Sept. 17, 1968 S. E. LANE 3,401,853

GARMENT HANGER ATTACHMENT

Filed March 20, 1967

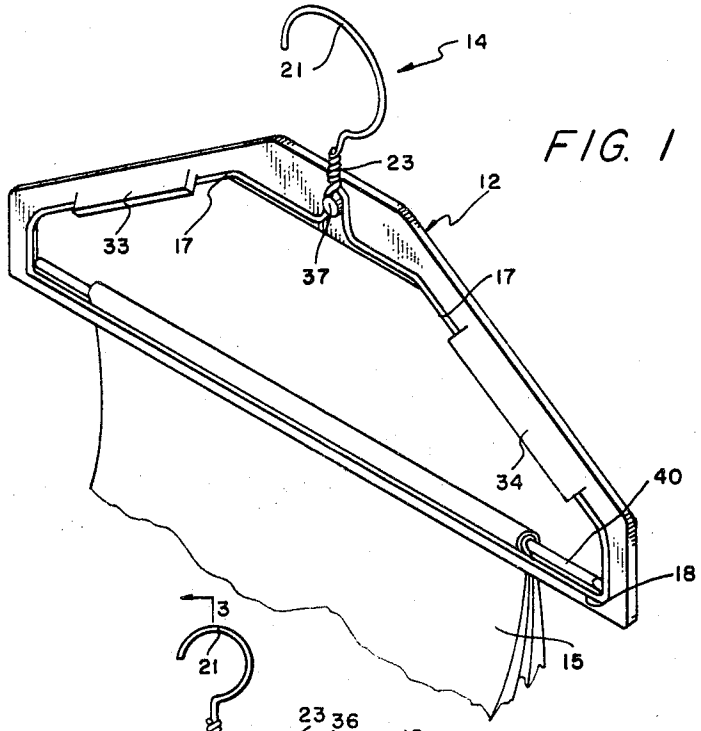


FIG. 1

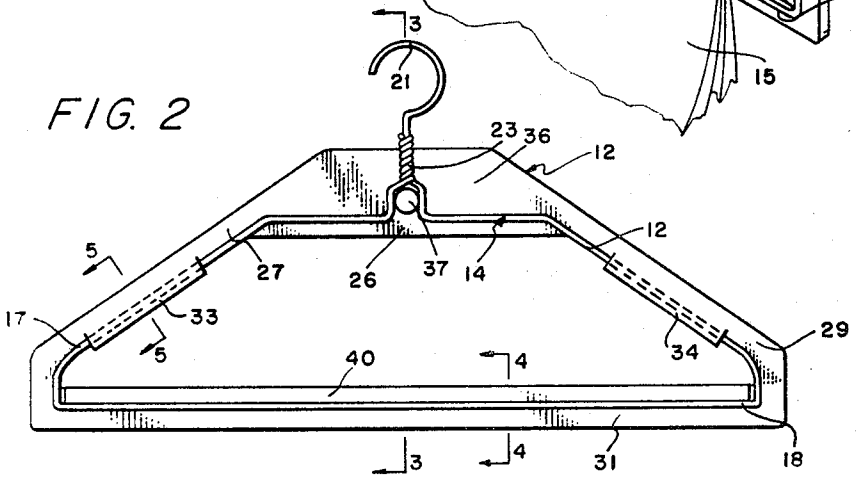


FIG. 2

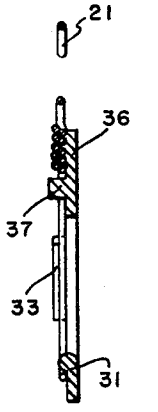


FIG. 3

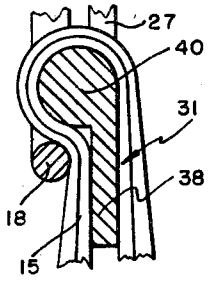


FIG. 4

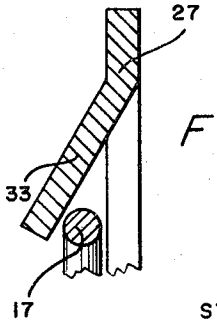


FIG. 5

INVENTOR.
STUART E. LANE

BY John A. Wilkinson
Phillip A. Rein
ATTORNEYS

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GARMENT HANGER ATTACHMENT

Stuart E. Lane, 750 Chipper Lane,
Wichita, Kans. 67212

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A wire garment hanger attachment comprising a plastic sheet-like body having downwardly divergent arms and an interconnecting crossbar with wire garment engageable structure on one side of the arms and crossbar to releasably retain the attachment to the wire garment hanger.

Various types of garment hanger structures are known to the prior art connectible to conventional bent wire hanger which have downwardly diverging garment supporting arms, a horizontal support member integrally connecting the lower portion of the support arms, and an integral hook connected by a twisted shank to an apex formed by the upper converging ends of the support arm. The hook is usable as a handle for conveying the wire hanger or is connectible to a structure for supporting the same. It is desirable in the prior art devices to provide means for shielding and protecting the garments from the wire hanger so that the same will not be soiled by rust or dirt thereon and, in addition, a more adequate supporting surface is desired whereby creases are not formed in the garments due to the relatively thin wire support portion. Additionally, it has been found in the general practice of returning garments such as in the cleaning and tailoring business, that the garments readily slip from the wire garment hanger and, therefore, become soiled and mussed. In order to overcome such garment slippage, several different methods have been devised, such as providing complete coverage to the supporting surfaces of the wire garment hanger so as to increase the area of frictional contact or to using a method of securing the garment on the hanger by pins or clips. These latter methods may serve to retain a garment on the wire hanger but they are entirely unsatisfactory because they result in pin holes or, if using a clip member, results in marks being left on the subject garment. It is seen, therefore, that the prior art devices fail in providing a means for supporting hanging garments that is readily attachable to a conventional wire garment hanger so as to provide enlarged areas for supporting a garment thereon such as a coat, and, additionally, provide means for connecting a pair of trousers or the like thereto against slippage while maintaining the same in a neat and crease-free status.

In accordance with the present invention, a new and novel garment hanger attachment is provided readily connectible to a conventional wire garment hanger having downwardly diverging garment supporting arms interconnected at the lower ends thereof with a horizontal support bar member and formed with an integral shank and hook member connected to an apex formed by the upwardly converging arms. The garment hanger attachment is constructed of a sheet material having a main body with downwardly diverging arm sections interconnected at the lowermost portions thereof by a transversely extended strut or cross member. The arm sections are provided with laterally extended and downwardly inclined vertical support tabs. The upper adjacent ends of the arm sections are interconnected by a head section provided with a laterally extended connector projection or lock stud which is engageable with the connecting portion of the shank and apex of the supporting arms of the wire garment hanger as will become obvious. The strut or cross member is provided with a laterally extended upper head portion of substantially cylindrical shape in transverse cross section having a lower or bottom portion engageable with the support bar of the wire garment hanger. In the assembly of the garment hanger attachment with the conventional wire garment hanger, the vertical support tabs are placed above opposed portions of the garment supporting arms and the lock stud is mounted between the apex formed by the garment supporting arms whereby the downwardly inclined support tabs act to prevent lateral movement of the wire garment hanger therefrom plus vertical support and the lock stud presents horizontal stability and prevents downward movement of the wire hanger relative thereto. Therefore, the wire garment hanger is maintained against one side of the upright garment support attachment and the head portion of the cross member is engageable with the horizontal support bar of the wire garment hanger. It is seen that the garment hanger attachment is adapted to support a coat or the like upon the upper surface thereof and a pair of trousers is readily placed about the cross member and connected thereto in a clamped relationship between the same and the support bar of the wire garment hanger. The vertical support tabs also act to bias the wire garment hanger inwardly into contact with the main body to clamp the trousers between the head portion and the adjacent vertical surface of the cross member.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a new and novel garment hanger attachment overcoming the above-mentioned disadvantages of the prior art devices.

Another object of this invention is to provide a garment hanger attachment operable to support a coat and/or trousers and prevent creases and wrinkles from being formed therein while positively clamping the trousers to prevent the same from slipping therefrom.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a garment hanger attachment that is readily connectible to a conventional wire garment hanger with a minimum amount of effort while providing sufficient vertical and lateral support thereto.

One other object of this invention is to provide a garment hanger attachment apparatus that is economical to manufacture, simple to use, and effective in operation.

Various other objects, advantages and features of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following discussion, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the garment hanger attachment of this invention as connected to a conventional wire garment hanger illustrated with a fragmentary view of a pair of trousers mounted thereon;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the garment hanger attachment of this invention as connected to the conventional wire garment hanger;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken along lines 4—4 in FIG. 2; and

FIG. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken along line 5—5 in FIG. 2.

The following is a discussion and description of preferred specific embodiments of the new garment hanger attachment of this invention, such being made with reference to the drawings, whereupon the same reference numerals are used to indicate the same or similar parts and/or structure. It is to be understood that such discussion and description is not to unduly limit the scope of the invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail and in particular

to FIG. 1, the garment hanger attachment of this invention, indicated generally at **12**, is illustrated as connected to a conventional wire garment hanger **14** and having a pair of trousers **15** supported thereon. More specifically, the wire garment hanger **14** is of a well-known type having downwardly diverging garment supporting arms **17**; a horizontal support bar member **18** integrally connecting the lower ends of the arms **17**; and an integral hook member **21** connected by a shank **23** to the apex formed by the converging upper ends of the garment supporting arms **17**. It is obvious that the wire garment hanger **14** is made of a bent wire construction having the upper hook member **21** and one converging garment supporting arm **17** interconnected by a twisting of the same as indicated by the shank **23**.

The garment hanger attachment **12** is preferably constructed of a sheet material having a main body **26** provided with a pair of downwardly diverging garment hanger arm sections **27** and **29** interconnected at the lowermost ends thereof by a generally horizontally extended strut or cross member **31**. The main body **26** is constructed of a shape generally similar to but larger than the wire garment hanger **14**. The garment hanger arm sections **27** and **29** are provided with laterally and downwardly extended vertical support tabs **33** and **34** positioned opposite from one another and extended in the same direction relative to the main body **26**. The upper ends of the arm sections **27** and **29** are integral with a head section **36** having a laterally extended, cylindrically shaped connector projection or lock stud **37** extended in the same lateral direction as the support tabs **33** and **34**. The strut or cross member **31** is provided with a base **38** having an upper hanger bar or head portion **40** of cylindrical shape in transverse cross section adapted to engage the support bar member **18** of the wire garment hanger **14**. Additionally, it is noted that the upper head portion **40** is extended laterally relative to the base **38** in the same direction as the lock stud **37** and the vertical support tabs **33** and **34** for reasons to become obvious.

In the assembly of the garment hanger attachment **12** of this invention, the same is placed about the wire garment hanger **14** whereupon the vertical support tabs **33** and **34** are engageable with the downwardly diverging garment supporting arms **17**. Additionally the lock stud **37** is extended between the upper ends of the garment supporting arms **17** so as to be engageable with the shank **23** thereof to prevent downward movement of the wire hanger **14** relative thereto. The garment hanger attachment **12** is of such a size and shape so that the head portion **40** is engageable with the upper surface of the lower support bar member **18** of the wire garment hanger **14** in a clamped relationship. It is seen, therefore, that in the interconnected condition of the garment hanger attachment **12** on the conventional wire garment hanger **14** with the support hook **21** grasped in one's hand or connected to a supporting object, the garment hanger attachment **12** is supported by contact of the vertical support tabs **33** and **34** and by the adjacent, contacting relationship of the head portion **40** with the support bar member **18** thereof. Also upward movement of the garment hanger attachment apparatus **12** from the wire garment hanger **14** is hindered by the contact of the lock stud **37** with the shank **23** so that the same is given substantial vertical stability in both directions. Additionally, the clamping relationship of the support tabs **33** and **34** prevent lateral movement of the structures relative to each other.

In the use and operation of the completed assembly with the garment hanger attachment **12** of this invention, it is seen that the upper edge surfaces of the main body **26** are of a substantial width so as to readily support a garment thereon without the formation of creases therein. Additionally, the main body **26** operates to support a coat or the like thereon and prevent the contact of the same with the wire garment hanger **14** which, in some instances, is very desirable as the same might be soiled or rusty. The trousers **15** are readily mountable over the cross member **31** of the garment hanger attachment **12** whereupon the support bar member **18** of the wire garment hanger **14** is movable into engagement therewith to clamp the trousers **15** with the lower area of the head portion **40** and the bar member **18** against the base **38**. Additionally it is seen that the biasing effect of the vertical support tabs **33** and **34** operates to hold the wire garment hanger **14** inwardly to clamp the same thereagainst.

It is desirable that the garment hanger attachment **12** of this invention be constructed substantially 1½ to 2 times the thickness of the diameter of the conventional wire garment hanger **14** to provide a vertical support surface for a coat and also to provide a clamping means of holding the trousers **15** without causing creases therein. Additionally, the garment hanger attachment **12** of this invention is preferably constructed of a plastic material so as to be somewhat rigid while maintaining a certain degree of flexibility thereby permitting the relative movement of the lower cross member **31** relative to the support bar member **18** of the wire garment hanger **14** so as to easily attach the trousers **15** thereto.

It is seen that the garment hanger attachment of this invention presents a compact, neat structure that is economical to manufacture, simple to use, and of durable construction that can be used over and over. Additionally, it is seen that the garment hanger attachment presents a structure readily usable in cleaning, tailoring, and other establishments where a low-cost, durable and attractive garment hanger is desired operable to maintain the garments in an original condition.

While the invention has been described in conjunction with preferred specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that this description is intended to illustrate and not to limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the following claims.

I claim:

1. A garment hanger attachment adapted for use with a conventional wire hanger of generally triangular shape having a bar member, upwardly converging support arms connected to opposite ends of the bar member, and an upper, inverted U-shaped neck portion operable to support coats and/or trousers, comprising:

(a) a generally rigid main body having a base cross member, upwardly converging side members connected to said cross member, and a head section interconnected to upper adjacent ends of said side members,

(b) said side members each formed with a support tab laterally extending to one side thereof engageable over the support arms to provide vertical support and lateral stability,

(c) said cross member having a head portion laterally extending to said one side releasably engageable with the bar member to secure a pair of trousers or a skirt therebetween, and

(d) said head section having a lock stud member laterally extending to said one side engageable with the under surface of the inverted U-shaped neck portion of the wire hanger to bias said head portion into positive engagement with the bar member.

2. A garment hanger attachment as described in claim **1**, wherein:

(a) said main body is flat sheet material, and

(b) said head portion having a thickness substantially greater than the thickness of said sheet material thereby engageable in a clamped relationship with the upper and one side surface of the bar member of the wire hanger and extended transversely thereof to hold a pair of trousers therebetween.

3. A garment hanger attachment as described in claim **1**, wherein:

(a) said support tabs extend downwardly relative to said side members engageable in a clamped relationship with the opposed upwardly converging support arms of the wire hanger cooperating with said lock stud member to provide vertical and lateral support and bias the wire hanger into engagement with said main body.

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JORDAN FRANKLIN, *Primary Examiner.*

G. H. KRIZMANICH, *Assistant Examiner.*