Nov. 20, 1934. J. D. BOWEN 1,981,775

APPAREL PROTECTOR

Filed June 14, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

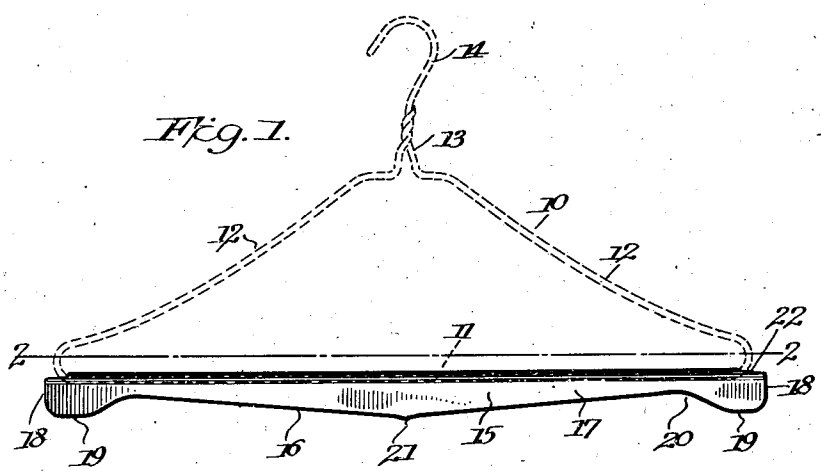


Fig. 3.

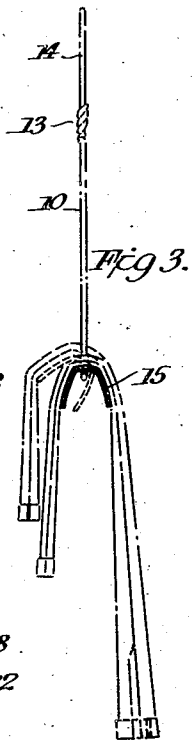


Fig. 2.

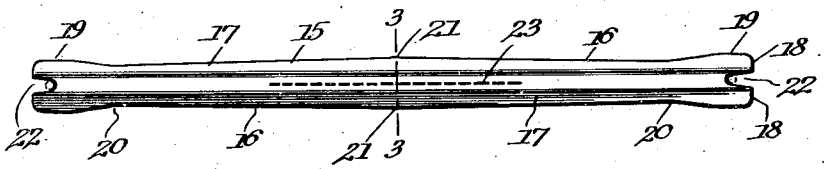


Fig. 5.

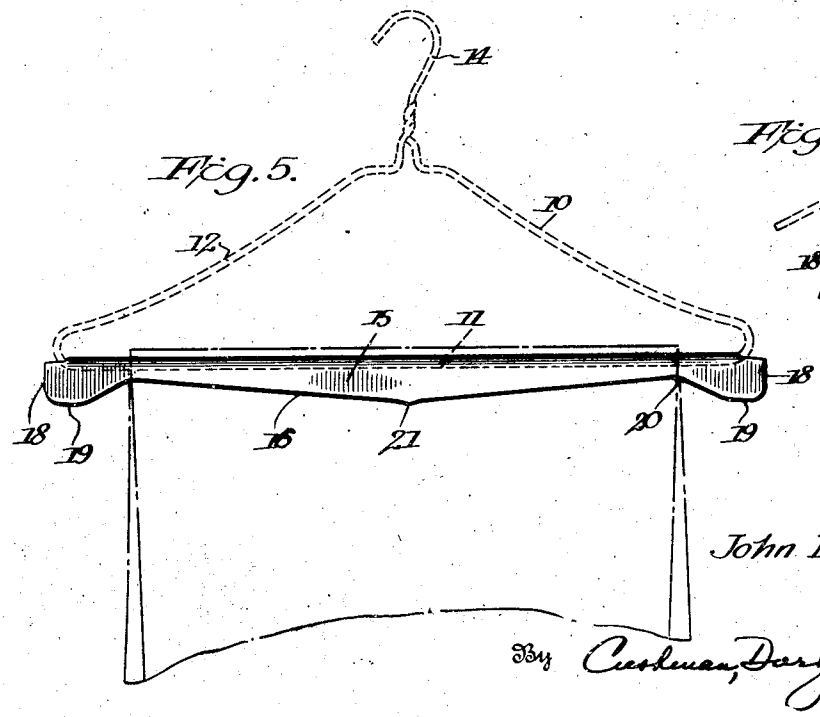
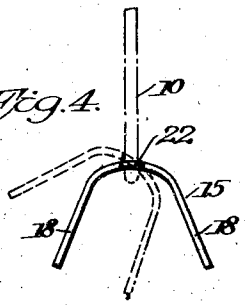


Fig. 4.



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Nov. 20, 1934. J. D. BOWEN 1,981,775

APPAREL PROTECTOR

Filed June 14, 1933 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

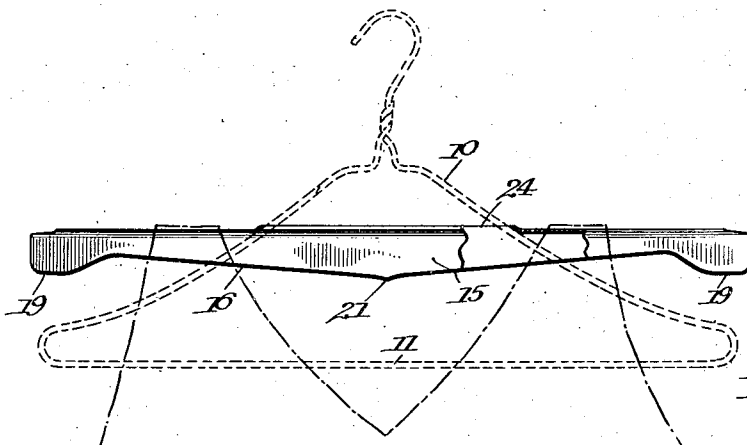


Fig. 6.

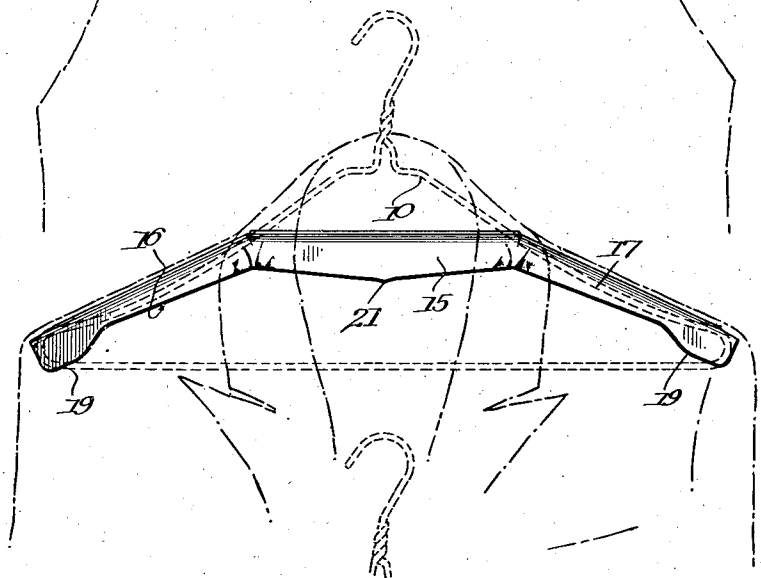


Fig. 7.

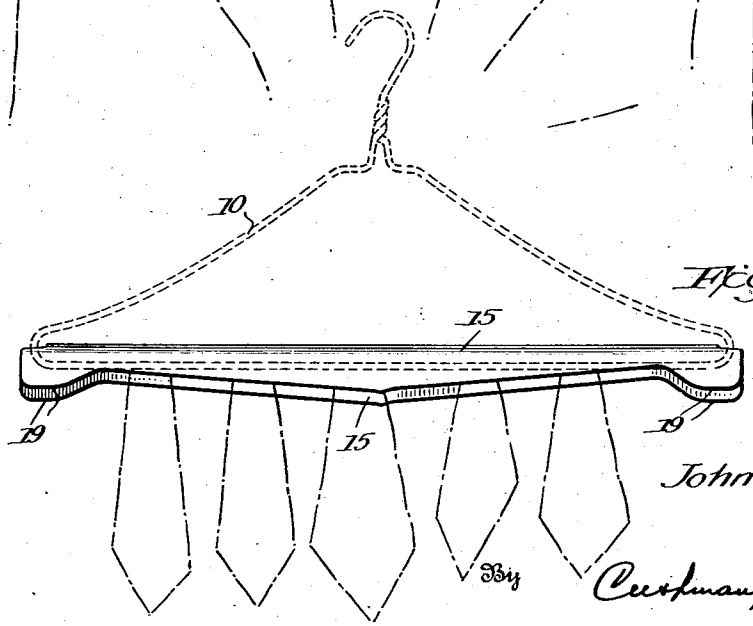


Fig. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

1,981,775

APPAREL PROTECTOR

John D. Bowen, Lawrence, Kans.

Application June 14, 1933, Serial No. 675,836

5 Claims. (Cl. 223—61)

The invention relates to an apparel protector.

Heretofore there have been designed analogous devices, but in use these have apparently failed to accomplish the desired results, and, in many instances, have proven inadequate in design and operation.

The present invention is particularly adaptable for diversified association with metallic clothing hangers, which have universal use today, not only in cleaning, pressing and clothing establishments, but also extensively in the home. Apparel which has been washed, cleaned, or pressed, is usually returned to the customer on the aforementioned hanger, and said apparel is subjected to creasing at the point of contact with the hanger, as well as the possibility of becoming soiled with dirt or rust, where the enamel or paint has become broken or worn off the hanger, and even stained by the paint. Such is also true where apparel is positioned on hangers of the type described in the home, and even more so, since the use of hangers is usually consistently more extensive.

Furthermore, when delivery of apparel is being made to a customer, any unusual swaying or jiggling of the hanger from its point of suspension will tend to cause the apparel to slip off of the smooth wire surfaces of the hanger with clearly disadvantageous results.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a distinct improvement in devices of this character by combining obvious simplicity and assured operativeness.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide an apparel protector, which in use, will prevent the unsightly creasing of apparel at the points of contact with the hanger.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparel protector which will tend to maintain and not distort the shapes of the apparel.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparel protector which will eliminate the soiling of garments at the points of contact with the hanger, which is particularly important in the use of metallic hangers which tend to become rusty or dirty.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparel protector which will support the apparel in such manner as to eliminate slippage on, and subsequent disengagement of, the apparel from the hanger.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparel protector which is equally adaptable in protective use of any type of wearing apparel with which a hanger may be associated.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an apparel protector which is simple in construction and inexpensive to manufacture.

With these and other objects and advantages in mind, attention is directed to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational side view of the invention in association with the hanger, showing one of the diversified adaptations of the device.

Figure 2 is a top view of the invention taken on the horizontal sectional line 2—2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the invention taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2, showing a garment positioned on the protector, and, in dotted lines showing the functioning of the protector on the hanger, the frictional engagement between the apparel and protector and the anchoring means thereof to prevent dislodgment of the garment being evident.

Figure 4 is an enlarged end view of the invention as associated with the hanger and shows in dotted lines the reciprocating or rocking movement of the device on the hanger.

Figure 5 is an enlarged front view in part of the invention showing in outline a garment positioned on the protector.

Figure 6 is an elevational side view of the invention in association with the hanger, and shows another one of the diversified adaptations of the device when used with a type of garment disclosed in outline.

Figure 7 is an elevational side view of the invention in association with the hanger, and shows still another one of the diversified adaptations of the device when used with the type of garment disclosed in outline.

Figure 8 is an elevational side view of the invention in association with the hanger, and shows a further one of the diversified adaptations of the device when used with the type of apparel disclosed, and in this instance it will be observed that a plurality of the protectors are associated with the hanger.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which like numerals indicate like parts, 10 designates the metallic clothes hanger of conventional design having a lower substantially horizontal member 11, upper converging members 12, which are joined at 13, and a suspension means 14.

It has been found that while the shapes of the metallic clothes hangers of this character are similar, there is a substantial variance between the sizes, particularly the length of the lower horizontal members 11. Such variance is due to

the different designs of the many manufacturers of this type of article, or to the fact that in the quantity production of the clothes hangers, precision as to size is only generally observed.

In view of the aforementioned circumstances, the present invention has been designed to meet such contingencies, and will function with equal perfection where the sizes of the hangers vary slightly or to a perceptible degree.

The protector forming the subject matter of the present invention comprises an elongated channel-shaped blank of sheet material of semi-rigid nature, such as cardboard, or the like, designated generally by the numeral 15. The use of cardboard is, of course, optional, and specifying such is for illustrative purposes only, it being strictly understood that there are innumerable types of material which may be satisfactorily utilized.

The shape of the protector is of importance in its proper functioning in the various ways to which it is adaptable, and it will be observed that the edge portions 16 of both side portions 17 of the blank when in substantially flat condition taper from their centermost points toward the end portions 18, whereupon the said edge portions flare outwardly as at 19, in substantially fan-shaped manner, and it will be noted, extend beyond the ends of the hanger proper on both sides thereof. The body portion of the hanger is defined by the edges 16, and at each end of the body portion are end portions having means for securing the protector to the hanger as will be hereinafter described.

Because of such design, there are formed indentations or, in effect, cut-away portions 20 between the tapering edges 16 and the flared portions 19.

At the centermost points of each side edge portion 16, the tapered configurations form distinct edge projections or points 21, the functions of which will be hereinafter described.

On the longitudinal median line of the protector at each end are provided relatively elongated slots 22, and the central portion of the said longitudinal median line of the protector is scored or perforated as at 23. Furthermore, the protector has been designed to provide sufficient surface area so that the contact area between the apparel and the protector will produce the frictional engagement necessary to preventing slippage or distortion of the garment upon the hanger under normal conditions, and yet without using an unnecessary amount of material of which the protector is made, as has been the case in prior developments of this nature.

Due to the relatively elongated slots 22 of the protector, it can be satisfactorily attached to and used with hangers of varying dimensions, as is exemplified in Figures 1 and 2, where the hanger is contiguous with the inner ends of the slots 22, and in Figure 8, where the hanger falls between the inner and outer end portions of the said slots.

With an understanding of the construction heretofore described, it will be apparent that when the protector is positioned upon the lower horizontal member of the hanger as shown in Figures 1 and 2, it will be adaptable to a freely reciprocating or rocking movement thereon, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, without the possibility of dislodgment from the hanger, and, at the same time, the elongation of the slots, as disclosed, will adapt the protector to use with varying sizes of hangers.

In order that the operation of the invention in its adaptations to various types of apparel may be thoroughly illustrated and considered, attention is directed particularly to Figures 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

To preliminarily prepare the protector for use, the flat preformed blank is partially folded along its longitudinal median line, the scored or perforated central section 23 and the slots 22 facilitating coincidence of the fold line and longitudinally median line. Being of semi-rigid material the protector will remain partially folded and the side portions 17 including the flared portions 19 and edge projections or points 21 will remain tensioned to facilitate the proper flexing thereof under the pressure of the apparel, so that the said apparel and the protector will, at all times, be in intimate contact with each other, no matter what gyrations of the apparel will be caused by outside forces when the hanger is suspended in the usual manner.

The protector is then positioned upon the lower horizontal member of the hanger, and the end portions of the hanger formed by the said horizontal member and the upper converging members 12, fall within the slots 22, thereby firmly holding the protector from disengagement but permitting a reciprocating or rocking movement of the protector.

Referring to Figures 3 and 5, there will be observed the use of the protector with a garment such as a pair of trousers. The illustration shows the garment normally positioned, and in such a manner that there is no possibility of the hanger imparting an unsightly crease to the garments as is usual at the point of contact with the hanger when the protector is not in use. Furthermore, no part of the hanger will come into contact with the garment, thus preventing the transmission of dirt, rust or paint, since the protector completely covers the lower horizontal member of the hanger.

As heretofore explained, under normal conditions of suspension of the hanger, the frictional contact between the apparel and protector serves to prevent slippage and distortion of the former, and in event of abnormal conditions of suspension of the hanger, which, of course, is usual when apparel is being moved or conveyed on hangers from place to place, there is a prevailing tendency for the hanger to sway back and forth or jiggle on the point of suspension.

Under these conditions the reciprocation or rocking of the protector on the hanger, as shown in Figures 3 and 4, will facilitate the continued and definite frictional contact between the apparel protector and, as disclosed particularly in Figure 3, the edge projections or points 21 will be forced into the material of which the apparel is made, and anchor the same against slippage or distortion.

At the same time, and under similar conditions, the flared portions 19 eliminate any tendency of slippage of the garment longitudinally of the protector, and, in effect, form stops adjacent both ends of the protector, since the outermost edges of a garment, such as trousers, when properly folded, will fall within the indentations 20 formed by the tapering edges 16 and the said flared portions, as disclosed particularly in Figure 5.

It is obvious that the garment, such as is illustrated in Figures 3 and 5, will, during the reciprocating or rocking movement of the protector, conform to the shapes of the tapers of the side edge portions of the blank, and, in so doing, the functions of the edge projections or points 21 will

become accentuated and operate to definitely anchor the garment.

In Figure 6 there will be observed the use of the protector with another type of garment, such as a lady's dress, and, in this instance, it is desired to eliminate contact between the garment and the upper converging members 12 of the hanger.

To prepare the protector for this particular adaptation, it is partially folded, as heretofore described, and the scored or perforated central portion 23 of the blank is opened to form a slit 24 by applying slight pressure thereto.

The protector is positioned on the hanger by inserting the suspension means thereof through the slit 24, whereupon the ends of said slit will rest upon, and be held by, the upper converging members 12 of the hanger. The garment may then be hung upon the protector, for example, as shown in Figure 6, and because of the shape of the protector, no unsightly creases will be occasioned and the garment will not in any manner be soiled by the hanger.

With reference to the use of the protector, as illustrated in Figure 7, preparation of the protector in this adaptation is similar to that described relative to Figure 6, with the additions of bending downwardly along the upper converging members 12 of the hanger, the end portions of the protector adjacent the ends of the slit.

The nature of the various suitable materials from which the protector is fabricated permits this operation without destroying the tension for proper flexing thereof as heretofore described.

In this instance, the protector is adapted for use with a type of apparel such as coats or the like, illustrated and outlined in Figure 7.

It will be noted that the inside shoulder portions of the garment rest upon the protector and do not make contact with the hanger.

Furthermore, the shapes of the bent down end portions of the protector, particularly the flared endmost portions, will maintain the proper shoulder shape of the garment, eliminating creasing and distortion thereof.

With reference to the adaptation of the protector to still another type of apparel, attention is directed to Figure 8, by which there is illustrated the use of the device as a rack for cravats, in order that they will not become unnecessarily mussed or soiled.

A protector is positioned on the lower horizontal member of the hanger in the manner hereinbefore described. The cravats are hung thereover and a second protector is positioned over the cravats as shown in the drawing.

In this way, the apparel in question is firmly held against slippage and distortion, and maintains its shape and will not be unduly creased and soiled.

It is somewhat customary in cleaning and pressing establishments to make deliveries of cleaned or pressed cravats on hangers of the character specified, and these hangers are quite customarily used as necktie racks in the home. By adapting the protector in the manner specified, the obvious disadvantages of using a plain metallic hanger for this purpose are eliminated.

If desired, of course, any number of protectors might be used in this manner to accommodate and protect a plurality of rows of cravats.

It is believed that the structure, functions and many advantages of the present invention will be clearly discernible from the foregoing description, and it is strictly understood that there are various changes and modifications of the invention included and contemplated within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. An apparel protector for use with an apparel hanger comprising an elongated channel-shaped blank of stiff sheet material, said blank being relatively wide at its center and relatively narrow between its center and its ends, and having side edges which extend outwardly adjacent the ends of the blank to prevent slippage of the apparel longitudinally of the protector.

2. An apparel protector for use with an apparel hanger comprising an elongated channel-shaped blank of stiff sheet material, means at the ends of said blank for detachably securing the same to a hanger, said blank being relatively wide at its center and relatively narrow between its center and its ends, and having side edges which extend outwardly adjacent the ends of the blank and interiorly of said securing means to prevent slippage of the apparel longitudinally of the protector.

3. An apparel protector for use with an apparel hanger comprising an elongated blank of stiff sheet material which is relatively wide at its center and has opposite side edges which converge toward the ends of the blank when the blank is in substantially flat condition, said blank being adapted to be folded or formed channel shaped when applied to an apparel hanger.

4. An apparel protector for use with an apparel hanger comprising an elongated channel shaped blank of stiff sheet material, said blank having a body portion extending the major length of the blank and end portions at each end of the body portion, the opposite side edges of said blank adjacent said end portions extending outwardly from the edges of said body portion to prevent slippage of the apparel longitudinally of the protector.

5. An apparel protector for use with an apparel hanger comprising an elongated channel shaped blank of stiff sheet material, said blank having a body portion extending the major length of the blank and end portions at each end of the body portion, the opposite side edges of said blank adjacent said end portions tapering outwardly from the edges of said body portion to prevent slippage of the apparel longitudinally of the protector.

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