March 3, 1959 J. R. PEACH 2,875,542

PICTURE HANGER

Filed Aug. 7, 1957

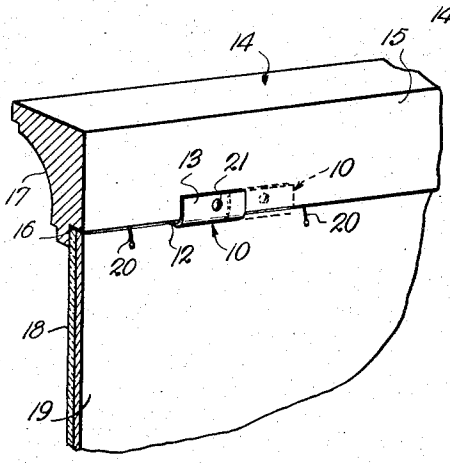


Fig. 1.

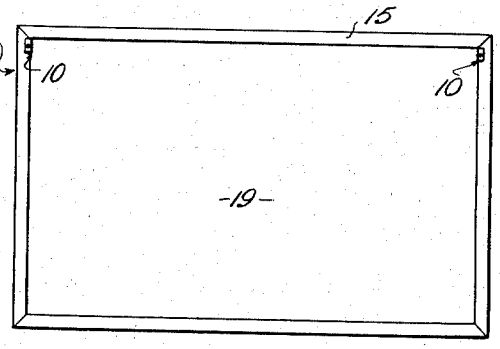


Fig. 2.

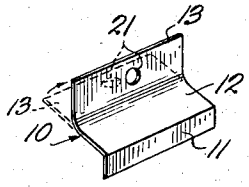


Fig. 3.

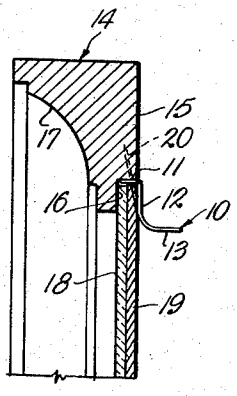


Fig. 4.

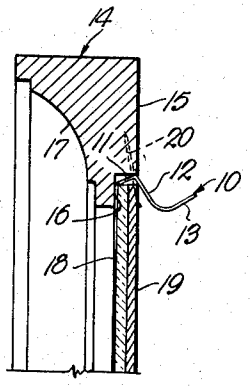


Fig. 5.

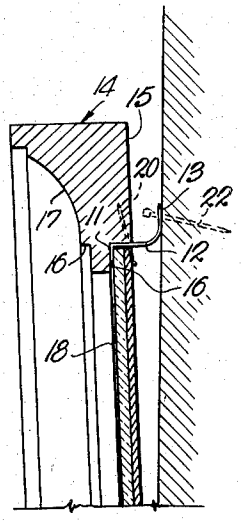


Fig. 6.

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PICTURE HANGER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 40—152.1)

This invention relates to frame hangers for picture frames and the like and refers more particularly to such a frame hanger adapted to actually engage the frame elements with a portion thereof while engaging a frame supporting surface with another portion thereof.

Previously, frame and picture hangers of many types have been provided. However, the conventional hangers available to date have possessed or shared many serious disadvantages and drawbacks. Some types of hangers partially penetrate the frame or are screwed thereinto. This is objectionable on many counts, especially in light and fragile frames. Most hanger devices are both originally hard to center and unable to be adjusted after application to the frame. Most hanger devices are insecure, pull loose far too easily and are excessively fragile. Few conventional hangers can be utilized other than in one position relative the frame. Some hanger devices cannot be used in more than a limited number relative a given frame, no matter what its size or weight.

Most hanger devices cannot be used over again or easily detached from the frame once applied. Some hanger devices are not useable on frames of different types and shapes. Finally, some hanger devices require means to attach the device to the frame as well as to the supporting surface for the frame.

Therefore, an object of the invention is to provide a picture hanger which is simple in construction and cheap and easy to manufacture.

Another object of the invention is to provide a frame hanger which, though exceedingly simple in construction and small in size, is very rugged and will have a long life, although supporting relatively heavy frames.

Another object of the invention is to provide a picture hanger which can be manufactured in various sizes to accommodate frames of greatly varying size.

Another object of the invention is to provide a frame hanger which cooperates with and engages all the elements of a frame assembly whereby to firmly and ruggedly grip to the frame to offer strong support thereto.

Another object of the invention is to provide a frame hanger which may be employed in any hollow centered frame having a center open portion with a circumferential groove around the open portion and having any rigid element received in the circumferential groove.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hanger for frames for pictures and the like which is easily and quickly applied and, as well, easily and quickly removed without damaging the frame or any of the parts of the picture.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a frame hanger device which is easy to center and which may be adjusted after application relative the frame and contents thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hanger device for frames which may be applied to the frame without tools and which does not require fastening means to attach it to the frame itself.

Another object of the invention is to provide a hanger device for frames for pictures and the like which may be used in various positions relative the frame, both horizontal mounting and vertical mounting and which may be used in any numbers desired on any given frame.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a hanger device for frames which is secure, once applied, which will not pull loose from the frame unless the contents of the frame are dislodged therefrom and which is extremely strong and rugged though simple in form.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a hanger device for frames which can be used over and over again relative various frames without excessive wear on the hanging device.

Other and further objects of the invention will appear in the course of the following description thereof.

In the drawings, which form a part of the instant specification and are to be read in conjunction therewith, an embodiment of the invention is shown and, in the various views, like numerals are employed to indicate like parts.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, partly sectional, showing the inventive picture hanger engaged with a frame in full lines and as it may be moved laterally to another position in dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of a frame with a pair of the inventive hanger devices positioned at the corners thereof engaged with the vertical edges of the frame in an alternative hanging position.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the hanging device comprising the invention.

Fig. 4 is a side-sectional view of a portion of a frame showing the inventive hanger device in the process of being inserted relative the frame and frame contents without removal of the contents from the frame.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to that of Fig. 4 showing a later stage in the process of applying the hanger to the frame and frame contents.

Fig. 6 is a side-sectional view of a portion of a frame showing the hanger positioned along the horizontal upper edge of the frame and suspending the frame from the picture hanging surface.

Referring particularly to Fig. 3, therein is shown, in perspective view, the inventive hanger device. This device comprises a material, preferably metallic piece **10** having a front flange portion **11**, a body portion **12** and a rear flange portion **13**. The front flange portion is adapted for positioning between the inner surface of a frame groove and the front face of any rigid element received in said frame groove.

Referring to Figs. 1, 4, 5 and 6, at **14** is shown one side portion of a conventional frame having a rear face **15** with a groove **16** formed adjacent to and extending into the open central face **17** of the frame member **14**. Groove **16** runs circumferentially to the frame members of the conventional frame which are joined together and receive the contents of the frame, which in the example illustrated comprise a glass plate **18** and a backing **19** of cardboard or the like. It should be understood that any rigid groove filling element may be substituted for the glass plate **18**, such as the conventional wooden frame used to support an oil painting canvas, or the like. At any rate, the peripheral edges of the glass plate **18** and backing **19** shown fit into the groove **16** and are held therein by tacks or nails **20** of conventional type. Conventionally, the thickness of the glass plate **18** and backing **19**, as well as the depth and width of the groove **16**, may be variable as desired. However, many picture frames, excepting the exceedingly small and exceedingly large and ponderous, have frame grooves of a depth and width within a relatively narrow range

whereby a picture hanging device of the inventive form and a single size is adaptable to many such frames. However, the device may be manufactured in various sizes to adapt to other changes in the frame constructions, as well as varying depths and widths of the frame grooves.

The front flange portion **11** is adapted for positioning between the inner surface of the frame groove and the front face of the rigid element, as previously mentioned. The length of the front flange portion should not be greater than the width of the groove **16** so as not to extend past the inner edge of the frame and be itself visible from the front of the frame. The body portion **12** of the hanger device is preferably formed at substantially right angles to the front flange portion and is of greater length than the depth of the groove **16** whereby the rear flange portion **13** will not be in close abutment with the rear face **15** of the frame. The rear flange portion preferably extends substantially at right angles to the body portion **12** but in an opposite direction relative thereto than the front flange portion. The length of the rear flange portion is preferably greater than that of the front flange portion but, also preferably, less than the height of the rear face **15** of the frame member **14** so the rear flange portion **13** will not be visible above the upper edge of the frame. Opening **21** is preferably formed in the rear flange portion to receive a suspending nail or member **22** (Fig. 6).

The device itself must be of sufficient strength and rigidity to avoid deformation under the weight of the frame and its contents when suspended from a wall surface as in Fig. 6 or when the hanger devices are employed as in Fig. 2 along the vertical edges of the frame. A clip of aluminum approximately 1/32 of an inch thick formed as in Fig. 3 has proven of sufficient strength. However, steel, brass or other materials will suffice, and in some instances; plastic. The device may be cast in the form shown or flat pieces formed or cut to the total length desired and then bent to form the construction shown in Fig. 3. A plurality of openings **21** may be formed in the rear flange portion **13**, if desired, especially in the case of relatively insecure supporting surfaces or light and relatively weak suspending members **22**.

In relatively small frames, a single device of the character desired placed centrally along the upper edge of the frame will often serve to support the picture. In larger and heavier installations, two or more devices may be employed. The devices may be used alternatively as in Fig. 2 positioned with the inner flange portions and body portions engaging the vertical grooves in the vertical side members of the frame or in the manner of Fig. 2 and with horizontal applications as in Fig. 1, as well.

The manner of application of the device is readily seen in Figs. 4–6. The front flange portion **11** is inserted between the upper edge of the groove **16** and the frame contents upper edges and between engaging nails **20**. Force is then applied to the rear flange portion **13** to pry the frame contents slightly downwardly relative the top edge of the groove **16** and permit the front flange portion to slip downwardly in front of the frame groove contents and the device's body portion **12** to slide over the frame groove contents. When the right angled connection between the front flange portion and body portion engages the right angled juncture between the top edge and front edge of the groove **16**, the device is in place. The nail or other suspending means **22** may then be nailed into the supporting surface or wall **23** and the opening **21** inserted around the shaft thereof to suspend the picture. The suspending means **22** may first be nailed into the surface **23**, the suspending devices inserted on the frame at roughly estimated suspending points and then the devices moved as shown in Fig. 1 to get precise alignment with the already positioned suspending means or nails. To remove the frame from the wall, the frame is merely slightly lifted and pulled forward to free it from the suspending means or nail. The inventive suspending devices may be removed from the frames in a reverse operation to that shown in Figs. 4–6 by merely exerting downward force on the outer member **13** to slide out the body portion and up the front flange portion. Of course, the contents of the frame grooves may be removed to place the suspending devices, if desired or necessary.

The inventive hanger device may also be fabricated as a flat piece of metal having the opening **21** in one end with the front flange portion **11** extending at right angles thereto. The device may then be positioned within the picture frame with the body portion and rear flange portion extending outwardly at right angles to the rear face of the picture frame. The rear flange portion may then be formed by bending up a portion of this straight rearwardly extending portion so as to provide a construction shown as in Fig. 6.

From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to attain all of the ends and objects hereinabove set forth together with other advantages which are obvious and which are inherent to the structure.

It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations. This is contemplated by and is within the scope of the claims.

As many possible embodiments may be made of the invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is to be understood that all matter hereinabove set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. An open-centered picture frame having a recessed groove in the back thereof circumferential to said open center, a rigid element receivable in said frame groove and means for securing the rigid element in said groove, and a picture hanger comprising a material piece having a front flange portion adapted for positioning between the inner surface of the frame groove and the front face of the rigid element, a body portion at substantially right angles to the ront flange portion, a rear flange portion extending substantially at right angles to the body portion but in an opposite direction relative thereto than the front flange portion, and means for engaging the rear flange portion with a frame supporting surface.

2. A picture frame as in claim 1 wherein the body portion of the hanger has a length at least slightly greater than the depth of the frame groove.

3. An open centered picture frame having a recessed groove in the back thereof circumferential to said open center, a rigid element receivable in said frame groove and means for securing the rigid element in said groove, and a picture hanger comprising a material piece having a front flange portion adapted for positioning between the inner surface of the frame groove and the front face of the rigid element, said front flange element of no greater length than the width of the frame groove, a body portion at substantially right angles to the front flange portion, said body portion having a length at least slightly greater than the depth of the frame groove, a rear flange portion extending substantially at right angles to the body portion but in an opposite direction relative thereto than the front flange portion, and means for engaging the rear flange portion with a frame supporting surface.

4. An open centered picture frame having a recessed groove in the back thereof circumferential to said open center, a rigid element receivable in said frame groove and means for securing the rigid element in said groove, and a picture hanger comprising a material piece having a front flange portion adapted for positioning between

the inner surface of the frame groove and the front face of the rigid element, said front flange element of no greater length than the width of the frame groove, a body portion at substantial right angles to the front flange portion, said body portion having a length at least slightly greater than the depth of the frame groove, a rear flange portion extending substantially at right angles to the body portion but in an opposite direction relative thereto than the front flange portion, said rear flange portion having a length no greater than the distance from the edge of the portion of the frame groove to be engaged by the hanger to the outer edge of the frame opposite thereto, and means for engaging the rear flange portion with a frame supporting surface.

5. In combination with an open centered picture frame having a recessed groove in the back thereof circumferential to said open center, a rigid element receivable in

said frame groove, and means for securing the rigid element in said groove, a picture hanger comprising a material piece having a front flange portion adapted for positioning between the inner surface of the frame groove and the front face of the rigid element, a body portion at substantial right angles to the front flange portion, a rear flange portion extending substantially at right angles to the body portion but in an opposite direction relative thereto than the front flange portion, and means for engaging the rear flange portion with a frame supporting surface.

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