F. VIDEGARAY.

GARMENT SUPPORTING FORM AND PRESSER FOR WARDROBE TRUNKS.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 27, 1915.

1,266,358. Patented May 14, 1918.

Fig. 1.

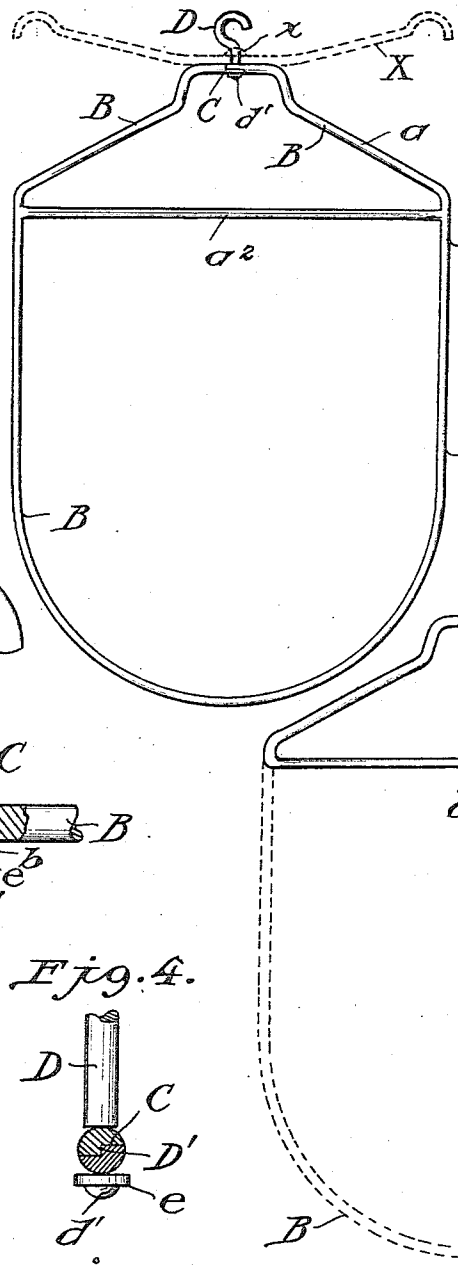


Fig. 2.

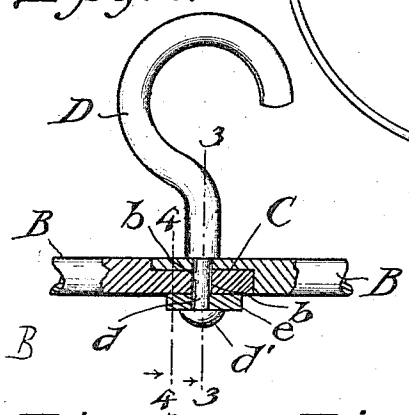


Fig. 3.

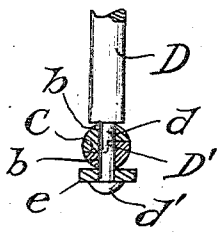
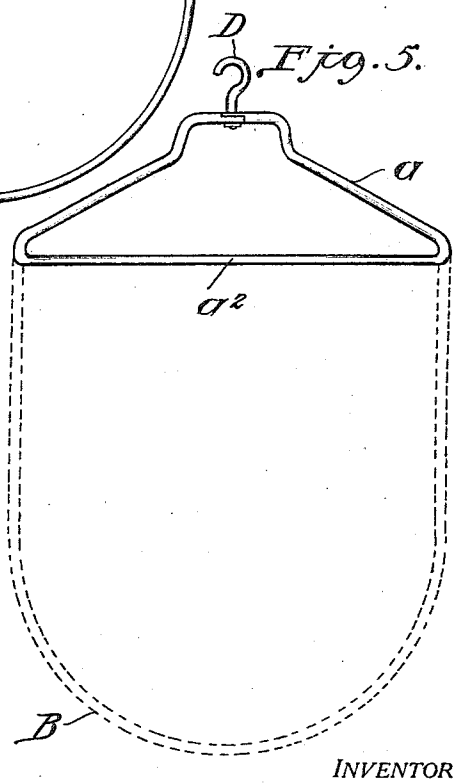


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.



WITNESS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FEDERICO VIDEGARAY, OF MEXICO, MEXICO.

GARMENT-SUPPORTING FORM AND PRESSER FOR WARDROBE-TRUNKS.

1,266,358. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 14, 1918.

Application filed December 27, 1915. Serial No. 68,634.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FEDERICO VIDEGARAY, a citizen of Mexico, residing in Mexico city, Mexico, have invented a certain new and useful Garment-Supporting Form and Presser for Wardrobe-Trunks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is a garment supporting form and presser adapted for use, more particularly, with wardrobe trunks of the type described and claimed in my Patent No. 1,159,342, dated November 2, 1915. According to the patented construction referred to, the interior of the trunk is provided with a guide, with which is adapted to coöperate an extension member, so that garment-hangers supported on the guide may be withdrawn to points exterior of the trunk, while supported on the extension member. The extension member is removable, so that, when the garments are positioned upon their supporting hangers within the trunk, said extension member may be removed from the guide and positioned transversely of the trunk so as to press against the garments and hold them in compact form and against inadvertent displacement, means being provided for maintaining said extension member in such position.

In the patented invention, as thus far described, the engagement of the extension member with the garments, when in its compressing position, is more or less in a line contact transversely of the garments and substantially midway of their height. It will be manifest, however, that a construction which would engage the garments throughout substantially their entire height, would compress the same and press them to better advantage. Accordingly, in the patent referred to, a stirrup-shaped member is shown as adapted to coöperate with the extension member in the carrying out of its function, said stirrup member, however, operating entirely independently of the garment-hangers.

The present invention contemplates the use of a combined garment supporting form and presser for wardrobe trunks, which device embodies a structure adapted to carry out the functions of similar devices heretofore used with such trunks, as well as additional functions not found in such prior structures. The garment-hanger of the present invention embodies means for supporting a garment and maintaining the same in proper form, and simultaneously provides means adapted to coöperate with the extension member for compressing all of the garments in the trunk uniformly and substantially throughout their entire length.

A salient feature of the present invention resides in the fact that the garment-hanger is provided with a suspending device which allows of the rotation of the hanger upon its support. Said suspending device is of extreme simplicity, and is so formed as to render the structure as rigid as though the pivotal means were not included.

A further object of the invention is to form the pivotal suspending device and the adjacent parts of the garment-hanger in such manner that they will be strong, rigid, and, at the same time, may be manufactured at an astonishingly low figure.

Features of the invention, other than those specified, will be apparent from the hereinafter detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated different practical embodiments of the invention, but the constructions shown therein are to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the preferred form of garment supporting form and presser of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a detail of the pivotal suspending member, portions of the garment-supporting member being in section, in the interest of clearness.

Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a similar section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 5 is a face view of a modified form of the invention, showing the manner in which the pivotal connection shown may be employed in a garment-hanger wherein the pressing and distending form is not employed.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly Figs. 1 to 4, inclusive, A indicates the preferred form of garment supporting form and presser. The device is preferably constructed from wire rod B, of suitable gage to impart sufficient rigidity thereto, and, speaking generally, embodies an upper portion a and a lower portion a'. A stiffening rod or wire a^2 extends across the device and near the upper part thereof. The upper

portion *a* of the device slopes outwardly with a configuration adapted to conform to the interior of a coat or vest, while the lower portion *a'* may be of any shape desired, but is preferably of such width that, when a garment, such as a coat, is suspended on the upper portion *a*, and said coat buttoned, the portion *a'* will be of sufficient width to draw the coat flat and preclude creasing of the front or back thereof when said garment, with its coöperating hanger and form, is packed.

The parts thus far described embody an integral structure, but, for economy in manufacture, the structure is so formed that the free ends of the wire from which the device is constructed come together at the top of the device, and are so formed that, when a suspending member, such as a hook, is secured to the device, the securing of said member will simultaneously secure the ends of the wire together. One operation, therefore, serves the dual purpose, and thus considerably cheapens the cost of manufacture.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 2, 3 and 4, it will be noted that the free ends of wire rod B overlap one another in a half-lapped joint C, as shown in Fig. 2, but this joint, in contradistinction to being of the ordinary half-lapped type, is offset or stepped transversely, as at D', as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The over-lapped portions of rod B are provided with alined apertures *b*, and a hook-shaped suspending member D, provided with a reduced stem *d*, is adapted to be passed through said apertures and through a washer *e*, whereupon its end is riveted over, as at *d'*, to bind the parts together. With this construction, it will be obvious that half-lapped joint C will maintain the ends of the rod in vertical alinement, whereas the stepped joint D' will maintain the parts of rod B against lateral pivotal movement. Washer *e* will provide a suitable surface against which the riveting of the portion *d'* may be accomplished, and the fact that the washer may turn with stem *b*, makes it necessary to only slightly head or rivet stem *b*. If the washer were omitted, it would be necessary to put a decided head upon said stem, since the rotation of hook D would have a tendency to cause the parts to wear and become loose. It will be noted that, in the riveting or heading operation on the stem *b* of the hook, said operation is not carried sufficiently far to tightly bind the hook against pivotal movement relative to wire B, but, on the contrary, said stem is simply riveted tightly enough to adequately bind the ends of the rod together against movement, but to allow of the free rotation of the hook.

While the half-lapped joint C at the ends of rod B might be made without stepping the same transversely, as at D', the structure in such instance would not bind the ends of the rod together to preclude them from becoming out of alinement laterally, and, as the parts become more or less worn through use, the joint would, in time, become very weak, and the strength of the hanger would be in jeopardy when heavy garments were suspended thereon. The stepped joint *d'* specified, however, entirely overcomes the lateral movement referred to, and forms a rigid union between the ends of the wire, while allowing of free rotation of the hook member. Its employment is, therefore, preferable.

When the garment supporting form and presser hereinbefore described is employed in wardrobe trunks of the type disclosed in my prior patent aforesaid, the garments to be packed in the trunk are supported upon hangers embodying the present invention, and the hooks of said hangers are suspended upon the supporting trolley of the trunk. Assuming that a gentleman's suit is to be the garment last packed in the trunk, it will be apparent that the trousers are first flattened to the creases in the legs, and said trousers are then hung, about midway of their length, over the transverse bar a^2, which simultaneously serves as a trousers support and a stiffening member for the device. The vest is next hung upon the upper portion *a*, in the manner in which it is usually applied to ordinary coat-hangers, and said vest is buttoned about the form or lower portion *a'*. The coat is next superimposed over the vest in the same manner, and the front buttoned so that said coat, when thus applied, is drawn taut so as to hold the same in shape. The hanger, with the garment supported thereon, is hung upon the trolley in the trunk, and the extension rod, forming one of the trunk accessories, is removed from the guide or trolley and positioned transversely of the trunk, whereupon said rod is pressed tightly against the suit to force the same back in the trunk as far as possible, and, when the maximum degree of pressure is reached, said rod is locked in place by the usual means. Manifestly, when this has been accomplished, pressure will not be imparted to the garment in a single line transversely thereof, but the pressure upon one portion of the device A will be imparted to all parts thereof, and, accordingly, the entire foremost suit will be forced backwardly against the suits positioned rearwardly thereof and interior of the trunk.

The device of the present invention, therefore, accomplishes all of the pressing functions which were accomplished by the stirrup member of my prior patent, and, at the same time, produces additional results, is more compact, cheaper to manufacture, and takes up less room in a trunk than that oc-

cupied by the stirrup member and garment-hanger shown in said previous patent. Moreover, the accessories in the trunk necessary for supporting the stirrup are, of course, rendered superfluous when the present invention is employed, thereby further cheapening the cost of manufacture.

It will, of course, be understood that, in packing away a number of garments in a wardrobe trunk as described, each garment may, if desired, be supported upon a device A as described, although it is not essential when packed in a trunk such as illustrated in my earlier patent. If only the front garment is supported upon the combined garment supporting from and presser, this device will, in pressing back the front garment, force back all of the rest. In such case, the rear garments might be supported on ordinary garment-hangers, or on garment-hangers embodying simply the upper portion *a* of the device of the present invention, with the form or depending portion *a'* omitted, as shown in Fig. 5. In this figure, the portion *a'* is shown in dotted lines, which dotted-line portion is simply omitted in the manufacture of the article. The advantage of the rotatable connection between the garment support and suspending hook may thus be gained in structures embodying either both the upper and lower portions *a* and *a'*, or the upper portion *a* alone.

When it is desired to withdraw garments supported within a trunk of the type referred to, this may be accomplished by drawing the same forward to a position exterior of the trunk, on the extension rod, and, if it is desired to examine both the front and the back of any particular garment, sufficient space may be left between the adjacent garments to allow of the garment in question being rotated upon its supporting hook without necessitating the removal of the hook from the guide, as is now the case in wire-rod hangers.

It will, of course, be understood that, in referring to the suspending device D as a hook, any other suitable form of suspending device might be employed. *E. g.*, a hook such as shown in full lines in Fig. 1 is particularly applicable for use when a single-trolley trunk is used, whereas a yoke X, such as shown in dotted lines in said figure, is advantageous when a double-trolley trunk is used. In the latter case, the yoke may be provided with an integral stem corresponding to stem *d* of hook D, or a rivet *x* may be employed, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

In the foregoing description, I have set forth the invention in its preferred, specific embodiment, as formed from wire rod of circular cross-section. However, the invention is not to be understood as being limited to this detail of construction, as other material, such as sheet metal, might be employed. Furthermore, I am aware that the invention embodies many improvements, some of which might be employed without necessarily using all. It will, therefore, be understood that the invention is not limited to the specific details shown, but is as broadly as is commensurate with the appended claims.

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

1. A device of the class described embodying a garment carrying member formed from wire rod, the ends of which are overlapped in a substantially half-lap, laterally stepped joint, a suspending member embodying a stem passing through alined apertures in said overlapped ends, said suspending member serving to lock the ends of the wire rod together and simultaneously form a support for said garment carrying member, while allowing of pivotal movement of the suspending means.

2. A device of the class described embodying a garment supporting member formed from wire rod, the ends of which are overlapped in a substantially half-lap, laterally stepped joint, a suspending member provided with a stem passing through alined apertures in said overlapped ends, and means on said stem for locking the ends of the wire rod together, while allowing of pivotal movement of the suspending means.

3. A device of the class described embodying a garment supporting member formed from wire rod, a garment distending member integral therewith and depending therefrom, and also formed from wire rod, and a suspending member for pivotally supporting the whole, the ends of the wire rod, from which the supporting member is formed, being overlapped in a substantially half-lap, laterally stepped joint and locked together by the suspending member.

4. A garment support and presser for wardrobe trunks embodying, in its entirety, a rigid, integral frame formed from a metallic strip, the upper portion of which frame is shaped to support a garment and the lower portion of which serves to distend the same, the ends of the metallic strip being brought together in an over-lap, laterally stepped joint, in combination with a suspending member having a stem secured for rotation in alined apertures in the parts of the joint at the ends of the strip, for binding said ends together to form the rigid frame and simultaneously securing the suspending member thereto.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

FEDERICO VIDEGARAY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."