July 21, 1936. R. H. LEPPELMAN 2,048,342

ADJUSTABLE DRESS FORM

Filed Dec. 23, 1935

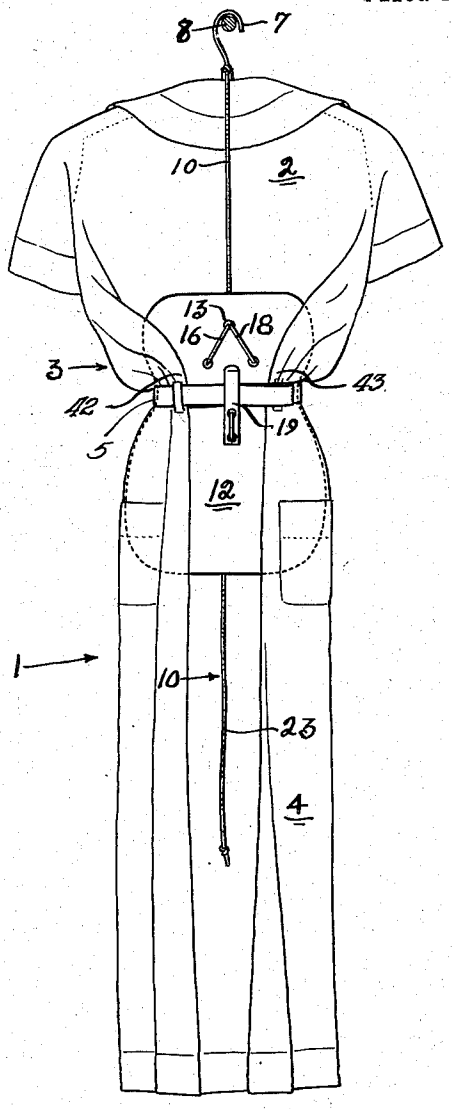


Fig. 1

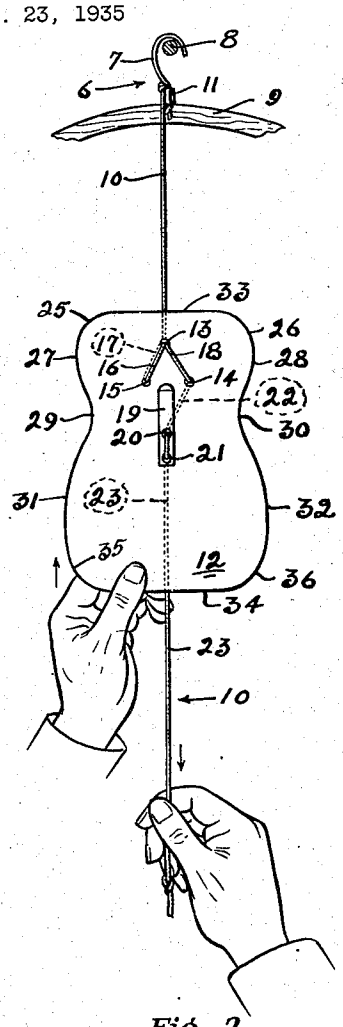


Fig. 2

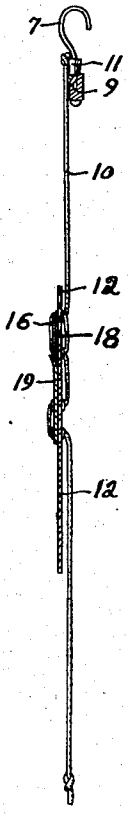


Fig. 3

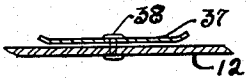


Fig. 5

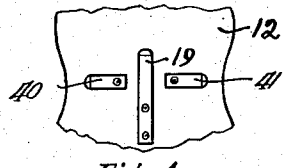


Fig. 4

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ADJUSTABLE DRESS FORM

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—92)

My invention relates to dress forms and more particularly to forms for supporting dresses and other garments for display purposes.

The prime object of the present invention is the provision of a form for garments which may be used in connection with a common or usual coat or garment hanger and which will support the lower or skirt portion of a dress or similar garment independently of the upper portion of the garment, thus relieving strain upon the upper portion of the garment.

By "usual coat or garment hanger" is meant a hanger comprising substantially a supporting element, such as a hook, having a cross-bar, usually arcuate, attached to its lower end. The cross-bar is inserted into the neck opening of the garment and extends beneath its shoulders. The hook may be engaged over any suitable support such as a rod.

Due to the fact that garments, particularly dresses, when supported at their shoulders upon usual hangers, hang loosely, and formlessly, it has become common practice to resort for display purposes to forms similar to the human torso in order to more distinctively and pleasingly display the garments.

My device permits the adjustable blousing of a garment waist while being supported by a usual garment hanger.

The invention consists substantially of a preferably flat board or plate of any suitable stiff yet light weight material such as heavy card-board, a cord or similar flexible element removably attached at its upper end to a usual garment hanger, the element having a longitudinally adjustable connection with the board, and a means carried by the board for engaging the belt or the belt portion of a garment for holding it folded around the board.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide a device of the class described which is new, novel, practical and of utility; which permits a vertical adjustment between a usual garment hanger and a member therebelow which is supporting the skirt portion of a garment which has its upper portion supported by the hanger; which is easily and quickly adjusted; which includes a means for holding the middle or belt portion of a garment firmly positioned without the use of pins or other supplementary elements; which is simple to install; which is cheap to manufacture; which is durable; and, which will be efficient in accomplishing all the purposes for which it is intended.

With these and other objects in view as will more fully appear hereinbelow, my invention consists in the construction, novel features, and combination of parts hereinafter more fully described, pointed out in the claims hereto appended, and illustrated in the accompanying one-sheet drawing, of which,—

Figure 1 is a rear elevational view of the device operatively supporting a dress;

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the rear face of the device connected to a usual garment hanger, and illustrating the manner of adjustment;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of the device, partially in section;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view showing a slightly different embodiment of the garment engaging element; and,

Figure 5 is an end view showing yet another embodiment of the garment engaging means.

Like characters of reference designate like parts in all the figures.

It is understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size, shape, weight, material and other details of construction, within the scope of my invention may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or broad principle of my invention and without sacrificing any of the advantages thereof; and it is also understood that the drawing is to be interpreted as being illustrative and not restrictive.

The inventive idea involved is capable of receiving a variety of mechanical expressions one of which, for the purpose of illustrating the invention, is shown in the accompanying drawing wherein:—

The reference numeral 1 indicates as a whole a dress or similar garment having an upper or waist portion 2, a central or belt portion 3, a lower or skirt portion 4, and having a girdle or belt 5. The reference numeral 6 indicates as a whole a usual garment or coat hanger consisting substantially of a hook or supporting element 7 adapted to be supported by any means such as a rod 8, and a cross-bar 9 connected intermediate its ends to the lower end of the hook 7.

The elements above referred to with reference to numerals 1 to 9 inclusive are not a part of the invention but are, rather, things to which the invention is adapted.

The invention per se includes a string or other flexible element 10 having a ring, loop or other annular member at its upper end, for instance, a short section of rubber tube 11. The tube 11 is adapted to fit over the hook 7 and rest upon the upper surface of the cross-bar 9.

A flat board or plate 12 having staggered

through perforations 13, 14 and 15 is engaged by the element 10 intermediate its ends. The element 10 is first threaded from the forward face of the board 12 rearwardly through the perforation 13. It extends along the rear face of the board as indicated at 16 and passes through the perforation 15 to the forward face of the board from whence it continues along the forward face as shown at 17 and again passes rearwardly through the perforation 13. From this point the element 10 extends along the rear face of the board to the perforation 14 as indicated by the reference numeral 18.

The rear face of the board 12 is equipped with a flat strap-like spring 19 having its lower end attached firmly to the board and having its other end free to be sprung slightly away from the board. The office of the spring 19 will be more fully described hereinbelow. The board 12 and spring 19 are provided with two through perforations 20 and 21.

From the above described portion 18 of the element 10, the element is threaded through the perforation 14 to the forward face of the board from whence it extends along the forward face of the board as indicated at 22 and passes rearwardly through the perforation 20. The element then passes along the rear face of the spring 19 to the perforation 21 where it passes to the forward face of the board. The remaining portion of the element 10 hangs downward loosely along and below the forward face of the board 12 as indicated by the reference numerals 23.

In its preferred form the board or plate 12 has two oppositely disposed rounded corner portions 25 and 26, two oppositely disposed inwardly curved side edge portions 27 and 28 which occur directly below the corners 25 and 26 respectively, two oppositely disposed constricted or narrowed side edge portions 29 and 30 which occur next below the portions 27 and 28 respectively, and next below the portions 29 and 30 respectively the board has two oppositely disposed enlarged portions 31 and 32 the edges of which are arcuate as shown. The upper and lower ends 33 and 34 of the board are preferably parallel, and the portions 31 and 32 converge with the end 34 in a manner forming rounded corners 35 and 36. It is preferred that all edge surfaces of the board 12 either be bound with a fabric tape, or that they be rounded transversely. All perforations may be provided with grommets if desired.

Operation

The garment is first hung upon the hanger 6 in a usual manner. The loop 11 is then placed over the hook 7 and is slid along the hook until it surrounds the shank of the hook and rests upon the cross-bar 9. The hook is then engaged for support with the rod 8. The board 12 is then placed at the back of the garment with the narrow portions 29 and 30 at approximately the belt line thereof. The sides of the garment are then folded rearwardly over the rear face of the board with the upper portion of the skirt portion thereof draped over the portions 31 and 32 of the board. The belt 5 is then drawn tightly across the front of the dress and the surplus rear loop thereof is folded upon itself and inserted between the board and the spring 19. The folds of the belt thus formed may then be adjusted beneath the spring either to loosen or tighten the belt across the front of the dress as desired.

The board is then held by one hand in the approximate desired vertical position with relation to the hanger 7 and with the other hand the portion 23 of the element 10 is pulled downwardly causing the cord to travel through the perforations in the board until the portion of the cord lying between the hanger and the board is drawn taut. The board will then be held in its desired position by the frictional engagement of the cord with the board. Slight vertical adjustment may then be made in order to obtain the desired amount of blouse in the waist, either by slightly raising the board and pulling downwardly on the lower end of the cord, or by merely pulling down on the board 12. This operation is clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

Some dresses do not have a belt and therefore the spring 19 will not function as described above. For use with beltless dresses, the rear face of the board 12 is provided with two alined springs 40 and 41 which have their free ends oppositely disposed and extended toward opposite edges of the board. In this instance, the edge portions 42 and 43 of the dress are folded around the edges of the board, and inserted between the board and the outer ends of the springs 40 and 41 respectively.

In Fig. 5 is illustrated an embodiment which may be used in lieu of the two springs 40 and 41. In this embodiment a single spring 37 extends transversely of the board 12 and is attached at a medial point to the rear face of the board by any means such as a rivet 38.

From the foregoing description it may be seen that not only is the device valuable as a display medium, but in carrying the garments in stock the device acts to keep them in better shape than does the ordinary coat hanger. It also permits the garments to be displayed to a better advantage individually as they are taken from stock for a prospective customer. It prevents the mussing of one garment by the removal of an adjacent garment from a crowded stock.

It is obvious that the device may be readily used for supporting two piece garments such as ladies' suits. The skirt in this instance will be placed with its belt portion around board 12 at its narrowest point. The sides of the skirt will then be folded around the board and fastened in position in one of the manners above described with relation to the skirt 4. The coat of the suit will then be hung upon the hanger 6 in a usual manner.

Obviously, the invention is susceptible of embodiment in forms other than that which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing and described herein, and applicable for uses and purposes other than as detailed, and I therefore consider as my own all such modifications and adaptations and other uses of the form of the device herein described as fairly fall within the scope of my invention.

Having thus described by invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is:

1. The combination with a garment hanger for supporting a garment by engagement with its shoulder portions, of a substantially flat plate about which the belt portion of a garment supported by the hanger may be folded, a plurality of staggered through perforations in the plate, and a flexible element attached to the hanger and threaded through said perforations, said element and said perforations constituting means to adjustably support said plate in various ver-

tical positions with relation to the hanger by frictional engagement therewith.

2. The combination with a garment hanger for supporting a garment by engagement with its shoulder portions, of a substantially flat plate about which the belt portion of a garment supported by the hanger may be folded, means carried by the plate for holding the garment adjustably in its folded position, a plurality of staggered through perforations in the plate, and a flexible element attached to the hanger and threaded through said perforations, said element adapted to adjustably support said plate in various vertical positions with relation to the hanger by frictional engagement therewith.

3. Organization as described in claim 2, in which the adjustable garment holding means includes a strap spring attached to the plate and having a free end which may be sprung away from the plate for receiving a portion of the garment.

4. In a device of the class described the combination with a shoulder support for garments, of an element for supporting the belt portion of a garment, a plurality of staggered through perforations in the element, and a flexible longitudinal member having one of its ends attached to said shoulder support, a portion intermediate its ends threaded through the perforations in said element, and its opposite end hanging free from said element, and adapted to adjustably suspend said element from said shoulder support.

ROY H. LEPPELMAN.