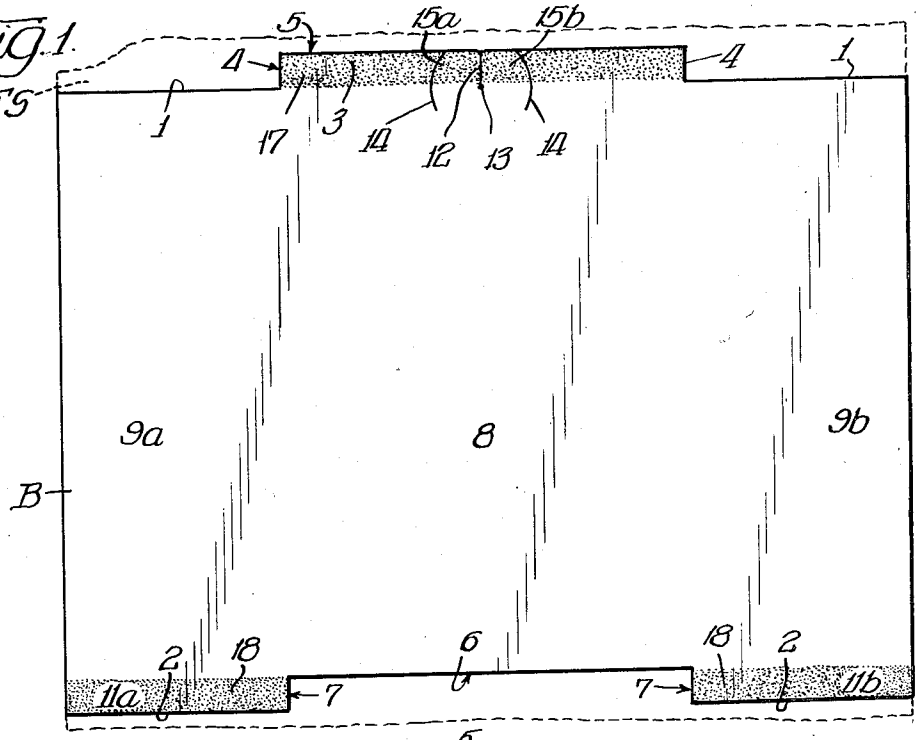
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GARMENT BAG

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Fig. 1.



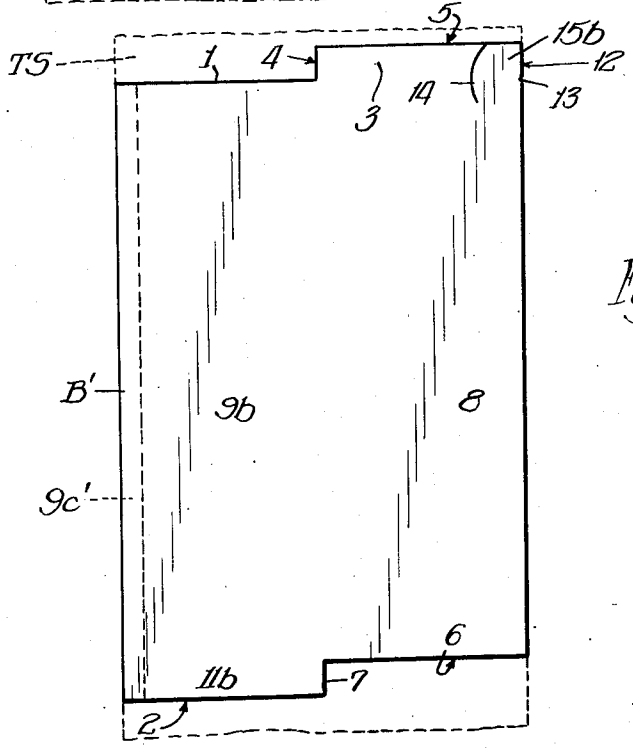


Fig. 2.

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Fig. 6

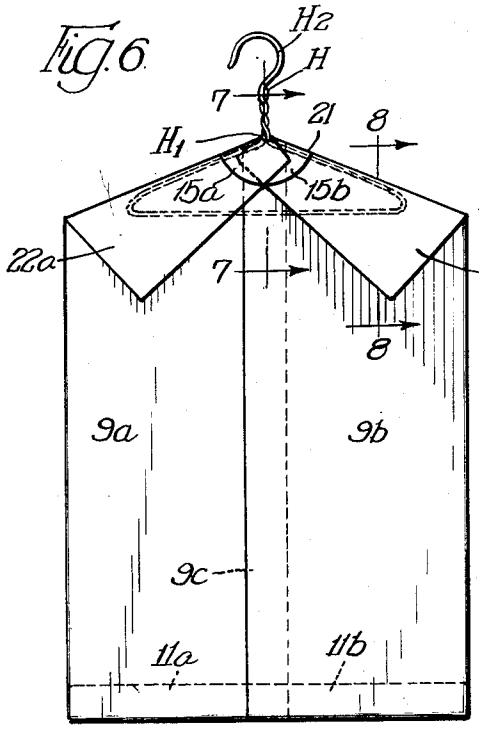


Fig. 3

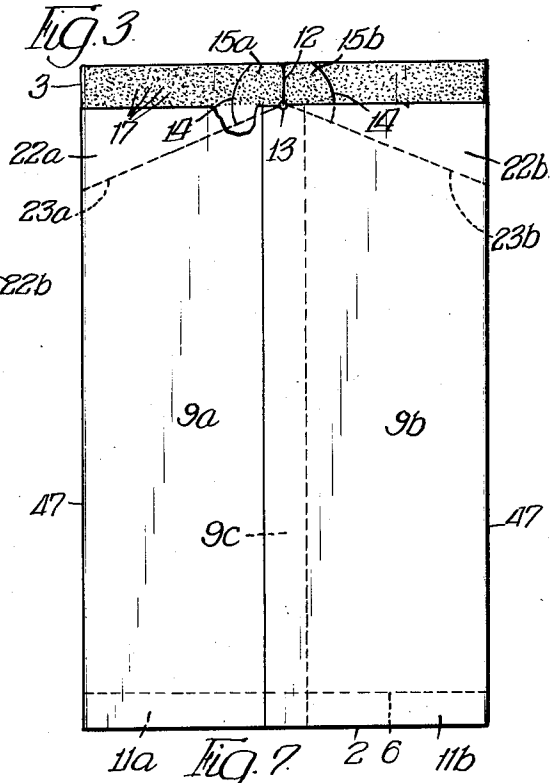


Fig. 4

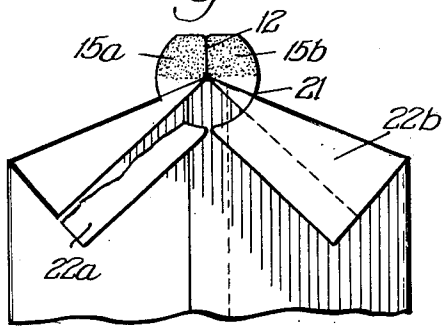


Fig. 5

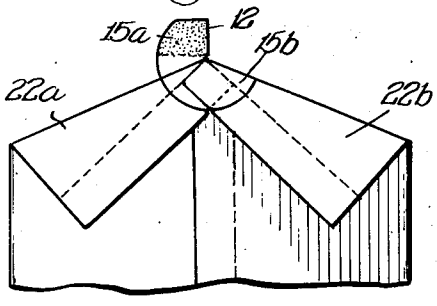


Fig. 7

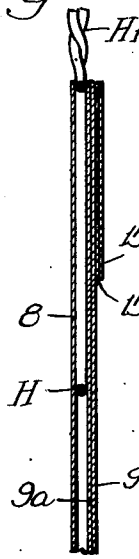
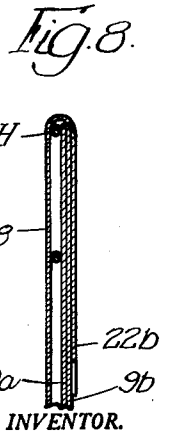


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,639,028

GARMENT BAG

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5 Claims. (Cl. 206—7)

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The present invention relates to a garment bag. The invention is primarily concerned with the very inexpensive bags which are used by dyeing and cleaning establishments, retail stores and the like for enclosing garments that are to be delivered to customers; or which may be purchased for home use. Usually, these bags are made of paper, but they may also be made of treated fabric, plastic or the like, particularly those purchased for home use.

The general object of the present invention is to provide an improved construction of garment bag which is substantially moth-proof, or dust-proof, or both.

A further object of the invention in this regard is to provide a garment bag wherein an improved arrangement of overlapping sealing flaps effectively closes a top central opening of the bag around the shank of the clothes hanger on which the garment is supported.

A still further object in this regard is to provide an improved construction in which these overlapping sealing flaps for sealing the top central opening around the hanger shank are formed as integral parts of the bag. This reduces the cost of the bag. It also insures that the overlapping sealing flaps, prior to being fastened or pasted down, are permanently held in proper fixed relation to the top central opening in the bag, whereby the operation of fastening or pasting the sealing flaps down around the hanger shank is simplified, because it does not require any positioning or locating of the flaps relatively to the top central opening.

Another object of the invention in this regard is to have the sealing flaps fold along sloping shoulder lines so as to cause the flaps to cross each other in overlapping relation across the front of the top central opening for obtaining a tighter fit around the hanger shank, irrespective of whether the hanger is of the wire type with a very small shank or of the cardboard type with a relatively wide shank.

Another object of the invention is to provide a reenforced sloping shoulder construction in the top of the bag, which is particularly advantageous in the case of a paper bag.

Another object of the invention is to provide a bag of the above general description in which the flaps or closure parts for closing both the top and bottom of the bag are integral parts of the bag, so that no separate closing element, such as a cambric tape attachment, is necessary.

Another object is to provide a bag made from a form of blank which substantially eliminates

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all waste of stock in blanking out the form from a continuous strip of the stock material.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following detail description of one preferred embodiment thereof. In the accompanying drawings illustrating such embodiment:

Figure 1 shows the step of cutting the original blank from flat stock;

Figure 2 shows the alternative step of cutting the original blank from tubular stock;

Figure 3 is a front elevational view of the flat or tubular blank at that step in the manufacturing process when the front and back portions of the bag have been formed or joined, but the sloping shoulder flaps have not been turned down and fastened;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary, elevational and sectional view showing the next step of folding down and fastening the sloping shoulder flaps;

Figure 5 shows approximately the condition that the bag is in when it is delivered to the dyeing and cleaning establishment, retail store or the like, this figure showing one of the hanger sealing flaps folded down and the other standing up for clarity of illustration;

Figure 6 is a front elevational view of the finished garment bag sealed over a garment and wire garment hanger;

Figure 7 is a detail, sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 7—7 of Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is a detail, sectional view taken approximately on the plane of the line 8—8 of Figure 6.

Referring first to Figure 1, showing the initial step of cutting the original blank from a continuous strip of stock material, the dotted area designated FS fragmentarily illustrates flat stock material from which the successive blanks B are cut by transverse cutting operations. The upper edge of each cut blank B is defined mainly by a transverse line of cutting 1, 1, and the bottom edge of this blank, designated 2, 2 is synonymous or identical with the line of cutting 1, 1, being the same line of cutting, but designating the top and bottom edges of each blank. Projecting upwardly from each upper edge 1, 1 is a tongue or flap portion 3 having parallel side edges 4—4 and a top edge 5, the side edges 4 being set inwardly along the main line of cutting 1, 1. The cutting of this flap necessarily results in a notched or recessed area 6 extending upwardly within the lower edge 2, 2 of the blank. The parallel side edges 7, 7 of this recessed area

6 correspond, of course, with the parallel side edges of the tongue 3 at the top edge of the next succeeding blank. It will be observed that each blank B comprises three panel areas to wit: the relatively wide central panel 8, having a width represented by the transverse dimension between the line 4—7 on one side and the line 4—7 on the other side; and the two side panels 9a and 9b, each extending from the line 4—7 outwardly to the adjacent side margin of the sheet. The side panels 9a, 9b are both of the same length as the central panel 8 but are longitudinally staggered or offset in a downward direction relatively to the central panel. The tongue or flap 3 projecting upwardly at the upper edge of the blank forms the main part of the top closure flap for the top of the garment bag. Correspondingly, those lower portions of each side panel area extending down below the central panel area constitute what I shall term "half-flaps" 11a and 11b, for closing the bottom end of the garment bag, these two half flaps combining to form a complete full flap extending across the width of the bag.

Additional cutting operations are performed at the upper edge of the flat blank B while it is in the flat condition. These additional cutting operations include the cutting of a vertical slit 12 downwardly through the center of the top flap 3 to an aperture 13. These additional cutting operations also include the cutting of two laterally disposed arcuate slits 14, 14 to each side of the vertical slit 12, these three slits 12, 14 and 14 defining therebetween two sealing flaps 15a and 15b, which are adapted to be closed down around the shank of the garment hanger in overlapping relation, as will be presently described. It will be noted that the arcuate side slits 14, 14 extend down into the body of the panel 8 below the level of the main cutting line 1, 1. The cutting of the slits 12, 14, 14 and hole 13 can be performed simultaneously with the operation of cutting the blank out of the flat stock along the cutting lines 1, 1, etc., or this operation of cutting the slits and hole can be performed as a separate operation after the blank has been cut out of the continuous strip stock. When the bag is of the type adapted to be sealed by the moistening of dry adhesive surfaces on the bag and subsequent pasting of the surfaces against adjacent portions of the bag, this dry type of adhesive, such as mucilage or the like, is applied across the entire area of the top flap 3, so indicated at 17, and across the entire areas of the two lower half-flaps 11a and 11b, as indicated at 18. The adhesive for joining the overlapping edges of the side panel portions 9a and 9b may be applied at this time, or applied in a separate pasting operation performed simultaneously with the folding of the blank.

The blank is then folded into the bag form illustrated in Figure 3, in which the back of the bag is defined by the central panel portion 8 of the blank, and the front of the bag is defined by the two side panel portions 9a and 9b of the blank, the latter being folded over across the front of the central panel portion. This folding occurs along the vertical lines defined by the vertical edges 4, 7 of the upper tongue and lower recess, such folding lines constituting side folded edges designated 47 in Figure 3. One of the side panel portions overlaps the other, and these overlapping edges are adhesively joined together at 9c, thereby completing the tubular form of the bag. The foregoing description outlines the preferred practice or technique to be followed in producing the bag construction of Figure 3 from flat stock designated FS in Figure 1.

In lieu of blanking out the bag from flat stock, it can also be blanked out of tubular stock, as I shall now describe in connection with Figure 2. This tubular stock is indicated at TS in Figure 2, being in the form of a continuous strip or ribbon but being of two-ply tubular form, obtained by folding wider single-ply stock over along the longitudinal center line and adhesively joining the free edges of the two plies together. This pasted edge of the two-ply stock is indicated at 9c' in Figure 2. Successive blanks B' are cut out of this tubular stock TS by transverse cutting operations illustrated in Figure 2. A transverse line of cutting 1 extending in from the pasted edge of the tubular stock, and a transverse line of cutting 5 extending in from the folded edge of the tubular stock, are joined by a longitudinal line of cutting 4. This results in bag blanks having the same general outline as the blanks B of Figure 1, namely, having the upper tongue or flap 3, and having the lower recess 6 and downwardly extending half-flaps 11a and 11b. In other words, the blanks B' cut out of tubular stock are identical with the blanks B cut out of flat stock, except that the flat stock blanks must be folded along the folding lines 4, 7, and the front panel sections pasted together, whereas the tubular stock blanks must first be unfolded from the folded condition of the tubular stock, and then refolded along the lateral folding lines 4, 7. The cutting of the longitudinal slit 12, hole 13 and arcuate slits 14 can be performed simultaneously with the operation of cutting the blank out of the tubular stock, or these slitting operations can be performed as later steps in the process. The applying of the adhesive 17, 18 to the upper and lower flap areas is preferably performed upon the blank B' after this blank has been unfolded from its tubular stock form and refolded into the bag form illustrated in Figure 3. Thus, the form of bag shown in Figure 3 can be made optionally either from flat stock blanks B or from tubular stock blanks B'. In both instances, the top flaps 3 and the lower half-flaps 11a and 11b consist of integral parts of the bag material. As previously stated, in most instances this bag material will be of paper, but it might also consist of a treated fabric, plastic or any other desired flexible material.

Referring now to the arrangement for closing the top of the garment bag thus formed from the blank B or B', it will be seen from Figures 3–7 that when the two sealing flaps 15a, 15b extend upwardly, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, they provide a top central opening in the bag, indicated at 21. This top central opening 21 is just of sufficient size to readily pass the upper hook end H2 of a hanger H. In Figures 6 and 7, I have illustrated a wire hanger, but it will be understood that this might be a cardboard hanger, the upper hook end of which could also pass up through the top central opening 21. The top of the garment bag, to left and right of this top central opening 21, is adapted to be closed by shoulder flaps 22a and 22b. These shoulder flaps 22a and 22b fold diagonally down across the front of the finished bag along the sloping, folding or crease lines indicated by the

dotted lines 23a and 23b. When the shoulder flaps are thus folded down along these diagonal lines, the adhesive under side 17 of the top flap is adhesively united to the front surface of the left and right panels 9a and 9b for sealing the entire top of the bag with the exception of the top central opening 21. It will be observed that when these shoulder flaps are thus folded down and adhesively united to the front of the bag, the shoulder flaps or top edge of the bag consists of two thicknesses of paper or other material, i. e. the thickness of the back panel portion 8 and the thickness of the front panel portions 9a and 9b. Thus, the two thicknesses of material along the top edge of the closed bag serve to strengthen or reenforce this top edge against the possibility of the wire hanger H being torn out through the top of the bag, which is a particularly desirable feature in the case of a paper bag. The arcuate slits 14, 14 which define the outer edges of the sealing flaps 15a and 15b are preferably extended down substantially to the diagonal folding lines 23a and 23b, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, so that these sealing flaps can remain in open or upwardly extending positions after the shoulder flaps 22a and 22b have been folded down and secured to the front panel portions of the bag.

The bag can be sold to dyeing and cleaning establishments, retail stores, etc. in the form shown in Figure 3, where both the top and the bottom of the bag are entirely open. However, I deem it a preferred practice to fold the shoulder flaps 22a and 22b downwardly over the front of the bag and secure them to the front panel portions. The bottom of the bag would, of course, remain open for the insertion of the garment into the bag from the bottom end, and the overlapping sealing flaps 15a and 15b would also remain open so as to enable the hook of the garment hanger to pass out through the central opening 21. In commercial establishments it is the customary practice to draw the bag down over the garment from the top of the garment down, so that sleeves, pocket flaps and other like portions of the garment will always be pressed downwardly into their proper positions. Thus, the garment is placed upon the hanger H, hooked to an overhead supporting wire or rod, and the bag is pulled downwardly along this supporting rod to have the open bottom of the bag pass down over the garment and hanger H. The shank H1 and hook H2 of the hanger then pass out through the top central opening 21 of the bag. The top sealing operation is then performed by folding the central sealing flaps 15a and 15b downwardly and laterally along the folding or crease lines 23a, 23b, the first flap being pasted to the body of the bag, whereupon the other sealing flap is then folded downwardly in overlapping relation to the first sealing flap, and is pasted thereto, as shown in Figure 6. It will be observed that because these two central sealing flaps 15a and 15b fold downwardly along the inclined folding lines 23a and 23b, they necessarily fold across the center line of the bag, i. e. they fold across the line of the aperture 13, as clearly shown in Figures 5 and 6. This results in the two sealing flaps being brought into snug fitting, overlapping relation around the shank H1 of the garment hanger, whereby they effectively seal the top central opening 21 and also seal the small aperture 13 around the wire shank of the hanger, so that vermin, such as moths, cannot gain access to the bag around the shank of the

hanger. This is also true in the case of a cardboard hanger, in which case the two central sealing flaps 15a and 15b would also fold diagonally downwardly in overlapping relation, but with their upper portions spaced apart slightly more to accommodate the greater width of the cardboard hanger shank.

The bottom of the bag would then be closed and sealed by merely folding the two half-flap portions 11a and 11b in an upward and rearward direction and pasting them to the outer side of the back panel 8. Thus, the bag is effectively sealed at top and bottom, and this is accomplished by sealing flaps which are all integral parts of the bag, thereby dispensing with the necessity of any separate sealing strips, etc.

In each of the foregoing instances in which I have referred to an adhesive coated surface, such as the surfaces 17 and 18, I have reference to the dry type of adhesive which is moistened by a sponge or wet cloth to make the adhesive unite to the other surface of the bag. It will be understood that in lieu of this dry type of adhesive, I may also employ a pressure-sensitive adhesive, or the sealing or fastening operation might be performed by stapling, heat sealing or in any other suitable manner.

While I have illustrated and described what I regard to be the preferred embodiment of my invention, nevertheless it will be understood that such is merely exemplary and that numerous modifications and rearrangements may be made therein without departing from the essence of the invention.

I claim:

1. A garment bag of the character described, comprising front and rear panels joined at their sides, one panel having an integral flap projecting beyond one end of said panels and having adhesive thereon, said flap having a slit therethrough extending centrally and longitudinally of said panels from the free edge of said flap, said flap having oppositely disposed arcuate slits therein spaced from and on opposite sides of said longitudinal slit, the portions of the bag adjacent said flap to either side of said arcuate slits being adapted to be folded on inclined lines to bring the portions of said flap on opposite sides of said arcuate slits into engagement with the other of said panels to close one end of said bag except for a central portion thereof forming an opening for the passage of the hook of a hanger, the portions of said flap between said central slit and each of said arcuate slits being adapted to be individually folded around the shank of the hanger and into engagement with said other of said panels to seal said one end of the bag around the shank of the hanger.

2. A garment bag of the character described, comprising front and rear panels joined at their sides, one panel having an integral flap projecting beyond one end of said panels and having adhesive thereon, said flap having a slit therethrough extending centrally and longitudinally of said panels from the free end of said flap and terminating in an aperture adjacent said one panel, said flap having oppositely disposed arcuate slits therein spaced from and on opposite sides of said longitudinal slit, the portions of the bag adjacent said flap to either side of said arcuate slits being adapted to be folded on inclined lines to bring the portions of said flap on opposite sides of said arcuate slits into engagement with the other of said panels to close one end of the bag except for a central portion there-

of forming an opening for the passage of the hook of a hanger, the portions of said flap between said central slit and each of said arcuate slits being adapted to be individually folded around the shank of the hanger into engagement with said other of said panels with one portion overlapping the other to seal said one end of the bag around the shank of the hanger, the shank of the hanger being received in said aperture.

3. A garment bag of the character described, comprising front and rear panels joined integrally at their sides, one panel having an integral flap projecting beyond one end of said panels, the other panel having an integral flap projecting beyond the other end of said panels, said flaps being each of the same width as said panels and having adhesive thereon, the one flap integral with said one panel having a slit therethrough extending centrally and longitudinally of said panels from the free edge of said one flap and terminating in an aperture adjacent said one panel, said one flap having oppositely disposed arcuate slits therein spaced from and on opposite sides of said longitudinal slit, said arcuate slits extending from the free edge of said one flap and into said one panel integral therewith, the portions of the bag adjacent said one flap to either side of said arcuate slits being adapted to be folded on inclined lines to bring the portions of said one flap on opposite sides of said arcuate slits into engagement with said other panel to close one end of the bag except for a central portion thereof forming an opening for the passage of the hook of a hanger, the portions of said one flap between said central slit and each of said arcuate slits being adapted to be individually folded around the shank of the hanger and into engagement with said other panel with one portion overlapping the other portion to seal said one end of the bag around the shank of the hanger, the shank of the hanger being received in said aperture, the other flap being adapted to be folded over into engagement with said one panel to close the other end of the bag.

4. A garment bag of the character described, comprising front and rear panels joined at their sides, one panel having an integral flap projecting beyond one end of said panels and having adhesive thereon, said flap having a slit therethrough extending centrally and longitudinally of said panels from the free edge of said flap, said flap having laterally disposed slits therein spaced from and on opposite sides of said longitudinal slit, the portions of the bag adjacent said flap to either side of said laterally disposed slits being adapted to be folded on inclined lines to bring the portions of said flap on opposite sides of said laterally disposed slits into engagement with the other of said panels to close one end of

said bag except for a central portion thereof forming an opening for the passage of the hook of a hanger, the portions of said flap between said central slit and each of said laterally disposed slits being adapted to be individually folded around the shank of the hanger and into engagement with said other of said panels to seal said one end of the bag around the shank of the hanger.

5. A garment bag of the character described, comprising front and rear panels joined integrally at their sides, one panel having an integral flap projecting beyond one end of said panels, the other panel having an integral flap projecting beyond the other end of said panels, said flaps being each of the same width as said panels and having adhesive thereon, the one flap integral with said one panel having a slit therethrough extending centrally and longitudinally of said panels from the free edge of said one flap and terminating in an aperture adjacent said one panel, said one flap having oppositely disposed side slits therein spaced from and on opposite sides of said longitudinal slit, said side slits extending from the free edge of said one flap and into said one panel integral therewith, the portions of the bag adjacent said one flap to either side of said side slits being adapted to be folded on inclined lines to bring the portions of said one flap on opposite sides of said side slits into engagement with said other panel to close one end of the bag except for a central portion thereof forming an opening for the passage of the hook of a hanger, the portions of said one flap between said central slit and each of said side slits being adapted to be individually folded around the shank of the hanger and into engagement with said other panel with one portion overlapping the other portion to seal said one end of the bag around the shank of the hanger, the shank of the hanger being received in said aperture, the other flap being adapted to be folded over into engagement with said one panel to close the other end of the bag.

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