

Sept. 9, 1952

R. A. LEE

2,609,919

RECEPTACLE

Filed Feb. 12, 1948

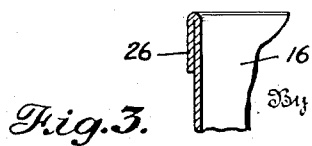
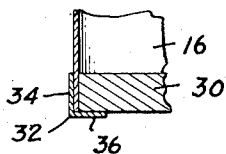
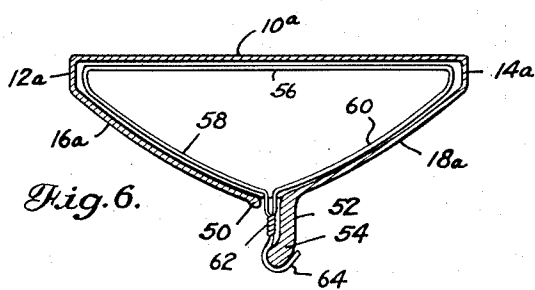
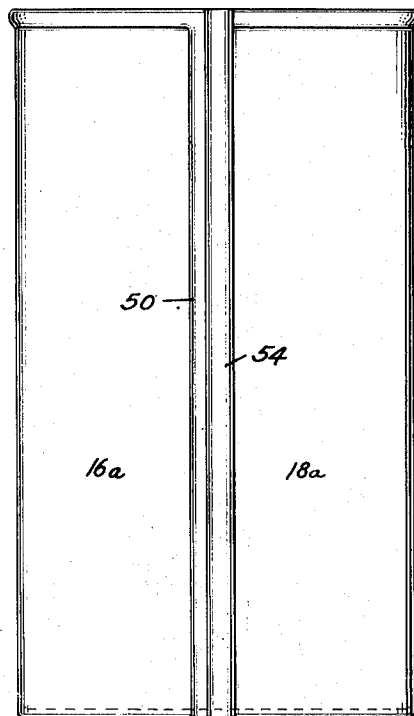
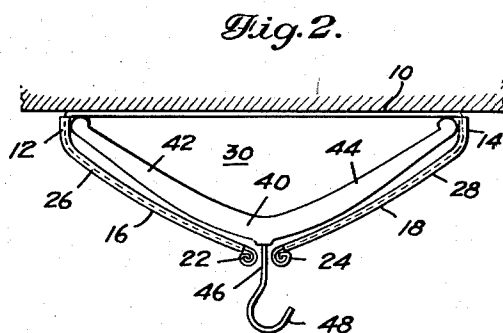
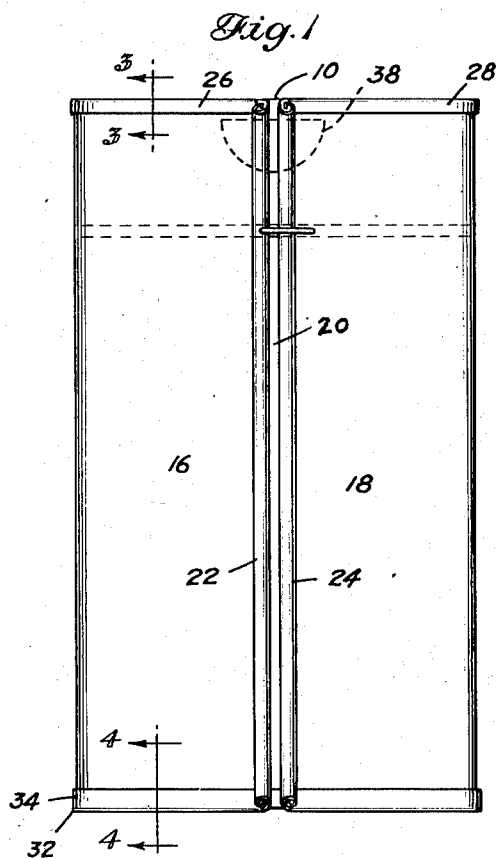


Fig. 5. Inventor
Reynold A. Lee,

Moore, Olson & Trexler

Fig. 4.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,609,919

RECEPTACLE

Reynold A. Lee, Washington, D. C.

Application February 12, 1948, Serial No. 7,860

5 Claims. (Cl. 206—1)

1

The present invention relates to new and useful improvements in receptacles and more particularly to such improvements in a receptacle for garment hangers of the type having a garment supporting portion and a suspension device.

More specifically, the invention contemplates the provision of a receptacle for a plurality of garment hangers of the general type which includes a transversely extending garment supporting portion and a centrally disposed hook by which the hanger may be suspended from a suitable support. In various types of establishments handling wearing apparel for men, women, and children, such as clothing stores, specialty shops, department stores, clothing manufacturers, cleaning and pressing establishments, and others, there is constant and repeated use of garment hangers in the placing of garments thereon and in removing the hangers from garments which are sold or otherwise disposed of. As an example, in a women's clothing store, new garments are received in a receiving section and these garments are usually shipped from the distributor or manufacturer without any hangers. When the garments are unpacked for distribution within the store, hangers must be applied thereto. Most of the hangers are collected as garments are disposed of throughout the store and returned to the receiving section or a storage area awaiting further use in the continuing cycle. It is the general practice to collect the hangers throughout the various departments or sections of the store in cartons of one type or another into which the hangers are indiscriminately deposited. These hangers thus collected in cartons become tangled with one another so that when it is desired to remove the hangers for further use considerable time and effort is required for untangling the hangers from one another.

With the above in mind, one of the principal objects of the present invention is to provide for the efficient handling of garment hangers in the use and reuse thereof by eliminating time consuming efforts required in removing hangers from an indiscriminately accumulated group for further use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a receptacle for garment hangers assuring orderly accumulation and stacking of the hangers therein whereby to facilitate removal or dispensing of hangers therefrom for further use.

A further object of the invention is to provide a receptacle of the above type which closely conforms to a sufficient portion of the general

2

shape of the garment hangers to guide the hangers during deposit in the receptacle so as to facilitate orderly stacking thereof without entanglement therebetween.

5 A still further object of the invention is to provide a receptacle of the above type which closely conforms to a sufficient part of the general shape of the garment supporting portion of the hanger to facilitate stacking thereof in the receptacle without entanglement.

10 A still further object of the invention is to provide a receptacle of the above type wherein the body portion of the receptacle is longitudinally slotted to permit the suspension hooks 15 of the hangers to extend therethrough during stacking and without entanglement.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a receptacle of the above type which includes a guiding surface adapted to cooperate 20 with the suspension hooks of the hangers to further guard against entanglement thereof.

The invention still further aims to provide a receptacle of the above type which is of relatively simple and inexpensive construction, which is 25 light in weight, and which occupies a minimum amount of space so as to enable it to be placed at convenient locations throughout the store or other establishment, for collection or storage of hangers.

30 The above and other objects of the invention will in part be obvious and will be hereinafter more fully pointed out.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views—

35 Figure 1 is a front elevation showing one form of receptacle;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of Figure 1 showing the receptacle positioned next to a wall, partition or the like;

40 Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Figure 1;

45 Figure 5 is a front elevation of a modified form of receptacle; and

Figure 6 is a horizontal transverse section taken between the ends of the receptacle of Figure 5.

50 Referring more in detail to the accompanying drawing, and particularly to Figures 1-4 thereof, it will be seen that the body portion of the receptacle or container forming the subject matter of the present invention is generally triangular in transverse section and includes a rear wall

10 having the longitudinal edges thereof merging into relatively short side wall portions 12, 14 which extend forwardly or outwardly from the rear wall 10 and are substantially parallel to one another. The side wall portions 12, 14 merge into front closing wall portions 16, 18, respectively, which extend inwardly toward one another at a relatively small angle with respect to the plane of the rear wall 10. The front wall portions 16, 18 have the longitudinal free edges thereof terminating short of one another so as to provide a longitudinal slot 20 extending vertically and centrally of the body portion. The adjacent free edges of the front wall portions 16, 18 are preferably curled inwardly upon themselves to provide longitudinally extending strengthening beads 22, 24, respectively. Similarly, the top edge portions 26, 28 of the side wall portions and the front wall portions are turned downwardly over the adjacent surfaces thereof to also provide a strengthened edge, as more particularly shown in Figure 3.

The top of the body portion is left open, although a removable cover may be provided, if desired, and the bottom thereof is closed by a separate bottom wall 30, as more particularly shown in Figure 4. This bottom wall is secured within the body portion by means of a shaped angle strip 32 having a vertical flange portion 34 disposed exteriorly and immediately adjacent the bottom edge of the body portion and a horizontal flange portion 36 extending beneath the adjacent edge of the bottom wall 30 to support the same. The angle strip 32 may be secured to the body portion in any suitable manner, as by welding, riveting and the like, or by passing securing elements into the bottom wall 30. In this form of the invention, it will be apparent that the body portion of the receptacle may be formed from a single sheet of material, such as sheet aluminum, thin gauge stainless steel, fibre board, laminated structures, or the like. It will also be apparent that instead of providing the separate bottom wall, as shown in this form of the invention, the metal sheet may have an initial shaping to include a bottom wall which can be bent to close the bottom end of the body portion and suitably secured thereto as by welding or the like. The rear wall 10 may, if desired, be provided with an opening 38 near the top thereof to serve as a convenient hand-hold by which the receptacle can be transported.

In this form of the invention, reference being had particularly to Figure 2, there is shown a garment hanger of the type including a wooden bottom portion 40 having oppositely extending transverse arms 42, 44 which are inclined away from the center thereof and which provide the garment supporting surfaces of the hanger. Centrally of the hanger there is provided an outwardly extending suspension device in the form of a wire having the shank portion 46 secured to the hanger and terminating at the free end thereof in a hook 48. In placing the hangers in the receptacle for transportation, storage and ultimate dispensing, the hangers are slipped in the open top of the receptacle with the extremities of the arms 42, 44 thereof snugly disposed immediately within the inner surfaces of the side wall portions 12, 14 and within the adjacent inner surface of the rear wall 10. By reason of the particular shaping of the receptacle body portion, it will be seen that the inner surface thereof will closely conform to the adjacent surfaces of the garment supporting portions 42, 44 of the

hanger and the ends thereof with the suspension hooks extending through the longitudinal central slot 20. Thus, the hangers will be confined and guided during deposit in the receptacle so that they will become stacked therein in an orderly fashion and without any tangling between one another, the suspension hooks freely sliding within the slot 20. In removing the hangers it will be readily seen that one or more can be conveniently removed upwardly through the open end of the receptacle by merely grasping the hooked ends or the body portions within the container and sliding the same upwardly.

In Figures 5 and 6, there is shown a slightly modified form of receptacle which may be formed of metal or other suitable material but which particularly lends itself to being formed by the extrusion or molding of some material. Examples of some suitable materials are thermoplastic materials such as cellulose acetate, polystyrene, and Vinylite; some of the thermosetting phenolic condensation products such as urea formaldehyde; and fibrous materials. In this form of the invention the body portion includes a rear wall 10a and forwardly extending relatively short side walls 12a, 14a which merge into front wall portions 16a, 18a. The longitudinal free edges of the front wall portion 16a, 18a terminate short of one another to provide a slot 20a extending vertically and longitudinally of the body portion. One of the inclined front wall portions 16a may, if desired, have the longitudinal edge thereof slightly thickened as at 50 for strengthening purposes. The longitudinal edge of the other inclined front wall portion 18a may be provided with a forwardly extending rib portion 52 of slightly thickened cross section for strengthening purposes. The free longitudinal end of the rib portion 52 may be slightly enlarged as at 54 for purposes to be hereinafter pointed out.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 5 and 6, there is shown, for convenience, the conventional wire hanger which is of substantially triangular external shape with a horizontal portion 56 and inclined arms 58, 60, which are joined as at 62 to provide a stem or neck portion having the outer end thereof formed into a supporting hook 64. With this form of the invention, it will be seen that the hooked end 64 of a hanger positioned within the receptacle will closely engage around the enlarged edge portion 54 of the rib portion 52 so that this enlarged edge portion cooperates with the hanger hook 64 to provide an additional guide or anti-twisting means for properly positioning the hangers as they are deposited in the receptacle. Thus, the hangers will be stacked in an orderly manner with no interengagement or tangling therebetween.

From the foregoing description, it will be readily apparent that the present invention provides a thoroughly efficient receptacle for holding garment hangers in accurately stacked condition. While the wall portions 12, 14 have been designated as side walls, they actually constitute a part of the front closing walls, the relative positioning of the various wall portions being such as to closely confine sufficient parts of the hangers, such as the ends of the garment supporting portions thereof, to assure the orderly stacking thereof one upon another in the receptacle without any tangling therebetween. With the hangers thus accurately stacked in the receptacle, one or more may be removed in an orderly fashion without the danger of any tangling.

It is to be understood, of course, that various

5

types of hangers may be stacked in the receptacles and that the wire hanger shown in Figure 6 can be stacked in the receptacle shown in Figures 1 and 2. Likewise, the type of hanger shown in Figure 2 can be stacked in the type of receptacle shown in Figures 5 and 6. The rib portion 52 and the end 54 thereof shown in connection with the receptacle of Figures 5 and 6 serve, in cooperation with the hook end of a hanger, to further resist twisting while being deposited in the receptacle. It is, of course, obvious that a similar type of arrangement adapted for cooperation with the hanger hook could also be applied to the form of the container shown in Figures 1 and 2 by extending the longitudinal free edge of one of the front wall portions.

While certain forms of the invention have been shown for purposes of illustration, it is to be clearly understood that various changes in the details of construction and arrangement of parts may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A receptacle for the orderly stacking therein and removal therefrom of garment hangers of the type having a suspension hook and laterally extending garment supporting portions; and comprising a body portion generally conforming to the shape of the hangers, said body portion including a rear wall portion and a pair of front wall portions extending forwardly from said rear wall portion and inclined toward each other to closely confine the laterally extending portions of the hangers, the free longitudinal edges of said front wall portions being longitudinally ribbed substantially from the top to the bottom thereof and spaced apart to permit the passage therebetween of the suspension hooks of the hangers stacked in the receptacle.

2. A receptacle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the edges of said front wall portions are turned

6

upon themselves to provide strengthening flanges.

3. A receptacle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the free longitudinal edges of said front wall portions are rolled upon themselves to provide strengthening beads.

4. A receptacle for garment hangers of the type having a suspension hook and laterally extending garment supporting portions; and comprising a body portion generally conforming to the shape of the hangers and including front wall portions extending toward one another with the free longitudinal edges thereof spaced apart whereby to provide a slot through which the suspension hooks of the stacked hangers extend, the longitudinal edge of one of said front wall portions having a forwardly extending rib cooperating with the hooked ends of the stacked hangers to assist in preventing tangling thereof.

5. A receptacle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the outer end of said rib is enlarged to closely fit within the hooked ends of the stacked hangers to assist in preventing tilting thereof when deposited in the receptacle.

REYNOLD A. LEE.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
947,847	Recht	Feb. 1, 1910
1,591,087	Holliday	July 6, 1926
1,601,180	Lindgren	Sept. 28, 1926
1,740,828	Morrison	Dec. 24, 1929
1,999,879	Lee	Apr. 30, 1935
2,370,417	Preston	Feb. 24, 1945
2,454,858	Burt	Nov. 30, 1948

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
348,890	Germany	Feb. 20, 1922