D. WITBECK.

GARMENT HOLDING DEVICE FOR TRAVELING LUGGAGE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 2, 1921.

1,438,738. Patented Dec. 12, 1922.

Fig. 2

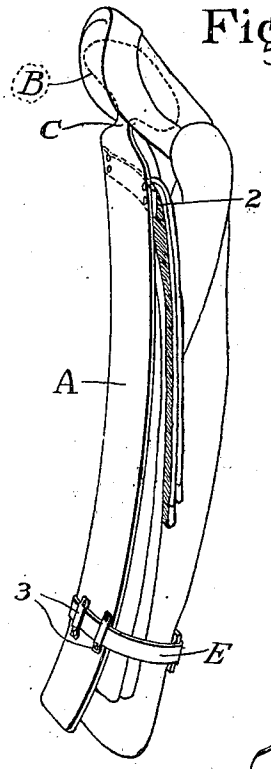
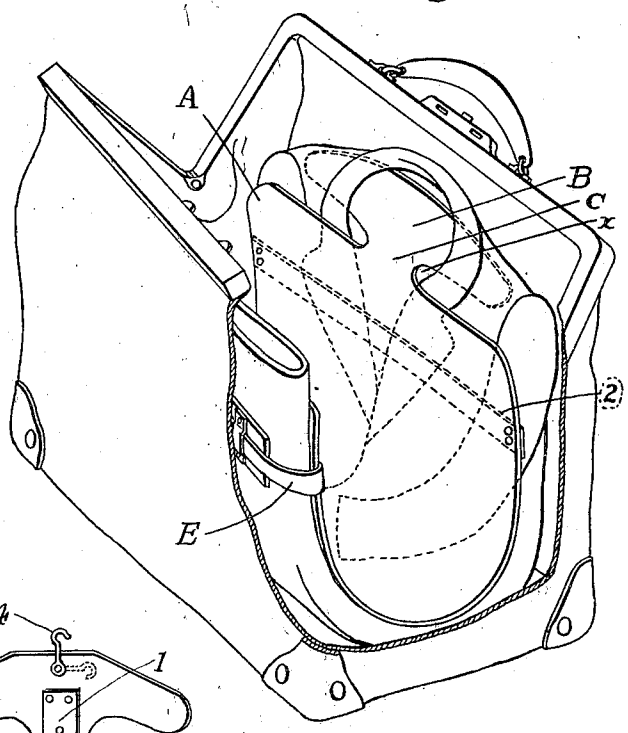


Fig. 1



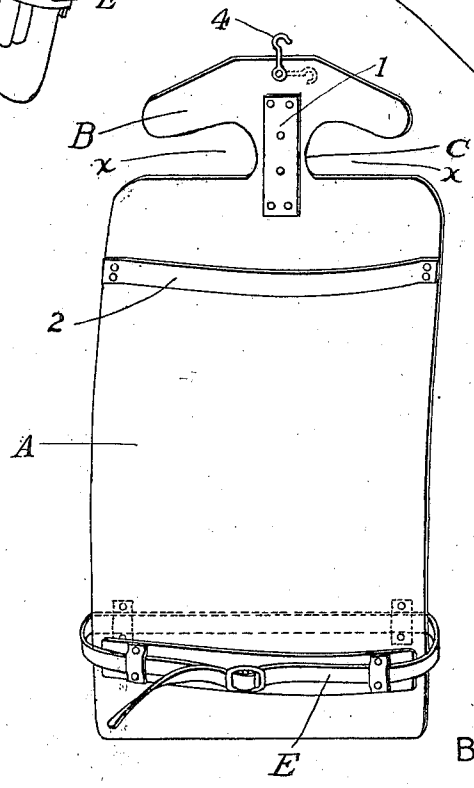


Fig. 3

INVENTOR

Desford Witbeck

Bakewell & Church

BY

ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DESFORD WITBECK, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

GARMENT-HOLDING DEVICE FOR TRAVELING LUGGAGE.

Application filed May 2, 1921. Serial No. 465,968.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DESFORD WITBECK, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Garment-Holding Devices for Traveling Luggage, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to devices of the kind that are used for preventing garments from wrinkling or creasing while they are packed in traveling luggage or other containers.

The main object of my invention is to provide a device that makes it possible to carry a suit of clothes or a dress in a traveling bag or other container without liability of wrinkling or creasing the garment to such an extent that it requires pressing after removal from the bag.

Another object is to provide an inexpensive device of the character referred to that is compact, light in weight and of such design that it can be easily applied to or removed from the garment with which it is used.

And still another object is to provide a device that performs the dual function of a garment hanger and follower or clamping device for a suit or dress that is packed in a container.

To this end I have devised a garment holding device, which, briefly described, consists of an expansible member of such form that when it is superimposed upon a folded garment or a folded garment is wrapped around the same and the garment and said member are then introduced into a traveling bag or other container the resiliency of said member causes the garment to be clamped against the inner side of the container, thereby preventing the garment from creasing or wrinkling. The device preferably comprises a body portion of approximately the length and breadth of a suit coat, a shoulder portion at one end of said body portion that is adapted to be introduced through the neck opening of the garment and arranged in engagement with the shoulder portions of the garment, and means for clamping the garment to the body portion of the device.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view, showing how my device is used for holding a suit in a conventional traveling bag.

Figure 2 is a perspective view, showing how the suit is arranged on the device before the device is flexed and introduced into the bag; and

Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the device shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate the preferred form of my invention, A designates the body portion of my improved garment holding device which preferably consists of an expansible member formed from a sheet of flexible fibre or other suitable sheet material that is bent into substantially U-shape, as shown in Figure 1. The body portion A is of such length and breadth that it will substantially cover the front side of the garment with which the device is used and at one end of said body portion is a shoulder portion B. Generally, the body portion A is made of approximately the length and breadth of a man's coat. The shoulder portion B of the device may be of various forms, so long as it is of such design that it will serve as a support for the shoulder portions of the garment. Usually, the shoulder portion B is similar in general outline to a garment hanger or coat hanger. The shoulder portion B can either be integrally connected to the body portion A, or it can be formed by a separate piece that is connected to the body portion. In the form of my invention herein shown the shoulder portion B is joined to the body portion A by a neck or contracted part C and is spaced far enough from the upper edge of the body portion A to form slots or gaps *x* between said parts, thereby making it possible to introduce the shoulder portion B through the neck opening of the garment and arrange it in engagement with the shoulder portions of the garment during the operation of superimposing the body portion A upon the front side of a folded garment. If desired, the neck portion C of the device can be provided with a reinforcement 1.

When the device is designed for use with men's garments it is preferable to provide the body portion A with a transversely-disposed loop or strap 2 arranged on one side of same preferably the outside, as shown in Figure 3, so as to enable a pair of trousers to be slipped through the device 2 and folded over, as shown in Figure 2. Means is

also provided for clamping the lower portion of the garment to the body portion A of the device, and while various means may be used for this purpose, I prefer to equip the device with an adjustable clamping device E which may consist of a strap that passes through loops 3 on the front side of the body portion A and extends transversely across the rear side of said body portion, so as to embrace the lower end portion of the coat, and thus secure the coat to the device, as shown in Figure 2. When the device is designed for use with women's garments, such, for example, as a dress, it is preferable to arrange a transversely-disposed strap, loop or holding device like the device 2 adjacent the lower end of the body portion A so as to permit the dress to be passed under said holding device and then doubled over, a means similar to the strap E being arranged adjacent the upper end of the body portion A, so as to hold or secure the doubled over portion of the skirt of the dress.

When the device is not arranged in operative position in a garment container, it is substantially straight, as shown in Figure 3, it having sufficient resiliency to cause it to spring into this shape, as soon as it is removed from the container. If it is to be used for packing a man's suit in a traveling bag, the trousers of the suit are first folded and draped over the trouser holding device 2 on the rear side of the body portion A, the coat of the suit is then laid out flat with the sleeves of the coat folded inwardly over the front side of the coat, and thereafter the body portion A of the device is arranged flatwise upon the front side of the coat and the shouder portion B is inserted through the neck opening and arranged in engagement with the shoulder portions of the coat, the strap E being passed around the coat so as to secure it to the body portion A of the device. The body portion A with the coat thereon is then doubled or flexed transversely so as to spring the device into substantially U-shape. Thereafter, its is introduced into the traveling bag, as shown in Figure 1, the coat extending around the inner side of the bag and bearing against the bottom and the two side walls of the bag, and the inherent resiliency of the body portion A of the device causing the coat to be stretched taut and clamped so securely against the bag that it will not crease or wrinkle. I have found that with a device of the construction above described a garment, either a suit or dress, can be carried as satisfactorily in a traveling bag or other similar luggage as in a wardrobe trunk, owing to the fact that the U-shaped, expansible body portion A of the device clamps the garment so snugly against the inner side of the luggage that the garment will not crease or wrinkle to such an extent that it is necessary to press it after removal from the luggage. As the garment virtually lines the interior of the bag, there is ample space in the bag for holding other articles of wearing apparel. Accordingly, my device not only makes it possible to carry a garment in the conventional traveling bag without liability of wrinkling, but it also provides more packing space inside of the bag than is possible when the garment is rolled up or folded several times and placed on the bottom of the bag, as is now the usual custom. When the traveller reaches his destination the device with the garment thereon can be removed from the bag the resiliency of the device causing it to spring out straight. It can then be suspended in a vertical position by means of the folding hook 4 that is pivotally connected to the shoulder portion B of the device. Accordingly, my device performs the dual function of a garment hanger that can be suspended from a hook in a closet and an expansible garment holding device that will hold a suit or dress in a traveling bag or similar luggage without liability of wrinkling or creasing. The device is light in weight, it is compact and takes up practically no room and it can be manufactured and sold at a sufficiently low cost to be within the reach of every traveller. Moreover, it is of such design that it can be applied to or removed easily from a garment.

While I have described my device as being used for preventing a garment from wrinkling while it is packed in a traveling bag, I wish it to be understood that the device can be used to prevent creasing or wrinkling of a garment packed in any kind of a container. For example, it can be used by tailors and clothiers for delivering garments to customers, as it functions in the same way, irrespective of the type of the container, so long as the container is of such form that it is capable of receiving an expansible member of substantially U-shape in cross section. Of course, when the device is used for the purpose last mentioned it is preferable to form it from some relatively inexpensive sheet material that has sufficient flexibility to prevent it from breaking or cracking when it is folded or flexed transversely into U-form.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A device for maintaining clothes unwrinkled while packed in a hand bag or other container, consisting of a sheet of flexible resilient material, and means to secure the clothes thereon, whereby, when the device is bent into U-shape and inserted in the container, it holds the clothes tightly

pressed against the walls of the container.

2. A device for maintaining a garment in smooth condition while packed in a hand bag or other container, consisting of a sheet of stiff or flexible, resilient material, provided at one end with a part adapted to fit in the shoulder portion of the garment, and means to secure the garment thereto, whereby, when the sheet is flexed and inserted in the container, the garment will be pressed against the walls of the container.

3. A device for maintaining a coat or like garment in a "pressed" condition when carried in a piece of hand luggage, consisting of a sheet of flexible, resilient material adapted to be superposed upon the garment, bent into substantially U-shape, and then inserted, with the garment, into the carrier, whereby the garment is maintained smoothly pressed against the walls of said carrier.

DESFORD WITBECK.