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Valiulis

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[54] **GUARD FOR A HANGER ASSEMBLY**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **211/57**; 248/223; 248/DIG. 3

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **A47F 7/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 211/7, 8, 9, 54, 57, 59, 211/100, 124, 171; 248/223, DIG. 3, 301, 303

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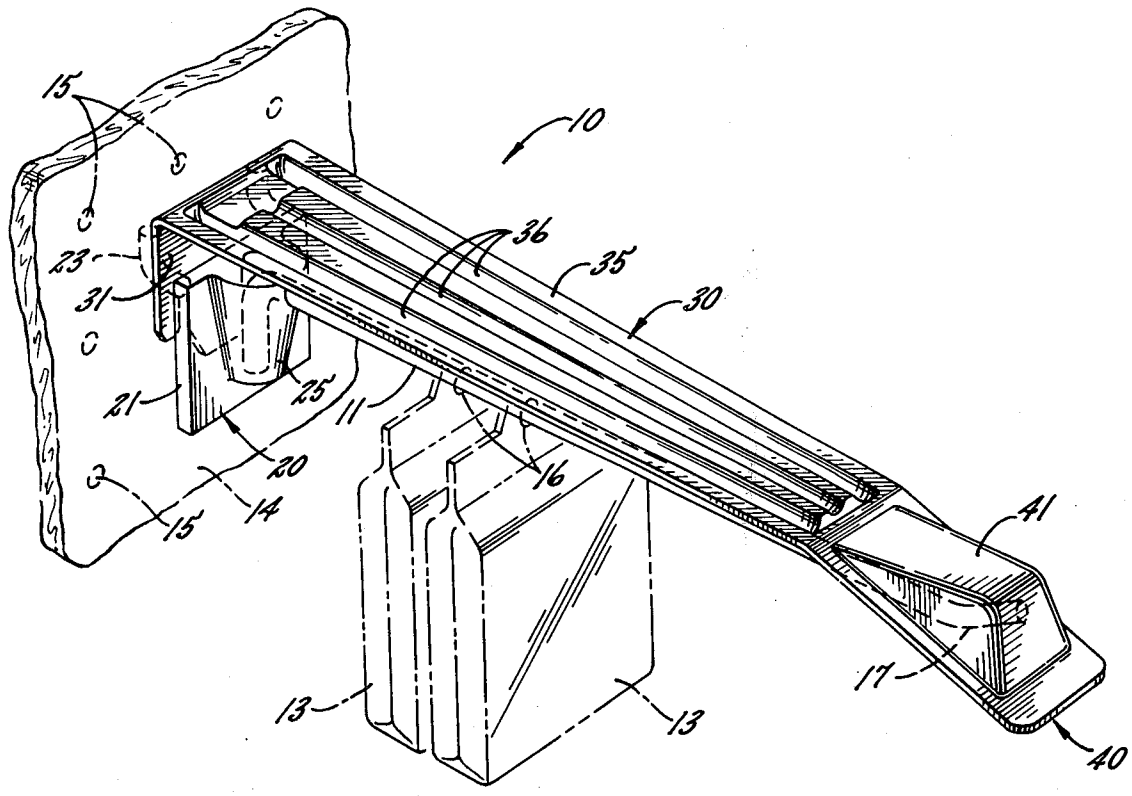
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Persons are prevented from being accidentally jabbed or snagged by the outwardly projecting arm of a "Peg-board hook" by a guard which overlies the arm and shields the outer end thereof. The outer end portion of the guard is adapted to flex upwardly relative to the arm to enable articles to be easily placed on and removed from the arm.

7 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures



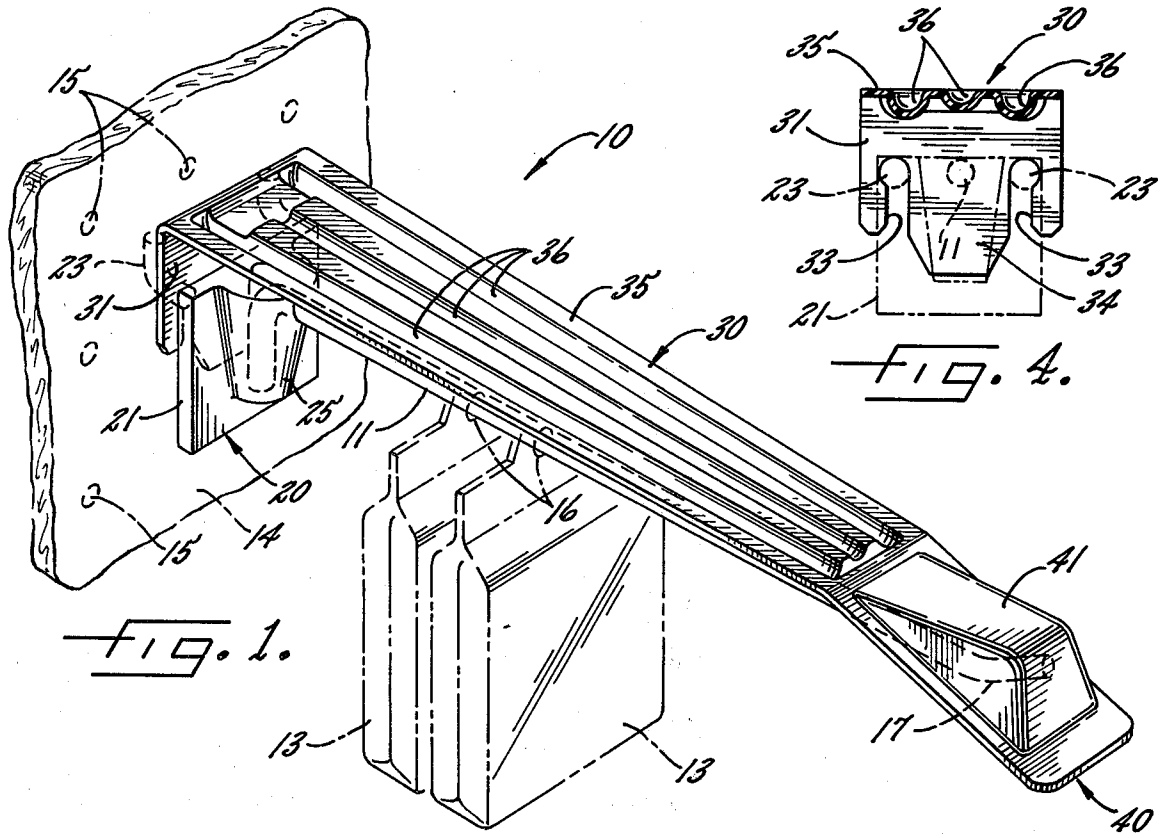


Fig. 1.

Fig. 4.

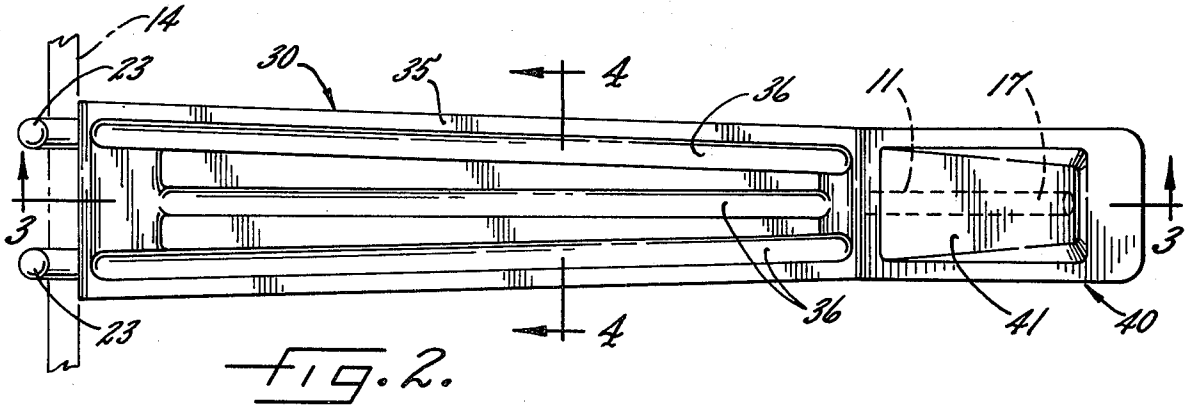


Fig. 2.

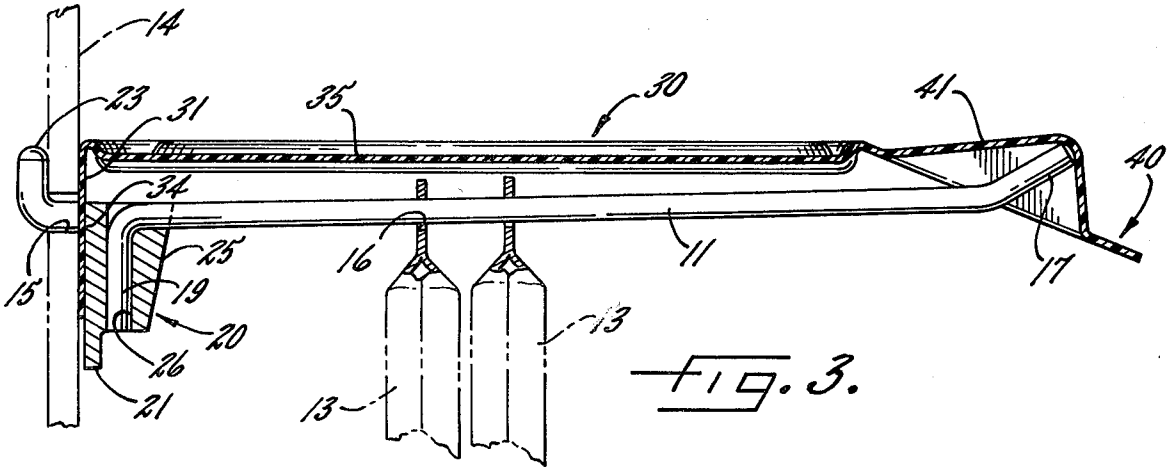


Fig. 3.

GUARD FOR A HANGER ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention is involved with a hanger assembly for supporting articles on a perforated panel of the type commonly referred to as a "Pegboard." Such an assembly includes an elongated, rodlike hanger arm, often called a "hook," adapted to project outwardly from the panel and usually adapted to be removably attached to the panel by a mounting bracket having a pair of horizontally spaced fingers which extend through holes in the panel.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The general aim of the present invention is to provide a new and improved guard for a hanger assembly of the above character, the guard reducing the danger of injury, and particularly eye or facial injury, to a person who might accidentally run into the hanger assembly and otherwise be jabbed or snagged by the rod-like hanger arm.

A further object is to provide a guard which effectively shields the outer end of the hanger arm while still enabling articles to be easily placed on and removed from the arm.

Another object is to provide a guard which may be quickly and easily attached to and detached from the hanger assembly.

The invention also resides in the relatively simple and inexpensive construction of the guard and in the coaction between the guard and the fingers of the hanger assembly to enable easy and yet effective attachment of the guard to the assembly.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view showing a hanger assembly attached to a perforated panel and equipped with a new and improved guard incorporating the novel features of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a top plan view of the hanger assembly and guard shown in FIG. **1.**

FIGS. **3** and **4** are cross-sections taken substantially along the lines **3—3** and **4—4,** respectively, of FIG. **2.** In FIG. **4,** the parts of the hanger assembly are shown in phantom lines in order to enable clearer illustration of the parts of the guard.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention is shown as being associated with a hanger assembly **10** having a generally horizontal hanger arm **11** for supporting one or more articles **13** from a panel or Pegboard **14** of the type formed with a series of vertically spaced and horizontally extending rows of holes **15.** In this instance, the articles have been illustrated as being bags within which merchandise is contained. The upper end portion of each bag is formed with a hole **16** to enable the bag to be hung from the arm **11.**

Herein, the hanger arm **11** is a metal rod-like element having a length of about ten inches and a diameter of approximately 3/**16** of an inch. The outer end portion or tip **17** of the arm is inclined upwardly through an angle of about 30° so as to keep the bags **13** from sliding horizontally off of the arm.

Depending from the inner end of the hanger arm **11** is a prong **19** (FIG. **3**) which is fitted within a bracket **20** for attaching the assembly **10** releasably to the panel **14.** In this instance, the bracket is molded of relatively rigid plastic such as polypropylene or Delrin and includes a generally rectangular plate member **21** normally disposed in an upright plane and adapted to lie flat against the outer face of the panel **14.** Molded integrally with the upper end portion of the plate and projecting inwardly from the inner face thereof are two fingers or horns **23,** each horn having a horizontal portion located adjacent the plate and merging gradually with an upwardly projecting vertical portion. By turning the plate **21** to a horizontal position with the ends of the horns pointing toward the panel **14** and by moving the plate edgewise, the normally vertical portions of the horns may be inserted into two horizontally spaced holes **15** in one of the horizontally extending rows of holes formed in the panel. Thereafter, the plate may be swung downwardly and toward the panel to cause the horizontal portions to enter the holes and to cause the vertical portions to engage and interlock with the rear face of the panel just above the holes.

An upright boss **25** (FIGS. **1** and **3**) of generally semicircular cross-section is molded integrally with the outer side of the plate **21,** the boss tapering downwardly and having an upper end located flush with the upper edge of the plate. A vertically extending hole **26** of circular cross-section is formed through the center of the boss and opens out of the upper end of the boss to define a socket for receiving the prong **19** of the hanger arm **11.** As an alternative to using the separate bracket **20,** a U-shaped bracket (not shown) may be welded to the prong **19,** such a bracket having a pair of L-shaped fingers similar to the fingers **23** and positioned to straddle the prong.

The present invention contemplates the provision of a unique guard **30** which overlies the hanger arm **11** and shields the outer end portion **17** thereof so as to prevent a person from being poked in the eye or face by the arm and suffering a severe injury. In spite of the protection afforded by the guard, it may be conveniently moved to a position which enables articles to be easily hung on the arm and it presents virtually no obstacle to the easy removal of articles from the arm.

More specifically, the guard **30** comprises a one-piece member molded of resiliently flexible plastic such as vinyl and formed with an upright sheet **31** by which the guard is detachably secured to the hanger assembly **10.** For this purpose, the sheet **31** is formed with a pair of horizontally spaced slots **33** (FIG. **4**) which open downwardly out of the lower edge of the sheet and which are adapted to telescope snugly but releasably over the horizontal portions of the fingers **23** of the bracket **20.** When the guard is in place on the assembly, a portion **34** of the sheet is located between the fingers **23** and is sandwiched between the plate **21** and the outer face of the panel (see FIG. **3**) so as to help hold the guard in position.

Formed integrally with the upper margin of the sheet **33** and extending outwardly therefrom is an elongated strip **35** which is about two inches wide at its inner end and which tapers slightly upon progressing outwardly. The strip is centered with respect to the hanger arm **11** and is spaced upwardly from the arm so as to accom-

modate the upper end portions of the bags **13.** Three depressed and transversely spaced ribs **36** are formed in the strip to add stiffness to the strip.

To shield the tip **17** of the arm **11,** the guard **30** includes a tongue **40** which is integral with the outer end of the strip **35** and which enshrouds the top and sides of the tip. The tongue is inclined downwardly and outwardly from the arm **11** and is formed with a raised bubble **41** whose top, sides and front shield the top, sides and front, respectively, of the tip. The bubble is generally triangular in cross-section and its upper outer corner engages the tip **17** to help keep the strip **35** spaced above the arm **11.**

As a result of the tongue **40,** a person hitting the hanger arm **11** head-on will not be jabbed by the outer end of the tip **17** but instead will encounter the relatively broad front surface of the bubble **41.** Accordingly, there is little likelihood of the person suffering a severe eye or facial injury. The sides of the bubble define wings broad which prevent a person from being injured by hitting the side of the tip and thus it is not likely that a person walking past the arm will be snagged by the tip and injured.

When slipping bags **13** onto the arm **11,** one may gain easy access to the tip **17** simply by raising the tongue **40** upwardly. By virtue of the flexibility of the strip **35,** the tongue and the outer end portion of the strip will hinge upwardly when the tongue is lifted and then will spring back downwardly when the tongue is released. Thus, the bags may be placed on the arm in an easy manner. It is even easier to remove a bag. As the bag is slid outwardly along the arm, it will engage the downwardly and outwardly inclined lower surface of the tongue and automatically cam the tongue and the outer end portion of the strip upwardly to enable the bag to be slipped off of the end of the arm, the tongue then springing back downwardly. Thus, the guard presents virtually no impediment to the easy removal of bags from the arm.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the present invention brings to the art a new and improved guard **30** which effectively shields the arm **11** of the hanger assembly **10** while still allowing articles **13** to easily be placed on and removed from the arm. The guard may be easily installed on or removed from the hanger assembly **10** while the latter is attached to the panel **14** but, when installed, the guard is held firmly in place on the hanger assembly.

I claim as my invention:

1. A hanger assembly having a generally horizontally extending hanger arm and having a pair of horizontally spaced and horizontally extending fingers at the inner end of said arm for attaching the arm to a perforated panel, and a guard for said hanger assembly, said guard comprising an upright sheet formed with a pair of downwardly opening slots sized to slip downwardly over and slidably receive said fingers to attach said guard removably to said hanger assembly, an elongated and generally horizontal strip having its inner end joined to the upper end of said sheet and projecting outwardly from said sheet in overlying relation with said hanger arm, and a tongue on the outer end of said strip and extending in front of said hanger arm to shield the outer end of the arm, said strip being capable of hinging upwardly relative to said sheet to enable said tongue to move upwardly from said hanger arm and permit articles to be hung on or removed from said arm from the outer end thereof.

2. The invention defined in claim **1** in which said sheet, said strip and said tongue are formed integrally with one another and are molded of resiliently flexible plastic, said strip being capable of hinging upwardly relative to said sheet by virtue of the flexibility of said plastic.

3. The invention defined in claim **2** in which said tongue includes sides which shield the sides of the outer end portion of said hanger arm.

4. The invention defined in claim **3** in which said strip is spaced upwardly from the upper side of said hanger arm, said tongue engaging the outer end of said hanger arm to keep the outer end portion of said strip spaced upwardly from the outer end portion of said hanger arm.

5. The invention defined in claim **1** in which said hanger assembly includes a member projecting downwardly from said fingers and disposed generally perpendicular to said hanger arm, said sheet having a portion located below and between said fingers and disposed face-to-face with the inner side of said member.

6. The invention defined in claim **1** in which said tongue extends downwardly and outwardly from the outer end of said strip, said tongue being formed with an upwardly extending bubble which enshrouds the sides, top and front of the outer end of said arm.

7. The invention defined in claim **6** in which said bubble is substantially triangular in cross-section.

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