Jan. 25, 1927. 1,615,430

C. H. WOODRUFF

PORTABLE WARDROBE

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Fig. 1.

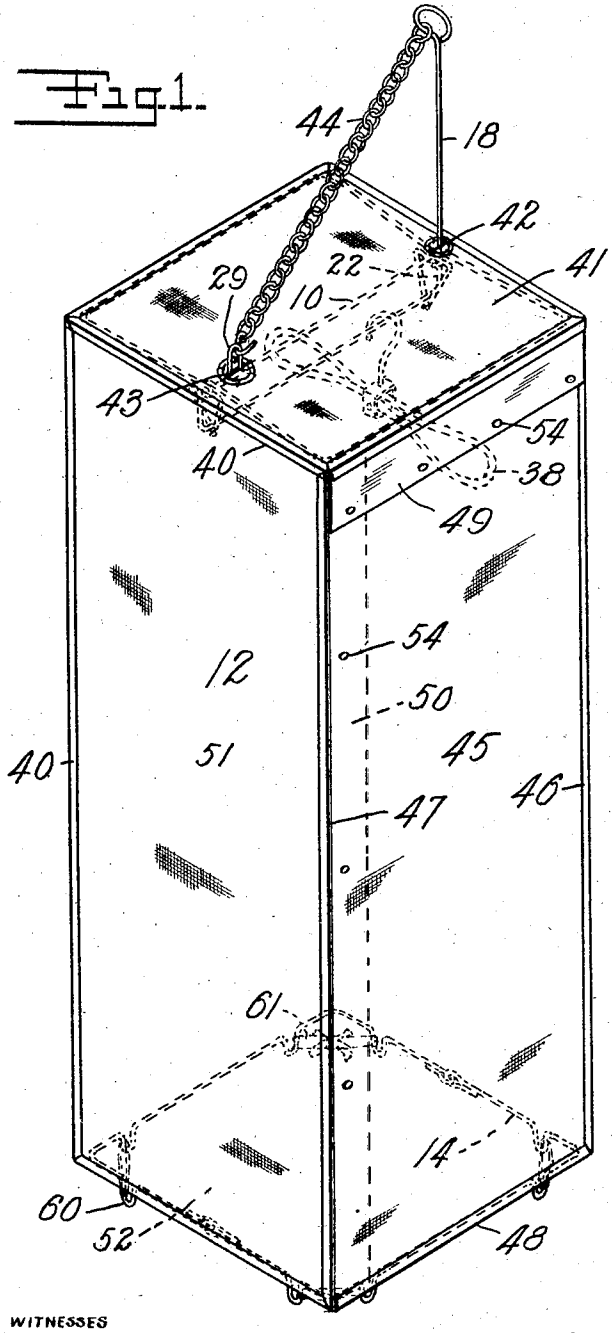
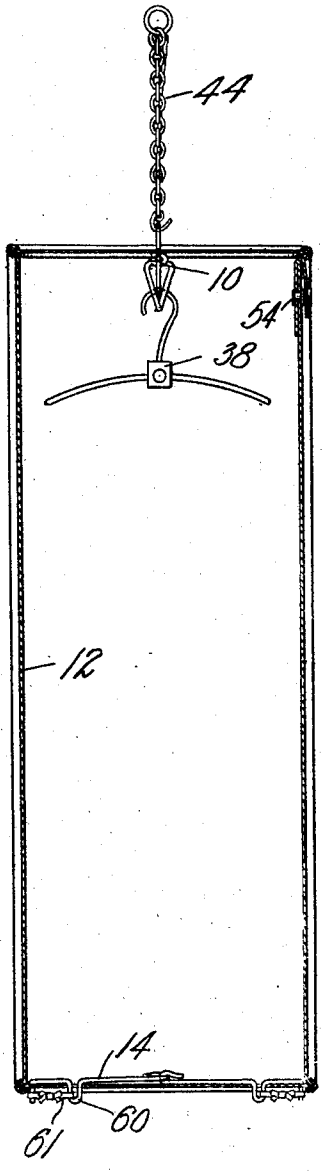



Fig. 2.




WITNESSES

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Fig. 3.

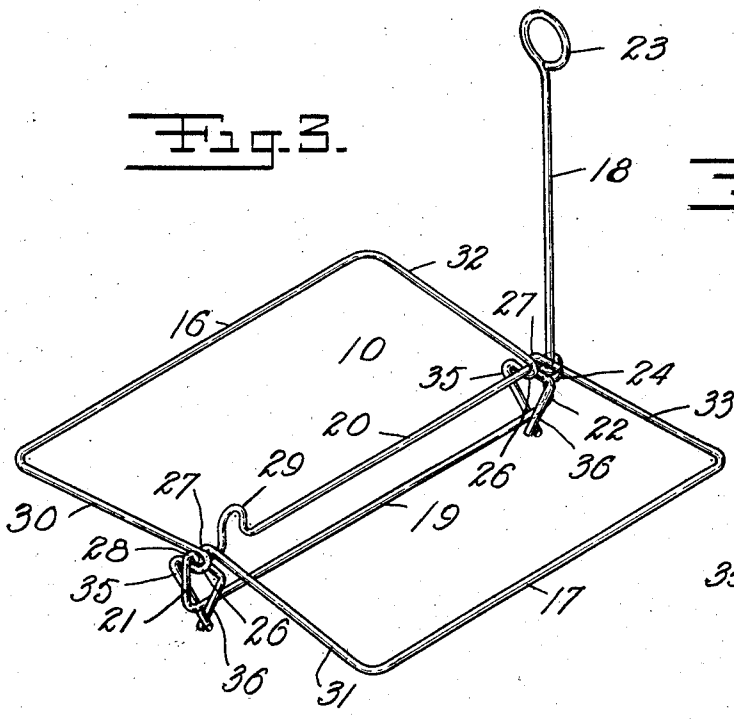



Fig. 4.

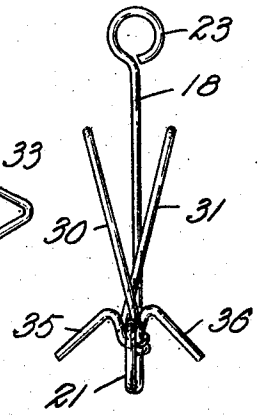



Fig. 5.

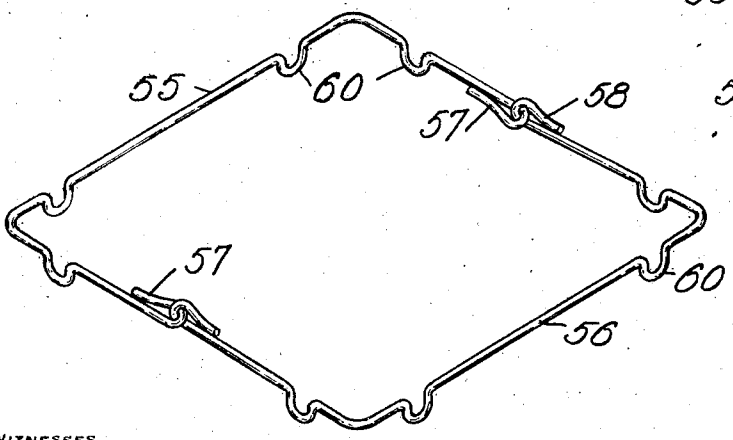
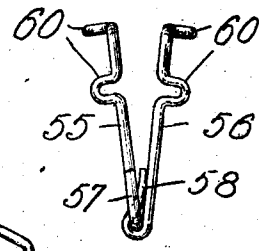



Fig. 6.




WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHRISTINE H. WOODRUFF, OF WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

## PORTABLE WARDROBE.

Application filed December 13, 1923. Serial No. 680,385.

My invention relates to a wardrobe and more particularly to a collapsible and portable device within which a garment may be hung at full length and protected from dust and other sources of injury to the fabric.

A traveller who makes a temporary stop at a mountain camp or the seashore or a city dweller who lodges in close quarters often has difficulty in providing ample facilities for protecting the unused garments, owing partly to a lack of suitable closet space. It also is found that clothing stored for a long time in a closet or hung in the attic for the season of dis-use gathers dust or is attacked by moths or otherwise injured through lack of adequate protection. A partial remedy for such conditions has been found in a specially prepared paper bag within which a single garment may be hung. The disadvantages inherent in such bags are obvious, among which are the easy destructibility of the paper material, the cumbersomeness of the device and the difficulty with which clothing is placed in and removed from the protective covering. Moreover it would not ordinarily be feasible for a traveler to carry such a device nor could it be made to serve as a container for all of one's garments.

It is accordingly the main object of my invention to overcome these difficulties heretofore experienced and to provide a portable and collapsible wardrobe capable of holding a plurality of garments, which is so constructed that its inner space may be closed from the outside atmosphere sufficiently for the ordinary protection of garments stored therein.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a simple device capable of being economically manufactured and easily assembled, which may be collapsed to a small compass and readily extended so as to hold garments of full size suspended therein.

Another object is to provide a device adapted to be hung on a wall which will support a large number of garments suspended in extended condition therein and which will permit easy access to any garment without necessitating removal of other clothing.

A still further object of my invention is to utilize the advantages inherent in a fine fabric and to make a device for storing garments largely of cloth and in the shape of a bag which is so supported on a foldable frame that the fabric may be held in distended position or it may be folded into a small volume for transportation and disuse.

With these and other objects in view, as will be apparent to one skilled in the art, my invention resides in the combination of parts set forth in the specification and covered by the claims appended hereto.

Referring to the drawings in which like reference numerals indicate like parts:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of my garment protector, with concealed parts shown in dotted outlines to indicate more clearly the construction thereof;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section thereof;

Fig. 3 is an isometric view of the upper suspending frame of the device when in extended and operative position;

Fig. 4, is an elevation of the frame when folded;

Fig. 5 is an isometric view of the bottom frame in extended position; and

Fig. 6 is an elevation of the part shown in Fig. 5 when in folded position.

In accordance with my invention, I propose to utilize a cloth bag as a garment protector and portable wardrobe and to provide in combination therewith a supporting framework arranged within the bag for suspending garments therefrom and which is so constructed as to hold the bag walls distended so that they will not cling to the garments. This framework may be employed also for suspending the bag from a wall hook or other suitable device. In my preferred form, the frame is made in two pieces, one serving to support the bag and the garments and the other acting as a weight and a frame to hold the bottom of the bag in shape.

One embodiment of my invention, may comprise a supporting frame member 10 constructed for suspending garments therefrom and arranged to be covered by a suitable collapsible material, such as cloth which is held in distended position thereby. The covering 12 is shaped preferably like a bag so as to form a complete enclosure for garments and in order that this bag or casing, made ordinarily of a soft and finely woven cloth, may be held distended at its lower end, I prefer to employ a second frame 14 which may be separate from the upper bag supporting member 10. By making the two frames separate, I make it feasible to collapse the device with the frames juxtaposed

and the cloth folded, thus getting the device into small compass.

Since the framework of a wardrobe large enough for a number of garments may be too large for convenient handling, I prefer also to make each frame foldable. One simple construction for the upper frame, as shown in Fig. 3, comprises two cloth supporting members 16 and 17 which are hinged centrally of the device so as to fold into half their extended area. These members may be made of metal rods so bent as to form a horizontal frame having a hollow rectangular or other suitable shape, depending on the desired cross sectional shape of the wardrobe. They are supported by a further rod 18 arranged to be hung from a wall, if desired. A cross rod 19, centrally disposed of the frame, serves for suspending garments therefrom.

One convenient manner of fashioning and assembling these parts is to make the members 18 and 19 of one piece, by bending the rod into a substantially rectangular shape to form a vertical frame in which the member 19 and a further cross rod 20 are connected by the side elements 21 and 22, the latter continuing upwardly as the support which has a loop or eye 23 for hanging on a wall hook. The other end 24 of the rod may be twisted around the element 22 to give rigidity to the frame.

The side members 16 and 17 may be hinged so as to fold upwardly to a vertical position and be prevented from moving downwardly below a horizontal position. To this end, I form these members with bends 26 and 27 which hook over the upper rod 20 and may be secured in such position. Two humps 28 and 29 in this rod serve to hold the outer arms 30 and 31 of the frame members properly positioned relative to their support. The opposite side arms 32 and 33 cannot move outwardly because of interference with the vertical rod 18.

The outer ends of the arms 30, 31, 32 and 33 are bent, as illustrated, in a downwardly slanting direction so as to strike the cross rod 19 when the members 16 and 17 are lowered to a horizontal position. Each of these ends 35 and 36 engages the rod 19 on the same side as is the member 16 or 17 to which it is attached so as to permit the latter to be raised.

Clothes hangers 38, which may be of suitable construction, herein illustrated as of the folding type, are to be hung on the cross rod 19, this rod being located below the top of the frame to permit easy access thereto.

Of the various materials which I may employ for the covering of this wardrobe, I prefer a finely woven light weight cloth, such as silk pongee, and this cloth may be treated as desired by chemical or other means to render the fabric waterproof and moth proof or otherwise resistant to conditions which might injure the garments contained within the wardrobe. One suitable form of casing may be made by sewing pieces of cloth into the shape of a rectangular parallelopiped and I bind the edges with tape 40 or other suitable strengthening material.

As illustrated particularly in Fig. 1, the top 41 of this casing is rectangular in shape and arranged to fit smoothly over the frame formed by the members 16 and 17 and the arms which connect them with the central cross rod. A small eyelet or opening 42 is provided for the rod 18 to project upwardly therethrough and the further opening 43 is provided for the loop 29 formed in the cross rod 20. A chain 44 connecting the loop 29 with the ring 23 on the upper end of rod 18 serves to support the frame in a proper position when suspended from a wall hook.

In order to permit access to the interior of the wardrobe and removal of any garment without interference with other garments already suspended therein, I provide a door or closure on the side of the device which is parallel with the cross rod. This closure 45 is preferably made by leaving one side of the casing loose and hinging the cloth at the vertical edge 46. It is arranged to be fastened to the main body at the opposite edge 47 and at its top so as to prevent access of dust to the inner chamber. I prefer that the lower edge 48 be sewed to the bottom so that it will not be necessary to make provision for excluding dust at this portion of the closure.

A flap 49 fastened to the top portion 41 is arranged to overlap the closure 45. Another flap 50 is likewise formed as a part of the vertical end wall 51 of the casing and is fastened to the top 41 and the bottom 52 so as to provide a firm support for fasteners and to form the second wall beneath the edge of the closure 45 to exclude dust.

The closure 45 may be fastened to the adjacent parts of the casing by any suitable means, such as a fastener 54 of the type used on gloves which comprises a socket and a ball shaped projection that will resiliently fit therein. Enough of these fasteners 54 are employed in spaced relationship on the two flaps 49 and 54 and the corresponding edges of the closure 45 to insure that the opening will be adequately closed.

While it is feasible to use the device thus far described, comprising the upper frame work and the cloth casing, I prefer to employ the second framework 14 which will serve as a weight and hold the bottom of the bag or casing properly distended. This member is in turn supported by the bag itself. A simple form of framework for this lower member may comprise, as illustrated in Fig. 5, two rods hinged together

and bent to form a substantially rectangularly shaped frame. These rods 55 and 56 have hooked ends 57 and 58 which are interjoined to form hinges. These are so arranged that the lower frame may be folded preferably in the same direction as the upper frame. That is, a line connecting the hinges in the lower frame is parallel with the upper cross rods. I also prefer that this lower frame be fastened firmly in position in the bottom of the bag or casing, and to this end I provide the frame members 55 and 56 with loops 60 which project downwardly through openings provided in the bottom of the bag. A tape 61 or other suitable appliance is passed through these loops which project on the outside of the wardrobe and thus serves to secure the frame in position and permit its ready removal for washing the fabric covering or otherwise caring for it.

The manner of assembling the device is apparent from the drawings and above description. The upper framework is placed within the bag and the rod 18 and the hump 29 are inserted through the eyelets 42 and 43 prepared for that purpose. Similarly the lower frame is put in position in the bottom of the bag and tied or otherwise secured thereto and then the device is ready either for storage or for use. To obtain access to the interior of the chamber it is merely necessary to unfasten the fasteners 54 which hold the flaps 49 and 50 to the closure 45 and let the latter fall back. When the frame members are folded up they are in the position shown in Figs. 4 and 6, and it will be obvious that in such arrangement they take up but little space. When opened out they are in the relative positions shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

In view of the above disclosure, it will be evident that I have provided a very simple device which may be folded into a small compass and carried in a suitcase with the garments which are to be later protected and yet which may be extended to a large volume capable of holding a considerable amount of clothing. This device may be employed in many ways in caring for clothing. In addition to being of service to the traveller or to one in a temporary lodging, it is found highly useful by the careful housewife who wishes to protect the better garments from dust and the like which may pervade the ordinary closet or clothes press. She may, for example, suspend this portable wardrobe from one of the hooks within a closet already dedicated to the storage of clothing and thereby be enabled to hang fine and costly articles of clothing within this doubly protected space and keep them from being touched by soiled fingers or from contact with other clothing hung in the closet space which may not be entirely immaculate. Other advantages in the use of this device will be apparent.

It will be obvious that various other expedients and constructions may be employed within the scope of my invention to satisfy the functions herein described and it is to be understood that such modifications and equivalents as would be apparent to one skilled in the art are covered by the claims appended hereto.

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

1. A wardrobe comprising a vertical rectangular frame, one side of which is extended to form a hanger therefor, and two oppositely disposed wings hinged to the upper side of the frame and arranged to form a horizontal frame, each wing having an extension which permits it to fold upwardly but is arranged to engage the lower vertical frame member when the wing is horizontal.

2. A wardrobe comprising an upper frame, a lower frame having projecting loops thereon, a fabric casing supported by the upper frame and in turn supporting the lower one, said casing having holes through which the loops of the lower frame project, and a tape threaded through said loops to hold the lower frame in position within the casing.

3. A portable wardrobe comprising a bag having a flap covered opening arranged to permit access to the interior thereof but prevent the admission of dust, a bent wire frame having two connected cross rods, one of which serves for supporting garments within the bag, means associated therewith for suspending the frame from a wall, two separate wires bent to form wings hinged to one of the cross rods and having extensions adapted to permit the wings to fold upwardly or to engage the frame and hold the wings in an extended position to support the bag thereon and a device in the bottom of the bag to hold it distended.

Signed at New York City, New York, this 12th day of December, 1923.

CHRISTINE H. WOODRUFF.