

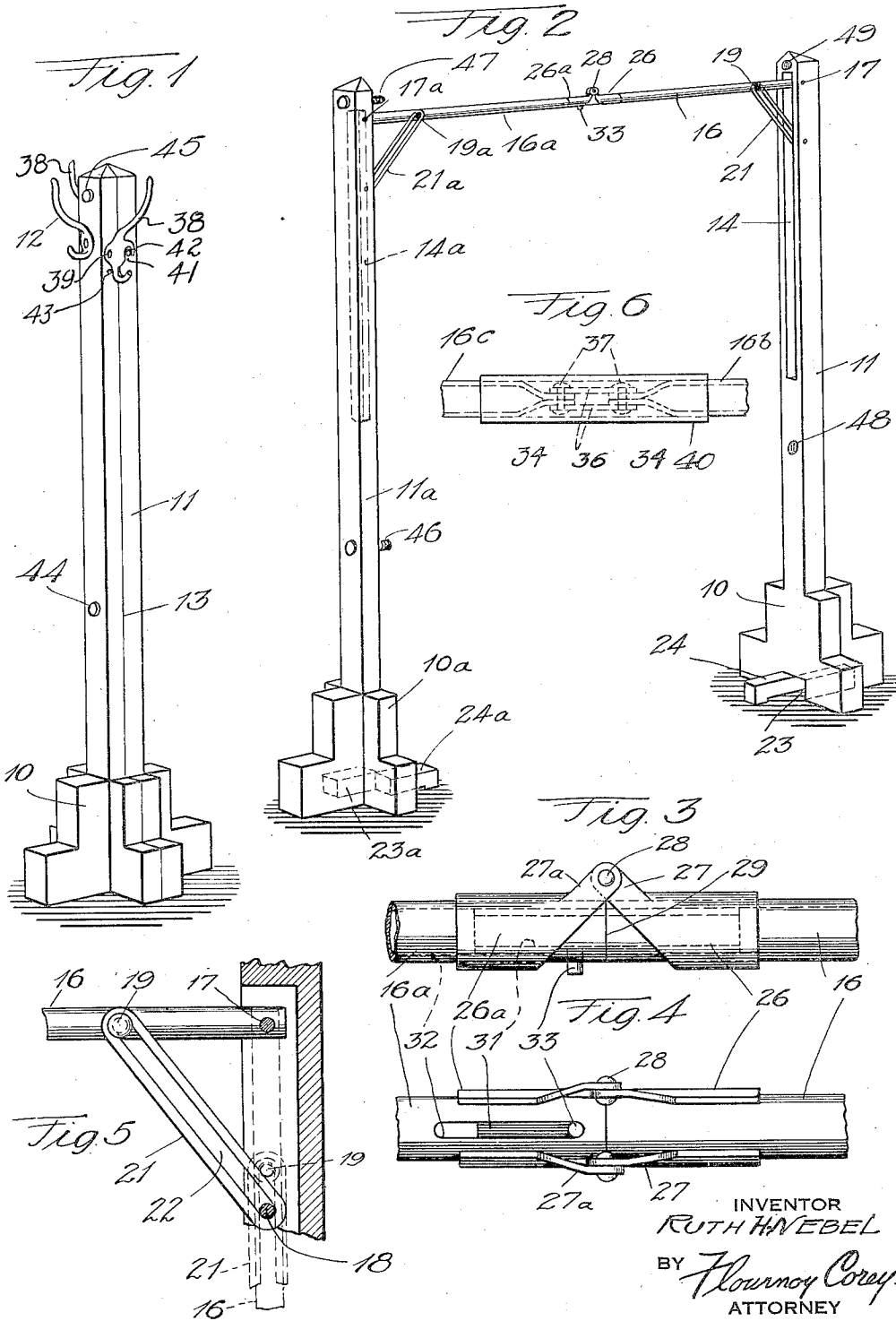
July 16, 1935.

R. H. NEBEL

2,008,311

COSTUMER

Filed Aug. 24, 1933



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,008,311

COSTUMER

Ruth H. Nebel, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Application August 24, 1933, Serial No. 686,560

3 Claims. (Cl. 211—178)

This invention relates to clothes racks or supports and has particular relation to that particular variety of clothes support called a costumer.

In hanging up articles of clothing such as coats, hats, or the like, at the home, office, hotel, and so on, it is the usual practice to provide costumers in the form of a standard supported on legs to give the costumer stability, and to provide a number of hooks at the upper end of the standard for supporting the articles of clothing. As a usual thing the four hooks usually found on such devices are adequate for taking care of these articles of clothing under normal conditions, but at times it is very desirable that additional facilities be provided for taking care of the above articles when there are more than the usual number of people present; as, for instance, in a hotel during meal times, or at other places where a large number of people sometimes congregate.

I have accordingly devised a costumer which, under usual conditions, has the appearance of the ordinary costumer, but which, when necessary, may be expanded by spreading the halves of the costumer apart and providing an extra rod for accommodating a large number of coat hangers, hooks for hats, and the like.

A general object of the invention is to provide a simple, compact, strong and efficient costumer which may be closed for supporting a few articles of wearing apparel or may be extended to accommodate a great number of articles.

Another object of the invention is to provide a costumer of the above character which can be readily opened and closed with a minimum of effort.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the above character which is not readily effected by wear and which will be strong and stable in both the open and closed positions.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device which, in its closed position, appears like an ordinary costumer, and in which the extending parts may be folded into suitable cavities in the uprights of the costumer.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for preventing the parts of the standards from spreading when the costumer is in extended position, thereby permitting the use of a single rod which acts as a clothes rack and also to hold the standards apart.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved means for clamping the two parts of the costumer together which is simple and unobtrusive.

Other and further features and objects of my

invention will be more apparent to those skilled in the art upon a consideration of the accompanying drawing and following specification, wherein is disclosed an exemplary embodiment of the invention, with the understanding, however, that such changes may be made therein as fall within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In said drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a costumer constructed according to my invention with the device in closed position.

Figure 2 is a view in perspective of the costumer shown in Figure 1 but in its open or extended position.

Figure 3 is a view in elevation of the joint of the horizontally extending rod shown in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a bottom view of the joint shown in Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a view, partly in section and partly in elevation, of the connection between the rod and one of the halves of the upright standard, and

Figure 6 is a view in elevation of a modified form of joint for a rod such as that shown in Figure 2.

Referring now to the drawing, a costumer constructed according to my invention has the usual four supporting legs indicated at 10, an upright standard 11 to which the legs are fastened, and is provided with the usual hooks 12 at the upper end thereof. However, the standard and two of the legs are split as indicated by the dividing line shown at 13, so that the two halves may be separated, as shown in Figure 2.

Complementary cavities 14 and 14a are provided in the inner faces of each of the halves 11 and 11a respectively, and these cavities extend from near the top of the standard to a point approximately half way down the standard. The length of the cavity, of course, may be varied according to the length of the halves of the spreader rod 16 and 16a which is to be used with the costumer.

The spreader rods or spreaders 16 and 16a may be of wood or metal, but are preferably of metal pipe so as to afford a firm support when the costumer is extended. The outer ends of the rods are pivotally engaged to the standard halves 11 and 11a as indicated at 17 and 17a, respectively, so that the spreader pipes may be folded down into the respective cavities 14 and 14a.

I prefer to provide pins 18, shown to better advantage in Figure 5, within the respective cavi-

ties of the halves of the standard, and corresponding pins 19, near the outer ends of the spreaders. These pins are preferably connected by means of links 21 and the links 21 have slots 22 therein for engaging the pins 19 and 19. The pins 19 are closer to the pivots 17 than are the pins 18, in order that when the spreaders are folded into the cavities the links 21 will drop downwardly into the position indicated in dotted lines in Figure 5, so as not to interfere with the spreader or spreader parts. When the spreader is in extended position, the pins 18 and 19 are prevented from moving any farther apart than the length of the slot 22 will permit, and thus the standards are prevented from spreading apart at the base.

Suitable cavities are provided on the inner faces of the legs 10 and 10a as indicated at 23 and inwardly projecting legs 24 are provided in order to afford additional braces for the standards when the standard halves are located in the extended position. These legs 24 and 24a are placed in staggered position so that the leg 24a will go into the cavity 23 and the leg 24 will go into the cavity 23a when the standards are in closed position.

I may utilize any one of several means for joining the halves of the rod 16 at the inner ends thereof. One of the means is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. In this hinge structure, complementary sleeves 26 and 26a are located on the inner ends of the spreader pipes 16 and 16a, respectively, and each of these sleeves is provided with a pair of upwardly and inwardly extending hinge members 27 and 27a. These hinge members are joined by a pivot pin 28.

When the costumer is in extended position, the ends of the pipes 16 and 16a abut one another as indicated at 29, but, of course, would not support a load without some additional supporting means. I accordingly provide a smaller section of pipe or rod, as indicated at 31, the outside diameter of which is less than the inside diameter of the pipe 16a, so that the pipe 31 may be slid back and forth in the spreader pipes 16 and 16a. I provide a slot 32 on the lower side of the inner end of the pipe 16a and utilize a pin 33, which is set into the pipe 31 and extends through the slot 32, for moving the pipe 31 back and forth.

In the extended position of the costumer, the pipe 31 is slid part-way into the pipe 16 by means of the pin 33 so that the hinge connection becomes rigid. When the costumer is to be folded, the pipe 31 is slid back into the pipe 16a and the hinge may be broken to permit the rods 16 and 16a to be swung into their respective cavities. It is apparent that the hinge members 27 and 27a must project upwardly so that when the costumer is in folded position, the two halves of the standard may be closely joined together.

A modified form of hinge connection is shown in Figure 6. In this hinge connection the inner ends of the pipes 16b and 16c are flattened, as indicated at 34, and these ends are joined by means of a link 36 which has pivoted connection with the ends of the spreader pipes 16b and 16c by means of pivot pins 37. A sleeve 40 of sufficient inside diameter to slide back and forth on the outside of pipes 16b and 16c, is slid over the hinge structure, just described, when it is desired to make the joint between the spreader halves rigid. The link 36 is of sufficient length that, when the costumer is in the folded position, the rods 16b and 16c are permitted to fold into the respective cavities 14 and 14a.

It is preferable that some locking means be employed for locking the costumer halves together. A preferred structure is shown in Figure 1. I preferably provide two hooks 38 on opposite sides of the standard at the joint 13 between the standard halves. These hooks appear to be of usual construction but are actually pivotally attached to one of the standard halves at their bases, as indicated at 39, and are provided with slots 41 in the other part of the base in opposed relation to the pivots 39. Pins 42 are provided in the other half of the standard, so located that when the hooks are swung into normal upright position, the slots will engage the pins 42 to lock the two halves together if the halves are in closed position. Stop pins 43 prevent the hooks 38 from rotating beyond the upright position.

Optional means for locking the costumer halves together, in a folded position, are provided by a locking device shown in Figure 2 in which thumb screws 44 and 45 are used. These thumb screws are located respectively near the bottom and top of the standards 11 and 11a.

The screw 44 is of the conventional type, having a knurled thumb nut portion by means of which the screw may be manually turned. A threaded portion 46 of the screw 44 extends through an opening in the standard 11a. The threaded portion 46 is adapted to be received in a tapped ferrule 48 which is located in a complementary position in the inner side of the standard 11.

The screw 45 is similar to the screw 44. The screw 45 is positioned near the top of the standard 11a and the threaded portion 47 thereof is adapted to be engaged in a second tapped ferrule 49 located in the inner side of the standard 11 at a corresponding position near the top thereof.

If the two halves of the costumer are moved into a substantially folded position the threaded portions 46 and 47 of the screws 44 and 45 may be caused to engage the tapped ferrules 48 and 49 whereby the standards 11 and 11a may be drawn firmly together by turning the knurled thumb nut portions of the screws 44 and 45.

It is apparent that I have provided a costumer which has the appearance, while in folded position, of an ordinary costumer, but which may be extended to afford a much greater capacity for supporting clothes. By means of the bracing and additional support members I am enabled to secure this result with only one rod between the parts of the device. The hinge members are strong and afford a rigid support when the costumer is in extended position, but by reason of the hinge construction, the halves of the rod may be folded entirely into the cavities in the standard. All of the parts of the device are connected at all times and need not be dismounted from the structure, and thus cannot be lost.

It is apparent that modifications may be made by those skilled in the art. For instance the legs of the costumer may be considerably varied in form and structure, in order to provide an ornamental and graceful design. Such modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a costumer including a pair of standards, rods pivotally connected to the standards at their outer ends, a hinge for connecting the inner ends of the rods, and means for preventing spreading of the bottoms of the standards when the cos-

tumer is in extended position comprising a slotted link and a pair of pivot pins one of which is located in the standard and the other of which is located on the rod, the pin on the rod being at a greater distance than the other from the pivot connection of the rod with the standard, so that the link may revolve to a depending position when the rods are folded into the standards and additional bracing means for the standards when the costumer is in extended position comprising inwardly extending legs, the inwardly-extending legs on the respective standards being staggered with respect to each other, and the base of the standard having cavities into which the inwardly extending legs may be received when the costumer is in closed position.

2. In a costumer including a standard divided into halves, means for locking the halves together comprising a clothes hook pivotally attached to

one half, a pin in the other half, and a slot in the base of the hook adapted to engage the pin whereby the hook may be rotated on its pivot to cause the slot to engage the pin to hold the halves together.

3. In a costumer including a pair of standards, rods pivotally connected to the standards at their outer ends, a hinge for connecting the inner ends of the rods, and means for preventing spreading of the bottoms of the standards when the costumer is in an extended position comprising an inwardly extending leg on each of the standards, the inwardly extending legs on the respective standards being staggered with respect to each other, and the base of the standard having cavities into which the inwardly extending legs may be received while the costumer is in closed position.

RUTH H. NEBEL.