Dec. 12, 1939. G. J. KRAFT 2,182,924

HAT FORM AND HANGER

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Fig. 1.

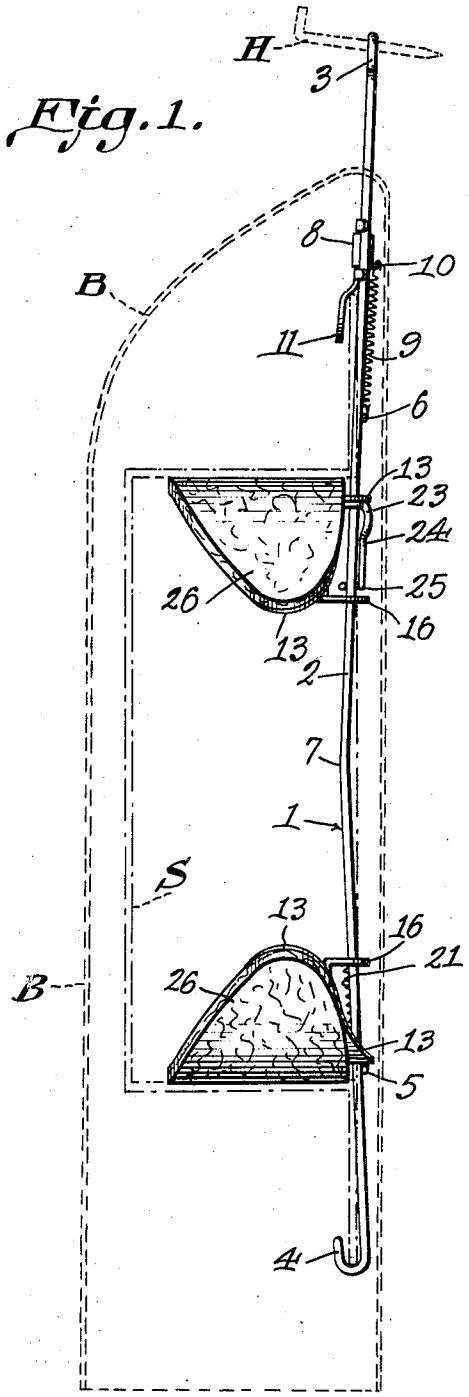
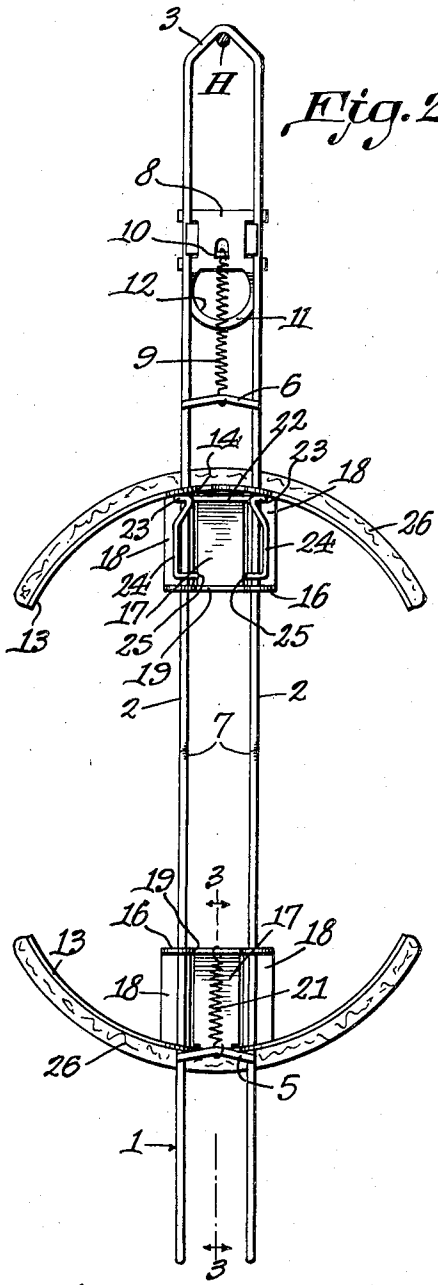


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

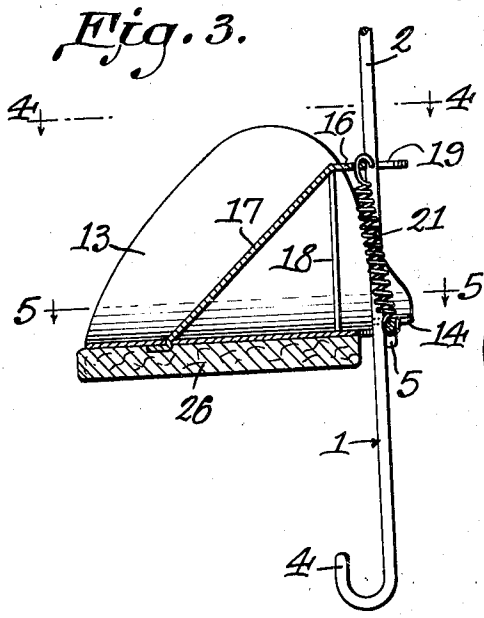


Fig. 4.

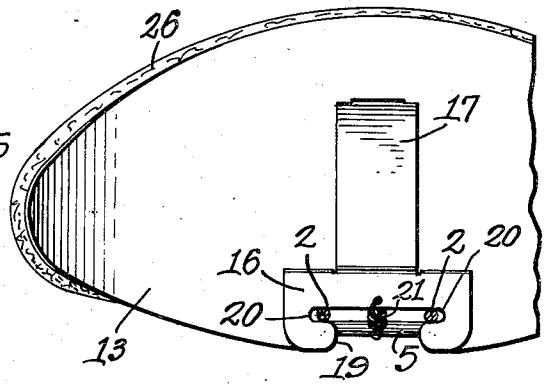


Fig. 5.

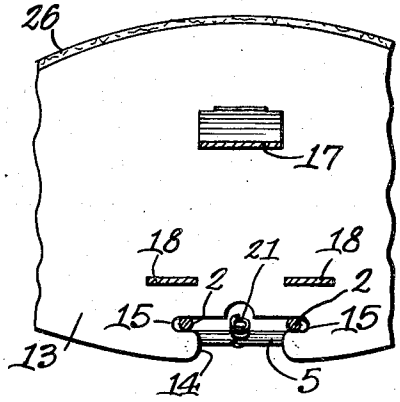


Fig. 7.

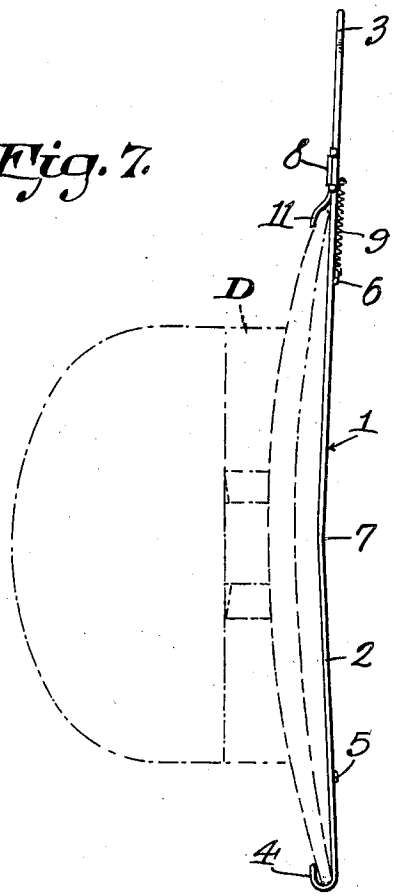
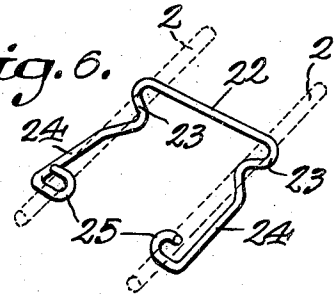


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,182,924

HAT FORM AND HANGER

George J. Kraft, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Application September 16, 1938, Serial No. 230,341

5 Claims. (Cl. 223—85)

This invention relates to a combined hat form and hanger, one of the objects being to provide a simple and efficient device for holding all types of hats where they will be suspended out of contact with any supporting surfaces and at the same time kept in correct shape until such time as it may be desired to use them.

A further object is to provide a device of this character which can be suspended readily from beneath a shelf or other support, can be used in connection with a paper cover such as a bag for housing the hat while it is being supported, and can be easily adjusted for use with hats of different sizes.

A further object is to provide a combined hat form and hanger which will not only keep the hat in proper shape while supported but will also absorb perspiration or excess oil that may be in the hatband and thereby prolong the life of the hat.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawings—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device, a stiff straw hat and a paper bag housing the same, being shown in position thereon by dotted lines.

Figure 2 is a bottom or back view of the device.

Figure 3 is an enlarged section on line 3—3, Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4, Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a section on line 5—5, Figure 3.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the gripping slide.

Figure 7 is a side elevation of the hanger with portions removed, the said device being shown in engagement with a derby.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates an elongated frame constituting the body or base of the device, this being formed of a single length of wire bent to provide parallel side members 2 joined at one end by an angular connecting portion 3 while the terminals of the wire at the other end of the frame are bent to provide spaced hooks 4. At intermediate points the sides of the frame are joined by cross pieces 5 and 6 respectively and constituting stop devices as hereinafter explained. Instead of making the frame 1 flat from end to end, it is preferred to bend the same adjacent to the center, and as indicated at 7, so that opposed portions of the frame will diverge away from this intermediate or bent portion.

A slide of any suitable construction has been indicated at 8 and is interposed between and adapted to move along the sides 2 of the frame 1. This slide is connected to the cross member 6 by a light coiled spring 9 which extends under the slide and is attached preferably to a lug 10 depending therefrom. Extending from the upper portion of the slide and in the same general direction as the connecting member 6 is an ear 11 which can be formed with an opening 12 therein as shown whereby it can be gripped conveniently and is reduced in weight. Spring 9 obviously holds the slide normally drawn close to the cross member 6 and when it is thus positioned, the distance between the slide and the hooks 4 is less than the overall distance between opposed ends of a hat to be supported. For example, and as shown in Figure 7, if it should be desired to hold a derby or other hat which does not require the use of a form, the hooks 4 are placed in engagement with the brim of the derby D or the like and slide 8 is pulled along frame 1 until the ear 11 is removed from under the hat. The slide is then permitted to return gently into position and in engagement with the hat at a point diametrically opposite the hooks 4 whereupon the hat will be held firmly to the device which thereafter can be suspended by placing the angular end 3 thereof in engagement with a supporting hook H or the like.

As a general rule it is desirable to use with the device a pair of forms adapted to extend into the hat and hold it in shape. This is especially true where the hanger is to be used for supporting a stiff straw hat S, as in Figure 1, or a soft felt hat. A stiff straw hat, when it becomes wet, frequently gets out of shape and it is an object of the present invention not only to support the hat but also to maintain it in proper shape whereby, after it has dried, it will not be distorted.

As shown in the drawings the two forms are duplicates and each includes an arcuate plate 13 provided at the center of its lower edge with a slot 14 the width of which is less than the distance between the sides 2 of the frame 1. Laterally extended recesses 15 are formed in the side walls of the slots at the upper ends thereof and constitute seats for receiving the sides 2 of the frame

and thus holding the plate 13 assembled with the frame.

A guide plate 16 is located adjacent to the plate and connected thereto by braces 17 and 18, brace 17 being preferably inclined upwardly toward and connected at its upper end to plate 13 while the braces 18, which are integral with guide plates 16 and are located at opposite sides of brace 17, are extended toward and connected to the plate 13 in any suitable manner, they being substantially parallel with the frame 1. Guide plate 13 has a clot 19 extending upwardly thereinto from its lower edge, this slot being of a width less than the distance between the side members 2 of the frame 1. Laterally extending recesses 20 are provided in the side walls of slot 19 at their upper ends and form seats for receiving the sides 2 when they are in normal position. Thus when the guide plate 16 is fixedly joined to the form plate 13 as described, said form plate can be held against tilting relative to the frame 1 as long as the form plate and its side plate are in engagement with the frame as shown. However the form plate and its guide plate 16 are free to slide along the frame 1.

One of the forms is held normally pressed against the connections 5 by a coiled spring 21. The opposed form, however, is adjustably mounted on frame 1 and is adapted to be held in any desired position. The means employed for this purpose includes a clamp of novel construction which has been shown in detail in Figure 6. This clamp consists of a wire bent to form a cross or intermediate portion 22 merging at its ends into downwardly inclined hooks 23 adapted to straddle and slide along the sides 2 of the frame 1. These hooks, in turn, merge into side arms 24 which are supported along the outer sides of the members 2 and terminate in loops 25 which extend around the respective side members as shown. The arms 24 are formed of spring metal and tend normally to spread apart so that the two loops 25 thus normally bind upon the members 2 and thus hold the clamp against sliding movement. This clamp is located on the members 2 between its form plate and the guide plate 16 connected thereto. Thus when the clamp is fixed in position on the frame 1, the form associated therewith is also fixed against movement. However by pressing the arms 24 toward each other the pressure of the loops 25 on the side portions 2 of the frame is relieved and it is thus possible to move the clamp along the frame so that it will carry the form therewith. After the form has reached a desired position, the clamp is released and the loops 25 promptly bind on the side portions 2 of the frame so as to hold the form against further free movement.

As before stated each form includes a plate 13. This plate is bowed transversely and the convex surface of each plate is covered by a pad 26 of sponge rubber of suitable thickness, this pad, if preferred, being chemically treated so as to absorb oils and perspiration contained within the engaged hat.

The two forms are oppositely disposed with their concave faces toward each other. The clamp 22 and the form associated therewith are adjusted to a point adjacent to the center of the frame 1 and the other form is then drawn toward the center against the action of spring 21. The two forms are then placed inside the hat and the spring-actuated form will be shifted away from the opposed form until opposed portions of the hat are firmly engaged by the two forms as indicated in Figure 1. By sliding clamp 22 and its form toward the hooks 4, the brim of the engaged hat will be forced by the spring-actuated form into position under the hooks 4 and thereafter the slide 8 can be adjusted to bring the ear 11 into engagement with the brim at a diametrically opposed point. Thus the hat will be held in shape, if wet and can at the same time be suspended from a hook or the like. If desired the upper end of the hanger can be inserted through the bottom of an inverted bag B which thus can be used to protect the hat while the device is in use.

Where the forms are employed it is generally not necessary to use the spring 9. All that is required is to provide a slide which will be moved into and out of hat-engaging position.

When it is desired to remove the forms from the frame 1 it is merely necessary to press the sides 2 of the frame toward each other. This will withdraw them from the notches or recesses 15 and 20 so that the forms and their guide plates will thus be released. Spring 21 can of course be detached readily from the cross member 5 to which it is hooked.

If desired various changes in the construction and arrangement of the parts can be effected within the scope of the appended claims and the different parts can be made of any desired materials other than metal.

Obviously if the device is used for holding a soft hat, it will not be necessary to place the brim in engagement with the hooks 4 and ear 11. Instead the hat will be supported solely by the two forms one of which is held stationary while the other is pressed against the hat gently by its spring 21.

What is claimed is:

1. A hat form and hanger including an elongated frame for engagement at one end with a support, opposed arcuate forms mounted on the frame, each form including a plate having a slot open at the bottom for receiving the frame, there being oppositely extending recesses in the walls of the slot constituting seats for the side portions of the frame, a guide plate connected to each form and having a frame receiving slot in the bottom edge thereof, there being notches in opposed walls of the slot for receiving the side portions of the frame, said frame being contractible laterally to withdraw it from the recesses and slots, yielding means connecting one of the forms to the frame for urging said form in one direction, and a clamp mounted on and frictionally engaging the frame between the other form and its guide plate.

2. A hat form and hanger including an elongated resilient frame for engagement at one end with a support, opposed forms slidably mounted on the frame, each of said forms including an arcuate plate having a slot extending into the bottom thereof for the reception of a frame, there being opposed notches in the walls of the slot for receiving the side portions of the frame, a guide plate connected to each form plate and having a frame receiving slot in the bottom thereof provided with opposed notches for receiving the side portions of the frame, said frame being contractible laterally to withdraw its side portions from the notches and permit withdrawal of the frame from the slots, said forms being insertable into opposed portions of a hat mounted on the frame, means for holding the forms adjustably to the frame, and yielding means for connecting the

other form to the frame for urging said form away from the held form thereby to subject an engaged hat to outward pressure from the forms on which it is mounted.

3. A hat form and hanger including an elongated resilient frame for engagement at one end with a support, opposed forms slidably mounted on the frame, each of said forms including an arcuate plate having a slot extending into the bottom thereof for the reception of a frame, there being opposed notches in the walls of the slot for receiving the side portions of the frame, a guide plate connected to each form plate and having a frame receiving slot in the bottom thereof provided with opposed notches for receiving the side portions of the frame, said frame being contractible laterally to withdraw its side portions from the notches and permit withdrawal of the frame from the slots, said forms being insertable into opposed portions of a hat mounted on the frame, means for holding the forms adjustably to the frame, and yielding means for connecting the other form to the frame for urging said form away from the held form thereby to subject an engaged hat to outward pressure from the forms on which it is mounted, and cooperating fixed and movable means on the frame for engaging the rim of said hat at diametrically opposed points while the hat is on the forms.

4. A hat form and hanger including an elongated resilient frame for engagement at one end with a support, opposed forms slidably mounted on the frame, each of said forms including an arcuate plate having a slot extending into the bottom thereof for the reception of a frame, there being opposed notches in the walls of the slot for receiving the side portions of the frame, a guide plate connected to each form plate and having a frame receiving slot in the bottom thereof provided with opposed notches for receiving the side portions of the frame, said frame being contractible laterally to withdraw its side portions from the notches and permit withdrawal of the frame from the slots, said forms being insertable into opposed portions of a hat mounted on the frame, means for holding the forms adjustably to the frame, and yielding means for connecting the other form to the frame for urging said form away from the held form thereby to subject an engaged hat to outward pressure from the forms on which it is mounted, and cooperating fixed and movable means on the frame for engaging the rim of said hat at diametrically opposed points while the hat is on the forms, said means including hooks at one end of the frame, and a slide adjustable along the frame, said slide including a rim-engaging ear.

5. A hat form and hanger including an elongated frame for engagement at one end with a support, opposed arcuate forms mounted on the frame, each form including a plate having a slot open at the bottom for receiving the frame, there being oppositely extending recesses in the walls of the slot constituting seats for the side portions of the frame, and a guide plate connected to each form and having a frame receiving slot in the bottom edge thereof, there being notches in opposed walls of the slot for receiving the side portions of the frame, said frame being contractible laterally to withdraw it from the recesses and slots.

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