United States Patent [19]

Rigel et al.

[11] **3,790,045**

[45] **Feb. 5, 1974**

[54] **TIE HOLDER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **223/87,** 211/13, 223/DIG. 1, 211/89

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47j 51/96**

[58] **Field of Search** 223/90, 87, 85, 96, 88, DIG. 1; 211/6, 7, 16, 8, 13, 89, 113, 124

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tie holder comprising a body portion having hook means at the upper end thereof extending about a passage and an opening formed in the bottom end thereof, a movable tie support arm adapted to span said opening, a restraining strip protruding from said arm and adapted to project into said opening when said support arm is in its closed position spanning said opening, and means on said arm and said body adapted to engage to form a disengageable closure when said support arm is in its closed position.

6 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures

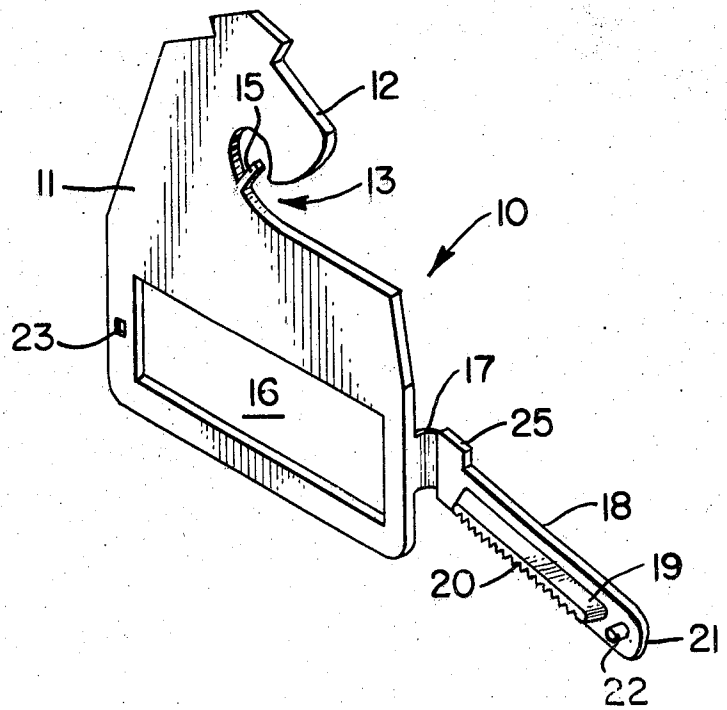


FIG. 1.

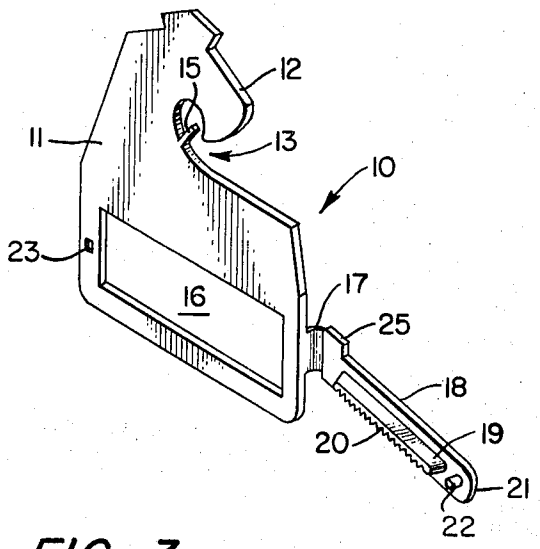


FIG. 2.

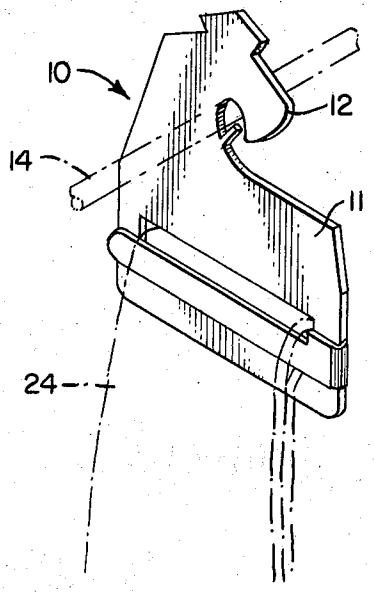


FIG. 3.

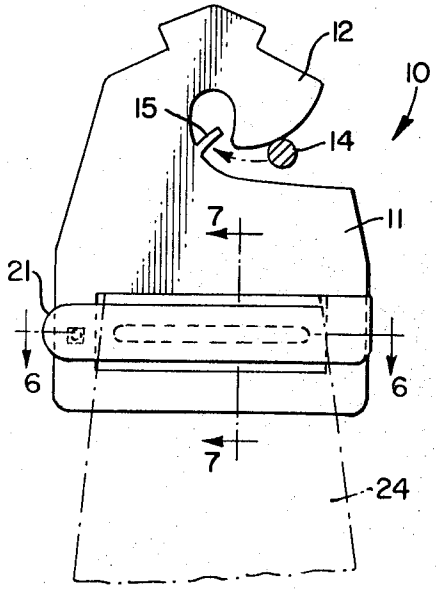


FIG. 4.

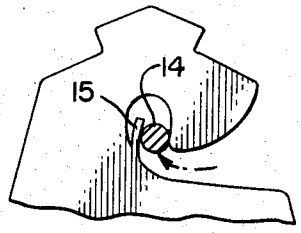


FIG. 5.

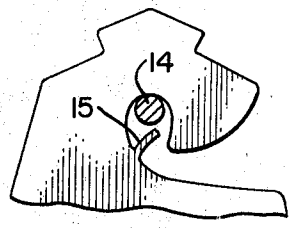


FIG. 6.

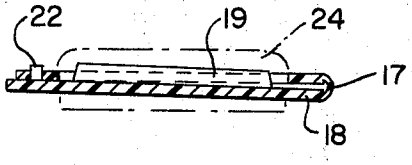


FIG. 7.

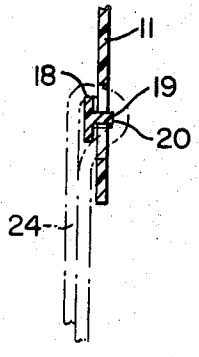


FIG. 8.

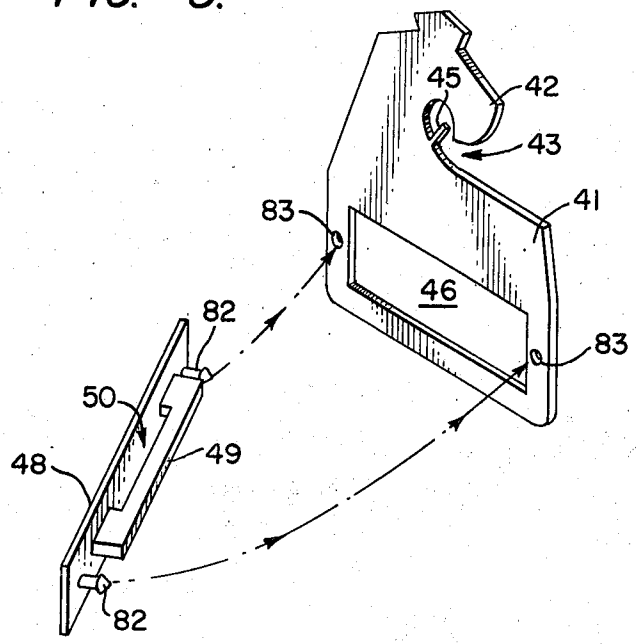


FIG. 9.

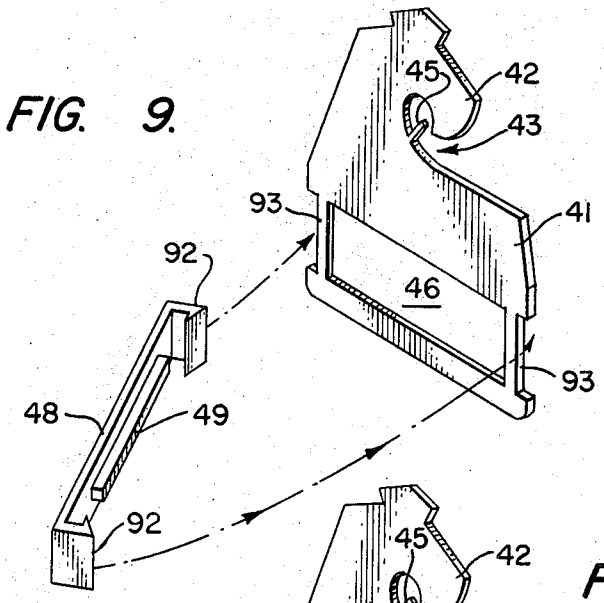
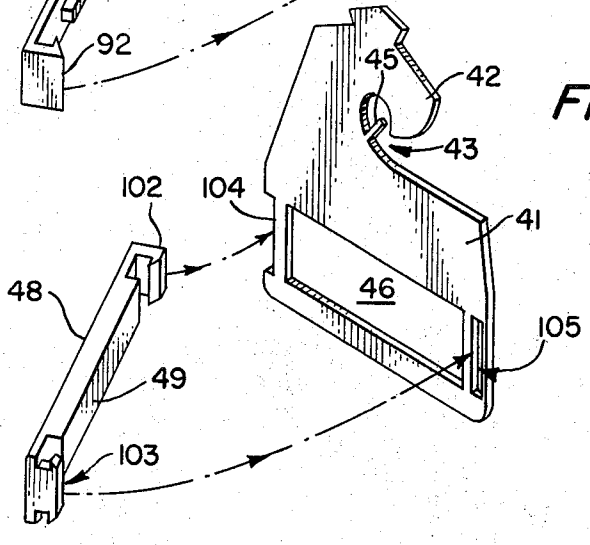


FIG. 10.



TIE HOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is common practice to use holders for supporting and displaying neckwear, such as cravats and neckties, on display racks or stands. Such hangers usually comprise a hook portion to support the hanger on the display stand or rack as well as means to hold the neckwear on the hanger during transportation and display. A major difficulty, however, has been that present tie holders do not positively lock the neckwear to the holder so as to insure that it does not slip therefrom during movement or display or locked so that it cannot be surreptitiously removed therefrom by shoplifters. The few that attempted to overcome this problem, moreover, twist the tie in such a tortuous path that the tie cannot readily be removed or replaced by an interested purchaser and in some cases such deformation can act to damage or mar the appearance of the tie.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A tie holder has now been found which will positively lock a tie so that it cannot slip or be pulled therefrom while at the same time providing ease of removal and insertion of a tie.

Briefly stated, the present invention is directed to a tie holder comprising a body portion having hook means at the upper end thereof extending about a passage and an opening formed in the bottom end thereof, a movable tie support arm adapted to span said opening, a restraining strip protruding from said arm and adapted to project into said opening when said support arm is in its closed position spanning said opening, and means on said arm and said body adapted to engage to form a disengageable closure when said support arm is in its closed position. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the tie support arm is integrally formed with the body and connected thereto by means of a flexible integral hinge.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is an isometric view of a preferred embodiment of a tie holder made in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. **2** is an isometric view of such tie holder with the tie support arm in a closed position supporting a necktie;

FIG. **3** is a vertical, front elevational view of such holder as it is being placed on a display stand;

FIGS. **4** and **5** are vertical, front, partial elevational views which when taken in conjunction with FIG. **3** show how the holder is locked onto a display stand by a flexible restraining tongue;

FIG. **6** is a sectional view taken along line **6** — **6** of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **7** is a sectional view taken along line **7** — **7** of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **8** is an isometric view of an alternate embodiment of the invention with the tie support arm shown broken away from the body;

FIG. **9** is an isometric view of an alternate embodiment of the invention with the tie support arm shown broken away from the body; and

FIG. **10** is an isometric view of an alternate embodiment of the invention with the tie support arm shown broken away from the body.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention will be described in connection with neckwear (ties) although it will be understood that it is suitable for transport and display of equivalent neckwear.

Referring to FIGS. **1** to **7**, it will be seen that the preferred tie holder **10** of the present invention is a unitary structure comprising a body portion **11** integrally formed, preferably by molding of any conventional plastic material, although it may be stamped from a metal. The body portion **11** is essentially flat and elongated and includes hook means **12** at the upper end thereof which extends about passage **13** which is adapted to engage a bar or rod **14** or other means by which the holder is to be supported on a display or transport stand or rack. The passage **13** is provided as the means for placing the tie holder onto or removing it from such bar or rod.

FIGS. **1** to **7** show a preferred embodiment of the instant invention wherein a flexible restraining tongue **15** extends from the body **11** into passage **13** to lock the holder **10** onto the bar or rod as best shown in FIGS. **3, 4,** and **5.** This serves the dual function of preventing the tie holder from being inadvertently jostled from the rod **14** during normal handling and, further, prevents someone from purposely trying to steal the tie by removing the holder from the rod **14.** A rectangular opening **16** is positioned in the bottom end of the body **11** extending horizontally across the body. This opening may be of any shape so long as the width thereof is sufficient to lock in a necktie as hereinafter described.

Integrally formed with the body is a flexible hinge **17** attached to one side of the body and at the other to a support arm **18** also integrally formed with the body. This integral hinge is made so as to be flexible, and, in the case of plastics such as polyethylene and polypropylene, this is accomplished by making it of a more limited thickness than the remainder of the holder. The integral hinge **17** and support arm **18** are positioned at the side of the body and the support arm **18** is of a length sufficient to span the body portion **11.** At the end of the arm **18** connected to the hinge **17,** there is an upstanding flange **25.** A restraining strip **19** protrudes from said support bar **18.** It is of a size and shape and so positioned on the bar **18** so as to project into the rectangular opening **16** when the support arm **18** is moved so as to span said opening and body of the holder. The surface **20** of the restraining strip **19** projecting into the rectangular opening **16** can be smooth or serrated.

At the outermost end **21,** the support arm is provided with a peg **22** which is adapted to engage a mating passage **23** to form a disengageable closure when the support arm **18** is moved to span the body portion **11.** As best shown in FIG. **3,** the support arm **18** is long enough so as to extend beyond the side of the body portion **11.** This extension can be used as a fulcrum to unlock the arm **18** when closed.

While the operation of the tie holder **10** is largely evident from the foregoing description, its operation will now be described in greater detail. The holder **10** is placed in the open position, best shown in FIG. **1,** wherein the support arm **18** is spaced away from the body portion **11.** A necktie **24** is simply draped over the support bar **18** and the upstanding flange **25** acts to keep any portion of the necktie from extending into

and being trapped in the hinge area. The support arm **18** is simply pivoted about the hinge and the peg **22** is force fit in the passage **23** which locks the arm **18** in this closed position. As best shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, the restraining strip **19** pushes a portion of the tie into the rectangular opening **16** and this action acts to restrain any movement of the tie. The serrated surface **20** provides further locking. Thus, the tie cannot be surreptitiously removed from the holder **10.** If it is desired to remove the tie **24** from the holder **10,** the portion **21** of the support arm **18** extending beyond the body provides sufficient leverage for the finger of the remover to unlatch the closure means (remove peg **22** from passage **23**), pivot the support arm **18** to its open position, and simply lift the tie therefrom. Thus, placement of the tie on the holder and removing it therefrom is simply a draping and undraping operation when the support arm is in its open position. In the closed position, however, the tie is firmly locked in place so as to prevent either its removal from the holder or inadvertent dropping therefrom. The method of removably locking the holder onto the bar of a transport or display rack has been previously described.

FIGS. **8, 9,** and **10** illustrate an alternate embodiment of the invention in which the body portion **41** and tie support arm **48** are separately formed. As with the embodiment shown in FIGS. **1 – 7,** the body portion **41** has hook means **42,** a passage **43,** a restraining tongue **45,** and an opening **46.** The arm **48** has a restraining strip **49** protruding therefrom of a size and shape so as to project into the opening **46** when the arm **48** is locked into position spanning the opening **46** of body **41.**

Each of FIGS. **8, 9,** and **10** show different mating means to form a disengageable closure locking the arm **48** to the body **41.** The closure of FIG. **8** comprises pegs **82** at each end of arm **48** adapted to engage in mating passages **83** in body **41.** The holder of FIG. **9** has clasps **92** at each end of arm **48** which disengageably lock about posts **93** on the body **41.** FIG. **10** shows closure means comprising a clasp **102** and peg **103** on arm **48** and a mating post **104** and passage **105** on the body.

The arm **48** of FIG. **8** also has a slot **50** in the restraining strip **49.** This slot **50** functions to receive a hook portion of a form (not shown) on which is mounted an already knotted tie. Such pre-knotted ties mounted on plastic hooked forms, as shown in U.S. Pat. No. 2,931,045, are often used for childrens' ties as they eliminate the need for the wearer to form the knot and simply hook onto the shirt. This enables the tie support of FIG. **8** to thus be used for both the pre-knotted and standard ties.

The use of the tie holders of FIGS. **8, 9,** and **10** is evident from the description given.

It will be understood that it is intended to cover all changes and modifications of the disclosure of the invention herein chosen for the purpose of illustration which do not constitute departures from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A tie holder comprising a sheet-like body portion having hook means at the upper end thereof, said hook and body portion forming a passage, an opening formed in the bottom end thereof, of said body portion, an elongated tie support arm integrally formed with said body portion and connected to one side thereof by means of a flexible integral hinge and adapted to span said opening, an elongated restraining strip of said arm projecting into said opening along the length thereof when said support arm is in its closed position spanning said opening, and means on said arm and said body forming a disengageable closure when said support arm is in its closed position.

2. The tie holder of claim **1** wherein the body portion has only a single opening and there is only one support arm.

3. The tie holder of claim **2** wherein said support arm is of a length sufficient to extend beyond said body portion when in a closed position and said support arm includes an upstanding flange at the end thereof connected to said hinge.

4. The tie holder of claim **1** including a flexible restraining tongue integrally formed with said body and projecting into said passage.

5. The tie holder of claim **1** wherein the surface of the restraining strip which projects into said opening has a serrated contour.

6. The tie holder of claim **1** wherein all elements thereof are formed of a molded plastic material.

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