F. M. McGOWAN.

CLOTHES HANGER.

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1,370,981.

Patented Mar. 8, 1921.

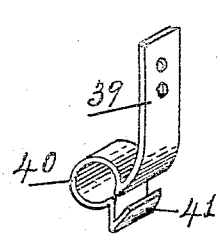


FIG. 8

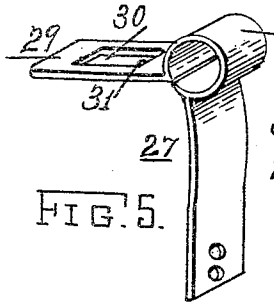


FIG. 5.

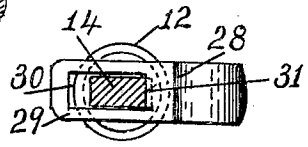


FIG. 4.

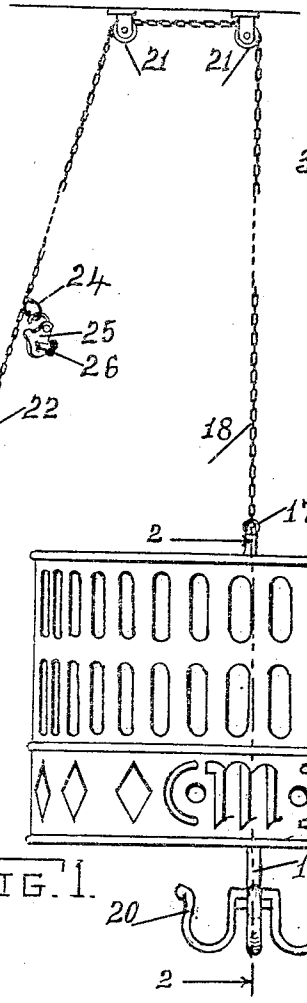


FIG. 1.

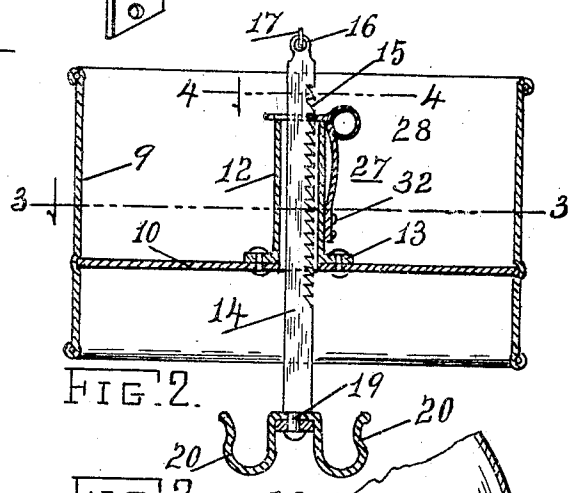
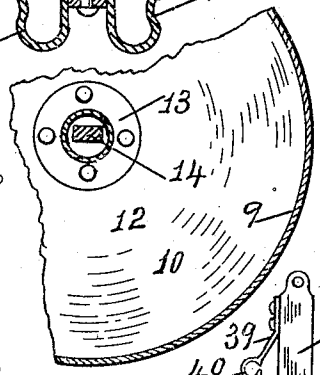


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3



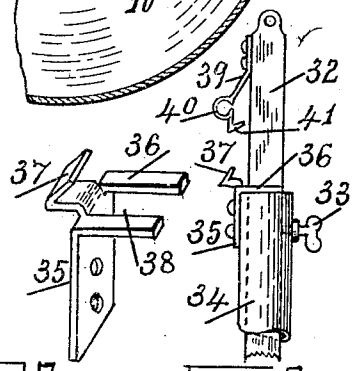


FIG. 7

FIG. 6.

Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK M. McGOWAN, OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

CLOTHES-HANGER.

1,370,981. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 8, 1921.

Application filed December 15, 1920. Serial No. 430,897.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK M. McGOWAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Sangamon and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Clothes-Hanger, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to hangers for containing and protecting from theft or damage the clothing and personal effects of miners or others whose work requires that they take off their usual apparel and put on clothing suitable for the special work which they are doing.

The purposes of the invention are to provide hooks adapted to support the coats, trousers and other relatively large articles of apparel and in conjunction therewith to provide a suitable box or container to contain smaller articles such as hats, collars, ties, toilet articles, etc.; to provide means admitting of vertical movement of the box relative to the sustaining rod to which the hooks are attached; to provide means for locking the box in fixed relation to the hooks, to provide a box having a bottom intermediate of the ends of the box, that part of the box below the bottom being adapted to house the hooks so that they will be inaccessible from below, in order to prevent removal of the garments from the hooks; to provide means for raising the hanger to such height above the floor that a sneak thief standing on the floor cannot remove any article by using a hooked rod or similar appliance; to provide means for locking the hanger in its raised position; and to provide other new and useful details of construction as will hereinafter appear.

The invention is illustrated in the annexed drawing, to which reference is hereby made and will now be fully described and the novel features thereof will be recited in the claims:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a clothes hanger embodying my invention. In this view the hanger as a whole is shown in its lowered position and the box is shown as lifted to expose the hooks; Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section through the hanger box taken on the line 2. 2. of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary horizontal section through the box on the line 3. 3. of Fig. 2, showing a top view of some of the parts; Fig. 4 is an enlarged horizontal section on the line 4. 4. of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of the detached latch of preferred construction; Fig. 6 is an enlarged side elevation of parts of a hanger embodying locking devices of modified construction; Fig. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of the detached latch block and guide shown in elevation in Fig. 6; and Fig. 8 is an enlarged perspective view of the spring latch of modified form shown in Fig. 6.

The same reference numerals designate the same parts in all the views.

The box 9 is preferably of perforated sheet metal, of ornamental design. Between the ends of the box is a stationary floor or bottom 10 of sheet metal. A metal tube 12 at right angles to the bottom 10 is connected with a circular metal plate 13 which is permanently attached to the bottom 10.

A rod 14 extends through the tube 12 and through the bottom 10 and has a series of downwardly inclined teeth 15 along one of its edges, and has at its upper end an eye 16 to receive a link 17, connecting the rod with a supporting chain 18.

At the lower end of the rod 14 is an integral finger 19. Hooks 20 are secured on the finger by swaging its lower end. The height of the hooks 20 is somewhat less than the depth of that part of the box which is below the floor 10, in order that when clothing is hung on the hooks and the box is depressed and latched as hereinafter described, the hooks will be wholly within the lower part of the box and the bottom 10 of the box will bear firmly against the clothing on the hooks and hold it so tightly that it cannot be removed without injuring it.

The chain 18 runs in suitably placed sheaves 21 attached to a permanent structure such as the ceiling of a room, and extends downwardly through a strong staple 22 which is permanently attached to an immovable structure, such as the wall of a room. A ring 23 at the free end of the chain is used as a handle to pull the chain, and also serves to prevent the chain from slipping through the staple 22 while lowering the hanger. A ring 24 on the chain 18 will be adjacent to the staple 22 when the clothes hanger is in its raised position. A lock 25 (shown hanging in the ring 24) has a special key 26. The lock and key may be of any usual and suitable construction. When the hanger is raised to the full extent

and the chain is locked, the ring 24 will be close to the staple 22 and the shackle of the lock will be in the ring 24 and the staple 22, and will securely lock them together so that they can be separated only by the person having the special key.

When the hanger is raised to the full extent and the chain is locked, the box 9 will be at such height above the floor that the clothing on the hooks 20 and the contents of the box will be out of reach of a person standing on the floor. That position of the hanger is called its "raised position."

When the chain is unlocked and the hanger is lowered to a position convenient for placing articles on the hooks or in the basket, or removing them therefrom, the hanger is said to be in its "lowered position."

When the hanger is in its lowered position and the box is slid upward and latched on the rod 14, to uncover the hooks 20 so that articles may be conveniently placed thereon, the box is said to be "lifted" or in its "lifted position."

Screws 32 secure the latch on the tube 12. The latch of preferred construction, designated as a whole by the numeral 27 and shown in detail in Fig. 5, is made from a bar of flat spring steel, bent to form a loop or handle 28, and a guide member 29 at right angles to the body of the latch. A rectangular slot 30 in the member 29 accommodates the bar 14 and permits the tube 12 to slide on the bar but prevents rotation of the tube relative to the bar, and keeps the parts in such relation to each other that the end wall 31 of the slot will ride on the teeth 15 to permit downward sliding of the tube 12 and the connected box 10, but will normally engage the straight lower edges of the teeth to prevent upward sliding of the tube on the bar, except when the latch is disengaged. The slot 30 is of sufficient length to permit retraction of the latch.

Modified construction.

The appliance of modified construction illustrated in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 differs from the appliance of preferred construction already described, in that the modified structure comprises a bar 32 without teeth or notches, a set screw 33 extending through the wall of the tube 34 and adapted to secure the bar 32 in the different positions in which it may be placed; a latch block 35 fixed on the tube 34 and having a lateral member 36, a hook 37, and a rectangular notch 38 adapted to permit sliding of the rod 32 and also adapted to prevent rotation of the tube around the bar. The spring latch 39 is attached to the bar 32 and comprises an integral outwardly extended loop or handle 40 and an inwardly extended member 41 adapted to engage the hook 37 to support, in lifted position, the tube 34 and the box connected therewith. Preparatory to placing articles in the box or on the hooks 20 (already described), the set screw 33 will be retracted to release the tube 34 from the bar 41 and the tube will then be slid upward by hand until the member 41 engages the hook 30 to support the tube in its lifted position and uncover the hooks so that articles may easily be placed thereon. When the articles are placed on the hooks, the latch 39 will be disengaged, by hand, from the tube 34 and the tube will be pressed downward by hand until the bottom of the box rests firmly on the articles on the hooks, to hold them tightly; and the set screw 33 will be tightened to prevent upward movement of the tube 34. To remove articles from the hooks the set screw 33 will be retracted and the tube will be pushed upward until the hook 37 engages the latch 39 and the latch supports the tube in its lifted position. The articles in the box and on the hook may then be easily removed.

Operation.

When it is desired to place articles on the hooks 20, or in the box 9, the lock 25 being first unlocked and detached from the staple 22, the user will take hold of the ring 23 to control the chain 18, and upon relaxing the chain the hanger will gravitate downwardly until stopped by the ring 23 striking against the staple 22. The latch 27 will then be retracted by hand to permit the box 9 to be pushed upwardly by hand to uncover the hooks 20; and when the box has been lifted to the desired extent, and the hand removed from the latch, the latch will act to engage one of the teeth 15 to hold the box in its lifted position. The articles will then be placed on the hooks and in the box. The box will then be pushed downward by hand until the bottom 10 bears firmly on the articles on the hooks and the end wall 31 engages the straight edge of one of the teeth 15 and prevents lifting the box while the latch is engaged with the tooth. The chain 18 will then be pulled to raise the hanger so that the ring 24 may be locked to the staple 22 as already described to secure the hanger in its raised position. To remove articles from the hanger it will be lowered as already described, the box will be lifted by hand as described, and the articles will then be removed by hand.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a clothes hanger, the combination of a box having a bottom intermediate of its ends; a tube fixed centrally on said bottom, a toothed sustaining bar extended through said tube and through the bottom of said

box; and a spring latch mounted on said tube and yielding to permit downward manual movement of the tube on said bar, and adapted to prevent rotation of the tube around the bar and also adapted to engage the teeth of the bar to prevent upward movement of the tube and the connected box, relative to the bar.

2. In a clothes hanger, the combination of a box having a bottom intermediate of its ends; a tube fixed on the bottom of the box; a toothed sustaining bar extended through said tube and through the bottom of the box; hooks at the lower terminal of said bar, and a spring latch secured on said tube and adapted to engage the teeth of said bar to keep the upper ends of said hooks in close relation to the bottom of said box.

3. In a clothes hanger, the combination of a toothed sustaining bar provided with hooks; a tubular box-supporting member slidable longitudinally relative to the sustaining bar; a spring latch fixed on said tubular member in operative relation to said sustaining bar and having a slotted member preventing rotation of the tubular member and the latch around the bar, and also having a handle for manual retraction of the latch.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name at Springfield, Illinois, this 8th day of December, A. D. 1920.

FRANK M. McGOWAN.

Witnesses:

S. ALLYNN TROXELL.

N. DU BOIS.