W. S. C. MEGILL.

FOLDING HANGER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 11, 1914.

1,163,101. Patented Dec. 7, 1915.

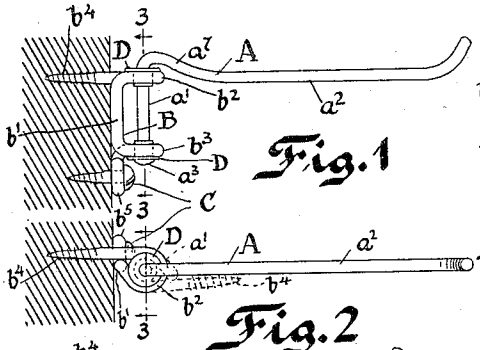


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

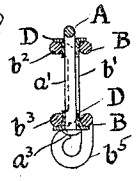


Fig. 3

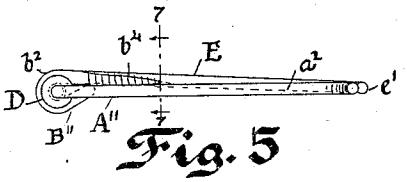


Fig. 5

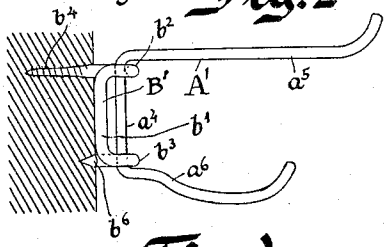


Fig. 4

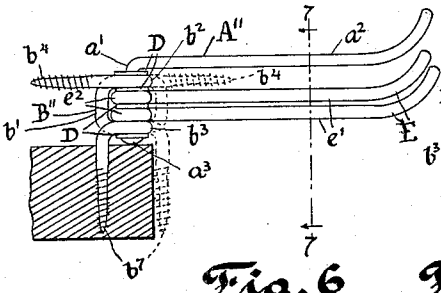


Fig. 6

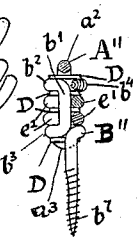


Fig. 7

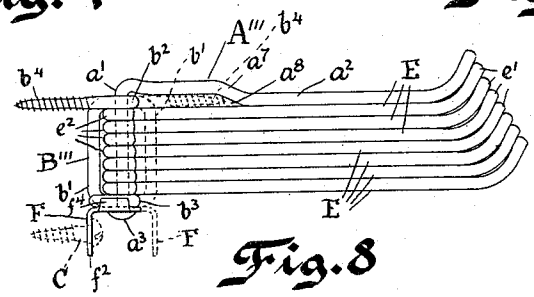


Fig. 8

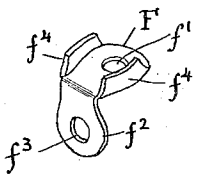


Fig. 9

William S. C. Megill, Inventor

Witnesses

Earl Dole

Cycele Krenz

By Longstreth Moore Sells

Attorney

COLUMBIA PLANOGRAPH CO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. C. MEGILL, OF NATIONAL HOME, WISCONSIN.

FOLDING HANGER.

1,163,101. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 7, 1915.

Application filed March 11, 1914. Serial No. 823,891.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. C. MEGILL, of National Home, Wisconsin, have invented a Folding Hanger, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to clothes-hooks or hangers for garments and other articles, and the principal object which I have in view is to provide a form of hook or hanger which can be folded substantially flat and carried in the pocket without danger of tearing a hole therein.

A further object of the invention is to provide a hanger which, while capable of being folded flat as above said, has a plurality of arms or brackets capable of extension in various directions about a central axis.

A further object of the invention is to provide such a device which can be readily attached to a wall, post or other support without the use of tools.

Lastly, I aim to produce such a device entirely of wire whereby it can be manufactured and marketed at a very low cost.

My device having the above features is especially adapted to the use of traveling men who can carry the hanger folded up in their pocket or traveling satchel without its occupying any unnecessary room or projecting out in various directions so as to interfere with other articles carried therein; and a particular advantage which my hanger has for such purpose is that the screw-point which is used for attachment when the hanger is in use is substantially protected or shielded so that it cannot tear the pocket or other articles with which it comes in contact.

My invention may be made in a variety of forms from simple to complex, all, however, embodying the same fundamental principle and combination, all of which will hereinafter appear. Some of the possible forms, sufficient to illustrate said fundamental principle, and the auxiliary principles involved in some of them, are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of one which may be termed the simplest form, shown as in use; Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof, the folded position being indicated by dotted lines; Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation thereof taken on the plane 3—3; Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the second form of the invention provided with a single pivotal member and two bracket-arms; Fig. 5 is a plan-view of a third form of the invention having three independent bracket-arms, the same being shown in the folded position; Fig. 6 is a side-elevation of the same in the position as in use, the folded position being indicated by dotted lines; Fig. 7 is a transverse sectional elevation of the same in a folded position, sectioned on the plane 7—7; Fig. 8 is a side-elevation of a fourth form of the invention, involving eight independent pivoted arms, the folded position being shown by dotted lines; and Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the bottom-piece or attachment-member shown in Fig. 8.

In these drawings the reference characters refer to the same respective parts in all the figures.

Figs. 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the device in its essentials. This form comprises two elements A and B, each consisting of a bent piece of wire. The element A has one portion a^1 straight and vertical to form a pivot-shaft or pintle, and above this a horizontal arm or bracket a^2 which forms a support on which articles are hung. The other member, B, has its middle portion b^1 also straight and vertical, being parallel to the portion a^1 of the member A, and the wire on the ends of said middle-portion is turned to form a pair of loops or eyes, b^2 and b^3, which are disposed at right angles to the portion b^1 and encircle the pivot-shaft a^1, thus forming the bearings therefor; while the end-portions of the member B, lying beyond said eyes b^2 and b^3, are arranged to form means of attachment of the member to a stationary object. Said means may take various shapes, and while those shown in Fig. 1 are convenient, they are not essential to the spirit of my invention in its fundamental elements. The upper end of the member B which lies beyond the eye b^2 is extended horizontally and threaded to form a screw-point b^4, which can be driven into the wall by simply turning the hanger as a whole about the axis of the screw; while the lower end of the member B which lies beyond the eye b^3 is bent downwardly parallel to the straight portion b^1 and turned to form the eye b^5 lying in the plane thereof, said eye being adapted to receive a screw C whereby the hanger is prevented from rotating or being turned accidentally and which forms an additional support therefor. It will be seen, however, that the hanger

would be sufficiently supported for temporary purposes without the use of the screw C.

Now it is important to observe, that not only can the bracket-arm a^2 be turned about the pivot-shaft a^1 when in use so as to occupy different positions with respect to the wall, but when not in use, the member B can be turned about the pivot-shaft a^1 so as to occupy the position shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2, wherein the screw-point b^4 no longer projects but lies adjacent to the shank of the arm a^2, and is sufficiently protected thereby so that it cannot easily become engaged with easily tearable material such as cloth, paper, etc., with which the hanger may come in contact. Furthermore, the entire hanger is comprised substantially and approximately in a single plane without projecting elements, so that there can be no inconvenience in carrying it in the pocket or traveling-bag. This is the particular and most important feature of my hanger which differentiates it from all other hangers.

In order to secure the member A in place in the bearing eyes b^2 and b^3 in this simple one-arm form, the lower end is simply riveted over the eye b^3 as shown, and to complete this fastening, as well as to make the bearing more perfect and prevent end-play, I prefer to use a pair of hat-shaped washers D on opposite sides of the eyes b^2 and b^3, each of said washers having, as shown in Fig. 3, a cylindrical body-portion extending through the eye and between it and the shaft, and a marginal or flange-portion lying on the outside of the eye and between it and the arm a^2 in one case and the upset end a^3 in the other.

The form of hanger shown in Fig. 4 differs from that in Fig. 1 in providing two arms instead of one, and the member A here becomes a member A^1 having a vertical pivot-portion or shaft a^4 surmounted by the horizontal bracket-portion a^5, while at the lower end of the shaft a^4 the wire, instead of being cut off and riveted over, is extended horizontally to form a second supporting arm or bracket a^6; this also forms an effective thrust-bearing to prevent endwise-movement of the shaft a^4 in its bearings. The member B becomes a member B″, wherein the elements b^1, b^2, b^3 and b^4 are the same as previously described; but in place of the eye b^5 on the lower end which lies beyond the eye b^3, said end is projected horizontally parallel to the screw-point b^4 and pointed to form a short biting-point b^6; this enables the hanger to be supported at the lower end without the use of tools or screw. When the hanger is being put up and the screw-point has been screwed in nearly as far as it will go, the hanger is bent slightly about the axis of the screw-point so that the point b^6 will clear the wall until the hanger has been screwed in all the way, and then being released will bend back and the point b^6 will bite into the wall at the proper point, and articles hung on the hanger will maintain its bearing. This prevents the hanger from accidentally turning in its place. In this form of hanger, the upper arm is made straight without the offset a^7 near the base as shown in Fig. 1, and the washers D are omitted. It will be seen that when the member B′ is turned so that the screw-point b^4 lies immediately below the arm a^5, said screw-point will be even more effectively shielded and protected than in Fig. 1 by reason of the arm a^6, said arm a^6 also acting to protect the point b^6.

The forms so far shown embody only a single pivotal member or arm. My device, however, is particularly adapted for use with a plurality of independently pivoted arms as illustrated in Figs. 5 to 8 inclusive. The form shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 comprises the two principal members A″ and B″, corresponding with the members A and B in Fig. 1; the member A″ being provided with the vertical shaft a^1 and the horizontal arm a^2, and the member B″ with the elements b^1, b^2, b^3 and b^4 in said figure, and the shaft a^1 being upset at a^3 and provided with intercalated washers D as before. However in this form the space upon the shaft a^1 lying between the two bearing-eyes b^2 and b^3 is utilized as a bearing for additional members E, each provided with a bracket or hanger-arm e^1 and eye e^2 at its base encircling the shaft a^1, there being preferably a washer D intercalated between each pair of eyes on the shaft a^1 as shown, which serve to provide better bearings for the members E and also to separate them slightly from each other. While only two members E are shown, it will of course, be understood that any number can be used, and that they can be extended in various directions radially from the shaft a^1 so as not to interfere with one another in the hanging of clothes, etc., thereon. Now it will be seen that in this form of the hanger the screw-point b^4 is even more effectively protected when turned into the folded position, Figs. 5 and 7, than in Figs. 1 and 4, because said screw-point is now immediately inclosed between the adjacent arms a^2 and e^1, and the element b^1 of the member B″, by abutting against the sides of the member E, helps to keep the hanger in folded position, preventing the point b^4 from being accidentally turned out and thus becoming unprotected.

In this form of hanger I have also shown an additional improvement in the form of means whereby it may be attached either to a horizontal or vertical support, said means comprising, additionally to the horizontally extended screw-point b^4, the downturned lower end of the member B″, which is extended vertically and threaded to form the

screw-point b^7, whereby the device may be attached to a horizontal surface in proper position. This construction makes it particularly handy for travelers stopping at hotels where no clothes-hooks are provided and the walls plastered so that there are no convenient means of attachment for the screw-point b^4, as the screw-point b^7 can be driven into any convenient horizontal surface such as a shelf, table, window-sill, or the top of a bed-post. Of course the landlord cannot have any objection to the perforation of his furniture and trimmings, because if he had he would have supplied hooks himself and not left that function to his guest; but however that may be, the utility of the hanger is intended to serve the purpose of the guest rather than that of the landlord. It will be understood that the hanger may be manufactured with both screw-points so that either may be cut off by the party using the hanger, depending on which he wishes to apply; or that the hanger may be made only with the vertical screw-point for some purposes, and only with the horizontal screw-point for others.

Where particular compactness of the hanger is desired I may provide that shown in Fig. 8. In this form the members A‴, B‴ correspond to the members A, B of Fig. 1; the former being provided with the elements a^1, a^2, and a^4, and the latter with the elements b^1, b^2, b^3 and b^4, as previously described. In this form, for compactness sake the washers D are omitted and the space on the shaft a^1 between the eyes b^2 and b^3 is filled with closely disposed members E (herein shown as seven in number), each provided with a horizontal bracket e^1 and an eye e^2 which turns on the shaft a^1 as in Fig. 6. In this form the additional feature is embodied of giving the arm a^2 an offset a^7 at a distance from the shaft a^1 such as to leave a space or recess a^8 between it and the upper member E which is just sufficient to house or admit the screw-point b^4 in its folded position as indicated by the dotted lines, and this also brings the free end of the arm a^2 into proximity with the upper member E and diminishes the vertical width of the hanger when folded. It will be seen that the ends of the bracket-arms are made successively longer from the top downward for convenience in permitting them to lie in a single plane, but this is not essential.

On the lower end of the member B‴ in this form of hanger is shown an alternative device for fastening it to the wall which may be used as a substitute for the eye b^5 of Fig. 1. The wire is cut off at the end of the eye b^3, and there is provided an angular piece of sheet metal F which is bent transversely at a right angle in the center and its upper horizontal flange is provided with a hole f^1, which is just the size of the shaft a^1 and through which the lower end of said shaft passes and over which it is riveted, thus forming a convenient substitute for the washer D. The lower flange f^2 of the member F is perforated by a hole f^3 which is adapted to receive the screw C for attachment to the wall. Further, to prevent the rotation of the member F with respect to the member B‴, it is provided with lateral flanges f^4, which engage with the sides of the loop b^3 as shown.

From the above description it will be evident that the invention may assume a variety of forms, involving the interchange of alternative elements shown in the drawings with others, or involving the use of equivalent fastening-devices and the like, without departing from the spirit of my invention. Also it should be understood that the vertical stem b^7 is not necessarily screw-threaded and in some cases I prefer to make it plain, as a simple pintle adapted to fit in a hole bored for it, so that the hanger can be turned in its socket, and such construction is especially advantageous for posts in display windows, as the hanger as a whole can be moved from one socket to another without disturbing the articles hanging upon it.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A folding hanger comprising two elements, to wit: first, a round-wire-member having one portion straight and vertical to form a pivotal axis or shaft and the portion above it horizontal to form a bracket or support for articles to be hung thereon; and secondly, a wire-member having its middle portion vertical and parallel to the first member, the next adjacent portions at each end of said middle portion bent to form a pair of eyes or loops at the end of said middle portion and connected thereby, said eyes or loops encircling the vertical portion of said first member so as to form bearings therefor, and the terminal portion of one end of the second member extended beyond the corresponding eye or loop and adapted for fastening to a support.

2. A folding hanger comprising two elements, to wit: first a round-wire member having one portion straight and vertical to form a pivotal axis or shaft and the portion above it horizontal to form a bracket or support for articles to be hung thereon; and secondly, a wire-member having its middle portion vertical and parallel to the first member, the next adjacent portions at each end of said middle portion bent to form a pair of eyes or loops at the ends of said middle portion and connected thereby, said eyes or loops encircling the vertical portion of said first member so as to form bearings therefor, and the terminal portion of said

second member of the end of the upper loop being extended horizontally and screw-threaded for driving into a support having a vertical surface; said second member being adapted when not attached to a stationary object to be turned upon the vertical portion of said first member until said threaded terminal portion lies flat thereagainst.

3. A folding hanger comprising two elements, to wit: first, a round-wire member having one portion straight and vertical to form a pivotal axis or shaft and the portion above it horizontal to form a bracket or support for articles to be hung thereon; secondly, a wire-member having its middle portion vertical and parallel to the first member, the next adjacent portions at each end of said middle portion bent to form a pair of eyes or loops at the ends of said middle portion and connected thereby, said eyes or loops encircling the vertical portion of said first member so as to form bearings therefor, and the terminal portion of said second member on the end of the upper loop being extended horizontally and screw-threaded for driving into a vertical surface; and the terminal portion of said second member on the end of the lower loop being also provided with means whereby it can be fastened to a support.

4. A folding hanger comprising three or more elements, to wit: first, a round-wire member having one portion straight and vertical to form a pivotal axis or shaft and the portion above it horizontal to form a bracket or support for articles to be hung thereon; secondly, a wire-member having its middle portion vertical and parallel to the first member, the next adjacent portions at each end of said middle portion bent to form a pair of eyes or loops at the ends of said middle portion and connected thereby, said eyes or loops encircling the vertical portion of said first member so as to form bearings therefor, and the terminal portion on one end adapted for fastening to a support; and thirdly, one or more additional members each having a horizontal projecting portion forming an additional bracket and a loop or eye at the base thereof encircling the vertical portion of the first member which forms a pivot therefor, said loop or eye passing between the vertical portion of the first member and the intermediate portion of said second member and lying between the two loops or eyes of said second member.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM S. C. MEGILL.

Witnesses:
EARL DOLE,
GEORGE WETMORE COLLES.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."