D. H. LEACH.

FOLDING GARMENT SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 14, 1916.

1,259,532.

Patented Mar. 19, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

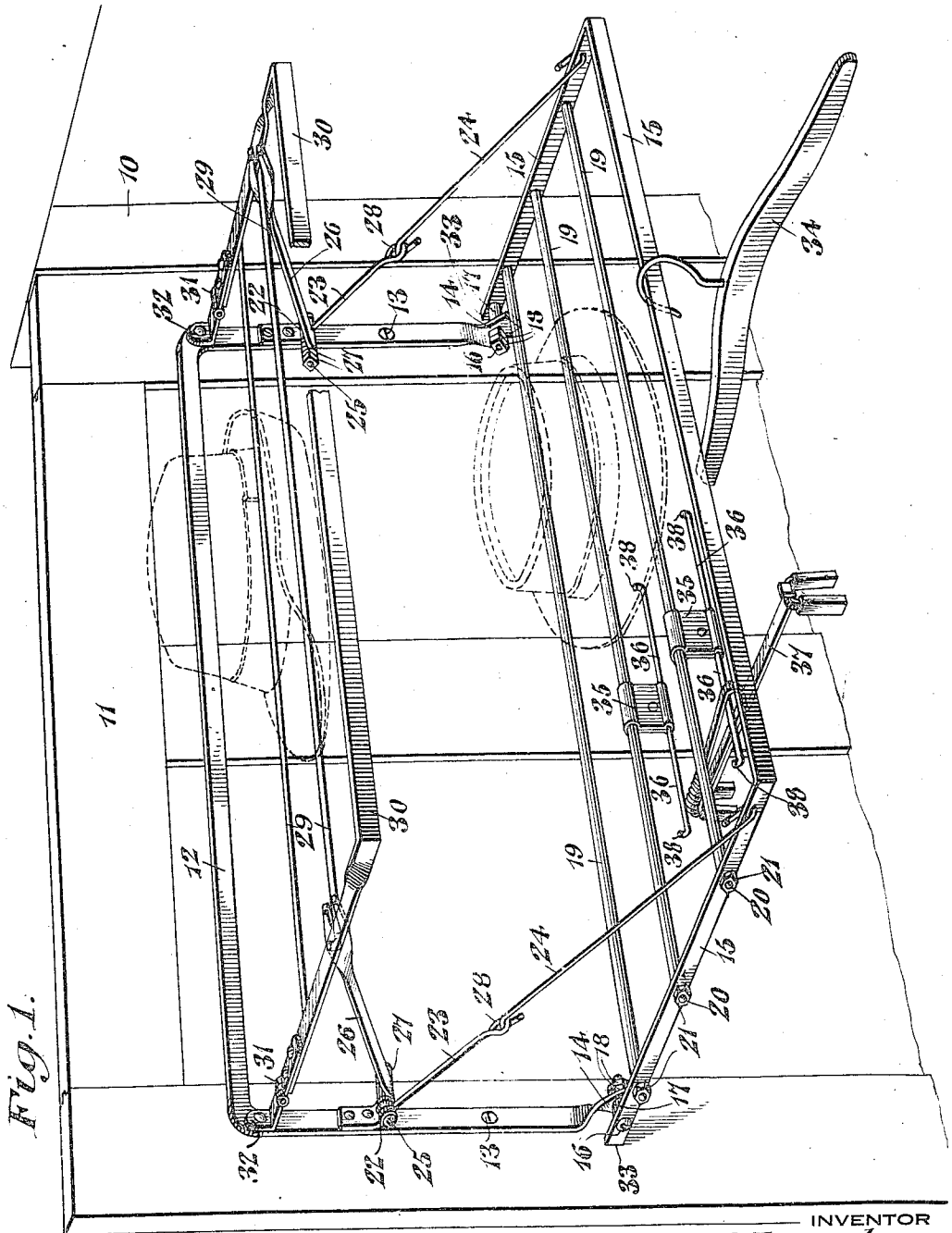


Fig. 1.

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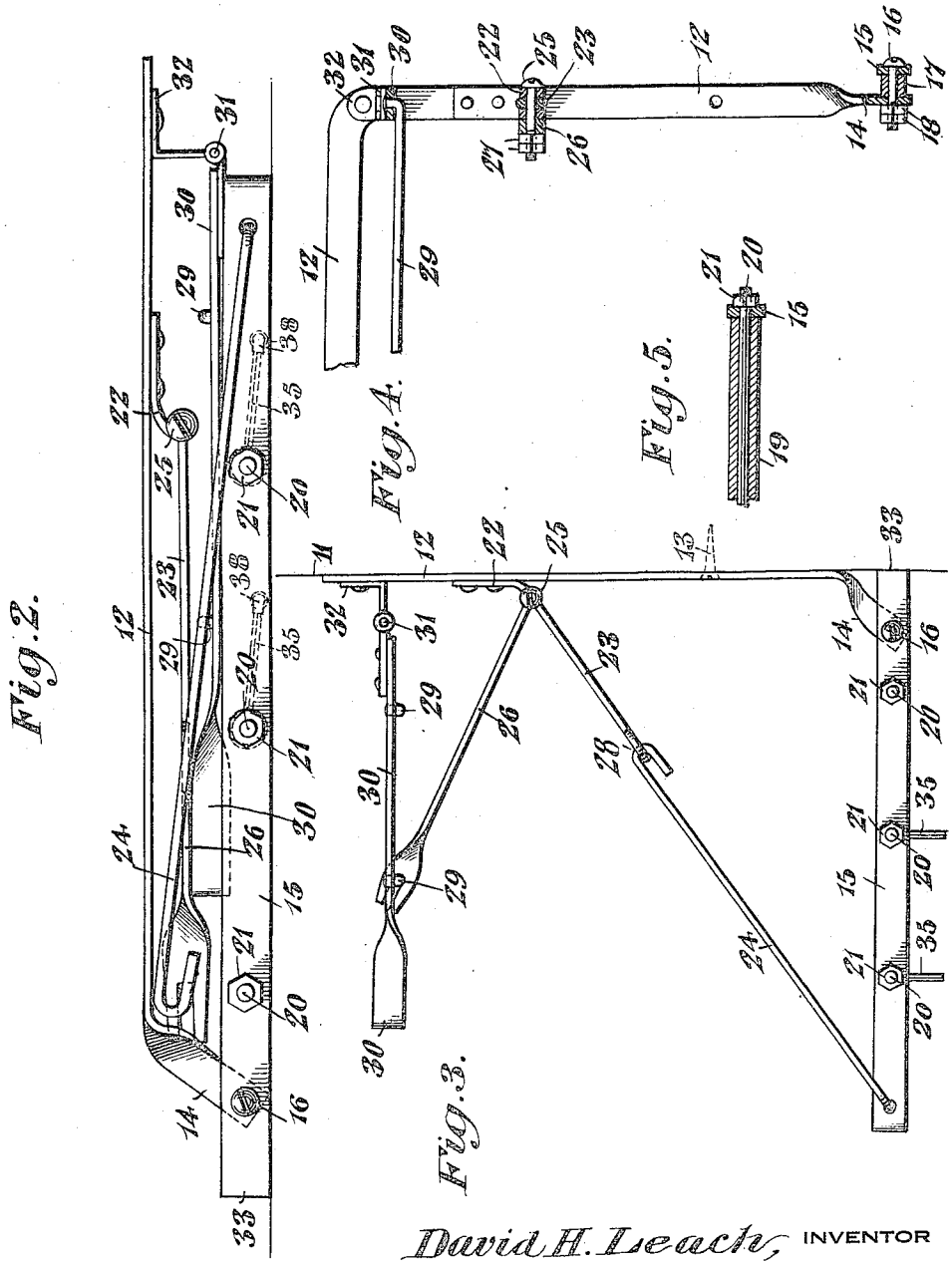


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID H. LEACH, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA.

FOLDING GARMENT-SUPPORT.

1,259,532. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 19, 1918.

Application filed July 14, 1916. Serial No. 109,318.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID H. LEACH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sacramento, in the county of Sacramento and State of California, have invented a new and useful Folding Garment-Support, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an improved garment support of the folding type.

It is an object of this invention to provide a garment support which may be secured against the inner side of a closet door, or the like, to utilize the space in the closet immediately behind the door, and to permit the swinging of the support, by the opening of the door, out of the shadows of the closet, and into full view to gain access to the garments on the support, and to subject the garments to the full light of the room.

Another object of this invention is to provide a support with the above described characteristics, which is foldable, relatively small, and compact, so that the support is particularly adaptable for use by people who live in small cottages, hotels, and rooming houses, where, as a rule, the clothes closets are small and dark, and where many articles of clothing must be kept folded and creased in a trunk. In carrying out this object of the invention, the support is provided with shelves, upon which may be placed hats, shoes, gloves, and the like, the shelves being of such construction as to accommodate coat hangers for supporting coats, and the like, and also being provided with novel devices for suspending trouser hangers.

Various other objects and advantages of this invention will be brought out in the following specific description of the present preferred embodiment, the same being illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a garment support, constructed in accordance with this invention, and disclosed as being secured against the inner side of a closet door.

Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the improved garment support folded, showing the compact arrangement of the parts.

Fig. 3 is an end elevation of the garment support as set up and secured against a door.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional view, taken through one end of the support, showing in section the several joints between the parts of the support.

Fig. 5 is a detail enlarged sectional view, taken longitudinally through one end of one of the bars of the lower shelf, showing the adjacent portion of the shelf secured thereto.

Referring to these drawings, wherein like parts are designated by similar numerals of reference throughout the several views, 10 designates the door casing or frame, which surrounds a closet, and to which is hinged the inner edge or hinge stile of a door 11.

The support of this invention is adapted to be secured against the inner side of the door 11 in such position that when the door is closed, the improved support will project inwardly into the closet, and take up the usually lost space immediately behind the closet door. The support is provided with a frame or back 12, which, as shown in Fig. 1, is preferably formed of strap metal and is bent edgewise into substantially U-shape, providing a rectangular frame open at its lower end. The frame is bent edgewise to provide a flat base or surface for engagement against the inner side of the door. Fastening devices 13, such as screws are secured through the opposite arms of the back 12 and engage in the door 11 to secure the back flat against the door. The lower free ends of the back frame 12 are bent outwardly and are twisted at substantially right angles to the adjacent ends of the frame to provide ears 14 which stand outwardly from the door 11.

A lower shelf 15, preferably formed of strap metal is bent transversely to provide a shelf frame, which is substantially U-shaped and open at its inner side. The opposite arms of the shelf 15 are hingedly connected near their free inner ends to the ears 14 by pivots 16. With particular reference to Figs. 3 and 4, it will be noted that the ears 14 are spaced from the arms of the shelf 15 by means of sleeves 17, which surround the pivots 16 and lie between the ears and the arms of the shelf. The pivots 16 are disclosed in the present instance as in the form of bolts, the threaded ends of which project inwardly beyond the ears 15 and are provided with a pair of nuts 18. The shelf 15 is provided with longitudinally extending bars 19, which are spaced apart and are secured at their opposite ends to the arms of the shelf 15. As shown to advan-

tage in Fig. 5, each of these bars 19 is in the form of a tube, which abuts at its opposite ends against the inner opposite faces of the arms of the frame 15. The rod 20 extends through each bar or tube 19 and also projects through the arms of the frame. The rods 20 are threaded on their opposite outer ends to receive nuts 21, or the like, for binding engagement against the opposite ends of the shelf 15 to hold the bars 19 in place, and to provide a rigid construction for the lower shelf.

The shelf 15 is adapted to be supported in substantially horizontal position when swung downwardly from the back 12. To support the shelf 15, the back 12 is provided at each end with an eye 22, which is formed by the overturning of the lower end of a strap, which is secured against the back 12. Hinged to the eyes 22 are the upper sections 23 of supporting rods, the lower sections 24 of which are hinged to the lower shelf 15 near the outer side of the same. As best shown in Fig. 4, the upper rod sections 23 are fitted into the eyes 22 and are adapted to swing vertically, and are held by the eyes from any appreciable lateral swinging. The eyes 22 have pivots 25 passing therethrough, and which are preferably in the form of bolts extending inwardly beyond the eyes 22, and also hingedly support the lower ends of bracket arms 26.

Nuts 27, or the like, are threaded upon the inner ends of the bolts 25 to hold them in place and to retain the bracket arms 26 thereon. The supporting rods each have a hook and eye connection between the upper and lower sections thereof, as clearly shown at 28, in Figs. 1 and 3.

The bracket arms 26 are adapted to be swung upwardly and have their upper extremities twisted at right angles and slotted to provide upwardly extending forks, which register longitudinally, and which receive therethrough the opposite ends of a rod 29, which is carried in an upper shelf 30.

This upper shelf 30 comprises a frame, made preferably of a length of strap metal bent transversely at right angles near its opposite ends and substantially U-shaped. The opposite arms thereof, are, however, twisted at right angles, so as to lie, when extended, in substantially a horizontal plane. The shelf 30 is provided with a number of rods 29 which fill in the intermediate portion of the frame, so as to support articles of clothing, such as hats, shoes, and the like, on top of the frame, when extended. The rods 29 are shown in the present instance as having their opposite ends turned upwardly and riveted in the opposite arms of the upper shelf 30.

The upper shelf is connected to the back 12 by strap hinges 31, which are secured to the horizontal arms of the upper shelf, and which have their inner ends upturned to provide attaching flanges 32 which are secured against the outer face of the back 12 by rivets, or the like. It will be noted that the strap hinges 31 extend outwardly from the back 12 into a vertical plane, which lies beyond the vertical plane of the eyes 22, which carry the bracket arms and the rods for the upper and lower shelves. This construction permits the upper shelf 30 to be swung inwardly against the back 12, as shown in Fig. 2, and to clear the eyes 22 and their bracket arms and rod sections.

The ears 14 on the lower end of the back 12 extend outwardly to a sufficient extent to pivotally support the lower shelf 15 beyond the vertical plane of the eyes 22 and the strap hinges 31. As shown in Fig. 2, this arrangement of the ears 14 projects the lower shelf 15 outwardly from the back to a sufficient distance to lie flat against or overlap the upper shelf 30, when the latter is folded.

From Figs. 1 and 3, it will be noted that the opposite ends of the frame of the lower shelf 15 extend rearwardly beyond the ears 14, and terminate in straight edges, which provide stops 33 for engagement flat against the inner surface of the door 11 to assist the supporting rods in holding the lower shelf 15 rigidly in place.

The lower shelf 15 is adapted for supporting a number of coat hangers 34, which may be arranged along the outer bar or side of the frame of the shelf 15, or which, of course, may be engaged over the bars 19, if found desirable. The bars 19 are provided with one or more straps 35, which are looped thereover, and are adapted to slide longitudinally on the bars 19. The straps hang down from the bars and carry therebeneath horizontal supporting arms 36, which project from the opposite sides of the straps 35 substantially in parallelism with, and beneath the bars 19. The straps and arms may also be swung up to a horizontal position when the shelves are to be folded and can be removed from their rods by dismounting the rods.

The back 12 is adapted to be secured against the inner side of the door a sufficient distance from the inner edge thereof to admit of the free operation of the door, when the support is applied thereto. It is also designed to mount the arms 36 for adjustment from end to end of the lower shelf, in order that the arms may be always positioned at the outer end of the garment support, irrespective of the direction in which the door 11 may swing. These arms 36 are adapted to support a number of trouser hangers 37, which are merely engaged over the opposite ends of the arms 36 and held from accidental displacement therefrom by the upturned extremities 38 of the arms. These upturned

ends 38 provide heads or stops to arrest the outward sliding movement of the trouser hangers when the door is swung into open or closed position.

In positioning the garment support upon the door, the back 12 must be secured upon the door at a point spaced considerably downward from the upper edge of the door, so as to accommodate hats, and other articles, upon the upper shelf 30. The arrangement of the bracket arms 26 and the supporting rods for the lower shelf is such that the weight of the articles placed upon the shelves is distributed above and below the supporting screws 13. The stops 33 on the inner end of the lower shelf 15 provide a substantial reinforcement for the ears 14 of the back, so that when heavy weights are placed upon the lower shelf, the stops 33 bind against the door and relieve the supporting rods and the back from considerable strain.

When the support is folded into the position shown in Fig. 2, and as above described, it occupies but relatively small space, so that it may be readily packed into a trunk, or the like, and transported from place to place. The structure is such that it provides not only a pair of vertically spaced shelves for accommodating various articles of clothing, and the like, but it also provides means for supporting a large number of coat hangers and trouser hangers, and so disposes them that they may be easily and quickly removed, one independently of the other. The positioning of the support against the inner side of the closet door permits the swinging outwardly of the support with the door, so that all of the garments on the support are disclosed to full view, and are subjected to the entire light of the room, and may be easily and quickly removed and replaced.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a garment support, a frame, superposed shelves swingingly connected to the frame to extend horizontally therefrom and movable toward the frame on the folding thereof to lie one upon the other, supporting members pivoted to the frame between the swinging connections of said shelves and adapted to extend divergingly from the frame for detachable connection with the shelves to support the same in horizontal position, and hangers slidably connected with the lowermost shelf and foldable therewith.

2. In a garment support, a foldable shelf structure for a horizontally disposed bar, a strap loosely embracing the bar depending therefrom and adapted to slide from end to end on said bar, and an arm secured to the strap intermediate its ends, and suspended thereby below the bar in parallel relation thereto and foldable with the shelf.

3. In a garment support, a back frame adapted to be secured against a door or other support and having its lower extremities extending outwardly and downwardly from the door, a second frame having free ends and hinged near its free ends to the outturned ends of said back frame and adapted to be swung outwardly therefrom, the free extremities of said second frame extending inwardly against the door to brace said second frame, and supporting means carried by said first frame to engage and support the second frame.

4. In a garment support, an open frame, superposed shelves swingingly connected to the side limbs of said frame to extend horizontally therefrom and movable toward the frame on the folding thereof to lie one upon the other, and supporting members connected to the side limbs of said frame between the swinging connections of said shelves and adapted to extend divergently from the frame for detachable engagement with the shelves to support the same in horizontal position, one of the supporting members being formed in separable sections connected with the frame and one of the shelves, respectively the section connected with the frame being pivoted thereto, the joining ends of the section being formed with an eye and hook.

5. In a garment support, an open frame, superposed shelves swingingly connected to the side limbs of said frame to extend horizontally therefrom and movable toward the frame on the folding thereof to lie one upon the other, and supporting members pivoted to the side limbs of said frame between the swinging connections of said shelves and adapted to extend divergently from the frame for detachable engagement with the shelves to support the same in horizontal position, each shelf being formed with spaced longitudinal bars, the ends of the lowermost shelf being designed to engage the support for the frame to brace the latter.

6. In a garment support, a back adapted to be secured to the door of a closet or the like, a shelf secured to said back and having a longitudinally extending bar arranged horizontally, a strap slidably mounted upon said bar, and projecting downwardly therefrom, and an arm attached to the lower end of said strap, extending parallel with said bar and adapted to support trouser hangers and the like, said strap and arm being adjustable along said bar so that they may be located at the side of the door remote from the hinge when the same is opened.

7. In a garment support, a foldable shelf comprising a frame, and a series of longitudinally arranged bars attached to the frame and constituting the bottom of the shelf, straps loosely fitting said bars so as to slide therealong, and horizontal supporting arms secured to the lower ends of the straps and foldable with the shelf, the ends of the arms being upturned to provide stops at their ex-

tremities, and said straps being adapted to space the arms below the bars for receiving hangers thereon.

8. In a garment support, a foldable shelf structure having a horizontally disposed bar, a strap loosely embracing the bar, depending therefrom and adapted to slide from end to end on said bar, and an arm secured to the strap intermediate its ends and suspended thereby below the bar in parallel relation thereto, the arm being upturned at its ends and adapted to receive article hangers, the upturned ends preventing the hangers from working off of the arms.

9. In a garment support comprising a back adapted for securement against a door or other support, upper and lower shelves hinged in vertically spaced apart relation to said back and adapted to be swung against the same, supporting means to hold the said shelves in outstanding relation to the back, the lower shelf being composed of a series of longitudinally extending bars, and supports for trouser hangers mounted upon said bars and slidable therealong, said supports being foldable with the lower shelf.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

DAVID H. LEACH.

Witnesses:
FRED KRUEGER,
A. L. JOHNSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."