar 48, and below the collar the terminal portions are frictionally secured in a socket 49, in the central jaw bar.

In assembling the parts use may be made of a suitable glue or cement in the socket 49, if desired, to assist the friction engagement in holding the parts together although this is not essential as the yoke cannot rise because of the attachment of the cross piece 44 to the frame and other parts as hereinafter described.

The outer yoke 43 also has a top cross piece 50 which lies along the top of the cross piece 44 of the inner yoke and connects together the side legs 51.

The legs 51 extend along the outer sides of the inner yoke legs 45 and are of sufficient length to extend across the outer sides of the outer movable jaw bars 14.

Each jaw bar 14 has secured to the outer side of the outbowed portion 20 thereof by welding or any other suitable means, the guide plate 52 which is formed with the out-pressed rib portion 53, extending between the

top and bottom edges of the plate, forming a guide channel 54.

The lower end of the adjacent spring leg 51 is slidably engaged in the channel 54. The spring legs 51 are biased to spring outwardly to swing the jaw bars 14 on the hinges H, the bars 37 turning in the sleeves 36 and in this movement, as well as in the closing of the jaw bars 14 toward the central jaw bar 12, the end of the spring legs will slide in the channels 54.

As shown the outer yoke 43 of the actuating mechanism is of U shape and the inner yoke 42 is of like shape except that the end portions of the legs are bent to extend inward and then extend longitudinally to engage in the socket 49. The yokes enclose the hinge plate and the superimposed cross pieces thereof extend over the top of this plate and pass between the knees 27 of the hook shank portions 25a.

Positioned over and covering the major part of the top of the hinge plate 32 is a clamp plate 55. This plate comprises the body 56 of suitable metal of a width greater than the width of the hinge plate body 33 and has portions of each side bent down to form the clamping flanges 57.

The flanges 57 and an adjacent part of the body 56 have open slots 58 cut therein and in line with these slots the center of the body 45 has the hook shank receiving opening 59.

Between the opening 59 and the side slots 58 the material of the body 56, is pressed out to form the two guide channels 60.

The slots 58 and guide channels are of proper dimensions to receive the two cross pieces 44 and 50 and the central opening 59 is of proper size to snugly receive the shank portions 25 of the hook, in the assembled structure, as shown.

The numeral 61 designates slide rings or bands which encircle each two adjacent legs 45 and 51 of the actuating and locking mechanism. As will be readily obvious when the ring or band 61 is slid down on the encircled legs the jaw bar attached leg 51 will be flexed at the top end where it joins the cross piece 50 and brought into close side by side relation with the inner yoke leg 45 and the adjacent jaw bar 14 will come into clamping relation with the side of the central bar 12. The spring leg 51 may be slightly outwardly bowed and when the slide ring draws the leg inwardly and a thickness of material is gripped between the jaw bars the spring leg 51 will tend to bow out slightly so that the two legs will be held in close side by side relation and there will be no influence applied to the ring tending to cause it to slip up and release the gripped article as shown in Figure 3.

In the assembling of the hanger the frame 23 is positioned over the hinge plate body 33 with the foot portions 28 in the channel 34 and one foot portion is secured by spot welding it to the bottom of the channel, as indicated at 28a.

The bar portions 37 of the hinge members H might already be enclosed in the hinge sleeves 36, or could be secured in position in a later operation.

The nested yokes 42 and 43, with the slide rings applied to the legs 45 and 51, are then applied by slipping the superimposed top parts 44 and 50 over the top of the hinge plate body, under the unsecured other foot portion 28 and positioned between the inclined faces of the knees 27, as shown in Fig. 4.

The clamp ring 48 is then placed around the end portions 47 of the inner yoke legs 45 and the ends of these portions below the ring 48 forced into the socket 49 of the central jaw bar 14.

After this, or at the same time, the inturned finger 31 on the end of the frame arm 30 on the side of the weld 28a is forced into the slot 16 in the adjacent end of the central jaw bar and the other finger 31 at the opposite end of the jaw bar forced into the adjacent slot 16.

The clamp plate body 56 may then be applied by in-

serting the end of the hook 25 in the opening 59 and sliding the plate around and down on the hook shank portion 25, with the slots 58 and the channel portions in the right position to receive the two parts 44 and 50 of the spring yokes.

The width of the opening 59 is made so that when the plate body is forced down onto the top of the hinge plate body 33, the outer sides of the upwardly converging knees 27 will be engaged and will be drawn together and compress the parts 44 and 50 between the under faces of knees 27 to draw the portions 25a of the hook shanks together and also press the unsecured foot portion 28 into the channel 34.

The flanges 57 of the clamp plate body 56 are then bent in around the hinge sleeves 36 to firmly lock the clamp plate to the hinge plate and secure the several parts together.

The outer jaw bars may then be attached by slipping the ends of the outer spring legs in the guide channels 54 and welding, or otherwise securing, the ends of the hinge legs 38 to the sides of the jaw bars 14, as shown.

With the construction thus described it will be seen that the parts embodying the cross pieces of the spring yoke and the foot portions of the frame are secured together in a novel manner which requires no bolts or rivets, and only a single spot weld for holding one foot portion 28 in position on the hinge plate while the other elements are worked into place.

In Figs. 8 and 10, another embodiment of the invention is illustrated which shows a simpler construction but one in which more fastening elements or welds are required to maintain the parts in assembled relation.

It will be seen that the hinge plate, here designated 132 is of the same construction as in the first embodiment, as are the central jaw bar 112; the side or swinging jaw bars 114; the actuating and locking mechanism, generally designated 141, and the hinges H-1.

In this second embodiment the frame generally designated 123 has the two foot portions 128 secured by the spot welds 128a, or by rivets or other suitable means, in the channel 134 which is formed across the plate body 133, and the cross pieces 144 and 150, of the spring yokes 142 and 143 are firmly clamped down between the knees 127 instead of the one foot portion and the cross pieces being clamped down by a clamping or locking plate such as the plate 55.

Also in this second embodiment the legs 130 of the frame are shown as each having a straight end portion 131 which is secured flat against the end face of the central jaw bar by a suitable fastener 131a which may be in the form of a screw, a nail having spiral ribs around the middle portion of the shank to hold it in place as indicated at 131b in Fig. 10, or any other securing means. In this connection it is specified that this means of securing the ends of the arms to the ends of the central jaw bar may be used in the first described embodiment and vice versa.

Since in all other details the construction of this second embodiment is the same as the first, it is not believed that further description of the same is required.

In another construction, shown in Fig. 9, there are shown a slightly modified form of the hinge and means for coupling the legs thereof to the side of a swinging jaw bar.

In this figure the outer ends of the hanger may be of the same form as in the preceding figures. Also the top part embodying the hinge plate and the manner in which the actuating and locking mechanism and the frame are secured together, may be as shown in either of the preceding embodiments.

In this third form, shown in Fig. 9, the hinge plate, generally designated 232 and the plates 241 carried by the swinging jaw bars 214 are identical and the plates 241 having the end sleeves 236 are utilized to secure the ends of the legs 238 of the hinge H-2 to the movable jaw bars.

As will be readily apparent when the plates 241 are secured to the movable jaw bars 214, the sleeves 236 thereof will extend across the jaw bars and the channel 253 will face the bar so that it may receive the free end of the leg 256 of the outer spring yoke 243.

The ends of the legs 238 of the hinges are inserted in the sleeves 236 and may be secured therein in any suitable manner, as by welding or by indenting the wall of the sleeve to force the indented part into the leg therein.

Another arrangement for the frame part of the structure may be as shown in the fragmentary side view forming Fig. 11, where, instead of extending the arms to the outer ends of the central jaw bar as, for example the arms 30 and 130 are shown, they may be secured in the top of the central jaw bar.

In this Fig. 11, the frame is generally designated 323 and the arms are designated 330. These arms extend down to the top of the central jaw bar 312 which has the recesses 312a formed therein, into each of which recesses the end of the arm is inserted.

To insure a good connection between the end of the arm 330 and the central jaw bar, in the recess, the end of the arm may have an aperture 313 and the recess filled with a suitable cement 314, which will enter or extend through the aperture and lock the end of the arm in place.

As will be readily seen the other parts of the structure which are shown in Fig. 11, are the same as in another described embodiment and no description is therefore considered necessary.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the garment hanger of the present invention in its several embodiments is unique in a number of features.

The spring yokes of the actuating and locking mechanism for the spring yokes are readily assembled and secured in operative position. Because of the novel manner in which these yokes are formed, without sharp bends, and the manner in which they fit over and are supported by hinge plate, in the assembled structure, the flexing of the legs of the yokes incident to the opening and closing of the jaws, will not cause the legs to weaken. Thus the life of the yokes, and therefore of the hanger, will be indefinite.

By provision of the support hinges having legs thereof attached to the outer swinging jaw bars, particularly in those embodiments shown where the legs are spread widely apart, such as the legs of hinges H and H-1, no appreciable twisting of the attached jaw bars 14 and 114 respectively, will occur when the jaws are in open position. Thus a strong and relatively rigid construction is had.

Because of the novel construction and arrangement of the yokes making up the locking and actuating mechanism it is possible to securely fasten or grip between either outer jaw bar and the central jaw bar thicknesses of material which it is impossible for any other known type of hanger to grip, without the risk of the slide ring, such as the ring 61 of Fig. 1, or the corresponding ring in the other figures, slipping from position and releasing the article.

At the same time, when it is desired to remove the article, the ring can be shifted up on the legs without the slightest difficulty; and sliding it down to grip the article is as easily accomplished.

In trousers hangers of the form presently available, where the coacting jaw bars are straight and substantially inflexible, it is a common experience to have them grip the trousers cuff in the thick seams part thereof, but let the outer portions slip out from between the jaws.

In the present invention this cannot occur because of the form of the outer jaw bars where the outer end portions are closer to the central jaw bar than the central portions as illustrated in Figs. 13 and 14 and due to the resiliency of the outer jaw bars and the spring compression placed on the outer jaw bars when the slides 61 are

forced down to draw in on the spring legs 51. Thus, no matter how much difference may exist between the thickness of the material lying between the outer ends of the coacting jaw bars and that lying between the opposing mid-portions, when the middle portion of the material is secured the outer portions will also be firmly gripped and cannot slip.

I claim:

1. A garment hanger comprising two coacting jaw bars, means for suspending the hanger comprising a pair of elongate members attached to one jaw bar and rising in convergent relation thereover and joining a suspending element above the transverse center of said one jaw, an elongate hinge member comprising two elongate legs joined together at one end by a hinge bar, means coupling said hinge bar to the convergent ends of said elongate members laterally of the members whereby the legs of the hinge member may swing outwardly from said one jaw bar, means securing the other jaw bar to said hinge legs, an elongate spring member connected at one end above said transverse center of said one jaw to said convergent ends and positioned in a plane perpendicular to the transverse centers of the jaw bars and attached at its other end to said one jaw bar, a second elongate spring member lying along the outer side of the first spring member and attached at one end to said convergent ends and joined at its other end to said other jaw bar, said second spring member being biased to swing its other end and said other jaw bar outwardly, and a slide coupling between said spring members for drawing the second spring member toward the first mentioned spring member.

2. A garment hanger comprising two juxtaposed jaw bars, a suspension element disposed above the transverse center of one bar and coupled thereto by two downwardly diverging legs, an elongate support hinge pivotally coupled at one end to the suspension element and attached at its other end to the other jaw bar to swing said other jaw bar relative to the one jaw bar, and an actuating and locking mechanism for said other jaw bar comprising a pair of elongate strips of spring material lying one over the other in a plane perpendicular to and passing through the transverse centers of the jaw bars and both secured at one end to the suspension element and having their other ends extending toward the jaw bars, one of said strips at the other end thereof being attached to the said one bar, the other strip being coupled at its other end to the other jaw bar, said other spring strip being biased to urge the outward swing of the other jaw bar on said support hinge, and a shiftable connector between the spring strips for drawing the same and the jaws together.

3. The invention according to claim 2, wherein the coupling between said other end of the said other strip and said other jaw is slidable to permit relative movement between said other jaw and the said other spring strip when the latter jaw swings on the hinge.

4. A garment hanger comprising a central jaw bar, a lateral jaw bar at each side thereof, a suspension element disposed above the transverse center of the central bar and coupled thereto by two downwardly diverging legs, a hinge plate secured to said legs at and extending in width across the convergent ends thereof beneath the suspension element, a pair of elongate support hinges coupled in laterally outwardly spaced relation to the suspension element to and depending from opposite sides of the plate to swing outwardly relative to the central bar, each of said hinges being joined at its other end to a lateral jaw bar, resilient means operatively coupled between each lateral jaw bar and the central bar and urging outward swinging of the lateral bar relative to the central bar, and means for drawing the lateral jaw bar inwardly against the resistance of said resilient means.

5. The invention according to claim 4, wherein said resilient means embodies two elongate yokes nested one within the other, each said yoke having a top portion and

two side leg portions, the inner one of the nested yokes having the legs thereof secured to the center jaw bar and the outer one of the nested yokes having each of the legs thereof attached to a lateral jaw bar.

6. The invention according to claim 5, wherein the attachment of each of the legs to its respective lateral jaw embodies a sliding coupling whereby relative movement between each leg of the outer yoke and the attached lateral jaw bar may take place in the swinging of the lateral jaw bar.

7. A garment hanger comprising a central jaw bar, a lateral jaw bar at each side thereof, a suspension element disposed above the transverse center of the central bar and coupled thereto by two downwardly diverging legs, a hinge plate secured to said legs at the convergent ends thereof beneath the suspension element, said plate having a hinge sleeve along each of two opposite sides and extending longitudinally of the jaw bars, a pair of elongate support hinges for said lateral jaw bars, each support hinge comprising two legs connected by a cross bar, each hinge having its cross bar positioned for turning movement in a hinge sleeve and having its legs attached to a lateral jaw bar on opposite sides of the transverse center thereof, resilient means operatively coupled between each lateral jaw bar and the central bar and normally urging outward swinging of the lateral bar relative to the central bar, and means for selectively drawing the lateral jaw bars inwardly against the resistance of said resilient means.

8. The invention according to claim 7, wherein said resilient means embodies two elongate yokes nested one within the other, each yoke including a top portion which lies across the top of the hinge plate and two side leg portions, the legs of the inner yoke being secured to the central jaw bar and the legs of the outer yoke being connected each to a lateral jaw bar, and means whereby the suspension element clamps the said top portions in position upon the top of the hinge plate.

9. The invention according to claim 7, wherein said suspension element embodies a hook having two downwardly extending shanks each joined to one of said downwardly diverging legs by an inclined knee portion, said knee portions having opposing spaced under faces, said resilient means embodying two elongate yokes nested one within the other, each yoke including a top portion and two side leg portions, said top portions lying one upon the other across the top of said plate between and engaged by the opposing under faces of said knee portions, the legs of the inner yoke being secured to the central jaw bar and the legs of the outer yoke being connected each to a lateral jaw bar, and means securing the suspension element to the hinge plate, said knees being pressed in clamping engagement with the said top portions of the yokes when the suspension element is secured to the hinge plate.

10. The invention according to claim 7, wherein said suspension element embodies a hook having two downwardly extending juxtaposed shanks each joined to one of said downwardly diverging legs by an inclined knee portion and a short foot portion, the knee portions having spaced downwardly diverging opposed under faces and the foot portions being oppositely directed, said hinge plate having a channel in which said foot portions lie, said resilient means embodying two elongate yokes nested one within the other and each yoke having a transverse top portion and two side leg portions, said top portions lying across the top of the hinge plate between the opposing under faces of said knee portions, the legs of the inner yoke being secured to the central jaw bar and the legs of the outer yoke being connected each to a lateral jaw bar, and means securing said foot portions in said hinge plate channel and clamping down the top portions of the yokes by the knee portions of said shanks.

11. The invention according to claim 10, wherein the last means comprises a clamp plate overlying the hinge plate and having an opening through which said shanks

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extend, certain edges of the opening engaging and bearing down on the top sides of the knee portions, and said clamp plate and hinge plate being secured together.

12. The invention according to claim 10, wherein the last means comprises a clamp plate overlying the hinge plate and having an opening through which said shanks extend, opposite edges of said opening engaging and bearing down on the top sides of said knee portions, and means securing the clamp plate to the hinge plate comprising opposite edge portions of the clamp plate turned under the hinge sleeves of the hinge plate.

13. A garment hanger comprising a central jaw bar, a pair of lateral jaw bars between which the central bar is positioned, a suspension means comprising a hook disposed over the transverse center of the central bar and having a pair of downwardly extending shanks terminating in oppositely diverging knees, the knees joining oppositely directed straight foot portions and the foot portions joining outwardly and downwardly extending legs directed longitudinally of the central bar and each terminating at an end of the central bar, means securing each leg end to the bar, a hinge plate lying beneath the said knees and foot portions, means securing the plate to the foot portions, a pair of elongate support hinges each comprising two legs and a connecting hinge bar therebetween, means pivotally coupling each hinge bar to a side of the hinge plate with the legs extending down and secured to the adjacent lateral jaw bar on opposite sides of the center thereof, each lateral jaw bar between the hinge legs attached thereto being outwardly bowed and having the portions on opposite sides of the bowed part angled inwardly toward the central bar, means coupling the hinge plate with the central bar midway between the ends of the latter, a substantially U-shaped spring yoke straddling the hinge plate and having a central portion lying between said knees and secured thereby to the plate, the yoke having two legs loosely attached outwardly, and shiftable means coupling the spring legs with the said means coupling the hinge plate with the central bar for drawing the spring legs and attached lateral jaw bars inwardly.

14. The invention according to claim 13, wherein the said loose attachment of the spring legs to the lateral jaw bars comprises a guide forming means carried by each lateral jaw bar and having the guide extending across the bar and having an end portion of the spring leg slidably positioned therein.

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15. The invention according to claim 13, wherein the said loose attachment of the spring legs to the lateral jaw bars embodies a plate secured to the outer face of each lateral jaw bar and formed with a channel facing and extending across the jaw bar and having an end portion of the spring leg slidably engaged therein.

16. The invention according to claim 15, wherein said hinge plate and the channeled plates secured to the lateral jaw bars are of duplicate form, each having in addition to the channel a sleeve formed across two opposite sides, the sleeves of the hinge plate each forming a part of the said means pivotally coupling a hinge bar to the hinge plate and the sleeves of the plates secured to the lateral jaw bars having the legs of the hinge means secured therein.

17. A garment hanger comprising two elongate jaw bars, a suspension element, means connecting the suspension element to one jaw bar above approximately the intersection of the longitudinal and transverse centers thereof, an elongate hinge member attached to the other jaw bar at points spaced longitudinally and on opposite sides of the transverse center thereof, hinge means coupling the hinge member adjacent to and in outwardly spaced relation with the suspension element whereby the hinge member and the said other jaw bar may swing outwardly from said one jaw bar, a spring leg secured against movement at one end to said hinge means and joined at its other end to said other jaw bar for movement relative thereto and biased to urge swinging of the said other jaw bar outwardly, and means for effecting the swinging of the hinge member and said other jaw bar inward against the bias of the spring leg.

18. The invention according to claim 17, wherein said hinge means includes a plate body secured to the first stated means below the suspension element, the said one end of the spring leg being secured to the plate body and the other end of the spring leg being disposed across the said other jaw bar approximately at its transverse center.

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