

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 456 741 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:

16.04.1997 Bulletin 1997/16

(21) Application number: **90903132.0**

(22) Date of filing: **08.02.1990**

(51) Int Cl.6: **G09F 3/02, A47G 25/14**

(86) International application number:
PCT/AU90/00048

(87) International publication number:
WO 90/09651 (23.08.1990 Gazette 1990/20)

(54) INDICATORS FOR GARMENT HANGERS

ANZEIGEANORDNUNG FÜR KLEIDERBÜGEL

INDICATEURS POUR CINTRES

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT NL

(30) Priority: **08.02.1989 AU 2623/89**

(43) Date of publication of application:
21.11.1991 Bulletin 1991/47

(73) Proprietor: **SPOTLESS PLASTICS PTY. LTD.**
Moorabbin, VIC 3189 (AU)

(72) Inventors:
• **MARSHALL, David, John**
East Doncaster, VIC 3109 (AU)

• **HOLLIS, Joseph, Charles**
East Bentleigh, VIC 3165 (AU)

(74) Representative: **Waxweiler, Jean**
OFFICE DENNEMEYER S.à.r.l.,
55, rue des Bruyères
1274 Howald (LU)

(56) References cited:

AU-A- 1 331 383	AU-A- 3 200 884
AU-A- 4 231 878	AU-A- 5 701 180
AU-B- 2 607 784	AU-B- 4 232 078
AU-B- 5 598 880	DE-A- 3 401 816
FR-A- 0 518 708	US-A- 3 024 953
US-A- 3 949 914	US-A- 4 450 639

EP 0 456 741 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to indicators for garment hangers of the type which may be used to indicate the size of a garment supported by the hanger and/or the name of the manufacturer or retailer.

Background of the Invention

The provision of a readily visible size indicator on a garment hanger is now accepted by retailers as a desirable addition to a garment hanger. The most widely accepted indicators have been manufactured by the applicant under Australian Patent Nos. 509042 (AU-B 42320/78) and 522614 (AU-B 55988/80). While the indicator disclosed in Patent No. 509042 in particular has been well received by retailers, the desire of some retailers to reduce to a minimum the costs of hangers and indicators has meant that other manufacturers have developed less aesthetically pleasing alternatives to the indicator of this patent. In addition, differences in attitude, particularly in overseas markets, have indicated that the "cap" indicator of Patent No. 509042 may be regarded by some as being too bulky and dominant in the overall view of the hanger and the garments supported thereon. Furthermore, since the hook of the hanger must be specially formed to accept this indicator, its use without the indicator may be regarded by some as aesthetically or commercially unacceptable.

Summary of the Invention and Object

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a less costly and less obtrusive alternative to the cap indicator described in the above patent.

The invention therefore provides an indicator suitable for attachment to the hook of a moulded plastics garment hanger, said indicator comprising a body adapted to display indicia and comprising side walls, end walls and a top wall dimensioned to form a body having a low generally rectangular profile and defining a downwardly opening cavity shaped and dimensioned to receive a narrow upwardly projecting web formed on a hook of a moulded plastics garment hanger, said body having regions between at least said side walls and said top wall which are smoothly rounded while the lowermost edges of at least said side walls are substantially non-rounded to define relatively sharp edges at said lowermost edges, said end walls being spaced to engage in use spaced points on said web such that said indicator is in use stably supported on said web, said smoothly rounded portions and said sharp edges facilitating sorting of said indicators into a preferred orientation.

In a preferred form, the cavity is formed with a centrally positioned means dimensioned and positioned to receive an abutment means formed on the upwardly

projecting web of the hook of the hanger. In one form, at least one side of the body of the indicator defining the cavity is formed with an opening adapted to receive said abutment. In a particularly preferred form, each side of the body has an opening adapted to receive an abutment formed on either side of the web of the hanger hook.

The invention also provides in combination, an indicator suitable for attachment to the hook of a moulded plastics garment hanger, said indicator comprising a body adapted to display indicia and comprising side walls, end walls and a top wall dimensioned to form a body having a low generally rectangular profile and defining a downwardly opening cavity shaped and dimensioned to receive a narrow upwardly projecting web formed on a hook of a moulded plastics garment hanger, said body having regions between at least said side walls and said top wall which are smoothly rounded while the lowermost edges of at least said side walls are substantially non-rounded to define relatively sharp edges at said lowermost edges, said end walls being spaced to engage in use spaced points on said web such that said indicator is in use stably supported on said web, said smoothly rounded portions and said sharp edges facilitating sorting of said indicators into a preferred orientation.

Brief Description of the Drawings

One presently preferred form of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an indicator embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the indicator of Figure 1 fitted to the hook of a hanger;

Figure 3 is a sectional end elevation of the indicator taken along the line 3-3 in Figure 2 but with the hook removed from the indicator, and

Figure 4 is a front elevation of the indicator and the hanger hook.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to the drawings, the indicator embodying the invention will be seen to comprise a body 1 moulded from suitable plastics material having spaced flat sides 2 and 3 defining therebetween a cavity 4 dimensioned to receive a top web W of the hook H of a garment hanger, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings. The sides 2 and 3 are formed with generally rectangular slots 5 and 6 centrally located adjacent the lower edges of the sides 2 and 3, and which are dimensioned and positioned to receive abutments A formed on either side of the web W of the hook H of the hanger to lock the indicator in position on the hook H. The entry of the abutments A into the slots 5 and 6 is achieved by the resil-

ience of the plastics moulding forming the body 1.

Each side 2 and 3 of the indicator 1 is formed with indicia 7, in the present embodiment, a sizing number such as 12. In the present case, the indicia 7 is formed by moulded depressions in the sides 2 and 3, although the indicia may equally well be formed by moulded raised portions or by adhesive labels applied to the sides 2 and 3. If desired, styling grooves such as 8 may also be formed in or on the surface of the sides 2 and 3. It will be appreciated from Figures 2 and 4 of the drawings that the width of the indicator body 1 is approximately the same as the width of the hook H of the hanger, and the indicator has a relatively low narrow rectangular profile, both of which features contribute to the indicator being less obtrusive than indicators of the type described in our Patent 509042. It is considered desirable that the width of the indicator should not materially exceed the width of the hook of the hanger so that the indicator is less obtrusive in use.

The indicator body is also formed with smoothly rounded edges, particularly at the uppermost edges of the body, while the lowermost edges of the sides of the body are not rounded, so as to present sharp edges, as shown in Figure 3. This feature allows the indicators to be sorted with the cavity directed downwardly by running the indicators along a narrow edge in the sorting machine (not shown) whereby engagement between the rounded edges and the narrow edge cause an indicator engaging the edge in this manner to topple over and rest on the sharp edges so that its cavity is directed downwardly. If the sharp edges engage the narrow sorting edge, they will not cause the indicator to topple.

The web W formed on the hook of the hanger H is shaped to provide engagement points between the ends 9 and 10 of the opening to the cavity 4 and the top 11 of the cavity 4 when the indicator is fitted to the web W to limit movement of the indicator on the hook H. By the same token, the shape of the web W is not significantly different from a "normal" shape so the hanger can be used with or without the indicator.

While the web shape shown in Figure 4 is preferred, for stability, a more standard web shape will give acceptable results since the ends 9 and 10 of the opening to the cavity 4 of the indicator will still engage spaced edge portions of the web W to limit the amount of movement of the indicator even though the top of the web W does not contact the top 11 of the cavity 4. In either event, the web is significantly less obtrusive than the modified hook shape required in the case of the indicator of Patent No. 509042.

Of course, the web may be moulded with an upwardly projecting generally rectangular portion (not shown) which substantially fills the cavity 4 to inhibit any significant movement of the indicator on the web W of the hook H. Such an arrangement has the advantage of providing a rectangular surface on the hook for labels when the indicator is not used.

Alternatively, the cavity 4 may be shaped to corre-

spond to the shape of the web W, although the net benefit of such an arrangement would not appear to outweigh the extra amount of plastics required for such a moulding.

It will be appreciated from the above description that the indicator embodying the invention provides an aesthetically acceptable alternative to the indicator disclosed in Patent No. 509042 with only a minimal modification being required to the shape of the hook of the hanger to which the indicator is to be applied. The indicator presents a narrow profile which does not excessively modify the shape of the uppermost end of the hook of the hanger, while the hook itself may be used without the indicator since it is not significantly different in shape to other hooks. The indicators embodying the invention also lend themselves to automated application techniques which are assisted by the rounded upper edges of the indicator, as described in greater detail above.

Claims

1. An indicator (1) suitable for attachment to the hook (H) of a moulded plastics garment hanger, said indicator (1) comprising a body (1) adapted to display indicia (7) and comprising side walls (2,3), end walls and a top wall dimensioned to form said body (1),

said body (1) defining a downwardly opening cavity (4) shaped and dimensioned to receive a narrow upwardly projecting web (W) formed on the hook (H) of the moulded plastics garment hanger,

said end walls being spaced to engage in use spaced points (9,10) on said web (W) such that said indicator (1) is in use stably supported on said web (W),

characterized in that said body has a low generally rectangular profile, the height of said indicator being less than about one-third of the width of the indicator (1),

said body defining a planar rectangular opening to said cavity (4), and

said body (1) having regions between at least said side walls (2,3) and said top wall which are smoothly rounded while the lowermost edges of at least said side walls (2,3) are substantially non-rounded to define relatively sharp edges at said lowermost edges,

said smoothly rounded portions and said sharp edges facilitating sorting of said indicators into a preferred orientation.

2. The indicator of claim 1, characterized in that said body (1) is formed with means (5,6) adapted to co-

operate with corresponding means (A) on the upwardly projecting web (W) of the hook (H) of the hanger to retain said indicator on said upwardly projecting web (W).

3. The indicator of claim 2, characterized in that said means (5,6) formed in said body (1) comprises at least one aperture (5,6) in at least one of said side walls (2,3), which aperture (5,6) extends completely through said side wall (2,3), said at least one aperture (5,6) being adapted to interlock with said corresponding means (A) on said web (W).

4. The indicator of claim 3, characterized in that said side wall (2,3) completely surrounds said at least one aperture (5,6).

5. The indicator of any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said low generally rectangular profile has a width less than the width of said hook (H) of said hanger.

6. The indicator of any preceding claim in combination with a moulded plastics garment hanger having a hook (H) formed with a narrow upwardly projecting web (W),

characterized in that said web (W) and said cavity (4) are shaped such that the lowermost edges of said end walls engage spaced discrete points (9,10) on said web (W) while another discrete point on the uppermost edge portion of said web (W) is at least closely adjacent to the top wall (11) of the cavity (4) such that said indicator engages said another discrete point if displaced from a central position on said web (W), whereby said indicator is stably supported on said web (W) by engagement at said discrete points (9,10).

7. The combination of claim 6, characterized in that said indicator body (1) has a thickness which does not substantially exceed the thickness of the hook (H) of the hanger at its upper end.

8. The combination of claim 6 or 7 characterized in that said web (W) has a smoothly curved upper edge dimensioned to engage or be closely adjacent to the top wall (11) of said cavity (4) of said indicator (1).

Patentansprüche

1. Anzeigevorrichtung (1), die geeignet ist, am Haken (H) eines Kleiderbügels aus Pressplastik befestigt zu werden, wobei die Anzeigevorrichtung (1) einen Körper (1) umfasst, der angepasst ist, um ein Kennzeichen (7) anzuzeigen und Seitenwände (2, 3), Endwände und eine Deckenwand umfasst, die so bemessen sind, dass sie den Körper (1) bilden,

wobei der Körper (1) einen sich nach unten öffnenden Hohlraum (4) definiert, der geformt und bemessen ist, um einen schmalen, nach oben vorstehenden Steg (W) aufzunehmen, der auf dem Haken (H) des Kleiderbügels aus Pressplastik gebildet ist,

wobei die Endwände mit einem Abstand angeordnet sind, um beim Gebrauch in beabstandete Punkte (9, 10) auf dem Steg (W) einzugreifen, so dass die Anzeigevorrichtung (1) im Gebrauch stabil auf dem Steg (W) getragen wird,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Körper ein niedriges, im allgemeinen rechteckiges Profil hat, wobei die Höhe der Anzeigevorrichtung kleiner ist als ungefähr ein Drittel der Breite der Anzeigevorrichtung (1),

der Körper eine ebene rechteckige Öffnung gegen den Hohlraum (4) hin definiert, und

der Körper (1) Bereiche zwischen zumindest den Seitenwänden (2, 3) und der Deckenwand hat, welche sanft abgerundet sind, während die untersten Ränder von zumindest den Seitenwänden (2, 3) im wesentlichen nicht abgerundet sind, um relativ scharfe Kanten an den untersten Rändern zu definieren,

wobei die sanft abgerundeten Teile und die scharfen Kanten das Sortieren der Anzeigevorrichtungen in eine bevorzugte Ausrichtung erleichtern.

2. Anzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Körper (1) mit einer Einrichtung (5, 6) gebildet ist, die angepasst ist, um mit einer entsprechenden Einrichtung (A) auf dem nach oben vorstehenden Steg (W) des Hakens (H) des Bügels zusammenzuwirken, um die Anzeigevorrichtung auf dem nach oben vorstehenden Steg (W) festzuhalten.

3. Anzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Einrichtung (5, 6), die im Körper (1) gebildet ist, mindestens eine Öffnung (5, 6) in mindestens einer der Seitenwände (2, 3) umfasst, wobei diese Öffnung vollständig durch die Seitenwand (2, 3) hindurch geht und diese mindestens eine Öffnung (5, 6) zum Verriegeln mit der entsprechenden Einrichtung (A) auf dem Steg (W) angepasst ist.

4. Anzeigevorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Seitenwand (2, 3) die mindestens eine Öffnung (5, 6) vollständig umgibt.

5. Anzeigevorrichtung nach irgend einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass das niedrige, im allgemeinen rechteckige Profil eine Breite hat, die kleiner ist als die Breite des Hakens (H) des Bügels.
6. Anzeigevorrichtung nach irgend einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche in Kombination mit einem Kleiderbügel aus Pressplastik, der einen Haken (H) hat, der mit einem schmalen, nach oben vorstehenden Steg (W) gebildet ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Steg (W) und der Hohlraum (4) so geformt sind, dass die untersten Ränder der Endwände in beabstandete, diskrete Punkte (9, 10) auf dem Steg (W) eingreifen, während ein anderer diskreter Punkt auf dem obersten Randteil des Steges (W) sich zumindest sehr nahe bei der Deckenwand (11) des Hohlraumes (4) befindet, so dass die Anzeigevorrichtung in diesen anderen diskreten Punkt eingreift, wenn sie aus einer mittleren Position auf dem Steg (w) verschoben ist, wobei die Anzeigevorrichtung auf dem Steg (W) durch Eingriff bei den diskreten Punkten (9, 10) stabil getragen wird.
7. Kombination nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Körper (1) der Anzeigevorrichtung eine Dicke hat, welche nicht wesentlich über die Dicke des Hakens (H) des Bügels an seinem oberen Ende hinaus geht.
8. Kombination nach Anspruch 6 oder 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Steg (W) einen sanft gekrümmten oberen Rand hat, der so bemessen ist, dass er in die Deckenwand (11) des Hohlraumes (4) der Anzeigevorrichtung (1) eingreift oder sich sehr nahe bei ihr befindet.

Revendications

1. Un indicateur (1) approprié pour un attachement au crochet (H) d'un cintre pour vêtements en matière plastique moulé, ledit indicateur (1) comprenant un corps (1) adapté pour afficher un indice (7) et comprenant des parois latérales (2,3), des parois d'extrémité et une paroi supérieure dimensionnées pour former ledit corps (1),

ledit corps (1) définissant une cavité s'ouvrant vers le bas (4) façonnée et dimensionnée pour recevoir une nervure étroite se projetant vers le haut (W) formée sur le crochet (H) du cintre pour vêtements en matière plastique moulé, lesdites parois d'extrémité étant espacées pour engager, lors de l'utilisation, des points espacés (9,10) sur ladite nervure (W) de sorte que ledit indicateur (1) est, lors de l'utilisation, sup-

porté de façon stable sur ladite nervure (W),

caractérisé en ce que ledit corps a un profil de la base généralement rectangulaire, la hauteur dudit indicateur étant inférieure à environ un tiers de la largeur de l'indicateur (1),

ledit corps définissant une ouverture rectangulaire plane vers ladite cavité (4) et, ledit corps (1) ayant des régions au moins entre lesdites parois latérales (2,3) et ladite paroi supérieure qui sont uniformément arrondies tandis que les bords les plus bas desdites parois latérales au moins (2,3) sont essentiellement non arrondis pour définir des bords relativement saillants au niveau desdits bords les plus bas, lesdites portions uniformément arrondies et lesdits bords saillants facilitant la sortie desdits indicateurs dans une orientation préférée.

2. L'indicateur de la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que ledit corps (1) est formé avec un moyen (5,6) adapté pour coopérer avec un moyen correspondant (A) sur la nervure se projetant vers le haut (W) du crochet (H) du cintre pour retenir ledit indicateur sur ladite nervure se projetant vers le haut (W).

3. L'indicateur de la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que ledit moyen (5,6) formé dans ledit corps (1) comprend au moins une ouverture (5,6) dans au moins une desdites parois latérales (2,3), laquelle ouverture (5,6) s'étend complètement à travers ladite paroi latérale (2,3), ladite au moins une ouverture (5,6) étant adaptée pour s'enclencher avec ledit moyen correspondant (A) sur ladite nervure (W).

4. L'indicateur de la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que ladite paroi latérale (2,3) entoure complètement ladite au moins une ouverture (5,6).

5. L'indicateur de l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisé en ce que ledit profil de la base généralement rectangulaire a une largeur inférieure à la largeur dudit crochet (H) dudit cintre.

6. L'indicateur de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes en combinaison avec un cintre pour vêtements en matière plastique moulé ayant un crochet (H) formé avec une nervure étroite se projetant vers le haut (W),

caractérisé en ce que ladite nervure (W) et ladite cavité (4) sont façonnées de sorte que les bords les plus bas desdites parois d'extrémité engagent des points espacés discrets (9,10) sur ladite nervure (W) tandis qu'un autre point discret sur la portion du bord le plus haut de ladite nervure (W) est au moins étroitement adjacent à la paroi supérieure

(11) de la cavité (4), de sorte que ledit indicateur engage ledit autre point discret si il est décalé à partir d'une position centrale sur ladite nervure (W), d'où ledit indicateur est supporté de façon stable sur ladite nervure (W) par un engagement au niveau desdits points discrets (9,10). 5

7. La combinaison de la revendication 6, caractérisée en ce que ledit corps indicateur (1) a une épaisseur qui ne dépasse essentiellement pas l'épaisseur du crochet (H) du cintre au niveau de son extrémité supérieure. 10

8. La combinaison de la revendication 6 ou 7, caractérisée en ce que ladite nervure (W) a un bord supérieur uniformément courbé dimensionné pour engager ou être étroitement adjacent à la paroi supérieure (11) de ladite cavité (4) dudit indicateur (1). 15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

