United States Patent

[11] **3,600,764**

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[54] **ARTICLE-HANGING CLIP**
3 Claims, 3 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **24/137 R,** 223/96
[51] **Int. Cl.** **D06f 55/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 24/30.5, 137, 255, 49 C, 255 GP; 223/96

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ABSTRACT: A clip for gripping and holding, in hanging fashion, articles such as garments which can be inexpensively produced by molding of plastic or other suitable material.

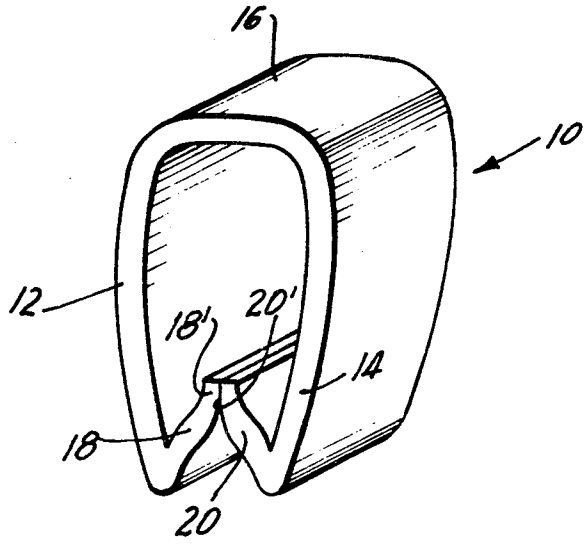


FIG. 1

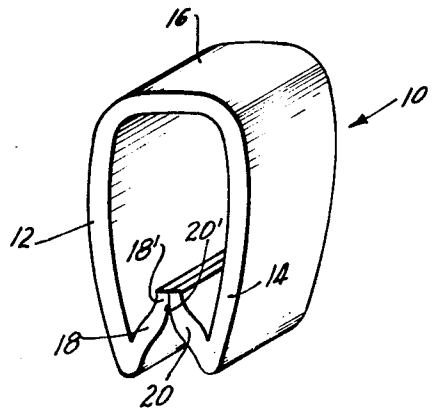


FIG. 2

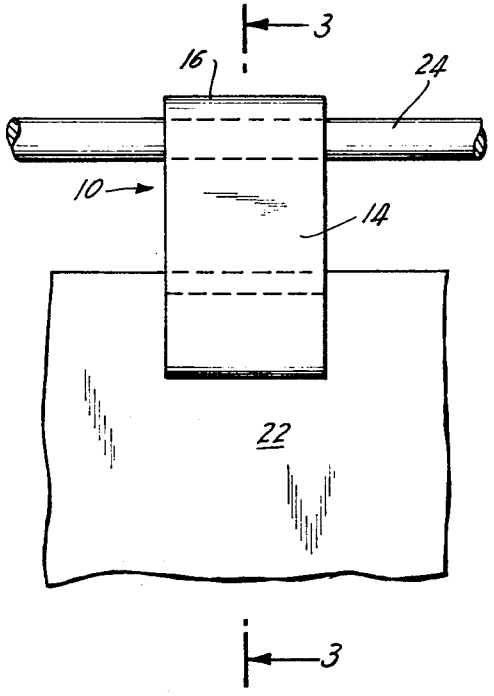
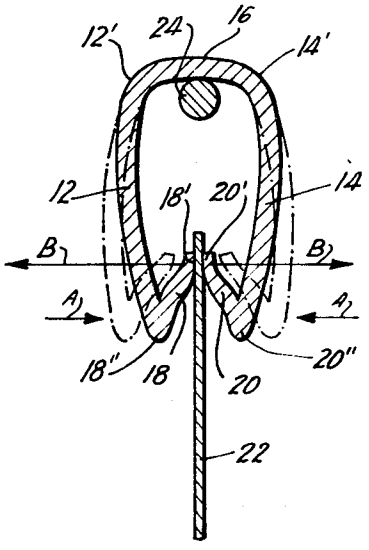


FIG. 3



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ARTICLE-HANGING CLIP

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When articles such as garments are displayed and/or stored, they are frequently hung or suspended from a rod or other supporting member. For this purpose various hanging devices have been used. Such hanging devices are used in quantity and frequently the hanging device is disposed of after use, or delivered with the article to an ultimate destination. A hanging device, for use in today's economy, must be inexpensive and capable of mass production. Article-hanging devices have taken many forms and efforts have been made to minimize the quantity of material used in such a device. The device, however, must be sufficiently strong to resist breaking in use, and be capable of functioning in a proper manner—that is—the device must adequately support the article to which it is affixed. Further, the device must be readily usable and must be of such construction that articles can be easily attached thereto, or removed therefrom.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An article-hanging clip having two leg members joined by a spring loop in which the leg members have inwardly projecting gripping portions presenting facing frictional surfaces which are yieldingly urged in embracing relationship by said spring loop.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 is a prospective view from one end of an article-hanging clip constructed in accordance with the teachings of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the article hanging clip shown in FIG. 1 with a portion of an article supported thereby illustrated; and

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along a line 3—3 in the direction of the arrow as shown in FIG. 2 and, diagrammatically in broken lines there is illustrated the clip when opened to engage with an edge portion of an article supported thereby.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The article-hanging clip **10** of this invention, as shown in the FIGS., is molded integrally of a suitable plastic material and has two leg members **12** and **14** joined by spring loop **16** with the leg members terminating respectively in inwardly projecting gripping portions **18** and **20**.

The juncture of legs **12** and **14** with loop **16** at **12'** and **14'** respectively, is inwardly curved or arcuate with each of the legs turned slightly inwardly at its end to provide a bowed or concave configuration for purposes of strengthening the legs and to allow the resiliency of the clip and the spring loop to develop a spring force in the direction of the arrows "A" at the leg ends. The spring loop **16** is also slightly concave and the legs and spring loop—of which the legs are a continuation—have uniform thickness throughout. Thus, a highly resilient integral member is provided, having a high degree of force develop at the leg ends due to the resiliency of the member and the inherent memory therein which evenly urges the leg ends toward one another.

The gripping portions, **18** and **20**, are provided with facing frictional surfaces **18'** and **20'** respectively, which are substantially parallel and embrace each other in the nonexpanded condition of the clip.

A sharp knuckle of increased material is provided at the juncture of each of the gripping portions and its respective leg, rather than having a gradually turned end to strengthen the gripping portions and to resist movement in the direction of the arrows "B" as shown in FIG. 3. The knuckle at the juncture of leg **12** and gripping portion **18** is indicated by the numeral **18''** and the knuckle at the juncture of the gripping portion **20**, and leg **14** is indicated by the numeral **20''**. Thus, a force is developed in the direction of the arrows "A" yieldingly urging the frictional surfaces of the gripping portions in embracing relationship, with the gripping portions themselves resisting movement in the direction of the arrows "B" as a result of the surfaces being pushed together.

In use, the clip is either first applied to an article such as a garment **22** in FIGS. **2** and **3**, and then placed over a supporting member such as a rod **24** or, in the alternative, the clip is first placed on a rod such as **24** and then the article **22** applied thereto.

To use the clip, the user places the article to be supported thereby between the surfaces **18'** and **20'** and slides the article **22** up into the clip. It is noted that the gripping portions **18** and **20** provide an entrance of a configuration allowing the article to be guided between the frictional surfaces. Thus, the gripping portions additionally provide guidance surfaces. The resiliency of the material allows the legs **12** and **14** to move apart to provide space for receipt of article **22** between the frictional surfaces **18'** and **20'**. The expanded condition of the clip is shown in broken lines in FIG. **3**. Upon placement of the article **22** in position between the gripping portions, the inherent memory in the clip, and spring loop **16** developing the forces in the direction of the arrows "A," cause the frictional surfaces **18'** and **20'** to be pushed against article **22**, and the strength of the gripping portions **18** and **20** preventing movement of the gripping portions in the direction of the arrows "B" in FIG. **3**, results in the holding of the article **22** and the resisting of any tendency of the article to fall under the force of gravity.

The article **22** may be easily removed from the clip by merely pulling the legs **12** and **14** apart. Also, the article can be removed by the use of pulling the garment or article **22** toward and in a downward direction in the aid of gravity, and overcoming the frictional forces developed at the frictional surface **18'** and **20'**, which tend to resist the removal of the article from the clip.

I claim:

1. An article hanging clip, having two leg members joined by a flattened spring loop in which the leg members have inwardly projecting gripping portions extending therefrom, provided with facing frictional surfaces, said loop and said leg members being of substantially uniform thickness and the juncture of each of said leg members with said loop being arcuate with each of said leg members turned slightly inwardly at its end to provide a bowed configuration and to allow the resiliency of the clip and the loop to develop a spring force yieldingly urging said frictional surfaces into embracing relationship.

2. A clip in accordance with claim **1** in which the juncture of each of said leg members, with its respective projecting gripping member, is in the form of a sharp knuckle of increased material to provide resisting forces to movement of each of said projecting members with respect to the respective leg member to which it is attached.

3. A clip in accordance with claim **2** in which said projecting members are provided with guide surfaces directing an article to said frictional surfaces.