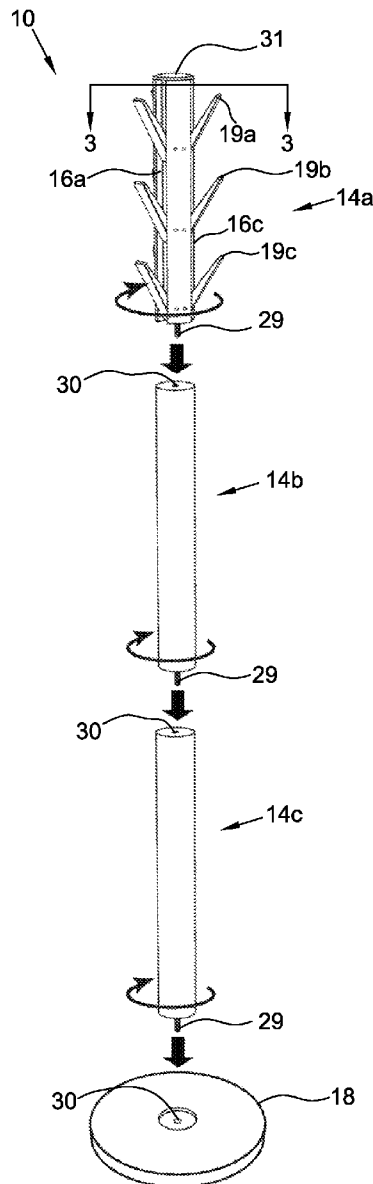




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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Wisniewski(10) **Pub. No.: US 2012/0055893 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 8, 2012**(54) **COAT RACK**(52) **U.S. Cl. 211/85.3**(75) **Inventor: Alan Wisniewski, Toronto (CA)**(57) **ABSTRACT**(73) **Assignee: UMBRA LLC, Buffalo, NY (US)**(21) **Appl. No.: 12/875,370**(22) **Filed: Sep. 3, 2010**

A coat rack adapted to support a plurality of clothing articles in a hanging position comprising a base member and a post body being secured to and extending upwardly from the base member. The post body includes at least one groove that is longitudinally disposed therein, and a plurality of hooks where each hook is pivotally secured within each groove and operatively arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook formations. The post body has a non-planar outer surface, and each of the hooks has a non-planar front surface. The front surface of each hook becomes flush with the outer surface of the post body when the hook is pivotally moved to a first position.

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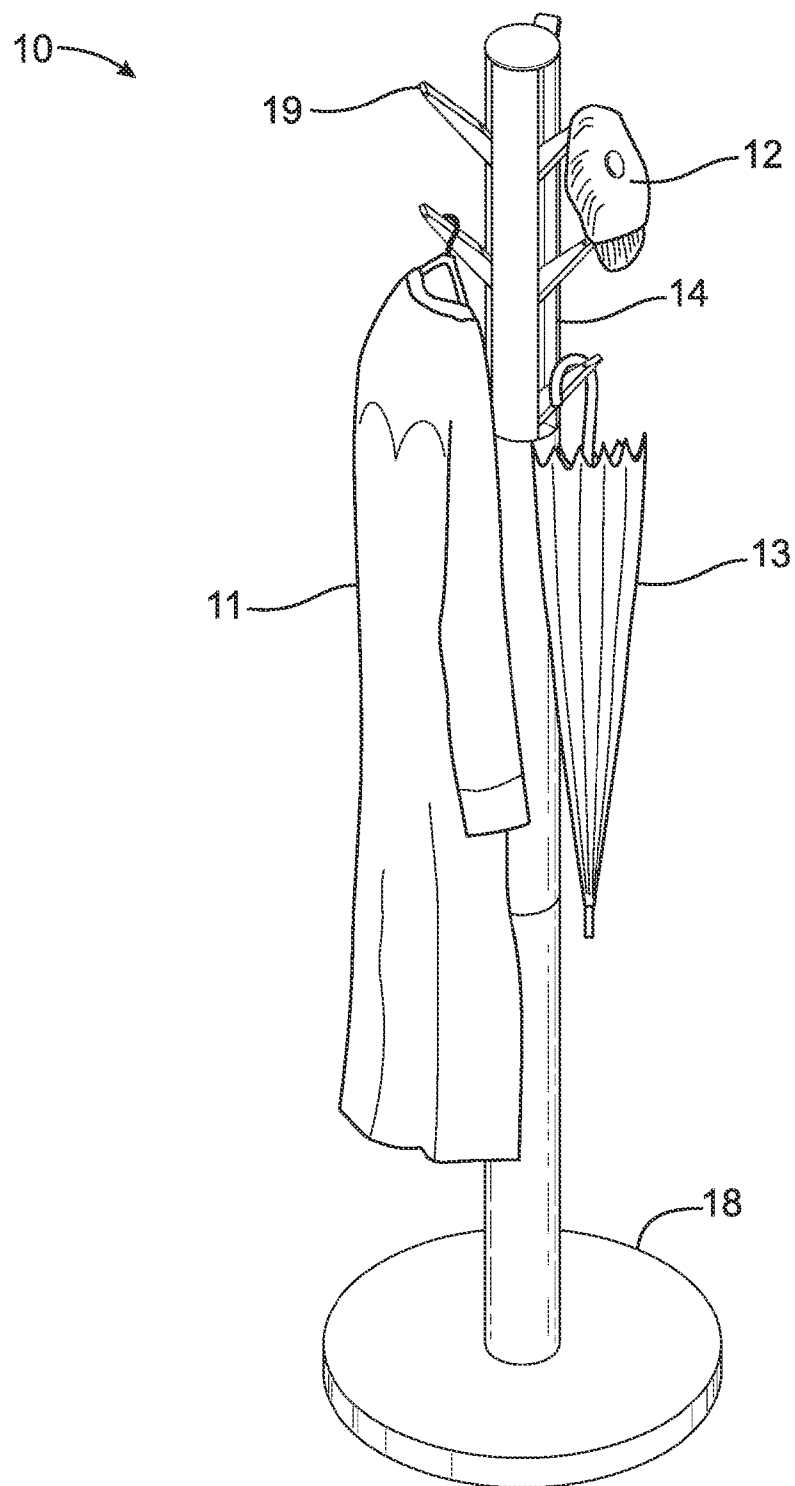
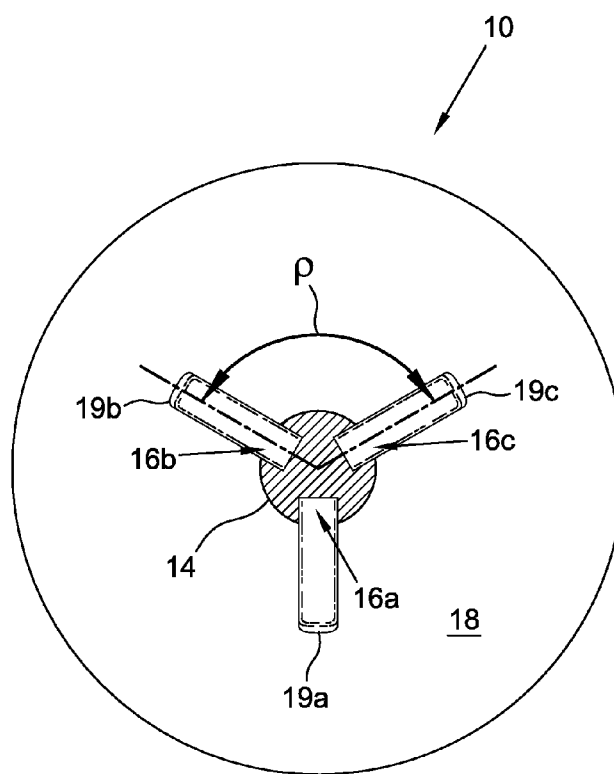
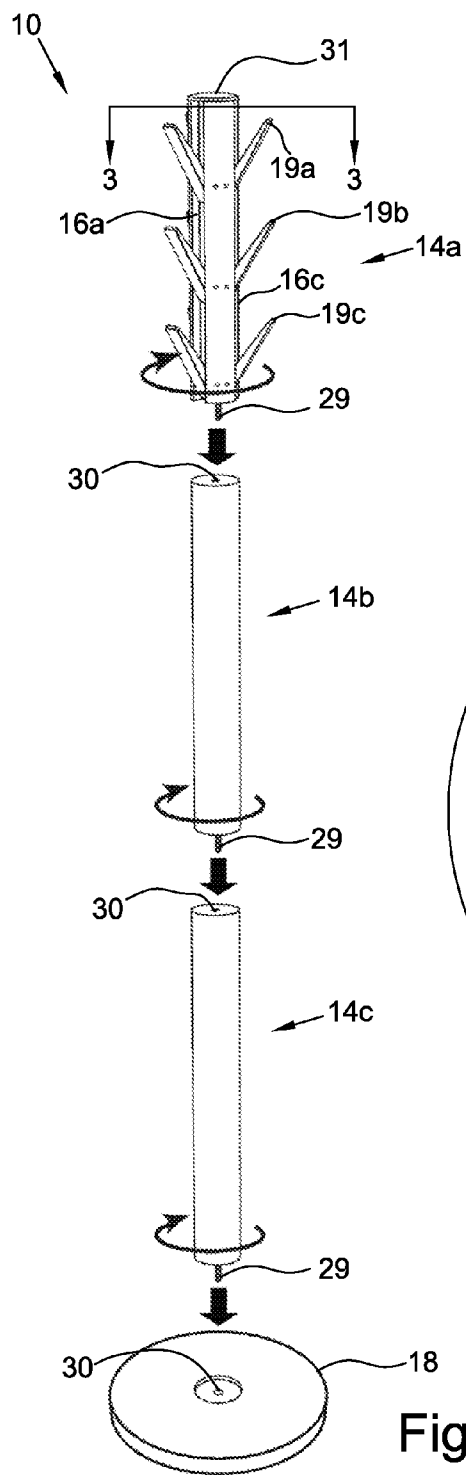


Fig. 1



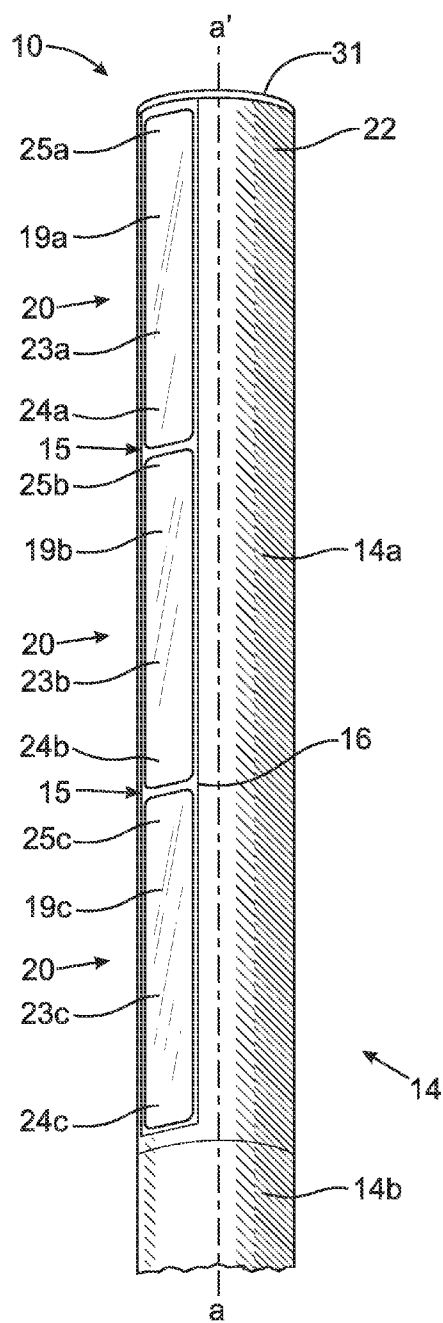


Fig. 4a

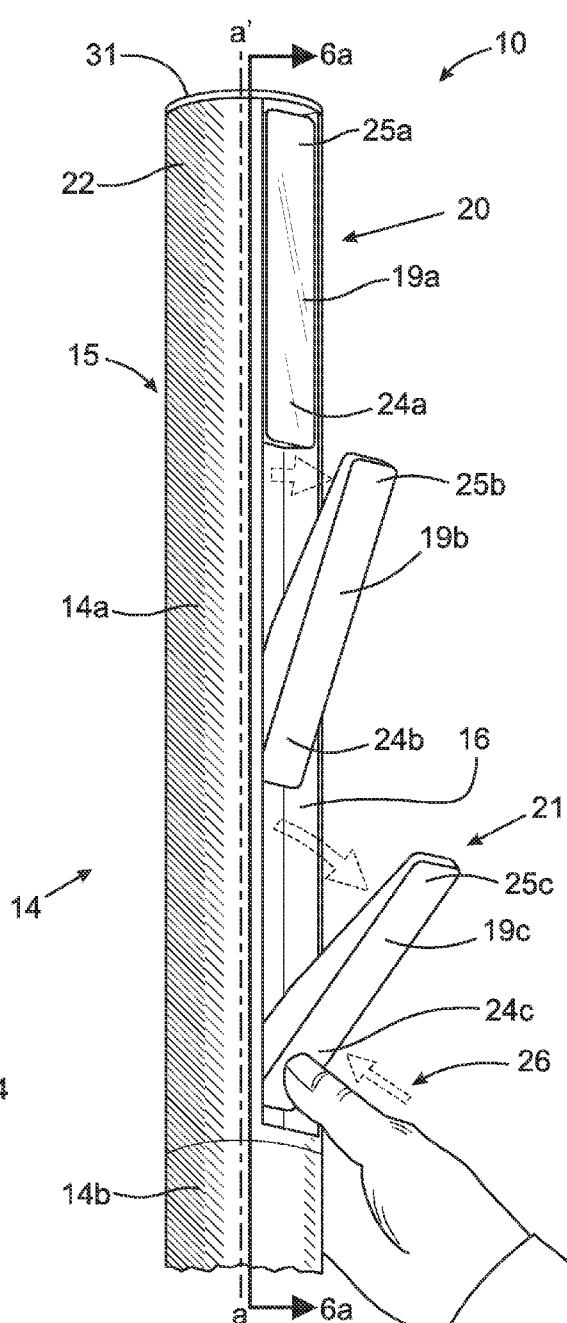


Fig. 4b

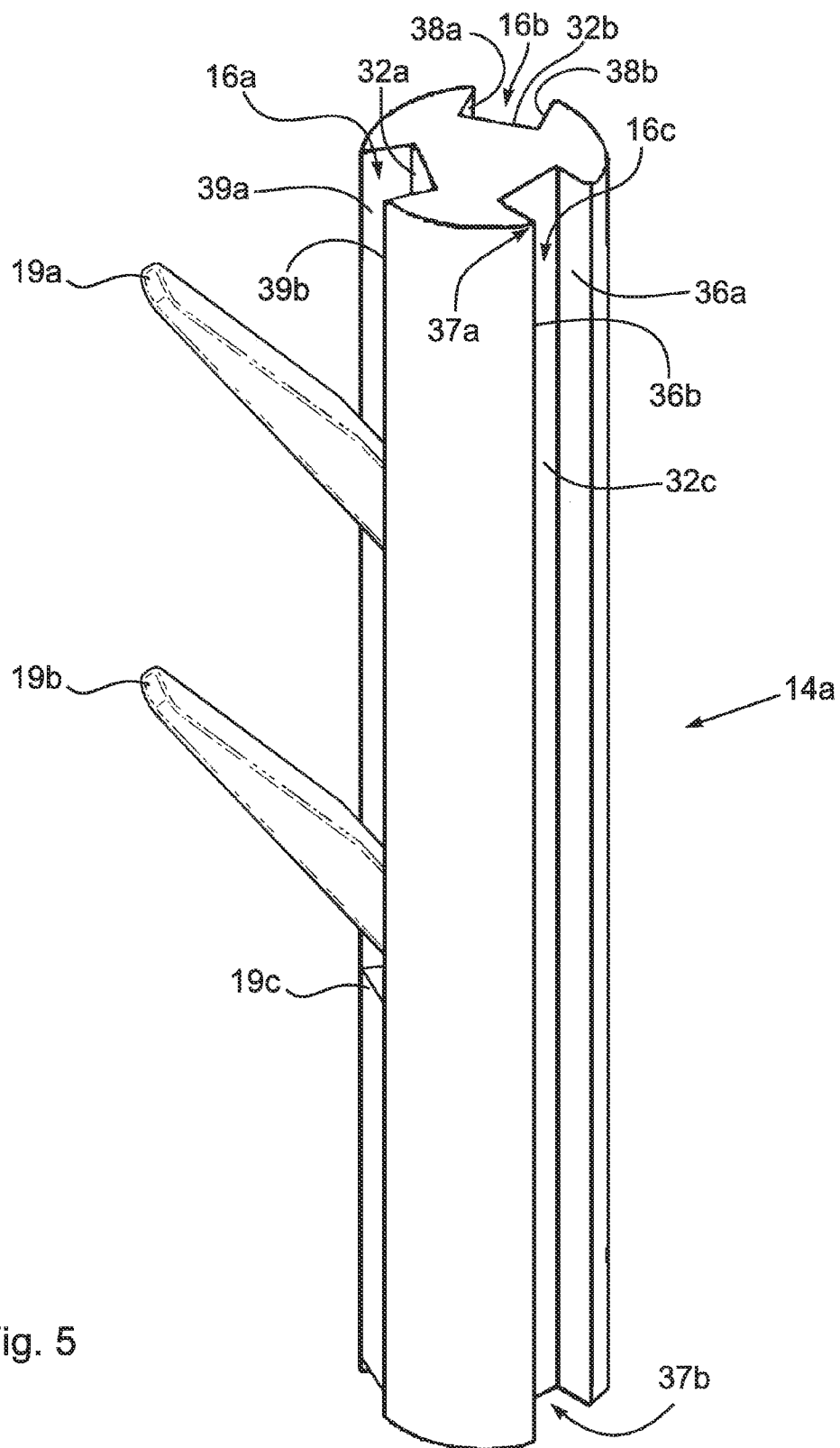
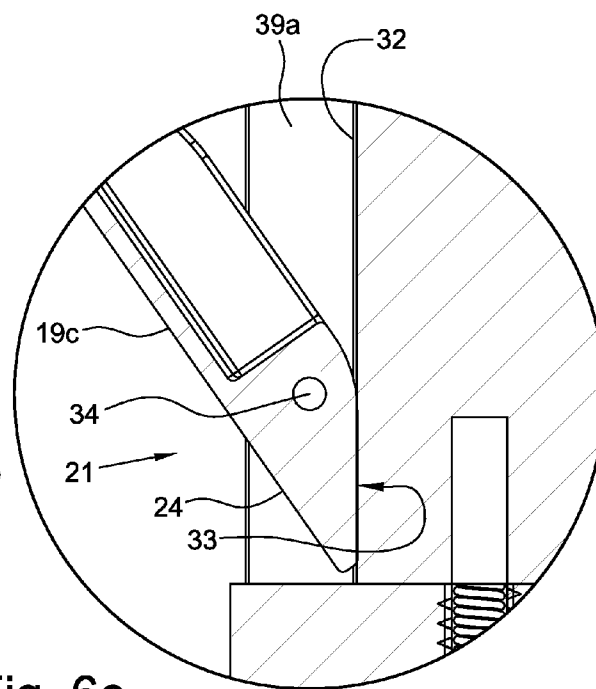
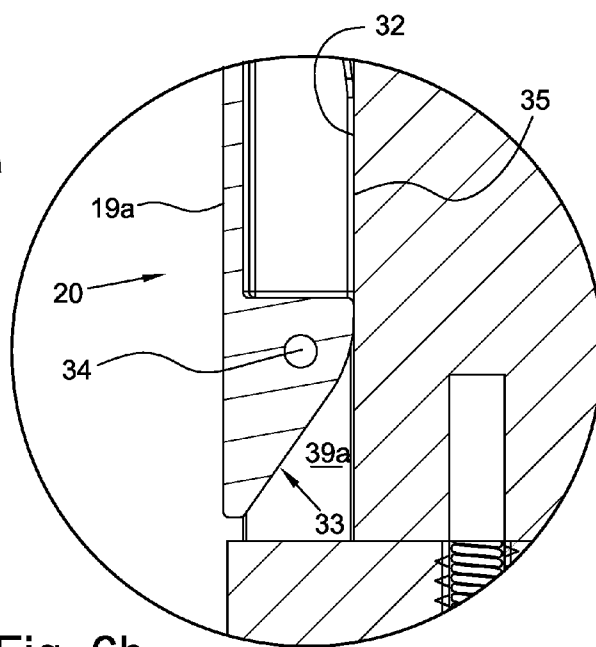
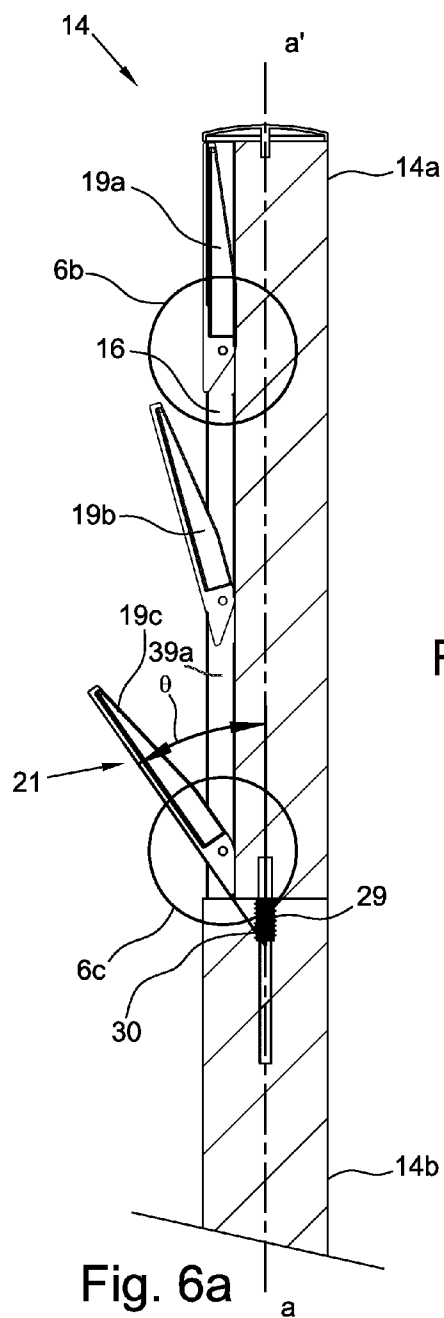


Fig. 5



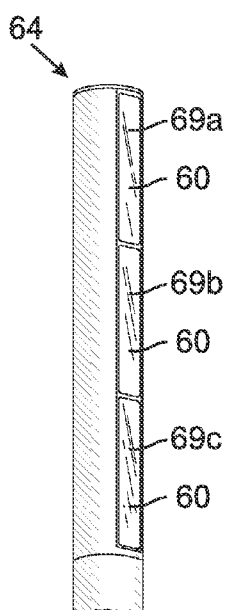


Fig. 7a

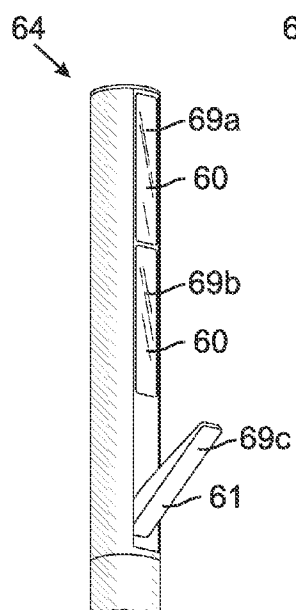


Fig. 7b

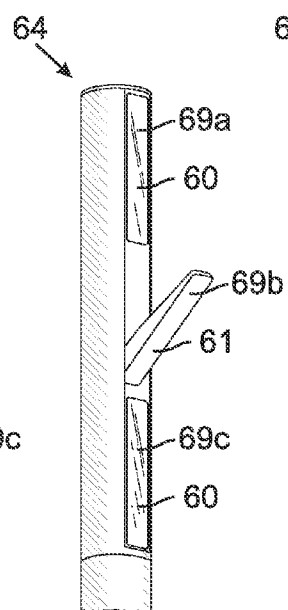


Fig. 7c

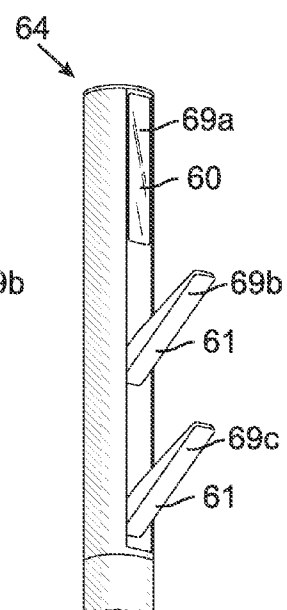


Fig. 7d

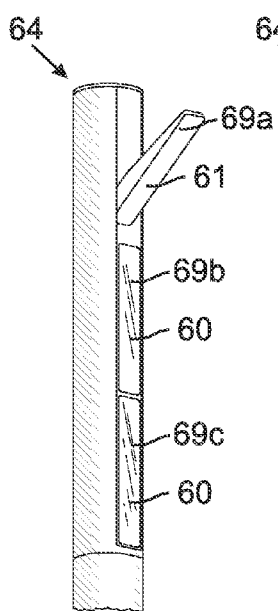


Fig. 7e

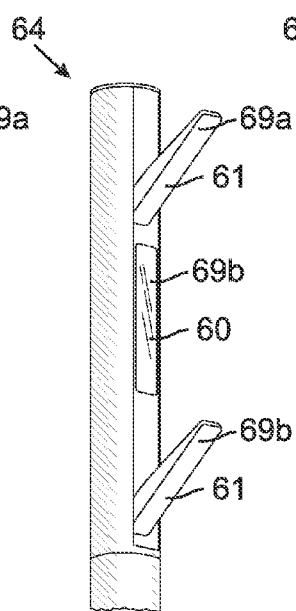


Fig. 7f

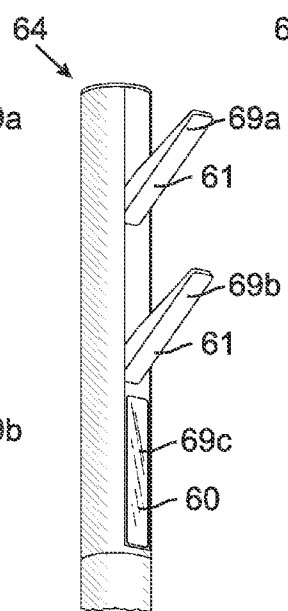


Fig. 7g

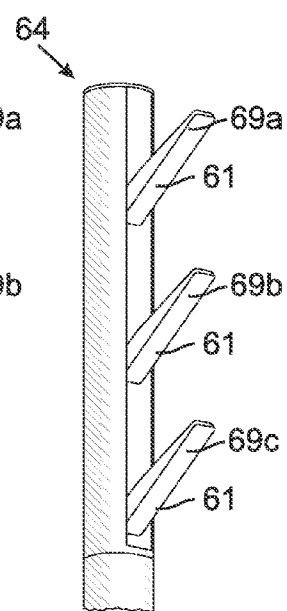
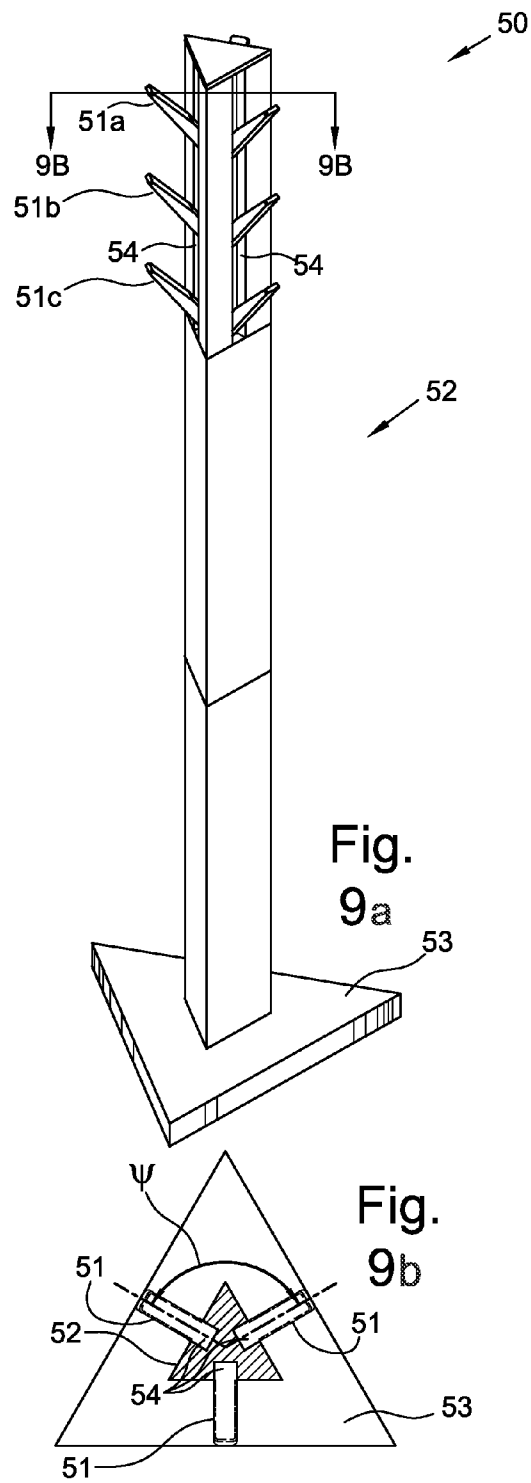
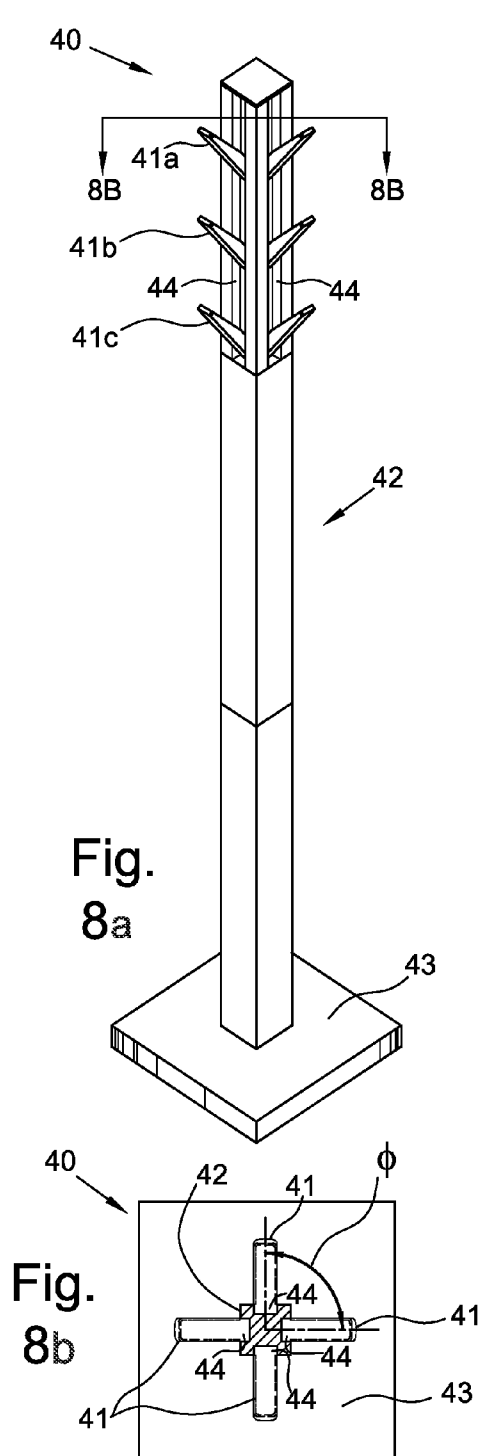


Fig. 7h



COAT RACK

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention broadly relates to a coat rack, and, more particularly, to a freestanding coat rack having a plurality of pivoting recessing hooks.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Coat racks of various types and configurations have been provided by which garments, clothing, and accessories are supported in a hanging position, making the articles visibly convenient and easily accessible to the user. Generally, freestanding coat racks, which are also called coat trees or vertical coat racks usually include a base or a support arrangement, a vertical member extending upwardly from the base, and a plurality of hooks that are fixedly secured to the vertical member and arranged in various locations around the vertical member. A coat rack can have any number of hooks located about the vertical member. However, to accommodate for the potential weight of multiple hanging items, the size and weight of the coat rack may increase and become less mobile. Besides coats, coat racks can be used to hang a multiplicity of clothes, garments and accessories such as, for example, jackets, backpacks, hats, scarves, totes, umbrellas, or the like. Freestanding coat racks can be made from any substantially rigid material, such as metal or wood. Freestanding coat racks are portable and as a space saver, can easily be used in all parts of the house. Such racks are commonly used in entryways and foyers; however, they also can fit in a corner of the living room or family room, in the basement, or in any bedroom. Coat racks today are both functional and decorative and make decorative complements in any home. However, the configuration and appearance of current coat racks are immutable and cannot be changed. Specifically, the layout of the hooks is fixed to a single configuration. Regardless of whether the user's needs change according to supporting a variety of different articles, the user is stuck with one hook arrangement and has to conform to the permanent hook formation. Furthermore, the unused hooks create unnecessary obstructions for the user at various other times. For example, the hooks can cause damage to other surfaces when other objects or surfaces bump into the hooks. The extended unused hooks can also result in injury if someone accidentally bumps into them. In addition, unused hooks on the coat rack can impede or obstruct the path of items hanging from used hooks. The unused hooks can also prevent the user from hanging certain items onto the rack because of the rigid, fixed configuration of the hooks.

[0003] Thus, there is a long felt need for a freestanding coat rack with a plurality of pivotally secured hooks, in which the hook configuration and appearance of the coat rack can be changed according to a user's personal supporting needs. There is a further long-felt need for a self-standing coat rack that has pivoting hooks, which can be selectively arranged to support individual articles of clothing and pivotally moved to a collapsed position when not in use.

[0004] There is a further long-felt need for a coat rack having the functional features of a mobile storage device, the decorative features of a household accessory and can be displayed in a relatively nonpermanent fashion.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention broadly comprises a coat rack including, a base member, and a post body being secured to

and extending upwardly from the base member. The post body includes at least one groove that is longitudinally disposed therein and a plurality of hooks where each hook is pivotally secured within each groove. The post body has a non-planar outer surface, and each of the hooks has a non-planar front surface. The front surface of each hook becomes flush with the outer surface of the post body when the hook is pivotally moved to a first position.

[0006] It is a general object of the present invention to provide a freestanding coat rack having a plurality of pivotally movable hooks, where each hook can be individually positioned to create multiple hook formations. In some embodiments, at least two hooks from the plurality of hooks are pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each groove. In some embodiments, each hook has a top end and a bottom end, and each hook is pivotally moveable to the second position when an applied force is exerted to the bottom end of the hook.

[0007] It is another object of the present invention to provide a space efficient coat rack having multiple vertically arranged retracting hooks within the post body without taking up a substantial amount of horizontal space. In some embodiments, the bottom end of a first hook is proximate the top end of a second hook within the same the groove. In some embodiments, a gap is formed between the bottom end of the first hook and the top end of the second hook when each of the hooks is in the first position. In some embodiments, the top end of the hook projects out of the groove and the bottom end of the hook retracts into the groove when the hook is moved to the second position.

[0008] There is a further long-felt need for a freestanding coat rack having at least one groove adapted to receive a plurality of retractable hooks to utilize hanging space otherwise occupied by unused hooks, while still being aesthetically pleasing. In some embodiments, each groove has a pair of opposed sidewalls and a back wall. In some embodiments, each hook frictionally engages the pair of opposed sidewalls within the groove. In some embodiments, at least four grooves from the at least one groove are equidistant at an angle of about 90° from each other. In some embodiments, at least three grooves from the at least one groove are equidistant at an angle of about 120° from each other.

[0009] The present invention also broadly comprises a coat rack including a base member, a post body that has an outer surface, and comprises a plurality of post members. The post members are vertically aligned and removably secured to one another. The lowermost post member is secured to and extending upwardly from the base member. The upper most post member includes a plurality of grooves longitudinally arranged within and angularly equispaced about the upper most post member; and, a plurality of hooks having a front surface. Each groove is adapted to receive at least two hooks where each hook is linearly aligned with respect to one another within each groove. Each hook is pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each groove. The front surface of each the hook becomes flush with the outer surface of the post body when the hook is moved to the first position and the hooks are operatively arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook arrangements.

[0010] The present invention also broadly comprises a coat rack including a base member; a cylindrical post body that has an outer surface and comprises three cylindrical post members; the post members being vertically aligned and threadedly secured to one another. The lowermost post member is

secured to the base member and the post member extends upwardly from the base member. The upper most post member includes three grooves, longitudinally disposed within and angularly equispaced about the post member; and a plurality of hooks, in which each hook has a non-planar front surface. Each groove includes three hooks that are linearly aligned with each other and pivotally secured within each groove. The plurality of hooks are pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each groove, and when each hook is moved to the first position, the front surface of each hook is substantially flush with the outer surface of the post body and the hooks are operatively arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook arrangements.

[0011] These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciable from the following description of the preferred embodiments of the invention and from the accompanying drawings and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The nature and mode of operation of the present invention will now be more fully described in the following detailed description of the invention taken with the accompanying drawing figures, in which:

[0013] FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a coat rack of the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the present invention shown in FIG. 1;

[0015] FIG. 3 is a top view of the coat rack and a top cross-sectional view of a post body of the present invention taken generally along line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

[0016] FIG. 4a is a partial side view of the post body of the present invention illustrating three collinearly aligned hooks moved to a first position within a groove;

[0017] FIG. 4b is a partial side view of the post body of the present invention shown in FIG. 4a illustrating the hooks being moved to a second position within the groove;

[0018] FIG. 5 is a top perspective view of an uppermost post member of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 6a is a side cross-sectional view of the post body of the present invention taken generally along line 6a-6a of FIG. 4b;

[0020] FIG. 6b is a detailed view of the post body of the present invention shown in FIG. 6a illustrating a hook moved to the first position;

[0021] FIG. 6c is a detailed view of the post body of the present invention shown in FIG. 6a illustrating a hook moved to the second position;

[0022] FIG. 7a is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a first hook formation;

[0023] FIG. 7b is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a second hook formation;

[0024] FIG. 7c is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a third hook formation;

[0025] FIG. 7d is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a fourth hook formation;

[0026] FIG. 7e is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a fifth hook formation;

[0027] FIG. 7f is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a sixth hook formation;

[0028] FIG. 7g is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating a seventh hook formation;

[0029] FIG. 7h is a side view of the post member of the present invention illustrating an eighth hook formation;

[0030] FIG. 8a is a front perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention;

[0031] FIG. 8b is a top view of the second embodiment of the present invention;

[0032] FIG. 9a is a front perspective view of a third embodiment of the present invention; and,

[0033] FIG. 9b is a top view of the third embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0034] At the outset, it should be appreciated that like drawing numbers on different drawing views identify identical, or functionally similar, structural elements of the invention. While the present invention is described with respect to what is presently considered to be the preferred aspects, it is to be understood that the invention as claimed is not limited to the disclosed aspects.

[0035] Furthermore, it is understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, materials and modifications described and, as such, may, of course, vary. It is also understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular aspects only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention, which is limited only by the appended claims.

[0036] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It should be appreciated that the term "substantially" is synonymous with terms such as "nearly", "very nearly", "about", "approximately", "around", "bordering on", "close to", "essentially", "in the neighborhood of", "in the vicinity of", etc., and such terms may be used interchangeably as appearing in the specification and claims. Although any methods, devices or materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the invention, the preferred methods, devices, and materials are now described. It should be appreciated that the term "proximate" is synonymous with terms such as "nearby", "close", "adjacent", "neighboring", "immediate", "adjoining", etc., and such terms may be used interchangeably as appearing in the specification and claims.

[0037] The following description is best understood in view of FIGS. 1-7. FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a first embodiment of the present invention coat rack, in which a plurality of items is shown hanging from the coat rack. Coat rack 10 is seen to comprise base member 18; post body 14 extending upwardly from base member 18; and a plurality of hooks 19 pivotally secured to post body 14. Coat rack 10 is adapted to hang a multiplicity of garments and accessories so that the articles are visibly convenient and easily accessible to the user. For example, coat 11 is shown hanging from a hook extending from post body 14. Hat 12 is shown hanging from a hook extending from post body 14. Umbrella 13 is shown hanging from a hook extending from post body 14.

[0038] FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the coat rack of the present invention shown in FIG. 1 illustrating coat rack 10, hereinafter referred to as rack 10, including base member 18. Preferably, base member 18 is disc shaped; however, the base member can be any shape, for example, the shape of the base may be rectangular, oval, triangular, or the like. Post body 14 is comprised of a plurality of post members. In the present invention, post body 14 is cylindrically shaped. Preferably, post body 14 includes at least three cylindrical shaped post members 14a, 14b, and 14c that are vertically aligned and

threadedly secured to one another. Specifically, base member 18 and each post member includes complementary internal threads 30 for receiving protrusion 29 with external threads thereby enabling a removably fastenable screwed engagement between each post member 14a-c. Specifically, lowermost post member 14c threadedly secures to and extends upwardly from base member 18. Preferably, post body 14 is perpendicularly arranged and centrally located with base member 18. In some embodiments, post body 14 includes cap 31. Uppermost post member 14a includes plurality of grooves 16a and 16c that are longitudinally arranged within and angularly equispaced about the post member. The post body also includes plurality of hooks 19a, 19b, and 19c, in which each groove 16 is adapted to receive at least two hooks that are linearly aligned with respect to one another within each groove. It should be understood that post members 14a, 14b, and 14c may be secured to each other by a variety of securing means and are not limited to the threaded securing means as shown in the figures. Other securing means are included in the spirit and scope of the claimed invention such as, for example, telescopic engagement, snap mechanisms, twist lock, or the like. It should also be understood that coat rack 10 may be made of any suitable rigid material such as, for example, wood or metal. Specifically, the coat rack may be made from various types of wood such as, oak, beech wood, pine, hickory, mahogany and cherry wood among others. Preferably, rack 10 is made of rubber wood. Rubber wood is an environmentally friendly wood that is inexpensive and easy to work into such products including toys, cutting boards, and furniture. It should be appreciated that post body 14 can be unitarily constructed, which means the post member is undivided and exists as a unit. However, for packaging and shipping efficiency, it is preferred that post body 14 is comprised of a plurality of post members, which are joined together to form post body 14. It should be understood that in the present embodiment, base 18 is unitarily constructed. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the base could be any configuration that supports a post body in an upright manner such as, for example, a three or four-footed base configuration.

[0039] FIG. 3 illustrates a top view of rack 10 including a cross-sectional view of post body 14 having plurality of grooves 16a-c angularly equispaced about the post body. Specifically, each groove 16a, 16b, and 16c is equidistant at angle ρ , which is about 120° from each other.

[0040] It should be understood that the present invention comprises three grooves angularly equidistant about the post member and three hooks pivotally secured and vertically aligned within each groove. For illustrative purposes, FIG. 4a is a partial side view of the post body of the present invention showing a single groove with three hooks pivotally secured and vertically aligned within the groove. Post body 14 includes at least one groove 16 longitudinally disposed within post member 14a. Groove 16 is adapted to receive a plurality of hooks. Preferably, hooks 19a, 19b, and 19c are collinearly aligned or vertically aligned within groove 16. The term collinearly aligned is defined as containing at least two elements that are vertically arranged in the same straight line. First hook 19a is seen to comprise top end 25a, bottom end 24a, and front surface 23a; second hook 19b is seen to comprise top end 25b, bottom end 24b, and front surface 23b; and, third hook 19c is seen to comprise top end 25c, bottom end 24c, and front surface 23c. Preferably, the bottom end of the first hook is proximate the top end of the second hook within the same

the groove. For example, bottom end 24a of first hook 19a is proximate top end 25b of second hook 19b and forms gap 15 between top end 25b of second hook 19b. Bottom end 24b of second hook 19b is proximate and forms gap 15 between top end 25c of third hook 19c. It should be understood that gap 15 is configured to allow the bottom end of a first hook to swing into and out of the groove without interference from the top end of a second hook, which is located in the second position and vertically aligned below the first hook. Preferably, gap 15 has a width of about 2 mm. The collinearly aligned arrangement of the hooks within rack 10 is advantageous for the reason that it enables a plurality of hooks to be vertically arranged within the post body without taking up a substantial amount of horizontal wall space.

[0041] In the present embodiment, post body 14 having longitudinal axis a-a', is seen to comprise an outer surface 22. Specifically, outer surface 22 and the front surface of the hooks are complementary. Preferably, front surface 23a, 23b, and 23c, of hooks 19a, 19b, and 19c, respectively, become flush with outer surface 22 of the post when the hooks are pivotally moved to first position 20. The term flush refers to a surface forming an even surface with another surface without sticking out. Preferably, post body 14 has a non-planar outer surface 22 and front surface 23a, 23b, and 23c, of hooks 19a, 19b, and 19c, respectively, is non-planar. It should be understood that the term non-planar means curved or not flat. Specifically, post body 14 has a circular cross-section. In some embodiments, each hook is pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each groove, and when the hook is moved to the first position, the front surface of each the hook is substantially flush with the outer surface of the post body. This arrangement forms a relatively continuous and smooth surface between the hooks and the post body, thus providing the coat rack with an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

[0042] FIG. 4b is a partial side view of the post body of the present invention shown in FIG. 4a illustrating the hooks being moved to a second position within groove 16. Specifically, each hook 19a, 19b, and 19c is pivotally moveable between first position 20 and second position 21 within groove 16. Each hook or flip hook is pivotally moveable to a second position when an applied force is exerted to the bottom end of the hook. For example, FIG. 4b illustrates applied force 26 being exerted to bottom end 24c of hook 19c. Specifically, top end 25c of hook 19c fully extends out of groove 16 and bottom end 24c of hook 19c retracts into groove 16 when hook 19c is moved to second position 21. Hook 19b is shown to be in a location between push in or first position 20 and push out or second position 21. Hook 19a is fully collapsed to first position 20. In some embodiments, hooks 19 can be made of any suitable cast metal.

[0043] Specifically, hooks 19 are made out of aluminum. Aluminum is a preferred material because it is malleable and aluminum's low melting point makes it suitable for injection molding methods. Other metals having a low melting point may be used such as, for example, zinc, magnesium, or the like.

[0044] FIG. 5 illustrates a perspective view of uppermost post member 14a, which includes longitudinally extending and generally parallel grooves 16a, 16b, and 16c. Groove 16a is seen to comprise a pair of opposed sidewalls 39a and 39b and back wall 32a; groove 16b is seen to comprise a pair of opposed sidewalls 38a and 38b and back wall 32b; and, groove 16c is seen to comprise a pair of opposed sidewalls

36a and **36b** and back wall **32c**. Each groove is adapted to receive at least one hook member. Preferably, each groove is adapted to receive a plurality of hook members where each hook is vertically aligned with each other within the groove. In this embodiment, each of the grooves has a rectangular cross-section. It should be readily obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that the cross-section of the grooves may be “V” shaped and may have a number of many different shapes such as, for example, concaved, “U” shaped, or the like.

[0045] In the present embodiment, FIG. 5 shows upper post member **14a** having three grooves **16a**, **16b**, and **16c** that extends the length (long dimension) of the upper post member. Preferably, each groove is outwardly open toward a direction that is different from each other. Specifically, each groove **16a**, **16b**, and **16c** is angularly equispaced about post member **14a**. This means that each groove is equally spaced apart by the same degree of an angle and each groove openly faces a direction different from each other. It should be understood that each groove may not be angularly equispaced about post member **14a** but can be separated or arranged at an angle that is unequal with respect to each other. In a specific embodiment, grooves **16a**, **16b**, and **16c** are through grooves, meaning that the grooves pass all the way through the length or long dimension of the post member, from one end to the opposite end forming open ends. For example, groove **16c** passes all the way through the surface of post member **14a**, from one end to the opposite end forming top open end **37a** and bottom open end **37b**. It should be readily obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that each of the grooves may be stopped, meaning that one or both of the ends finish before the groove meets the surface ends or finish at the surface ends.

[0046] FIG. 6a is a side cross-sectional view of the post body of the present invention taken generally along line **6a-6a** of FIG. 4b. Hook **19c** forms angle θ to longitudinal axis **a-a'** of post body **14** when hook **19c** is located in second position **21**. Preferably, angle θ is between 40 degrees to 48 degrees. FIG. 6b is a detailed view of hook **19a** moved to first position **20** and pivotally secured within groove **16**. Preferably, the hooks are pinned in place with pivot pin **34** that extends across each groove and terminates at each opposed sidewall **39a** and **39b** (shown in FIG. 5). Hook **19a** includes back surface **35**, which matingly engages with back wall **32** of groove **16** when hook **19a** is moved to first position **20**. Hook **19a** includes a pair opposite sidewalls that frictionally engage sidewalls **39a** and **39b** (shown in FIG. 5) of groove **16**. Preferably, the hooks are sized to fit tightly within the groove. Specifically, the tight engagement between the hooks and the grooves are secure enough for the hooks to remain in first position **20** when not in use, but loose enough to move the hooks to second position **21** with ease. It should be understood that back wall **32** of groove **16** acts as a stop mechanism to enable the front surface of the hook and the surface of the post body to become flush when the hook is moved to the first position. FIG. 6c is a detailed view of hook **19c** pivotally secured with pivot pin **34** within groove **16**. Hook **19c** includes tapered surface **33**, which matingly engages with back wall **32** of groove **16** when hook **19c** is moved to second position **21**. Back wall **32** of groove **16** acts as a stop mechanism to enable front surface of the hook to form angle θ with longitudinal axis **a-a'** of post body **14**.

[0047] In the present embodiment, rack **10** comprises post body **14** having a plurality of grooves, in which each groove is adapted to receive a plurality of hooks within the same groove. The hooks are pivotally moveable and operatively

arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook formations. Preferably, post body **14** has three grooves, in which each groove is seen to comprise three hooks. It should be appreciated that each of the nine total hooks can be pivotally moved to and from a first position and a second position. The nine hooks in combination can be positioned into 512 different hook formations or $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 512$ or $2^9 = 512$. If the coat rack is comprised of 12 total hooks, and each hook has a first position and a second position, then the number of hook formations would total $2^{12} = 4096$. To further illustrate the multiple hook formations that can be created by the plurality of hooks of the present invention, FIGS. 7a-h illustrate post member **64** having three hooks **69a**, **69b**, and **69c** that are positioned into 8 different hook formations or $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$ or $2^3 = 8$. The table below displays each hook **69a**, **69b**, and **69c** representing a column. Below each hook designates what position each hook is in, either first position **60** or second position **61**, to form the 8 different hook formations (rows).

	hook 69a	hook 69b	hook 69c
1st hook formation 71	first position 60	first position 60	first position 60
2nd hook formation 72	first position 60	first position 60	second position 61
3rd hook formation 73	first position 60	second position 61	first position 60
4th hook formation 74	first position 60	second position 61	second position 61
5th hook formation 75	second position 61	first position 60	first position 60
6th hook formation 76	second position 61	first position 60	second position 61
7th hook formation 77	second position 61	second position 61	first position 60
8th hook formation 78	second position 61	second position 61	second position 61

For example, FIG. 7a illustrates hook **69a** in first position **60**, hook **69b** in first position **60**, and hook **69c** in first position **60** to form 1st hook formation **71**. FIG. 7b illustrates hook **69a** in first position **60**, hook **69b** in first position **60**, and hook **69c** in second position **61** to form 2nd hook formation **72**. FIG. 7c illustrates hook **69a** in first position **60**, hook **69b** in second position **61**, and hook **69c** in first position **60** to form 3rd hook formation **73**. FIG. 7d illustrates hook **69a** in first position **60**, hook **69b** in second position **61**, and hook **69c** in second position **61** to form 4th hook formation **74**. FIG. 7e illustrates hook **69a** in second position **61**, hook **69b** in first position **60**, and hook **69c** in first position **60** to form 5th hook formation **75**. FIG. 7f illustrates hook **69a** in second position **61**, hook **69b** in first position **60**, and hook **69c** in second position **61** to form 6th hook formation **76**. FIG. 7g illustrates hook **69a** in second position **61**, hook **69b** in second position **61**, and hook **69c** in first position **60** to form 7th hook formation **77**. FIG. 7h illustrates hook **69a** in second position **61**, hook **69b** in second position **61**, and hook **69c** in second position **61** to form 8th hook formation **78**.

[0048] While FIGS. 1-7 show the coat rack comprising a post body that is substantially cylindrical in shape, it should be appreciated that the particular shape of the post body and post members may be modified without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In alternative embodiments, in accordance with the invention, the post body may be any shape, such as, rectangular, triangular, oval, or the like. For example, FIG. 8a illustrates a perspective view of a second

embodiment of rack 40, which is seen to comprise base member 43; post body 42 extending upwardly from base member 43; post body 42 includes plurality of grooves 44 and plurality of hooks 41a, 41b, and 41c that are pivotally secured within each groove 44. Post body 42, which has a square shaped cross-section, and base member 43 are complementary in shape. FIG. 8b illustrates a top view of rack 40 including post 42 having plurality of grooves 44 angularly equispaced about the post body. Specifically, four grooves 44 are equidistant at angle Φ , which is about 90° from each other. Alternatively, FIG. 9a illustrates a perspective view of a third embodiment of rack 50, which is seen to comprise base member 53; post body 52 extending upwardly from base member 53; post body 52 includes plurality of grooves 54 and plurality of hooks 51a, 51b, and 51c that are pivotally secured within each groove 54. Post body 52, which has a triangular shaped cross-section, and base member 53 are complementary in shape. FIG. 9b illustrates a top view of rack 50 including post 52 having plurality of grooves 54 angularly equispaced about the post body. Specifically, three grooves 54 are equidistant at angle Ψ , which is about 120° from each other.

[0049] Thus, it is seen that the objects of the present invention are efficiently obtained, although modifications and changes to the invention should be readily apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art, which modifications are intended to be within the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed. It also is understood that the foregoing description is illustrative of the present invention and should not be considered as limiting. Therefore, other embodiments of the present invention are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

What I claim is:

1. A coat rack, comprising:
 - a base member;
 - a post body; said post body being secured to and extending upwardly from said base member, said post body having at least one groove, said at least one groove is longitudinally disposed within said post body; and,
 - a plurality of hooks; wherein each said hook from said plurality of hooks is pivotally secured within said at least one groove.
2. The coat rack recited in claim 1, wherein each said hook from said plurality of hooks is pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each said groove and said hooks are operatively arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook formations.
3. The coat rack recited in claim 1, wherein at least two hooks from said plurality of hooks are collinearly aligned with each other within each said at least one groove.
4. The coat rack recited in claim 2, wherein said post body has an outer surface, and each of said hooks has a front surface, wherein said front surface of said hook becomes flush with said outer surface of said post body when said hook is pivotally moved to said first position.
5. The coat rack recited in claim 2, wherein each said hook has a top end and a bottom end, said bottom end of a first hook is proximate said top end of a second hook within the same said groove, wherein a gap is formed between said bottom end of said first hook and said top end of said second hook when said first hook and said second hook are in said first position.
6. The coat rack recited in claim 5, wherein said top end of said hook projects out of said groove, said bottom end of said hook retracts in said groove when said hook is moved to said

second position and said hook forms an angle to said post body when said hook is moved to said second position.

7. The coat rack recited in claim 1, wherein each said groove from said at least one groove has a pair of opposed sidewalls and a back wall, and each said hook includes a pair of opposed sidewalls that frictionally engage said pair of opposed sidewalls within said groove.

8. The coat rack recited in claim 2, wherein each said hook includes a back surface, wherein said back surface matingly engages with said back wall of said groove when said hook is moved to said first position.

9. The coat rack recited in claim 2, wherein each said hook includes a tapered back surface, wherein said tapered surface of said hook matingly engages with said back wall of said groove when said hook is moved to said second position.

10. The coat rack recited in claim 4, wherein said outer surface of said post body is non-planar, and said front surface of each of the hooks is non-planar.

11. The coat rack recited in claim 10, wherein said post body has a circular cross-section.

12. The coat rack recited in claim 11, wherein at least two grooves from said at least one groove are angularly equispaced about said post body.

13. A coat rack comprising:

- a base member;
- a post body having an outer surface comprising:
 - a plurality of post members, said post members being vertically aligned and fixedly secured to one another, a lowermost post member being secured to and extending upwardly from said base member; an uppermost post member having a plurality of grooves longitudinally arranged within and angularly equispaced about said uppermost post member; and,
 - a plurality of hooks having a front surface; wherein each said groove is adapted to receive at least two hooks; wherein each said hook is linearly aligned with respect to one another within each said groove, each said hook is pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each said groove, said front surface of each said hook becomes flush with said outer surface of said post body when said hook is moved to said first position, and said hooks are operatively arranged to be positioned into a plurality of hook formations.

14. The coat rack recited in claim 13, wherein said post body has an outer surface, and each of the hooks has a front surface, said front surface of each of the hooks becomes flush with said outer surface of said post when said hook is pivotally moved to said first position.

15. The coat rack recited in claim 13, wherein each said hook has a top end and a bottom end, said bottom end of a first hook is proximate said top end of a second hook within the same said groove, wherein a gap is formed between said bottom end of said first hook and said top end of said second hook when said first hook and said second hook are in said first position.

16. The coat rack recited in claim 15, wherein said top end of said hook projects out of said groove, said bottom end of said hook retracts in said groove, and said hook forms an angle to said post body when moved to said second position.

17. The coat rack recited in claim 13, wherein said post body has a triangular cross-section.

18. The coat rack recited in claim 17, wherein three grooves from said at least one groove are equidistant at an angle of about 120° from each other within said post body.

19. The coat rack recited in claim 13, wherein said post member has a square shape cross-section.

20. The coat rack recited in claim 19, wherein four grooves from said at least one groove are equidistant at an angle of about 90° from each other within said post body.

21. A coat rack comprising:

a base member;

a cylindrical post body having an outer surface comprising:

three cylindrical post members, said post members are vertically aligned and threadedly secured to one another, a lowermost post member being secured to and extending upwardly from said base member; an uppermost post member having three grooves longitudinally disposed within said post member, said three grooves are equidistant at an angle of about 120° from each other about said

post member, said post body is perpendicularly arranged and centrally located with said base member; and, a plurality of hooks; each said hook from plurality of hooks having a curved front surface; each said hook is pivotally secured within each said groove, each said groove includes three hooks from said plurality of hooks, said three hooks from said plurality of hooks are vertically aligned with each other within each said groove, said plurality of hooks are pivotally moveable between a first position and a second position within each said groove, and when each said hook is moved to said first position, said front surface of each said hook is substantially flush with said outer surface of said post body and said hooks are operatively arranged to be positioned into 512 hook formations.

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