Nov. 13, 1951 J. M. COFFIN 2,574,860

GARMENT HANGER AND ATTACHMENT THEREFOR

Filed March 26, 1948

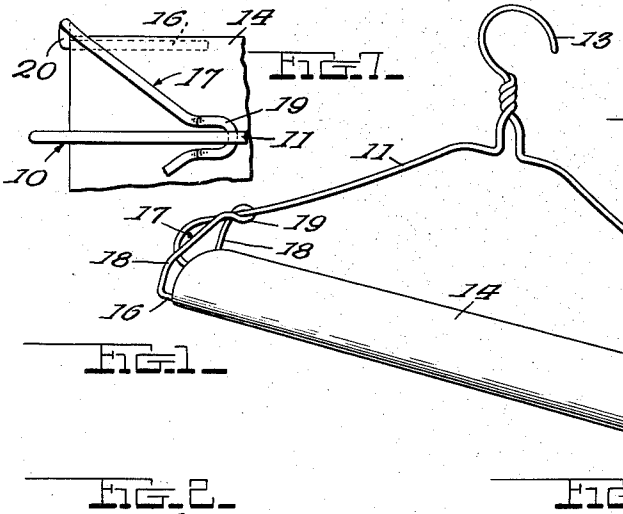


FIG. 1

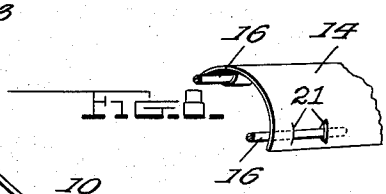


FIG. 8

FIG. 2

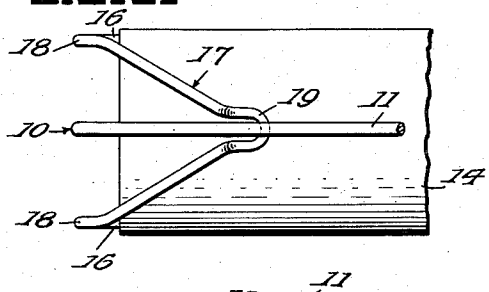


FIG. 3

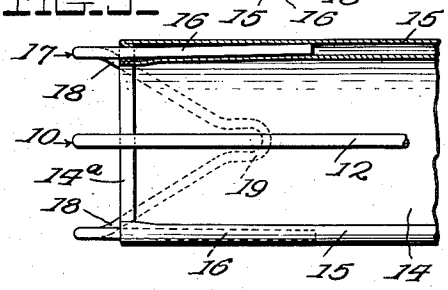


FIG. 4

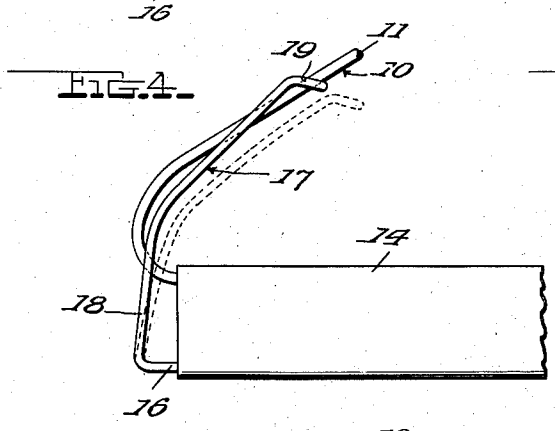


FIG. 5

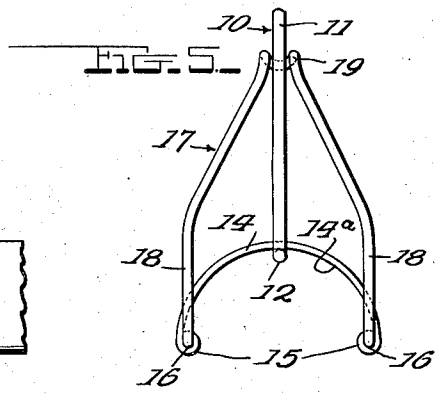
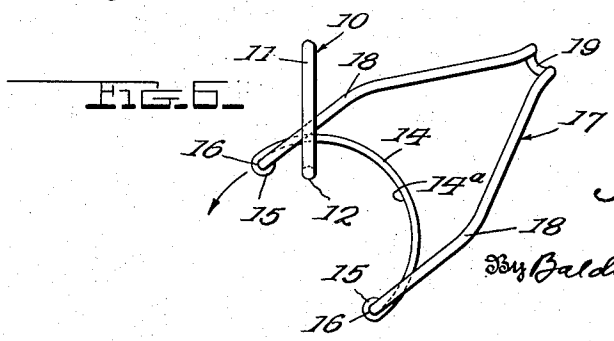


FIG. 6



Inventor

John M. Coffin

By Baldwin, Wight & Brown

Attys.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GARMENT HANGER AND ATTACHMENT THEREFOR

John M. Coffin, Silver Spring, Md.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—98)

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My invention consists in new and useful improvements in garment hangers and relates more particularly to an attachment for a conventional wire coat hanger or the like to facilitate the hanging of trousers or skirts on the cross bar of the hanger.

When trousers or skirts are folded and hung over the cross bar of a conventional wire coat hanger, the cross bar invariably leaves a noticeable crease or indentation in the garment and although various efforts have been made to devise shields or protective coverings for such cross bars, none has been particularly satisfactory. It is therefore the object of my invention to provide a removable trousers or skirt hanging attachment which may be installed on any of the conventional wire coat hangers, said attachment preferably having a curved upper surface of sufficient transverse area to adequately support folded trousers or skirts without imparting thereto the objectionable creases.

Another object of my invention is to provide a novel spring actuated retaining clip whereby the trousers or skirt supporting attachment may be readily installed and removed from conventional coat hangers without requiring any alteration of the hanger.

A still further object of the invention is to provide retaining clips at the longitudinal extremities of the trousers and skirt supporting member, so designed that aside from their function as locking elements, they render additional support to the shoulders and sleeves of a coat hung on the main portion of the garment hanger.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, my invention consists in the novel features set forth, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawing in which numerals of like character designate similar parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved attachment in place on the cross bar of a conventional wire coat hanger;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary top plan view of one end of the structure shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a similar view from the underside of the attachment with a portion shown in section to illustrate one method of securing the retaining clip in place;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view in side elevation showing the retaining clip in locked position

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in full lines, and in releasing position in dotted lines;

Figure 5 is an end view of the structure shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a similar view showing the attachment in the course of being removed from the hanger;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary view showing a modified retaining clip structure; and

Figure 8 is a further modification of a method of mounting the clip on the body of the attachment.

In the drawings, 10 represents a conventional wire coat hanger which, for the purpose of illustration, is of the type formed by bending a single piece of wire to form angular shoulder supporting elements 11, connected by a cross bar 12 and having a suspending hook 13 at the junction of the two shoulder supporting elements. My improved attachment comprises a trousers or skirt supporting member 14 which, in the form shown in Figures 1 to 6, comprises an elongated sheet of thin metal bent transversely to form a rounded garment-engaging upper face. The ends 14a of the sheet are preferably folded inwardly as shown in Figure 3 to avoid sharp edges and the longitudinal edges of the metal body 14 are preferably rolled inwardly from end to end to form hollow beads 15 adapted to receive the free ends 16 of a bifurcated clip 17 at each end of the body 14.

Each of the clips 17 is formed of resilient wire bent upwardly at substantially right angles from each of the legs 16, to form arms 18 which are bent inwardly at a more abrupt angle and converge to form a loop or notch 19 at the junction of the two arms.

The underside of the metal body 14 is adapted to rest upon the cross bar 12 of the coat hanger 10 in parallel relation thereto and the spring clips 17 are adapted to be sprung into place under respective shoulder supporting elements 11, as shown in Figure 1, with the loops 19 embracing the elements 11. These spring clips, being normally under an outward tension, retain the attachment in place on the hanger by forcing it downwardly on the cross bar 12 and also preventing lateral displacement by means of the loop 19.

In order to remove the attachment, either one of the spring clips 17 is forced inwardly against its spring tension, to the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 4, thus clearing the shoulder supporting element of the garment hanger and permitting the attachment to be rocked laterally into

the position shown in Figure 6, from which position the body member 14 may be readily lifted from the cross bar 12. The installation of the attachment is accomplished by the reverse operation.

In Figure 7 I have shown a modified form of spring clip wherein the wire is bent first at a substantially 90° angle outwardly as it emerges from the bead 15 and then at a 90° angle upwardly, instead of the single 90° bend upwardly, as shown in the other figures just referred to. In this modification the double angular bend designated by the numeral 20, serves the dual function of a stop for positioning the clip in the attachment 14 and also as an added protection to the garments.

It is to be understood that I do not intend to confine myself to the use of sheet metal in the manufacture of the body 14. Obviously, this may be made of wood or plastic or any suitable material properly shaped to serve the intended purpose. Furthermore, I do not intend to confine myself to the particular method of attaching the spring clip to the body 14. For example, in Figure 8, I have shown a modification wherein the sheet metal body 14, instead of being provided with a rolled edge or bead 15, is punched as at 21 to accommodate the free ends of the bifurcated spring clips 17.

It will thus be seen that with my improved attachment, a conventional wire garment hanger is conveniently adapted to serve both as a coat hanger and as a trousers or skirt hanger with a minimum of effort, and that the disadvantages heretofore noted are overcome. Furthermore, due to the flaring shape and angle of inclination of the spring clips 17, at the extremities of the assembly, additional support is afforded to the sleeves and shoulders of a coat, thus avoiding the objection heretofore encountered with ordinary wire coat hangers, wherein the abrupt bends at the extremities of the hanger cause an unsightly bulge in the sleeve of a coat.

It should also be observed that spring engagement of the retaining clips 17 under the shoulder supporting arms 11 of the hanger acts to vertically reinforce the arms 11, thus reducing the normal tendency of said arms to bend downwardly under the weight of heavy coats.

From the foregoing it is believed that my invention may be readily understood by those skilled in the art without further description, it being borne in mind that numerous changes may be made in the detail of structure without departing from the spirit of the invention as set forth in the following claim.

I claim:

1. An attachment for a garment hanger of the type comprising a wire, bent to form angular shoulder supporting arms connected by a cross bar and having a suspending hook, said attachment comprising an elongated body member adapted to rest upon said cross bar in parallel relation, for supporting a pair of trousers or a skirt folded thereover, said body member having upwardly directed retaining elements at each of its longitudinal extremities for detachably engaging beneath respective shoulder supporting arms at points intermediate the extremities of the latter.

2. An attachment for a garment hanger of the type comprising a wire, bent to form angular shoulder supporting arms connected by a cross bar and having a suspending hook, said attachment comprising an elongated body member adapted to rest upon said cross bar in parallel relation, said body member having a transversely curved upper surface for supporting a pair of trousers or a skirt, folded thereover, said body member having upwardly directed spring actuated retaining elements at each of its longitudinal extremities for detachably engaging beneath respective shoulder supporting arms at points intermediate the extremities of the latter.

3. An attachment for a garment hanger of the type comprising a wire, bent to form angular shoulder supporting arms connected by a cross bar and having a suspended hook, said attachment comprising an elongated body member adapted to engage said cross bar in parallel relation, said body member having a transversely curved upper surface for supporting a pair of trousers or a skirt folded thereover, and retaining elements at each of the longitudinal extremities of said body member, comprising resilient bifurcated clips, the legs of which are secured to said body member, said clips being bent upwardly and inwardly to underlie intermediate points on respective shoulder supporting arms in tensional engagement therewith.

4. An attachment for a garment hanger of the type comprising a wire bent to form angular shoulder supporting arms connected by a cross bar and having a suspending hook, said attachment comprising an elongated body member formed of a transversely and downwardly curved sheet of metal adapted to overlie said cross bar in parallel relation for supporting a pair of trousers or a skirt folded thereover, and retaining elements at each of the longitudinal extremities of said body member comprising resilient bifurcated clips, the longitudinal edges of said body member being provided with rolled beads adapted to receive respective legs of said bifurcated clips and to act as reinforcing means for said body member, said bifurcated clips being bent upwardly and inwardly from said legs to underlie said shoulder supporting arms in tensional engagement therewith.

JOHN M. COFFIN.

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