

(19)



(11)

**EP 3 582 659 B1**

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:  
**03.04.2024 Bulletin 2024/14**

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):  
**A47G 25/50 (2006.01) A47G 25/48 (2006.01)**

(21) Application number: **18709721.7**

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):  
**A47G 25/50; A47G 25/48**

(22) Date of filing: **05.02.2018**

(86) International application number:  
**PCT/GB2018/050324**

(87) International publication number:  
**WO 2018/150157 (23.08.2018 Gazette 2018/34)**

(54) **GARMENT HANGER**

KLEIDERBÜGEL

CINTRE À VÊTEMENTS

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**

(30) Priority: **17.02.2017 GB 201702598**

(43) Date of publication of application:  
**25.12.2019 Bulletin 2019/52**

(73) Proprietor: **The Janger Limited**  
**London W1W 5DS (GB)**

(72) Inventors:  
• **TAYLOR, Guy**  
**London, Greater London W1G 8TB (GB)**

• **O'SULLIVAN, Mark**  
**London, Greater London W1G 8TB (GB)**

(74) Representative: **Aldridge, Christopher Simon**  
**Mohun Aldridge Sykes Limited**  
**12 Park Square East**  
**Leeds LS1 2LF (GB)**

(56) References cited:  
**EP-A1- 0 568 452 WO-A1-2004/066792**  
**WO-A2-2011/055959 GB-A- 2 485 391**  
**US-A- 3 270 892 US-A- 5 050 833**

**EP 3 582 659 B1**

Note: Within nine months of the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent in the European Patent Bulletin, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to that patent, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations. Notice of opposition shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

## Description

### Field of the Invention

**[0001]** The invention relates to a hanger, particularly a hanger for hanging garments, bags and/or accessories, and which may be employed in retail stores.

### Background to the Invention

**[0002]** A problem with many existing hanging devices is that if garments are removed from the hanger by customers they often do not rehang the garment properly when reapplying the hanger as many existing hangers are not easy to use to hang the garment properly such that it is neat, tidy and correctly merchandised. However, the hanger needs to be readily removable so that a customer can try on the garment before they purchase it.

**[0003]** Should a customer try on a garment but choose not to purchase it, it takes some time to rehang the garment and when such a process is rushed, the garment is often not folded properly and looks messy. Such a messy appearance can reduce potential sales and damage stock. In some stores, staff can be rehang garments for a considerable period of time each day. Therefore, there is a need to reduce the time taken to rehang a garment.

**[0004]** Whilst hangers have been proposed that connect to a garment through a belt loop and stay connected when tried on, such hangers can be problematic when threaded through a plurality of belt loops or when the hanger needs to be engaged or disengaged quickly. GB2485391A (Mainetti UK Limited) discloses a garment hanger for use with items having a belt loop, with the hanger comprising a closable ring of plastics material. However, the closable ring of plastics material may make the application and removal of garments from the hanger complicated and fiddly, thereby being time-consuming.

### Summary of the Invention

**[0005]** Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a garment hanger as defined by claim 1, and the method of hanging a garment as defined by claim 11.

**[0006]** Preferred embodiments of the invention are defined by the dependent claims.

**[0007]** The garment hanger has a rail engaging portion and a stem, wherein, the stem comprises:

first section extending from the rail engaging portion, a spacer section extending substantially perpendicularly from the first section; and a tail section extending from the spacer section and directed towards the first section and/or the rail engaging portion, wherein the stem forms an open loop with an opening between the end of the tail section and the first section of the stem.

**[0008]** The present invention provides a readily accessible open loop to engage with a loop of material on a garment. Thus, the garment can be readily affixed to, and removed from, the hanger.

**[0009]** The loop is an open loop that is not fixedly connected to, and does not engage with, the stem, thereby allowing opening to be readily accessed to engage or disengage a garment.

**[0010]** A gap is formed between the tail section and the stem.

**[0011]** The rail engaging portion is in the form of a hook having a space for engaging a rail, for example, in a store. The spacer section extends from the first section of the stem in a direction that is non-parallel to the span of the rail engaging portion. This allows the garments to lay in a direction that is not perpendicular with the span of the rail engaging portion, thereby reducing the space taken up by the hung garment.

**[0012]** Advantageously, the spacer section is substantially flat, or planar, and it may be an extended or an elongate portion on which the garment can rest, when in use. This provides a convenient location for the loop of a garment to rest and the spacer is of sufficient length to allow the loop of material of the garment to lay flat, thereby not deforming the loop when the garment is on the hanger. Thus, the length of the flat section of the spacer on which the garment loop may rest may be more than 5mm in length to accommodate, for example, a belt loop.

**[0013]** In a preferred embodiment, the opening of the loop is positioned substantially above the spacer section, when the hanger is allowed to rest, or fall, in its natural hanging position. In such an arrangement, the opening is arranged in a linear position opposite the spacer section. Thus, in use, when the rail engagement section engages a rail, the weight of the garment results in the spacer section being at the lowest point and the opening is arranged between the spacer and the rail. This aids with retaining the garment on the hanger, when in use on a rail, because the weight of the garment pulls the garment away from the opening, or gap, making it less likely to become disengaged.

**[0014]** It is advantageous that the opening between the tail section and the first section of the stem is less than half of the length of the spacer section and, particularly advantageous where the opening is less than a quarter of the length of the spacer section. Such a relationship reduces the risk of the garment disengaging from the hanger.

**[0015]** Preferably, a tail flange is provided on the tail section and that extends in a direction away from the stem and the spacer section. The tail flange is employed to provide a guide, or to create a funnel section, to guide garments into the open loop of the stem section more readily. This reduces the precision required by a user when affixing the hanger and they can simply slide the garment loop close to the hanger and the tail flange will guide the garment loop into the opening of the hanger. The apex between the tail flange and the tail section may

be sufficiently close to the first section of the stem that it forms a small gap that makes it difficult for a garment to disengage without manual manipulation. Where that is the case, due to the angles formed in the stem, a user is able to readily manipulate the garment towards the gap and the material is able to elastically deform to allow the garment onto or off the hanger with minimal effort.

**[0016]** In an advantageous arrangement, the width of the stem is less than the bight of the rail engaging section and it is also advantageous where the width of stem is substantially uniform or it may narrow, or taper, towards the tail section. These arrangements allow the hanger to be more easily applied to a garment.

**[0017]** The hanger is, preferably, a garment hanger, although it may be used on accessories or bags.

**[0018]** Herein described is a garment hanger assembly comprising:

a garment hanger as described herein and provided with an aperture therein; and  
connection means;  
wherein a loop of the garment engages the loop of the hanger and the connection means passes through the aperture in the garment hanger and engages the garment.

**[0019]** The use of an aperture in the hanger and connection means, for example, a string, chain or kimble, allows for the hanger to be connected independently to the garment. This results in the garment being able to be supported on a rail by the hanger and then the hanger being connected via the connection means to the garment. Thus, the garment can be disengaged from the hanger whilst still being connected thereto, thereby reducing the risk of the hanger being incorrectly applied to another garment.

**[0020]** The hanger may be provided with one or more sections to which a sizer and/or a label may be applied. For example, a sizer, which indicates the size of a garment, may be clipped to the rail engaging portion, the stem or the tail. Additionally, or alternatively, a larger section or flange may be provided, for example between the rail engaging portion and the stem, to which a sticker, label or other item may be applied. The sizer, if used, may attach to the label section, if present.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

**[0021]** An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagram showing a front view of a hanger in accordance with the present invention;  
Figure 2 is a perspective view of the hanger of Figure 1;  
Figure 3 is a side view of the hanger of Figure 1; and  
Figure 4 shows the hanger of Figure 1 in use.

#### Detailed Description of Exemplary Embodiments

**[0022]** Figures 1 to 4 show a hanger 10 for hanging a garment on a rail, comprising a rail engaging portion in the form of a hook 12, and a stem 14. The stem 14 extends substantially parallel and/or planarly with the plane of the bight, or span, of the hook 12.

**[0023]** The stem 14 has a lower end 16, which is connected to a first end of a planar elongate spacer section 18 that extends rearwardly from the stem, that is, substantially orthogonally behind the plane of the span of the hook 12, to create a "shelf". The other end of the spacer section 18 is connected to a first end of a tail section 20 that extends in a direction towards the first section 16 and/or the hook 12 to create a substantially triangular open loop with a gap opposite the spacer section 18. The second end of the tail section 20 is provided with a tail flange 22 that extends away from the first section 16.

**[0024]** The internal angle A between the first section 16 and the spacer section 18 is substantially 90 degrees. The angle B between the spacer section 18 and the tail section 20 is less than 90 degrees. The angle C between the tail section 20 and the tail flange 22 is substantially between 30 and 120 degrees. This creates a substantially triangular open loop having a gap G between the second end of the tail section 20 and the first section 16 and arranged above the spacer section 18, the width of the gap being less than the length S of the spacer section 18.

**[0025]** The hanger 10 is constructed from a resiliently yieldable material so that it can elastically deform to allow a loop of a garment to pass through the gap G. That yieldable material may be, inter alia, plastics material or metal. The parts of the hanger below the hooks are substantially fixed relative to one another so that the hanger holds its shape and is relatively rigid, albeit that it can elastically flex, when required.

**[0026]** In use, one or a plurality of loops 28 of a garment 30 are fed onto the hanger 10. This is achieved by pushing the, or each, loop through the gap G. When the loop is thicker than the gap G, the hanger elastically yields in order to allow the loop into the triangular open loop formed by the stem 14. Because gap G elastically returns to its original size, the loops are held on the hanger and have a low chance of passive disengaging therefrom. The garment can be hung on a rail 32 via hook 12.

**[0027]** The tail flange 22 helps to guide the loop of the garment into the gap G by forming a secondary, guide wall that converges on the gap G. The tail flange 22 can also be used to open the gap G wider by putting pressure on the tail flange 22, for example by using a thumb, thereby allowing a user to more easily attach the garment to, or remove the garment from, the hanger 10.

**[0028]** Hook 12 has a span, or bight, H intended to engage a garment display rail 32 and the width of the stem 14 and parts connected thereto may be less than that of the span H. Additionally, the width of the stem is, preferably, uniform.

**[0029]** The spacer section 18 is substantially flat, but could be curved convexly or concavely on one or both sides (internal and/or external to the loop), if required.

**[0030]** The tail section extends towards the first section to create a substantially triangular-shaped open loop with an aperture therein positioned adjacent the stem.

**[0031]** The second end of the tail section is not fixedly attached to the first section, thus, even if the second end of the tail section was to touch the first section of the stem, it is still an open loop that can be readily enlarged to engage or disengage the hanger from a garment.

**[0032]** The hanger may be provided with an aperture in it, for example in the stem, possibly at the first section 16, through which retaining means may pass. The retaining means, which may be in the form of a loop, string, chain, tie, kimble tag or other flexible member, can be employed to attach the hanger to the garment independently from the tail section. One way in which this may be enabled is to pass the retaining means through a loop of the garment and through the aperture of the hanger or to puncture the garment with the retaining means and also passing the retaining means through the hole. Thus, even if the garment is removed from the hanger, the hanger is still attached to the garment via the attachment means.

**[0033]** The hanger may comprise a body section between the rail engaging portion and the stem, wherein the body is shaped to allow for the application of a label or other information.

**[0034]** A "garment" is generally considered to be an item of clothing that may be worn by a person. Therefore, it may include, but is not limited to, trousers, shorts, jeans, skirts, jackets, jumpers or shirts. Accessories, such as hats, sunglasses, bags and belts are not considered to be garments, although the hanger may, in some circumstances be employed on these items.

## Claims

### 1. A garment hanger (10) comprising:

a rail engaging portion in the form of a rail engaging hook (12); and  
 a stem (14), wherein, the stem (14) comprises a first section (16) extending from the rail engaging portion (12),  
 a spacer section (18) extending rearwardly from the stem (14) in a direction that is non-parallel to the span of the rail engaging hook (12); and  
 a tail section (20) extending from the spacer section (18) and directed towards the first section (16),  
 wherein an open loop is formed with an opening (G) between the end of the tail section (20) and the first section (16) of the stem (14); and  
 wherein the stem (14) comprises a material that is able to elastically deform to allow a garment

onto or off the open loop of the hanger.

2. A garment hanger (10) according to claim 1, wherein the spacer section (18) extends in a direction substantially perpendicularly from the stem (14).
3. A garment hanger (10) according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the spacer section (18) is substantially flat.
4. A garment hanger (10) according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the spacer section (18) is curved.
5. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein a tail flange (22) is provided on the tail section (20) and that tail flange (22) extends in a direction away from the stem (14) and the spacer section (18).
6. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein the opening (G) is positioned above the spacer section (18).
7. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein the opening (G) between the tail section (20) and the first section (16) of the stem (14) is less than half of the length of the spacer section (18).
8. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein the width of the of the stem (14) is less than the bight of the rail engaging section (12).
9. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein the width of stem (14) is substantially uniform.
10. A garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim, wherein the opening (G) comprises gap (G) that is formed between the tail section (20) and the stem (14) and wherein the hanger (10) is wholly constructed from a resiliently yieldable material so that it can elastically deform to allow a loop (28) of a garment (30) to pass through the gap (G).
11. A method of hanging a garment (30), comprising the steps of:
  - providing a garment hanger (10) according to any preceding claim;
  - feeding one or a plurality of loops (28) of a garment (30) onto the garment hanger (10).
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the garment hanger (10) is hung on a rail (32) via the rail engaging hook (12).
13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the one or a plurality of loops (28) on the garment (30) is a belt

loop.

14. A garment hanger (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 10, or a method according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the material enabling the garment hanger to elastically deform is a plastics material.

#### Patentansprüche

1. Kleiderbügel (10), umfassend:

einen Schieneneingriffsteil in der Form eines Schieneneingriffshakens (12); und einen Schaft (14), wobei der Schaft (14) einen ersten Abschnitt (16) umfasst, der sich von dem Schieneneingriffsteil (12) erstreckt, einen Abstandsabschnitt (18), der sich nach hinten von dem Schaft (14) in einer Richtung erstreckt, die nicht parallel zu der Spannweite des Schieneneingriffshakens (12) ist; und einen Endabschnitt (20), der sich von dem Abstandsabschnitt (18) erstreckt und zu dem ersten Abschnitt (16) gerichtet ist, wobei eine offene Schlaufe mit einer Öffnung (G) zwischen dem Ende des Endabschnittes (20) und dem ersten Abschnitt (16) des Schafts (14) gebildet ist; und wobei der Schaft (14) ein Material umfasst, das in der Lage ist, sich elastisch zu verformen, um zu ermöglichen, dass ein Kleidungsstück auf die offene Schlaufe des Bügels oder davon abgenommen wird.

2. Kleiderbügel (10) nach Anspruch 1, wobei sich der Abstandsabschnitt (18) in einer Richtung im Wesentlichen senkrecht von dem Schaft (14) erstreckt.
3. Kleiderbügel (10) nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei der Abstandsabschnitt (18) im Wesentlichen flach ist.
4. Kleiderbügel (10) nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei der Abstandsabschnitt (18) gekrümmt ist.
5. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei ein Endflansch (22) an dem Endabschnitt (20) bereitgestellt ist und sich dieser Endflansch (22) in einer Richtung weg von dem Schaft (14) und dem Abstandsabschnitt (18) erstreckt.
6. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei die Öffnung (G) über dem Abstandsabschnitt (18) positioniert ist.
7. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei die Öffnung (G) zwischen dem En-

dabschnitt (20) und dem ersten Abschnitt (16) des Schafts (14) weniger als die Hälfte der Länge des Abstandsabschnittes (18) ist.

8. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei die Breite des Schafts (14) weniger als die Biegung des Schieneneingriffsabschnittes (12) ist.
9. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei die Breite des Schafts (14) im Wesentlichen gleichmäßig ist.
10. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch, wobei die Öffnung (G) Spalt (G) umfasst, der zwischen dem Endabschnitt (20) und dem Schaft (14) gebildet ist, und wobei der Bügel (10) vollständig aus einem elastisch nachgiebigen Material hergestellt ist, sodass es sich elastisch verformen kann, um zu ermöglichen, dass eine Schlaufe (28) eines Kleidungsstücks (30) durch den Spalt (G) hindurchgeht.
11. Verfahren zum Aufhängen eines Kleidungsstücks (30), umfassend die folgenden Schritte
- Bereitstellen eines Kleiderbügels (10) nach einem vorhergehenden Anspruch;  
Zuführen von einer oder einer Vielzahl von Schlaufen (28) eines Kleidungsstücks (30) auf den Kleiderbügel (10).
12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei der Kleiderbügel (10) an einer Schiene (32) über den Schieneneingriffshaken (12) aufgehängt ist.
13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei die eine oder eine Vielzahl von Schlaufen (28) an dem Kleidungsstück (30) eine Gürtelschlaufe ist.
14. Kleiderbügel (10) nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 10 oder Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 13, wobei das Material, das ermöglicht, dass sich der Kleiderbügel elastisch verformt, ein Kunststoffmaterial ist.

#### Revendications

1. Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) comprenant :
- une partie de mise en prise avec un rail sous la forme d'un crochet de mise en prise avec un rail (12) ; et  
une tige (14), ladite tige (14) comprenant une première section (16) s'étendant à partir de la partie de mise en prise avec un rail (12),

- une section d'espacement (18) s'étendant vers l'arrière à partir de la tige (14) dans une direction qui n'est pas parallèle à l'envergure du crochet de mise en prise avec un rail (12) ; et  
une section de queue (20) s'étendant à partir de la section d'espacement (18) et dirigée vers la première section (16),  
une boucle ouverte étant formée avec une ouverture (G) entre l'extrémité de la section de queue (20) et la première section (16) de la tige (14) ; et  
ladite tige (14) comprenant un matériau qui est capable de se déformer élastiquement pour permettre à un vêtement d'être monté sur la boucle ouverte du dispositif de suspension de vêtement ou d'être retiré de celle-ci.
- 2.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon la revendication 1, ladite section d'espacement (18) s'étendant dans une direction de manière sensiblement perpendiculaire à partir de la tige (14).
- 3.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, ladite section d'espacement (18) étant sensiblement plate.
- 4.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, ladite section d'espacement (18) étant incurvée.
- 5.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, un rebord de queue (22) étant prévue sur la section de queue (20) et ce rebord de queue (22) s'étendant dans une direction opposée à la tige (14) et à la section d'espacement (18).
- 6.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, ladite ouverture (G) étant positionnée au-dessus de la section d'espacement (18).
- 7.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, ladite ouverture (G) entre la section de queue (20) et la première section (16) de la tige (14) étant inférieure à la moitié de la longueur de la section d'espacement (18).
- 8.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, ladite largeur de la tige (14) étant inférieure à l'anse de la section de mise en prise avec le rail (12).
- 9.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, ladite largeur de la tige (14) étant sensiblement uniforme.
- 10.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente, ladite ouverture (G) comprenant un espace (G) qui est formé entre la section de queue (20) et la tige (14) et ledit dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) étant entièrement construit à partir de un matériau élastiquement déformable afin qu'il puisse se déformer élastiquement pour permettre à une boucle (28) d'un vêtement (30) de passer à travers l'espace (G).
- 11.** Procédé de suspension d'un vêtement (30), comprenant les étapes de :
- fourniture d'un dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon une quelconque revendication précédente ;  
introduction d'une ou d'une pluralité de boucles (28) d'un vêtement (30) sur le dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10).
- 12.** Procédé selon la revendication 11, ledit dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) étant suspendu à un rail (32) par l'intermédiaire du crochet de mise en prise avec un rail (12).
- 13.** Procédé selon la revendication 11, ladite ou ladite pluralité de boucles (28) sur le vêtement (30) étant une boucle de ceinture.
- 14.** Dispositif de suspension de vêtement (10) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 10, ou procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 13, ledit matériau permettant au dispositif de suspension de vêtement de se déformer élastiquement étant un matériau plastique.

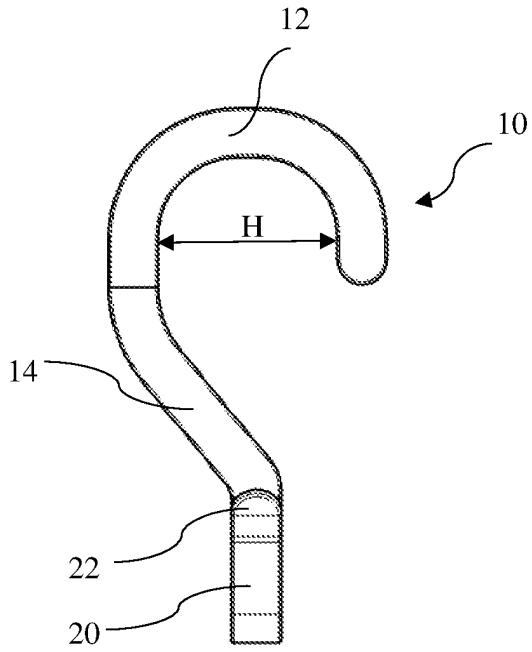


Fig. 1

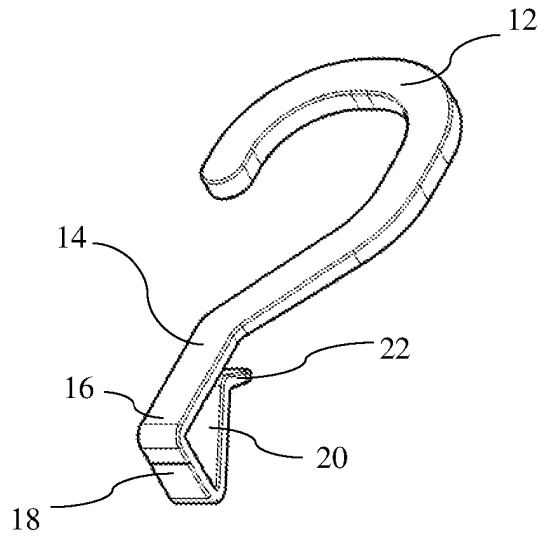


Fig. 2

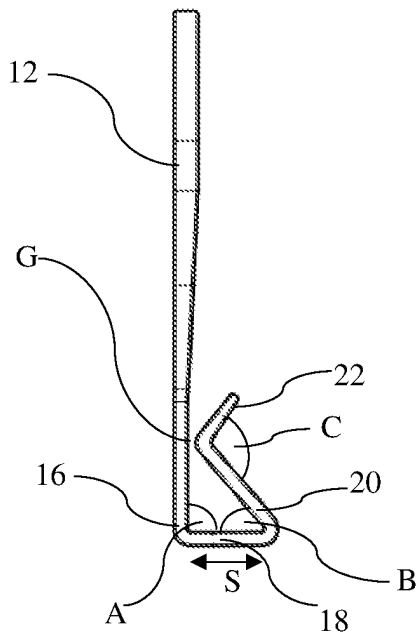


Fig. 3

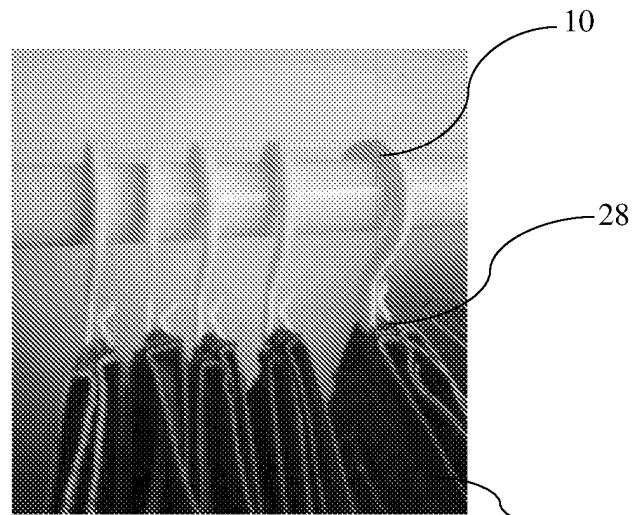


Fig. 4

**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

*This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.*

**Patent documents cited in the description**

- GB 2485391 A [0004]