Oct. 3, 1961 R. ALBRIGHT 3,002,662

CLOTHES HANGER

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Fig. 1.

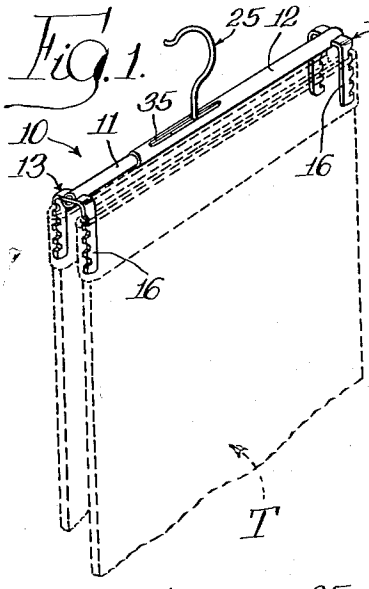


Fig. 2.

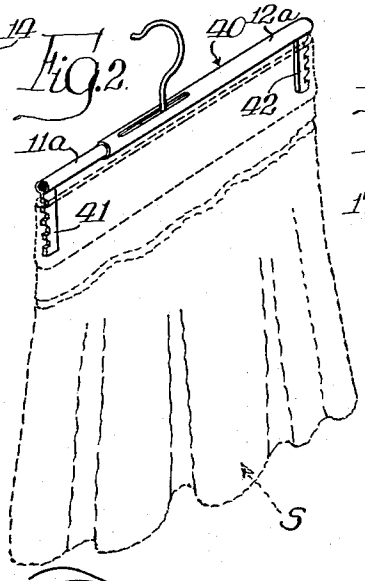


Fig. 3.

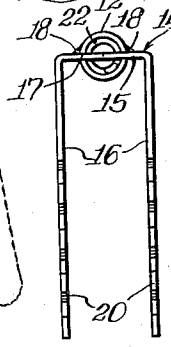


Fig. 4.

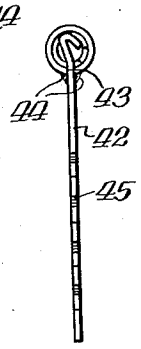
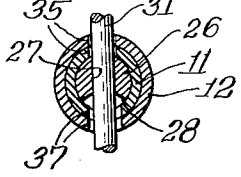


Fig. 9.



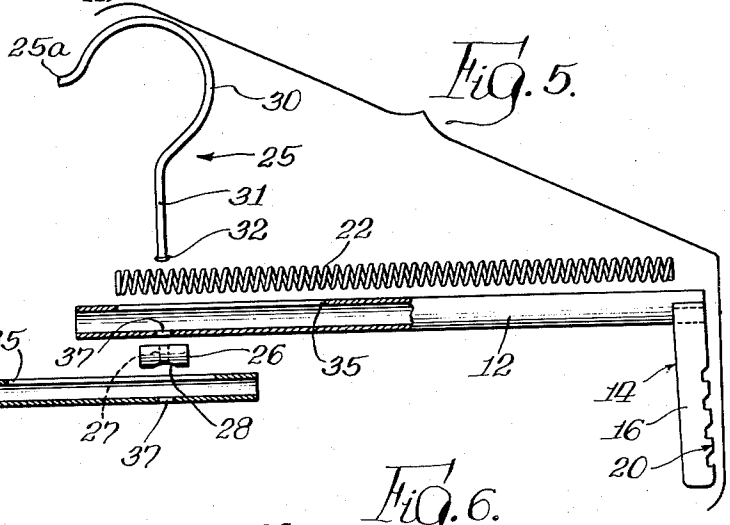


Fig. 6.

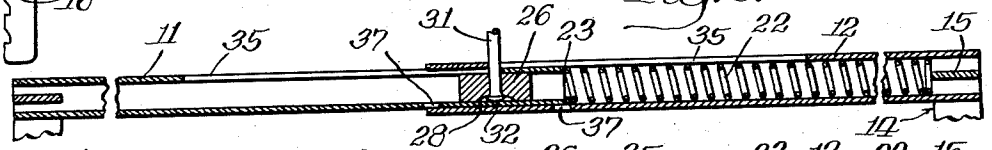


Fig. 7.

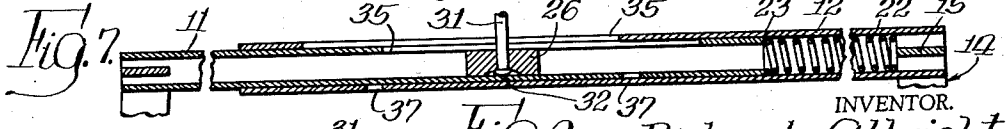
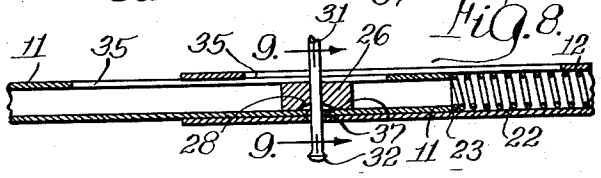


Fig. 8.



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CLOTHES HANGER

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Fig. 10.

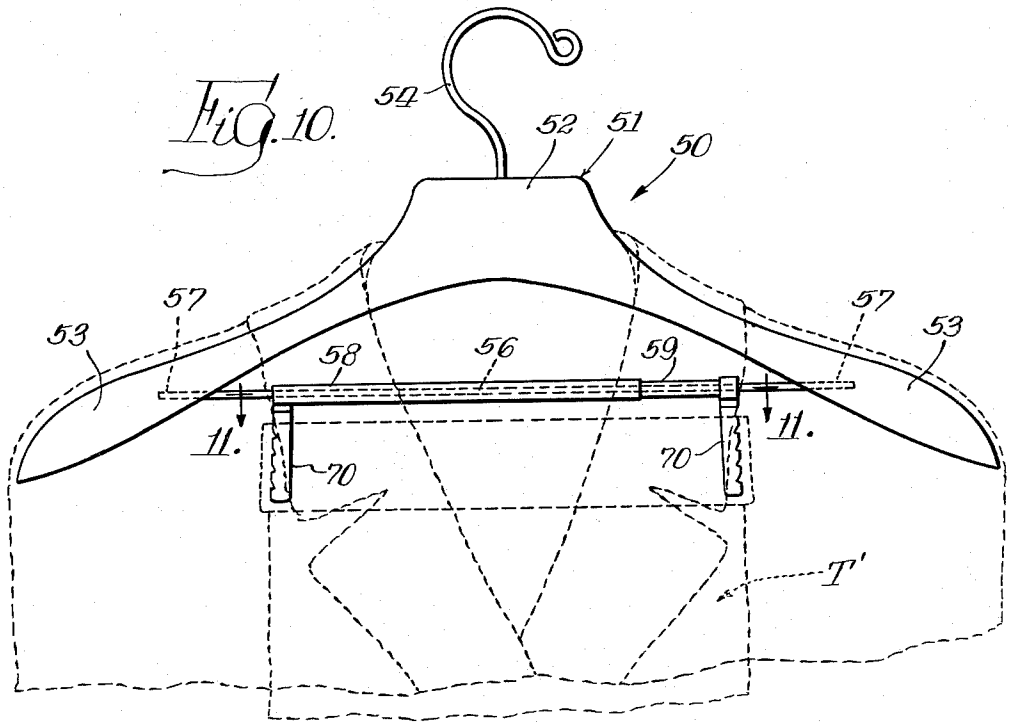


Fig. 11.

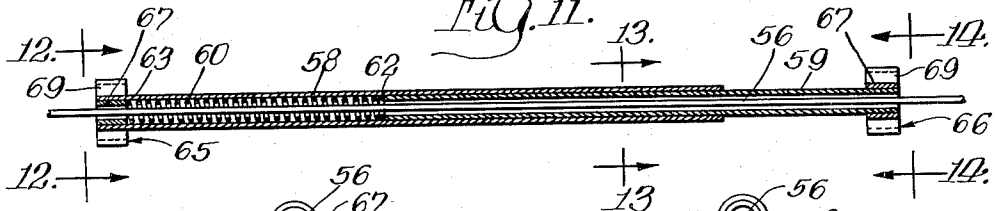


Fig. 12.

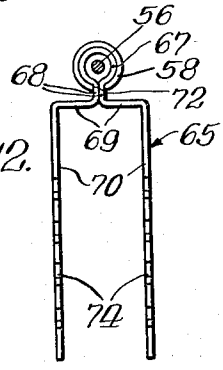


Fig. 13.

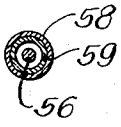
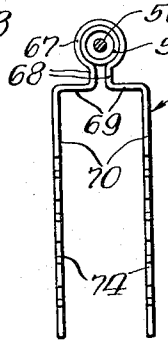


Fig. 14.



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3,002,662

CLOTHES HANGER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—95)

This invention relates to clothes hangers and more particularly to hangers for skirts, trousers, and the like, which include telescoping tubular elements each having skirt or trouser engaging means at the outer end adapted to fit inside skirts at the waistband and inside trouser legs at the cuff, thereby to hang the skirt or trousers.

It is a general object of the invention to provide new and improved hangers of the type described.

A more specific object is to provide a novel assembly of elements providing a new and improved hanger of the character mentioned of adjustable length to hold skirts or trousers of various sizes, and having a hanger hook which is adjustable to center the same lengthwise of the hanger so that the body of the hanger is substantially balanced about the hook.

Another object is to provide a new and improved combination hanger including a shaped form or support for coats, jackets and the like and adjustable telescoping skirt or trouser hanging elements.

Other features and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention in the form of a hanger for trousers or the like;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view illustrating another embodiment of the hanger especially adapted for skirts or the like;

FIG. 3 is an end elevational view of the hanger illustrated in FIG. 1, taken from the right end as viewed in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an end elevational view of the hanger illustrated in FIG. 2 taken from the right end as viewed in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is an exploded front elevational view, partly broken away and in section, illustrating the parts of the trouser hanger in unassembled condition;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view along the longitudinal axis of the trouser hanger, with the telescoping tubular elements in fully extended positions;;

FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 6, with the telescoping tubular elements contracted to a typical position for hanging trousers;

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary view similar to FIGS. 6 and 7, with the parts positioned as they would be during assembly;

FIG. 9 is an enlarged transverse sectional view taken at about the line 9—9 of FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is a front elevational view of a combination hanger for jackets or the like and for trousers or the like;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged longitudinal sectional view taken at about the line 11—11 of FIG. 10;

FIG. 12 is an enlarged and elevational view of the trouser hanger, taken from the left end at about the line 12—12 of FIG. 11;

FIG. 13 is a transverse sectional view taken at about the line 13—13 of FIG. 11; and

FIG. 14 is a right end elevational view of the trouser hanger, taken at about the line 14—14 of FIG. 11.

Referring now to the drawings in a general way, in a preferred embodiment as illustrated in FIGS. 1–9, for hanging either skirts or trousers, the hanger includes a pair of telescoping tubular members each carrying at its outer end one or more serrated or toothed gripper

members for engaging the inner band of a piece of clothing. Preferably, the telescoping tubular elements are spring urged toward extended positions so that when the toothed gripper members are properly inserted in the waist band of a skirt or in the lower, cuff ends of trouser legs at the creases, the skirt or trousers will be tightly gripped and strongly held to hang from the grippers in the fashion illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. The tubular telescoping elements carry a hanger hook which is slidable longitudinally of the hanger to enable a centering of the hook and a substantial balancing of the hanger and clothing thereon about the hook. As will appear, a principal advantage of the present invention resides in the manner of assembling the hanger hook with the telescoping tubular elements. Assembly is facilitated by the novel construction and arrangement of hanger parts which are retained in assembled condition solely by the parts themselves and without the need for independent securing or holding means such as bolts, screws, welding and the like.

Referring now to the drawings, in more detail, a trouser hanger 10 illustrated in FIGS. 1, 3 and 5–9 includes a pair of telescoping tubular members 11 and 12 each carrying at its outer end a trouser engaging element as at 13 and 14. The trouser engaging elements 13 and 14 are similar in all respects except that one is secured to the inner or smaller tubular element 11 while the other is secured to the outer or larger tubular element 12. In a preferred form, each comprises a strip of metal bent into an inverted U-shape, as seen best in FIG. 3, and includes a transverse central portion 15 and depending leg portions 16. The elements 13 and 14 are suitably secured respectively to the tubular elements as by inserting the transverse central portion 15 in a slot in the end of the tubular elements as illustrated at 17 in FIG. 3, after which the tubular element and the trouser engaging element are welded together as at 18 or otherwise suitably joined. The depending leg portions 16 are formed at the outwardly facing edges with teeth or serrations as illustrated at 20 to bite or dig softly but firmly into the trouser legs at the cuffs to insure that the trousers T will be securely held when hung.

As best seen in FIGS. 5–8, the telescoping elements 11 and 12 are urged apart toward a fully extended position by a coiled spring 22 which is fitted in the larger, outer tubular element 12. The inner end of the spring 22 bears against the inner end of the tubular element 11 as at 23 and the outer end of the spring bears against the transverse central portion 15 of the trouser engaging element 14. By virtue of this arrangement, the telescoping tubular elements are adjustable over a wide range to fit trouser legs of various dimensions, yet over the entire range the trouser engaging elements 13 and 14 are yieldable to permit contraction of the telescoping elements for insertion into the trouser leg after which the trouser engaging elements are tigthly held in the trouser legs to support the trouser.

In order to support a hanger hook such as that illustrated at 25, a cylindrical plug-like member 26 is slidable in the smaller tubular element 11, and includes a centrally located transversely extending aperture as at 27 which opens at the lower side of the member 26 to an enlarged pocket or recess 28, the purpose of which will appear presently.

As best seen in FIG. 5, the hanger hook 25 includes an open, hook-shaped portion 30 of a conventional nature adapted to fit over a bar or rod such as those usually found in clothes closets, and a lower, substantially straight shank 31 terminating at its lower end in an enlarged head 32.

As will be understood on viewing FIGS. 6–9, the shank 31 is receivable in the aperture 27 in the plug

member **26**, and the head **32** at the end of the shank is receivable in the recess **28** in the plug **26**. In this fashion, the shank is effectively retained in the plug member **26** and the plug, with the shank, is slidable longitudinally in the inner tubular element **11**.

Each of the tubular elements **11** and **12** is formed near its inner end with a longitudinally extending slot through the top thereof as at **35**. When the hanger is assembled, the slots **35** overlie each other, at least for a portion of their lengths, and the axis of the aperture **27** in the plug **26** is aligned with the slots **35** so that the shank **31** of the hook extends upwardly from the plug **36** through the slots **35** as illustrated in FIGS. 6–9.

The tubular elements are slidable relative to the hook, and are normally urged outwardly to a fully extended position illustrated in FIG. 6 wherein the closures at the outer ends of slots **35** engage opposite sides of the shank **31** to prevent the tubular elements coming apart. From the extended position of FIG. 6, the tubular elements may be closed toward a position such as that illustrated in FIG. 7 enabling insertion and retention of the hanger in trouser legs. In the position illustrated in FIG. 7, it will be understood that the plug **26** and the hook **31** are movable longitudinally of the assembly to position the hook centrally of the hanger length thereby to balance the hanger and the trousers about the hook.

In order to facilitate assembly of the hanger elements, each of the tubular elements **11** and **12** includes an aperture therethrough as at **37** diametrically opposite the slot **35**, and the aperture has a sufficient size to pass the entire length of the hook **25** including the hook-shaped portion **30**, the shank **31** and the head **32**. Thus, when the tubular elements **11** and **12** are positioned to align the apertures **37** as illustrated in FIG. 8, and the plug **26** is positioned to align the aperture **27** with the apertures **37** as seen in FIG. 8, the hook **25** may be inserted, end **25***a* first, through the apertures **37**, the aperture **27** and the slots **35**, and moved to a position where the head **32** passes through the apertures **37** and into the tubular element **11** as seen in FIGS. 6 and 7. While the aperture **27** in the plug **26** is sufficiently large to pass the hook and shank portions **30** and **31**, it will not pass the head **32** of the shank, and accordingly the hook will be retained in position with the head **32** seated in the recess **28**.

It will be appreciated that the construction illustrated facilitates assembly of the hanger parts and retention of these parts in a similar condition without the need for independent securing or retaining means.

In the embodiment of FIGS. 2 and 4, the hanger **40** is especially adapted for hanging a skirt as illustrated in broken lines at S and may be identical in all respects with the hanger previously described, except that the telescoping tubular elements **11***a* and **12***a* include skirt engaging elements **41** and **42** which differ from the trouser engaging elements **13** and **14** of FIG. 1 in that the former each comprises a single depending strip of metal or the like inserted in a slot as at **43** after which the skirt engaging element may be suitably secured to the tubular element as by welding illustrated at **44**. As in the case of the trouser engaging elements, the skirt engaging elements are each preferably formed at the outer edge with serrations or teeth as at **45** to firmly grip the waistband of a skirt or the like.

A combination hanger generally designated **50** in FIGS. 10–14 includes a shaped form or support **51** which will be recognized as a conventional type for hanging a coat or jacket. The support **51** includes a central portion **52** and laterally and downwardly extending side portions **53**. In the top of the central portion **52**, a hook **54** is suitably secured for suspending the hanger from a rod or the like.

In order to hang trousers, skirts and the like (trousers T' as illustrated) a transverse rod **56** has opposite ends secured in the side portions **53** as at **57**. On the rod **53**,

a pair of telescoping tubular members **58** and **59** are slidable, and urged apart to extended positions by means of a coil spring **60** fitted in the larger tubular element **58** and bearing at opposite ends against the tubular element **59** as at **62** and the tubular element **58** as at **63**. Each of the tubular elements is provided at its outer end with a trouser engaging element as illustrated at **65** and **66**.

The trouser engaging elements **65** and **66** are similar in construction, one being attached to the tubular element **58** and the other to the tubular element **59**. Each comprises a central tubular mounting portion **67**, best seen in FIGS. 12 and 14, depending neck portions **68**, laterally extending central portions **69** and depending leg portions **70**. In the case of the trouser engaging element **65**, the tubular mounting portion **67** is inserted inside the larger tubular element **58** (FIG. 12), and the two are suitably held together as by a press fit or by welding if desired so that the trouser engaging element is firmly joined to the tubular element. The depending neck portions **68** of the trouser engaging element **67** pass through a suitable slot **72** in the bottom of the tubular element **58**. In the case of the trouser engaging element **66**, the tubular mounting portion **67** is fitted on the smaller tubular element **59** and the two are suitably joined together as by a press fit or welding so that the trouser engaging element is firmly secured to the tubular element. As in the construction previously described, the depending leg portions of the trouser engaging elements are each preferably formed with teeth or serrations **74** at the outer edge to securely grip the trouser legs.

Although the hanger of FIGS. 10–14 is shown as a trouser hanger for purpose of illustration, it will be appreciated that it may be utilized as a skirt hanger or provided with a single leg **70** at each end for use only with skirts.

While I have shown and described certain embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that it is capable of many modifications. Changes, therefore, in the construction and arrangement may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A hanger, comprising, a pair of tubular telescoping elements, each having gripper means thereon at the outer end for engaging the inner band of a piece of clothing, means for retaining the tubular elements in expanded positions with said gripper means engaging the inner band of a piece of clothing thereby to hang the clothing, a hanger hook having an upper hook-shaped portion and a lower shank portion with an enlarged head at the lower end thereof, an inner plug element slidable in the inner tubular element for carrying the hanger hook, each tubular element having a longitudinally extending slot through the top thereof for passing the hanger hook and an aperture through the bottom thereof opposite the slot therein and of a size to pass said head, said inner plug element having an aperture therethrough of a size to pass the hook except the head and having a recess for housing said head, whereby the slots and apertures in the tubular elements are alignable with the aperture in the plug element to enable insertion of the hook, hook-shaped portion first, through the tubular element apertures, the plug element aperture and the tubular element slots to engage said head in said recess.

2. A hanger as defined in claim 1, wherein said gripper means comprises a vertically disposed member on the outer end of each tubular element having teeth at the outer edge to engage the waistband of a skirt or the like.

3. A hanger as defined in claim 1, wherein said gripper means comprises a pair of parallel vertically disposed members on the outer end of each tubular element each having teeth at the outer edge to engage trouser legs at the cuffs.

4. A hanger comprising, a pair of tubular telescoping elements, each having gripper means thereon at the outer

end for engaging the inner band of a piece of clothing, a coiled spring in the larger tubular element having opposite ends respectively acting against the tubular elements to urge the same toward expanded positions and maintain the gripper means tightly in engagement with the inner band of a piece of clothing thereby to hang the clothing, a hanger hook having an upper hook shaped portion and a lower shank portion with an enlarged head at the lower end thereof, a cylindrical plug slidable in the inner tubular element for carrying the hanger hook, each tubular element having a closed longitudinally extending slot through the top thereof for passing the hanger hook and an aperture through the bottom thereof diametrically opposite the slot therein and of a size to pass said head, said plug having a transverse aperture therethrough of a size to pass the hook except the head and having a recess at the lower end of the aperture for housing said head, whereby the slots and apertures in the tubular elements are alignable with the aperture in the plug to enable insertion of the hook, hook-shaped portion first, through the tubular element apertures, the plug aperture and the tubular element slots to engage said head in said recess.

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