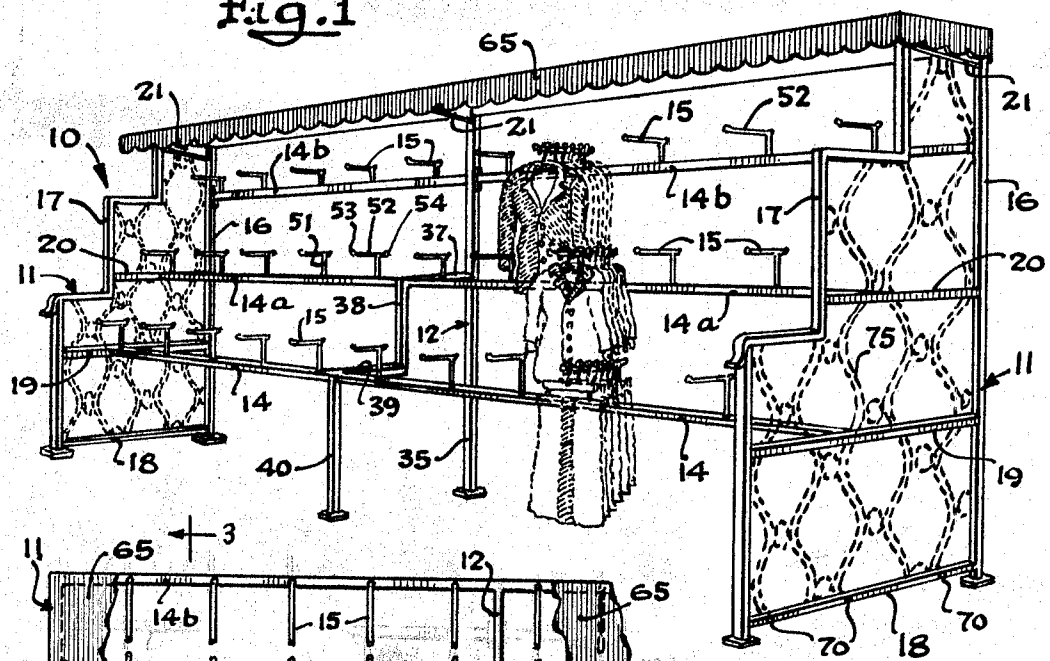
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DISPLAY RACK

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Fig.1



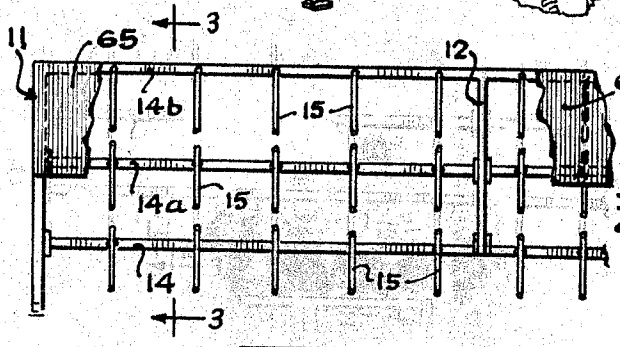


Fig.2

Fig.3

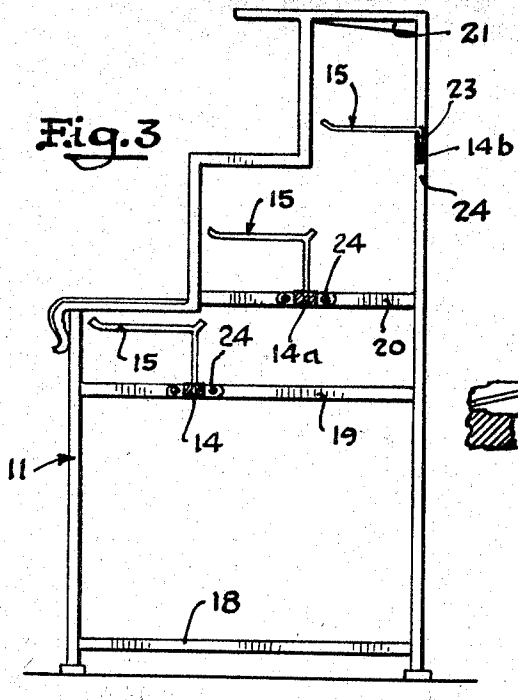
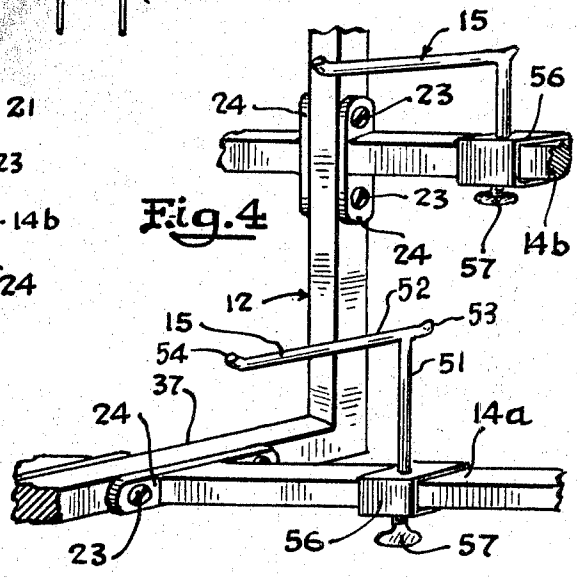


Fig.4



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Fig. 5

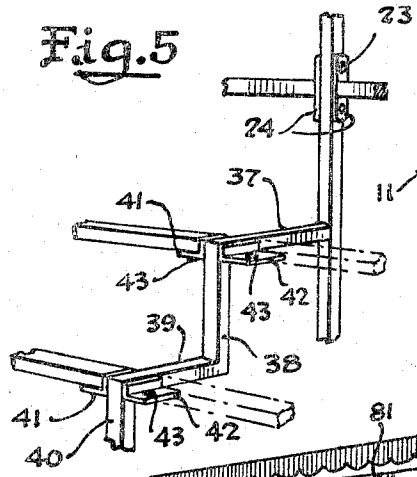


Fig. 7

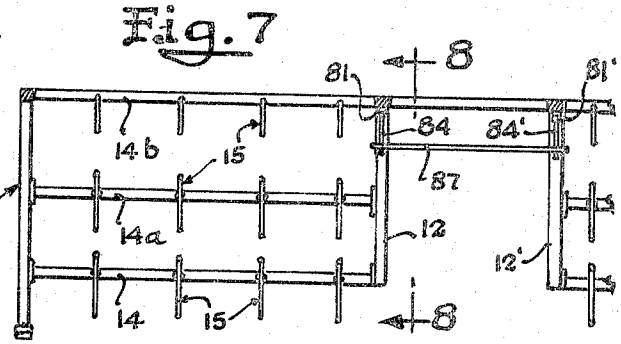


Fig. 6

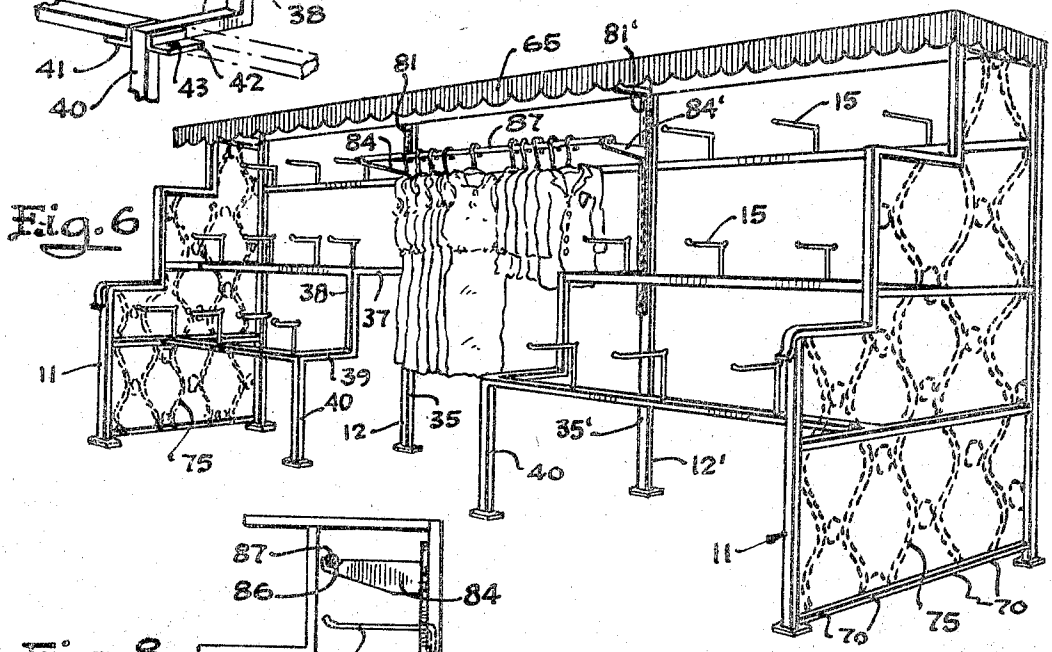


Fig. 8

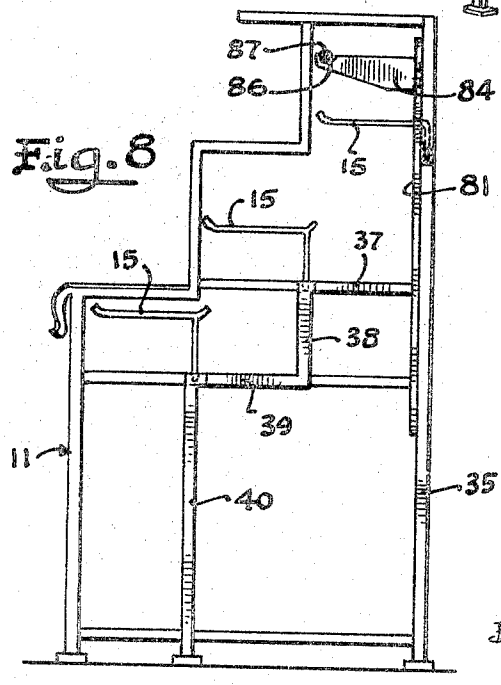
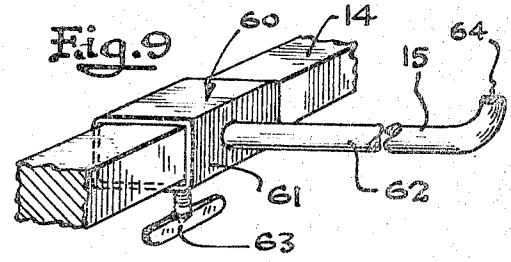


Fig. 9



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DISPLAY RACK

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8 Claims. (Cl. 211—178)

The present invention relates generally to racks for supporting articles for display purposes, and more particularly to a rack for displaying a plurality of articles of clothing in a complementary relationship.

Many structures have been devised for use in clothing stores, showrooms, and the like for displaying articles of clothing. None of these structures, however, provides a clothing display rack which permits convenient and ready access to the articles being displayed, which permits displaying a plurality of groups of clothing articles in a coordinated complementary relationship so as to convey to the prospective purchaser a clear idea how the several matching articles of clothing, such as coordinated ensembles of women's wear or men's sportswear, will look when worn together and thereby facilitates the customers selection of pleasing coordinated combinations and which also permits the department manager to determine readily the items which are selling more rapidly and thus control inventories more efficiently.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved display rack structure for more conveniently and attractively supporting a plurality of articles in vertically spaced relationship.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an improved display rack for supporting several groups of coordinated articles of clothing to show the complementary relationship between the several articles of clothing.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide an improved sectional display rack which can be assembled from detachable sections to form a display rack of variable length.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide an improved clothing display rack which can readily accommodate articles of clothing of varying length and width.

A still further object of this invention is to provide an improved display rack which enables the proprietor to more readily determine the movement of stock and thereby better control stock inventory.

Other objects of the present invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description and claims when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form of a display rack of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary top plan view of the display rack shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a vertical sectional view along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view of a part of the display rack shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary view of another part of the display rack shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a modified form of clothing rack of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary top plan view of the display rack shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 8—8 of FIG. 7; and

FIG. 9 is a detailed view of a modified form of support means for an article of clothing displayed on the rack of the preceding figures.

The display rack of the present invention is formed of

a plurality of detachable sections which can be connected in a variety of ways to provide a display rack of variable length and in a number of different combinations to accommodate articles of varying length and width. In the specific embodiment shown in FIGS. 1–5 of the drawing, the display rack 10 is comprised generally of two spaced end frame sections 11 with a connector frame section 12 disposed between the spaced end sections 11 and detachably connected thereto by means of a plurality of horizontally extending arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* arranged in tiers. At spaced points along the length of each of the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* are mounted hanger support means 15 for supporting clothing hangers or like devices on which articles of clothing can be supported.

The end frame section 11 is formed preferably of a rear upright member 16 which extends vertically the full height of the display rack 10 with an articulated front section 17 formed preferably of interconnected step-like portions joined to the rear upright member 16 by means of a plurality of transverse horizontal brace members 18, 19, 20 and 21. The brace members 19 and 20 are arranged between the top and bottom of the end frame section 11 in order to support the outer ends of bars 14 and 14*a* at the desired height for display purposes.

Connector means are provided on the horizontal brace member 19 at a point about one-third the length thereof from the forward end and on the brace member 20 at a point of about one-half the length thereof from the forward end for detachably securing bars 14 and 14*a*, respectively having thereon flange securing means 24. The upright member 16 is also provided at a point about one-fourth the length thereof from the upper end thereof with securing means 23 for detachably engaging the outer ends of arm support bar 14*b*. The three arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* are supported in horizontally spaced tiered relationship in order to provide maximum accessibility and to best show the complementary relationship of the various articles of clothing on display, as will be described in greater detail hereinafter.

While the inner end of the horizontal support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* can, if desired, be secured directly to another end frame section 11 in the above described manner, it is preferable, as shown in FIGS. 1–5, where the end frame sections 11 are to be spaced a distance in excess of about 8 feet to have two sets of bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* each with their outer ends secured to spaced end sections 11 and their inner ends secured to a single connector frame section 12 by preferably having integrally formed therewith securing means 24, 25, for detachably securing the inner ends of bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* to section 12, thereby forming a unitary connection between the spaced end frame sections 11 and the connector frame section 12.

The unitary connector frame section 12 is comprised preferably of a vertically extending rear upright member 35 of the same length as member 16 and a front step-like section 36 which is formed of a horizontal member 37 extending horizontally forwardly from the upright member 35 at a point preferably slightly above the midpoint thereof with a short vertically downwardly extending member 38 fixedly secured to the forward end of member 37, and a second horizontally extending member 39 preferably of about the same length as member 36 having its rear end secured to the lower end of member 37 and having at its forward end a short vertically downwardly extending member 40 for engaging the supporting floor surface. The forward ends of members 37 and 39 are preferably provided on each lateral surface thereof with a connector plate 41, 42, having spaced holes 43 drilled therein for receiving fasteners, such as bolts,

extending through the ends of the bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b*, thereby securely joining the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* with the connector frame sections 12. The inner end of support bar 14*b* is mounted on upright member 35 in the same manner as the outer end is mounted on upright member 15.

It will be evident that, if desired, one or more additional connector frame sections 12 and additional sets of bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* can be interposed between the spaced end frame sections 11 to provide a display rack having the required length for any specific installation.

Each of the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* are provided at spaced points along the length thereof with a hanger support means 15 which in the preferred form comprises a short rod-like section 51 extending vertically with a forwardly extending horizontal rod-like arm 52 secured to the upper end of section 51. The ends of the horizontal arm 52 are preferably upturned slightly at each end, as at 53, 54, to prevent a coat hanger or other support mounted thereon accidently sliding off the ends. The lower end of the rod-like section 51 can be permanently secured to the bars 14, 14*a* or 14*b* by being inserted in a passage formed therein or by being welded to the surface of bar 14. if desired, however, the lower end of the rod-like section 51 can be mounted in a collar member 56 adjustably mounted on the bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b*. For example, adjustable collar members 56 are shown in FIG. 4 mounted for slidable, longitudinal movement on the arm support bars 14*a* and 14*b* with a set screw 57 for holding the collar member 56 in any desired position on the bars 14*a* and 14*b*.

The length of the rod-like sections 51 in each installation is preferably made such that whatever the type of clothes hangers suspended on the horizontal arm 52, the article of clothing on the hanger will hide from view the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b*. With this arrangement of the hanger support means 15, more of the clothes on the hanger are visible and the support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* are not interposed between the viewer and the clothes being displayed. Thus, both the appearance of the clothes and the rack are made more attractive.

A modified form of hanger support means which can be mounted on the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* is shown in FIG. 9 of the drawing, wherein a bracket member 60 is comprised of a sleeve 61 for slidable and adjustable mounting on the arms 14, 14*a* and 14*b*, with a set screw 63 for securing the sleeve 61 at any desired position on bar 14. A hanger support arm 62 extends forwardly from the sleeve 61. The front end of the arm 62 is preferably upturned as at 64 to prevent accidental removal of a hanger mounted thereon.

The horizontal brace member 21 extending between the upper end of rear upright members 16 and at the upper end of the front section 17 supports a canopy 65 which extends forwardly over the two upper support bars 14*a* and 14*b* of the display rack structure. While the canopy 65 is not an essential component of the rack structure and can be omitted, the canopy 65 adds to the attractiveness of the unit and provides, if desired, space for mounting a lighting fixture for illuminating the articles on display.

The end frame section 11 of the rack structure 10 is also preferably provided with securing means 70 for mounting on the outer lateral surface thereof one or more decorative panels 75 covering substantially the entire lateral end surfaces. The decorative panels 75 are preferably made in open wrought iron patterns, such as scroll designs of flat wrought iron, ornamented grey cast or malleable iron, or of open wood panel designs which preferably do not entirely obstruct view of the articles on display and provide an attractive appearance.

In the modified form of the invention shown in FIGS. 6–8, the tiered display sections of FIG. 1 have the inner ends of the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* preferably having a length of between 5 and 8 feet spaced and

secured to separate connector frame sections 12 and 12′ which are spaced about 4 feet apart. And, in place of the arm support bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* extending between the connector frame sections 12 and 12′, there are provided one or more, and preferably a maximum of two parallel hanger support bars. In the latter modified form it will be apparent that the upright members 35, 35′ of the connector frame sections 12, 12′ have secured thereto bracket supports 81, 81′ respectively. The bracket supports 81, 81′ extend downwardly from a point adjacent the upper end of members 35, 35′, preferably to a point below the midpoint thereof. A pair of oppositely disposed brackets 84, 84′ are connected to each of the bracket supports 81, 81′ respectively, preferably at a point adjacent the upper ends thereof. The brackets 85, 84′ each are preferably comprised of an arm extending forwardly having support means 86 adjacent the outer end thereof for supporting the end of a horizontally extending hanger support bar 87 from which clothes hangers or the like can be supported in the usual manner. If desired, a second hanger support bar 87 can be mounted on a second pair of brackets similar to brackets 84, 84′ attached adjacent the lower ends of the supports 81, 81′. It will be evident that a single bar 87 mounted on brackets 84, 84′ secured adjacent the upper ends of bracket supports 81, 81′ would be used where it is necessary to support long garments requiring full length viewing. A second hanger support bar 87 would be used, however, where two rows of merchandise are required to show articles of clothing such as extra blouses, sweaters, jackets or ski coats, which are related to the articles displayed on the tiered racks. It will be evident that the bracket supports 81, 81′ can be dispensed with entirely and the upright members 35, 35′ slotted at spaced points along the front edge thereof to receive the brackets 84 or 84′ directly to provide a wide range of adjustability for garments of different lengths. Also, if desired, one or more sections of the intermediate and long garment support sections can be incorporated at any position between the end frame sections 11 in the display rack of the present invention. Thus, without departing from the scope of the present invention, a display rack installation can be made with the long garment support section interposed with the tiered bars 14, 14*a* and 14*b* or a tiered bar section can be formed between two long garment support sections having their outer ends attached to the end frame sections 11.

While the tiered display racks specifically illustrated are comprised of three tiered hanger support bars it is possible to provide only two or four or more tiered support bars in any installation, depending on the type and size of the articles being displayed, without departing from the scope of the present invention.

I claim:

1. A sectional displace rack which comprises; spaced end frame sections having connector means comprising a plurality of horizontal support bars connecting said end frame sections and forming a unitary assembly, said support bars being disposed in tiered relationship with the lowermost of said bars disposed at the front of said rack and the uppermost of said bars disposed at the back of said rack, said support bars having hanger support arms mounted at spaced points therealong, and said hanger support arms comprising a vertical member extending upwardly from said support bars and a horizontal arm member extending forwardly from the upper end of said vertical member and adapted to support thereon a plurality of article hangers with articles supported thereon for display purposes.

2. A display rack as in claim 1, wherein the hanger support arm on any one of said support bars lies in the same vertical plane as the hanger support arms on the support bar which is in tiered arrangement therewith.

3. A display rack as in claim 1, wherein said hanger support arms are mounted on said support bar for ad-

justable longitudinal movement along the length of said support bar.

4. A display rack as in claim 1, wherein a said hanger support arm has the vertical member of a length sufficient for an article when suspended on a said article hanger which is supported by the said horizontal arm member to completely conceal the said support bar on which the said hanger support arm is mounted.

5. A display rack as in claim 1, wherein said connector means has disposed between said end frame sections at least one connector frame section having at least one end of said support bars connected therewith and forming a unitary assembly with said end frame sections.

6. A display rack as in claim 5, wherein a separate connector frame section is connected to each said spaced end frame section by a plurality of said connector support bars, said connector frame sections being spaced and having mounted on vertical upright members thereof a pair of oppositely disposed brackets, and a secondary support bar having the opposite ends thereof engaged by and supported between said brackets.

7. A display rack as in claim 5, wherein two pairs of

said brackets are supported by said connector frame sections in vertically spaced relationship with the lower of said pair of brackets supporting a bar in a generally horizontal plane and forwardly of the bar supported by the upper of said pair of brackets.

8. A display rack as in claim 7, wherein said brackets are supported by a pair of spaced bracket support means secured to the most rearwardly disposed vertical upright member.

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