

April 15, 1952

C. V. SMITH

2,593,356

MULTIPLE GARMENT RACK

Filed Oct. 10, 1949

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

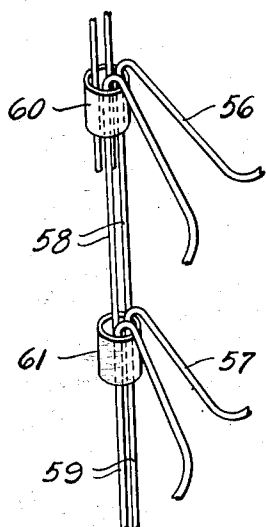
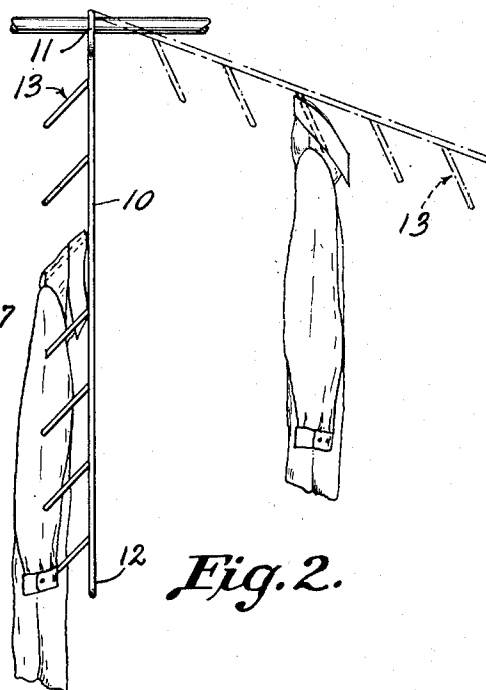
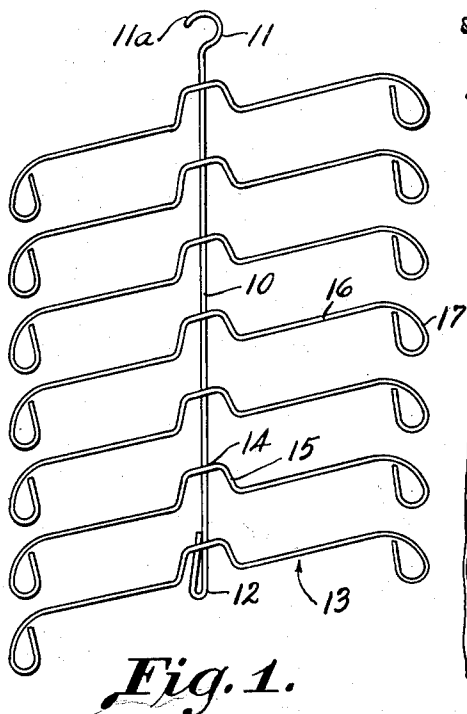


Fig. 5.

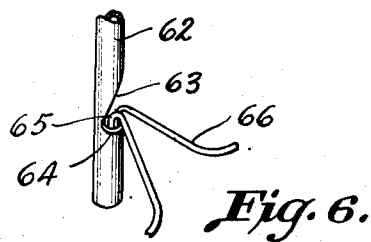
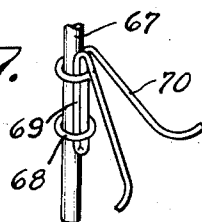


Fig. 7.



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3 Sheets-Sheet 2

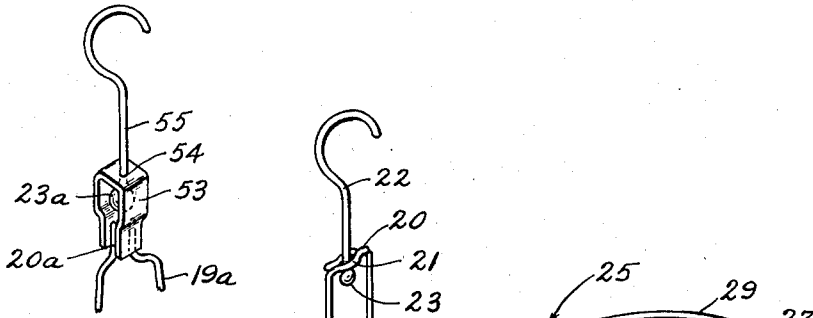


Fig. 4.

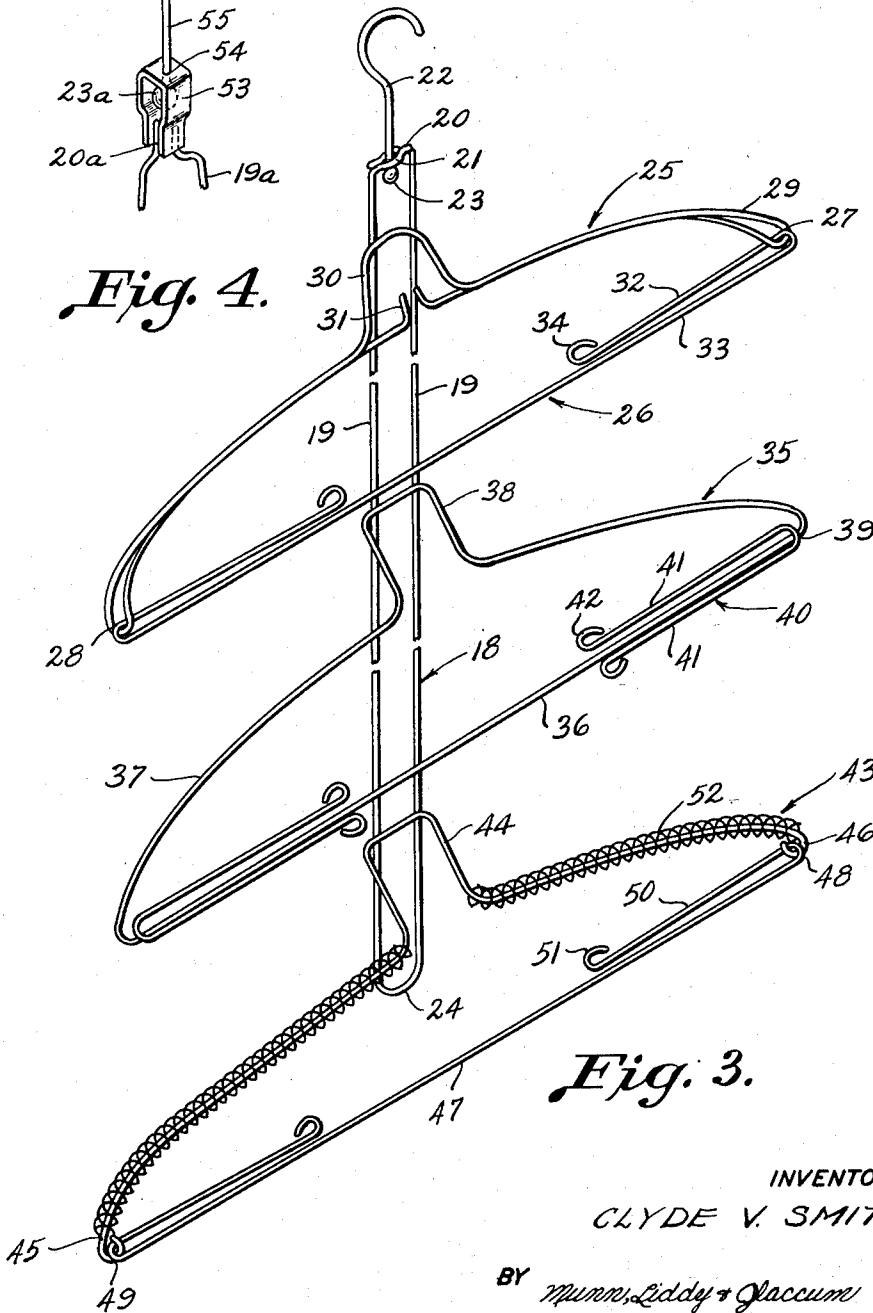


Fig. 3.

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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

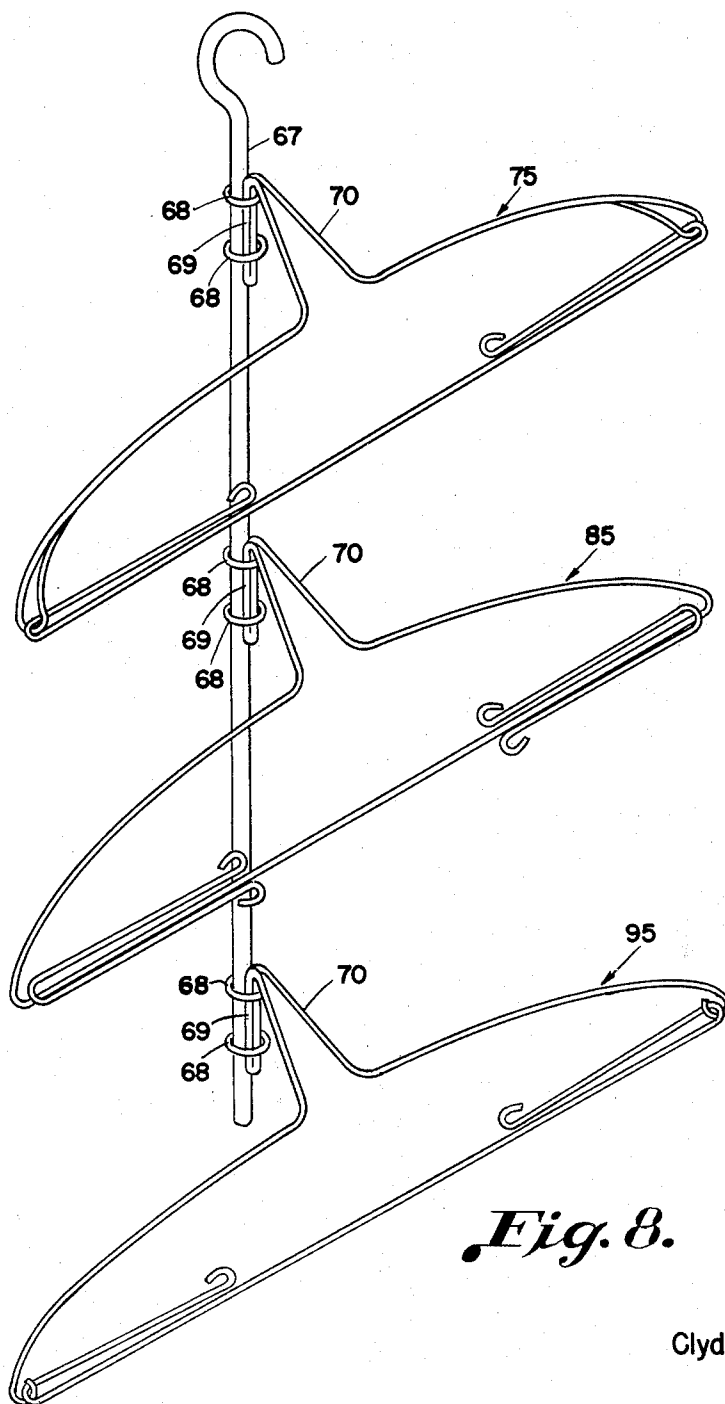


Fig. 8.

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MULTIPLE GARMENT RACK

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3 Claims. (Cl. 211-119)

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This invention relates to garment hangers, and has for its object the provision of a novel rack which will accommodate a number of separate articles of clothing.

Another object of my present invention is to provide a garment rack wherein the garment supporting arms are inclined with respect to the connecting frame in order to hold the articles of clothing in such a manner as to prevent wrinkling thereof, and to insure the retention of the natural shape of the wearing apparel. These angularly presented cross arms further permit all of the garments to rest on the same side of the rack.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a clothing rack which will accommodate a variety of garments such as coats, shirts, trousers, skirts, etc.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of a multiple garment rack which may be rotated about one end to a horizontal position to enable easy removal of individual garments.

Another object is to provide a multiple garment rack which may be collapsed or disassembled to present a compact clothing hanger for travel use.

A further advantage of the invention is that my present clothing hanger will accommodate a maximum number of garments in a minimum space in a household clothes closet.

My garment rack has a still further advantage in that it possesses an attractive appearance, and at the same time provides increased utility with a simplicity of design that permits economical manufacture.

Still other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following description of the present invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hanger embodying the basic design of my multiple garment rack.

Figure 2 is a side view of my multiple garment rack in use, and incudes a diagrammatic representation of the rack raised to a substantially horizontal position.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary perspective view of one form of the multiple garment rack showing various modifications of the garment supporting cross arms.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of a swivel hook which may be used in connection with the present invention.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a means for connecting individual cross arms of a collapsible multiple garment rack.

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Figure 6 is a perspective view of a modified form of connecting a cross arm to the vertical back rod of the rack.

Figure 7 is a perspective view showing another modification of the connecting means between a cross arm and the vertical back rod of the garment rack.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a garment rack embodying the modified connecting means shown in Figure 7.

Similar reference characters in the several figures represent similar parts.

Heretofore various attempts to provide a clothing rack which would efficiently accommodate a number of individual articles of clothing have proved completely inadequate in that the individual pieces of wearing apparel invariably become wrinkled or out of shape and the same are extremely difficult to remove from a series of garments. In answer to the many existing problems which have arisen in regard to the storing of clothing in a conventional clothes closet, I have devised a means whereby any type of wearing apparel may be accommodated without wrinkling or creasing and may be readily removed from a group of superimposed garments. By providing this means I have afforded the housewife of a method of completely utilizing the valuable space in a clothes closet, and at the same time preserving each article of clothing in a state of neat appearance.

While there are many shapes and designs incorporated in the various modifications which I have devised for use in my multiple garment rack, the basic structure of the rack takes the form which is substantially shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The rack shown in Figure 1 is primarily designed for the accommodation of shirts, blouses and coats, and consists of a vertical back rod 10 having at the upper end thereof a conventional hook portion 11, such as found on the single clothes hanger in common use today. The lower or free end of rod 10 is bent back upon the rod itself to form a U-shaped handle 12, the purpose of which will be later explained in greater detail.

Attached on a longitudinal line along the periphery of rod 10 I provide a series of garment holding cross arms generally designated as 13. As best seen in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the planes of the cross arms 13 lie at an angle of approximately 45° with the vertical plane of rod member 10. Each arm has a neck portion consisting of a horizontal section 14 and inclined sides 15. The horizontal portion 14 of the neck is attached to

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rod 10 preferably by welding and as previously mentioned is affixed in such a manner as to present the 45° inclination between the plane of the cross arm and the vertical plane of rod 10.

The horizontal extensions 16 of the cross arms are given the general shape of the shoulder of a garment, and have on the outer ends thereof, an enlarged loop 17 which takes the shape of that part of a shirt or coat where the shoulder and sleeve elements unite. This provides a more natural base for the garment and prevents the same from assuming an irregular shape when hung upon a rack for a long period of time.

As will be seen in Fig. 2, the angular relation of the neck section of cross arm 13 allows the collar of the superimposed garment to hang in a comparatively free position so that it is not pushed out of shape or unnecessarily wrinkled. In this respect it will be noted that in a conventional hanger, wherein the supporting cross bar does not jut out from the frame, such construction unduly forces the collar of the garment into an unnatural position, invariably resulting in a wrinkled condition.

By providing the garment supporting cross arms in the angular position shown in Figure 2, I have accomplished a means whereby a number of shirts or coats may be hung in substantially the same vertical plane, each garment resting individually on the rack and having a free area for the collar thereof, thereby obviating any possible wrinkling of one garment by another.

In order to prevent inconvenience to the user of the garment rack, and also to prevent wrinkling to the shirt or other garment, my multiple garment rack may be grasped by the handle portion 12 and rotated about the upper hook 11 in such a manner as to permit each article of clothing to hang in a plane substantially normal to the plane of the raised rack, and thereby be completely free of all other garments carried by the rack so that each may be selectively removed without interfering with the proper positioning of adjacent articles.

While I have shown hook 11 as lying in the general plane with the rest of the rack, it has, nevertheless, been found quite convenient to have the free end 11a of the hook twisted to one side at approximately a 45° angle from the plane of the hanger, since such formation permits a slight twisting of the garment rack, making the lifting of the same to a horizontal position more easily accomplished as the twisted ends retain the grasp on the clothes rod. A further possibility of accomplishing this end lies in the provision of a swivel connection between hook 11 and the vertical structure 10, modifications of which will be more fully explained by reference to Figures 3 and 4 in the drawings.

As previously stated, Figure 1 discloses the basic structure which I have incorporated into my multiple garment rack, such structure being substantially a plurality of individual cross arms lying in planes inclined to the plane of the vertical supporting structure. With this basic structure in mind it will be seen that a number of modified forms of the garment supporting cross arms and the vertical connecting means may be devised in order to accommodate all articles of clothing which are customarily stored in the household closet.

In Figure 3 there is shown a multiple garment rack which incorporates modified cross arms to accomplish the above purposes. This rack consists of a vertical connecting member 18 which is

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generally U-shaped to provide parallel bars 19. in this form of the invention the upper or free end 20 of each bar 19 is bent inwardly until it lies at a right angle to its supporting bar 19. Each of these horizontally disposed ends is formed with a curve or bend 21 at the center thereof, these bends cooperating to form an eyelet. A hook 22 which suspends the garment rack from the horizontal rod in a clothes closet contains an enlargement 23 on its lower end, which acts as a retaining means for holding the hook in connection with the body of the garment rack, and at the same time the enlargement 23 provides a bearing surface to support the weight of the rack.

It will be seen that this arrangement in reality amounts to a swivel structure which allows the main portion of the multiple garment rack to be rotated at will, while the hook 22 remains engaged with the horizontal rod in the closet. This feature not only permits the free inspection of the garments on the rack, but also permits the rack to be readily raised to its horizontal position for removal of an individual garment. The lower end 24 of the connecting frame serves as a handle for the rotation of the rack.

The garment rack shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings contains three modifications of cross arms, it being understood that any combination of these arms may be used in the manufacture of the device. The upper arm consists of two individual sections 25 and 26 welded together at points 27 and 28 to provide a rigid structure.

One side 29 of section 25 has formed centrally thereof a neck portion 30 comprising a curved lip which is welded to the vertical rods 19 in such a manner as to insure an angle of approximately 45° between the plane of the cross arm and the plane of the rods 19. The free ends 31 of section 25 extend inwardly, and have projections on the ends thereof, these projections being bent upwardly to form additional hooks or hanging elements for small articles of clothing, if such use be desired. Each end of section 26 is reversely bent to form a gripper finger 32 which cooperates with the horizontal rod 33 to provide a convenient means for grasping trousers or a skirt therebetween. The end 34 of each gripper finger is bent backwardly on the finger to form a blunt end in order to prevent snagging of the clothing by the sharp projecting ends of the finger member.

The intermediate cross arm shown in Fig. 3 and generally designated as 35, consists basically of an endless single strand wire body portion having a horizontal base 36 and arcuate reentrant sections 37 between which is formed a jutting rectangular neck 38. The neck 38 is welded in a manner similar to neck portion 30 previously described in connection with the upper cross arm 25. At each end of the base 36 there is welded at 39 on the upper periphery thereof, a U-shaped clip 40 having substantially parallel fingers 41; the free ends of which extend toward the center of the cross arm. These free ends have loops 42 formed thereon for the same purpose as finger loops 34 above described. From Figure 3 it will be seen that the inwardly projecting fingers 41 respectively cooperate with the base wire 36 to form a grasping means in which trousers or skirts may be hung.

The bottom cross arm which I have shown in Fig. 3 and have generally designated by the reference numeral 43 has a neck portion 44 and lateral extensions 45 similar to those used in con-

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nection with cross arm 35. However, in this modification the end of each extension 45 is formed with an inwardly turned loop 46 through which is threaded base member 47, the latter being welded at points 48 and 49 to the upper periphery of each extension.

The base 47 is similar in construction to section 26 of the previously described modification in that it contains inwardly bent finger portions 50 and a free end loop 51 formed thereon. A major addition to this modification lies in the fact that I have encircled each extension 45 with an open-coil spiral 52. This spiral extends substantially from the end loop 46 to the juncture between extension 45 and neck portion 44, the primary purpose of each spiral being to more closely simulate the roundness of the human shoulder in order to prevent narrow ridges from forming in the shoulder portion of the garment when hung upon the cross arm. It is to be understood that the diameter of spiral 52 may be made in accordance with the type garment to be hung upon the rack and also in accordance with the weight of the individual garment.

Referring to Figure 4 of the drawings it will be seen that I have shown a modified form of a swivel hook which may be used with the present garment rack. In this modification the free ends 20^a of parallel vertical rods 19^a extend inwardly and upwardly to form tabs upon which a collar 53 may be rigidly secured as by welding. Collar 53 has an aperture 54 in the upper face thereof, this aperture being adapted to receive the vertical stem 55 of the hook. The enlargement 23^a of the hook acts as a bearing through which the weight of the garment hanger and the garments thereon is transmitted through the collar 53 to the hook.

While I have previously described the various cross arms as being attached to the vertical support by a permanent method, such as welding, it is nevertheless my intent to design my present garment rack in such a manner as to make the same capable of being collapsed or disassembled so that the entire device may be compactly stored in a suit-case or other traveling appliance. To this end I have shown in Fig. 5 the neck portions 56 and 57 of successive cross arms as being formed with elongated vertical extensions 58 and 59.

Each pair of vertical extensions is constructed similarly to the extensions formed on neck 56 which pass downwardly through a cylindrical sleeve 60 and are attached at their free ends to a lower sleeve 61, such attachment being preferably by welding. It will be seen from Fig. 5 that since each sleeve is rigidly secured to one pair of vertical extensions while being movable with respect to the adjacent vertical extensions, the series of cross arms may be collapsed into close proximity with each other.

In order to provide the connecting means shown in Fig. 6, a vertical support rod 62 is formed from hollow tubing and contains a recess in one side thereof, said recess having tapered sides 63 and a horizontal base 64. The free ends 65 of the neck member 66 are bent downwardly and form a lip which is insertable into the hollow tubing by means of the aforementioned side recess. By using this modified form of connection the garment supporting cross arms may be completely removed from the vertical support rod 62 of the garment rack and the entire assembly may be placed in a small area in a traveling bag.

In Fig. 7 I have shown a modified form of the connection between the vertical support rod and

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each cross arm. The vertical rod 67 has threaded thereon a plurality of rings 68 which are welded in pairs in spaced relation throughout the length of the rod. Since the central apertures in the rings are of greater diameter than rod 67, a free space is left to allow the insertion of a lip 69 formed by the converging sides of the neck portion 70 carried by the garment supporting cross arm.

As will be seen in Fig. 7, each pair of rings constitutes a receiving sleeve for the downwardly projecting tongue 69 and thereby suspends the cross arm in position while the garment rack is being used. When it is desired to disassemble the rack the vertical rod 67 in the cross arm may be separated by merely lifting neck portion 70 of the cross arm upwardly to disengage tongue 69 from its pair of holding rings.

Figure 8 shows a garment rack having the modified form of connections between the vertical support rod and each cross arm, as illustrated in Figure 7. As shown, the cross arms 75, 85 and 95 each have a lip 69 formed by converging sides of a neck portion 70 which is received by two spaced rings 68. The rings are welded to rod 67, in pairs. As shown, cross arms 75 and 95 are constructed similar to cross arm 25 of Figure 3. Cross arm 85 is similar in construction to cross arm 35 of Figure 3.

From the foregoing description of the present invention it will be seen that I have devised a novel garment rack which is so designed as to efficiently accommodate numerous and varied articles of clothing, suspending the same in a vertical position so that they occupy substantially the same area in a clothes closet. This rack not only conserves valuable storing space within a closet, but also provides a means whereby articles of neatly finished clothing, such as men's shirts, or women's blouses, may be suspended in such a manner as to obviate the possibility of unsightly creasing or wrinkling.

This device is completely acceptable to the modern housewife and accomplishes with a single unit the various functions now required by cumbersome and inadequate individual clothes hangers.

While the preferred form of the invention has been shown and described, it will be understood that variation in details of form may be made without departure from the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A garment rack comprising a vertical support, a plurality of transverse hanger members having projecting neck portions thereon connected to said support in vertical spaced relation to each other, arms extending outwardly and downwardly from opposite sides of each neck portion, a horizontal bar having a central portion thereof connecting the lower ends of the arms, the exterior portions of the bar of at least one of said hanger members being bent back upon the central portion at said lower ends of the arms and extending in juxtaposition with the central portion toward the center of the transverse hanger member to a point short of said center and having an end portion extending laterally outwardly from said center, said neck portion, arms and horizontal bar lying in a plane inclined to the plane of said support.

2. A garment rack comprising a vertical support, a plurality of ring members carried by said support and spaced vertically thereon, a plurality of transverse hanger members having pro-

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jecting neck portions thereon extending into said ring members to removably connect the hanger members to the support, arms extending outwardly and downwardly from opposite sides of each neck portion, a horizontal bar connecting the lower ends of the arms, the bar of at least one of said hanger members having garment gripping fingers thereon, said neck portion, arms and horizontal bar lying in a plane inclined to the plane of said support.

3. A garment rack comprising a vertical support, a plurality of ring members carried by said support and spaced vertically thereon, a plurality of transverse hanger members having projecting neck portions thereon extending into said ring members to removably connect the hanger members to the support, arms extending outwardly and downwardly from opposite sides of each neck portion, a horizontal bar having a central portion thereof connecting the lower ends of the arms, the exterior portions of the bar of at least one of said hanger members being bent back upon the central portion at said lower ends of the arms and extending in juxtaposition with the central portion toward the center of the transverse hanger member to a point short of said center and having an end portion extend-

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ing laterally outwardly from said center, said neck portion, arms and horizontal bar lying in a plane inclined to the plane of said support.

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