No. 872,587. PATENTED DEC. 3, 1907.

C. J. SPRUCE.

TROUSERS HANGER.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 31, 1907.

Fig. 1.

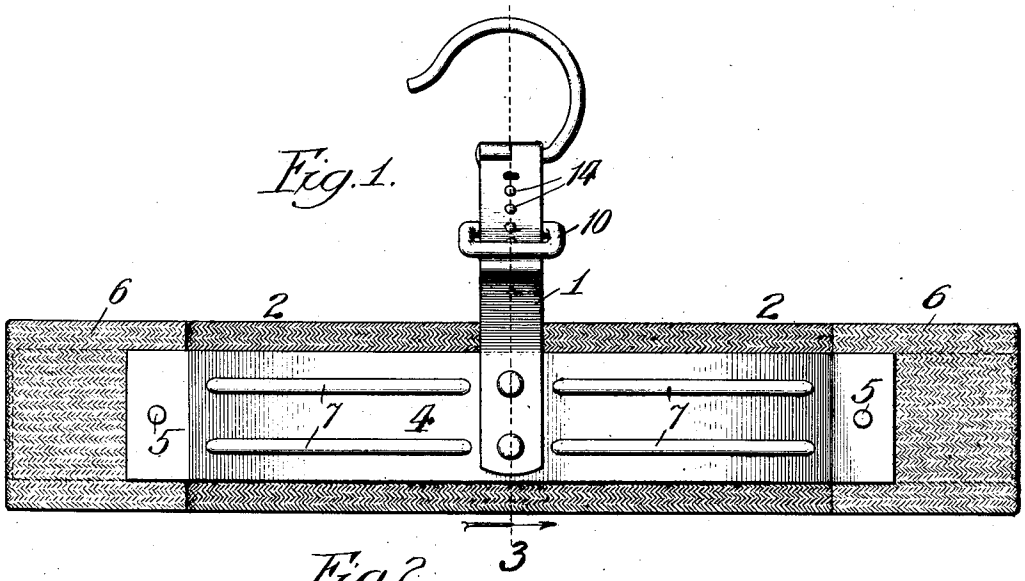


Fig. 2.

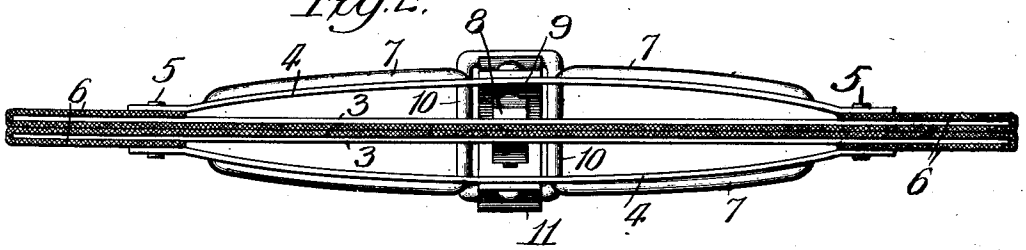
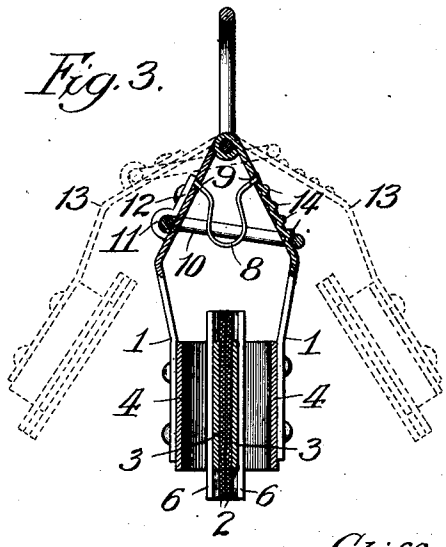


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLIFFORD J. SPRUCE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE MACKIE-LOVEJOY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

TROUSERS-HANGER.

No. 872,587. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 3, 1907.

Application filed May 31, 1907. Serial No. 376,652.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLIFFORD J. SPRUCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trousers-Hangers, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide an efficient trousers hanger of that type in which the trousers are clamped at the lower edge by means of opposed jaws connected by means of pivoted suspending arms, or by means of a V-shaped spring. Devices of this type, as heretofore made, have been more or less unsatisfactory, for the reason that when the jaws are clamped there is a tendency for the outer ends thereof to curve outwardly, resulting in an imperfect grip upon the trousers. In order to remedy this defect, and also to otherwise improve the construction, I have devised a trousers hanger of the form hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a side view of my improved trousers hanger; Fig. 2, a bottom view of the same; and Fig. 3, an end view partly in section.

Generally speaking, the embodiment of my invention illustrated in the drawings consists of two pivoted suspending arms 1 carrying at their lower extremities opposed clamping jaws designated generally by the numeral 2.

Each clamping jaw comprises a metal pressure plate 3, perferably somewhat flexible in order that it may yield to the inequalities of the garment. Secured to the back of each pressure plate is an arched reinforcing member 4 attached at its outer ends to the pressure plate by rivets 5, or other suitable means. In order to protect the garment from direct contact with the metal, a strip of webbing 6, or other fabric, may be secured over the face of each pressure plate. In the present instance I have shown the webbing 6 folded back over the ends of the pressure plates and the ends of the webbing secured beneath the outer ends of the arched reinforcing members, 4, the rivets 5 serving to secure the reinforcing members and the webbing in place upon the pressure plate.

It will be apparent that the construction above described constitutes a truss in which the part 4 forms the compression member and the pressure plate 3 the tension member. By this construction great rigidity is imparted to the clamping jaw, even when comparatively light and flexible metal is employed in its construction. The trussed form of jaw also furnishes means whereby force is applied to the pressure plates near their outer ends, thus effectually overcoming any tendency to bend out at this point and thus release the trousers from the gripping action of the hanger.

In order to impart greater rigidity to the arched reinforcing members 4 I may stamp or otherwise form ribs 7 in the sheet metal of which these members are formed.

In practice I have found that it is unnecessary to recess the clamping plates 4 at the center to afford clearance for the trousers seam. Even when a thick seam or other article is inserted between the clamping plates at the center and they are then brought together by applying pressure to the supporting arms, the end portions of the pressure plates contact perfectly while the center yields sufficiently to accommodate the seam or other obstruction at the center. If desired, however, the pressure plates 3 may be recessed outwardly at the center to afford clearance for the trousers seam.

In order that the jaws may normally lie in an open position ready to receive the trousers, I have provided a spring 8 substantially U-shaped in form and having its ends inserted in apertures 9 in the supporting arms. The outer tension upon the ends of the spring 8 serves to normally throw the supporting arms outwardly to the position indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3.

For the purpose of providing an economical construction, whereby the jaws may be securely clamped in closed position, I have employed a clasp 10 pivoted at 11 to one of the supporting arms by means of a strip of metal 12. The strip 12 is riveted or otherwise secured to the supporting arm and outwardly bent to form a bearing for the clasp 10. The clasp 10 embraces both supporting arms. The supporting arms are bent at 13 in the manner indicated for the purpose of increasing the divergence of the upper ends thereof, and the arm with which the free end of the clasp 10 co-acts is provided with a series of projections 14 formed integrally with the supporting arm. These projections may be cheaply formed by means of a prick-punch. It will be obvious that as the clasp

10 is moved downwardly upon its pivot 11 the arms will be brought together and held in closed position by the engagement of the free end of the clasp with the projections 14. By means of this construction I avoid the necessity of providing one of the supporting arms with a separate stepped member secured thereto and adapted to co-act with the free end of the clasp 10. The bending of the supporting arms, as indicated at 13, affords sufficient divergence between the supporting arms to properly co-act with the clasp 10 and cause the arms to be drawn together by the downward movement thereof.

While I have described a specific form of my device, I do not consider my invention restricted to that specific form, but to embrace broadly the idea of constructing a trousers hanger upon the principles explained.

What I claim is:

1. A trousers hanger comprising supporting arms, pressure plates, means whereby said supporting arms may be drawn together, and connections between said supporting arms and said pressure plates, said connections extending from said supporting arms to points adjacent the ends of said pressure plates.

2. A trousers hanger comprising coacting yielding pressure plates, and reinforcing members secured near their ends to said pressure plates at points adjacent the ends thereof.

3. A trousers hanger comprising co-acting pressure plates, and arched reinforcing members secured near their ends to said pressure plates at points adjacent the ends thereof.

4. In a trousers hanger, opposed pressure plates, arched reinforcing members co-acting with said pressure plates on either side of the center thereof, and yieldingly connected supporting arms secured to said reinforcing members.

5. In a trousers hanger, opposed pressure plates, arched reinforcing members secured near their ends to said pressure plates at points on either side of the center thereof, garment engaging members extending along the face of said pressure plates and folded over the ends thereof and secured between said reinforcing members and said pressure plates.

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