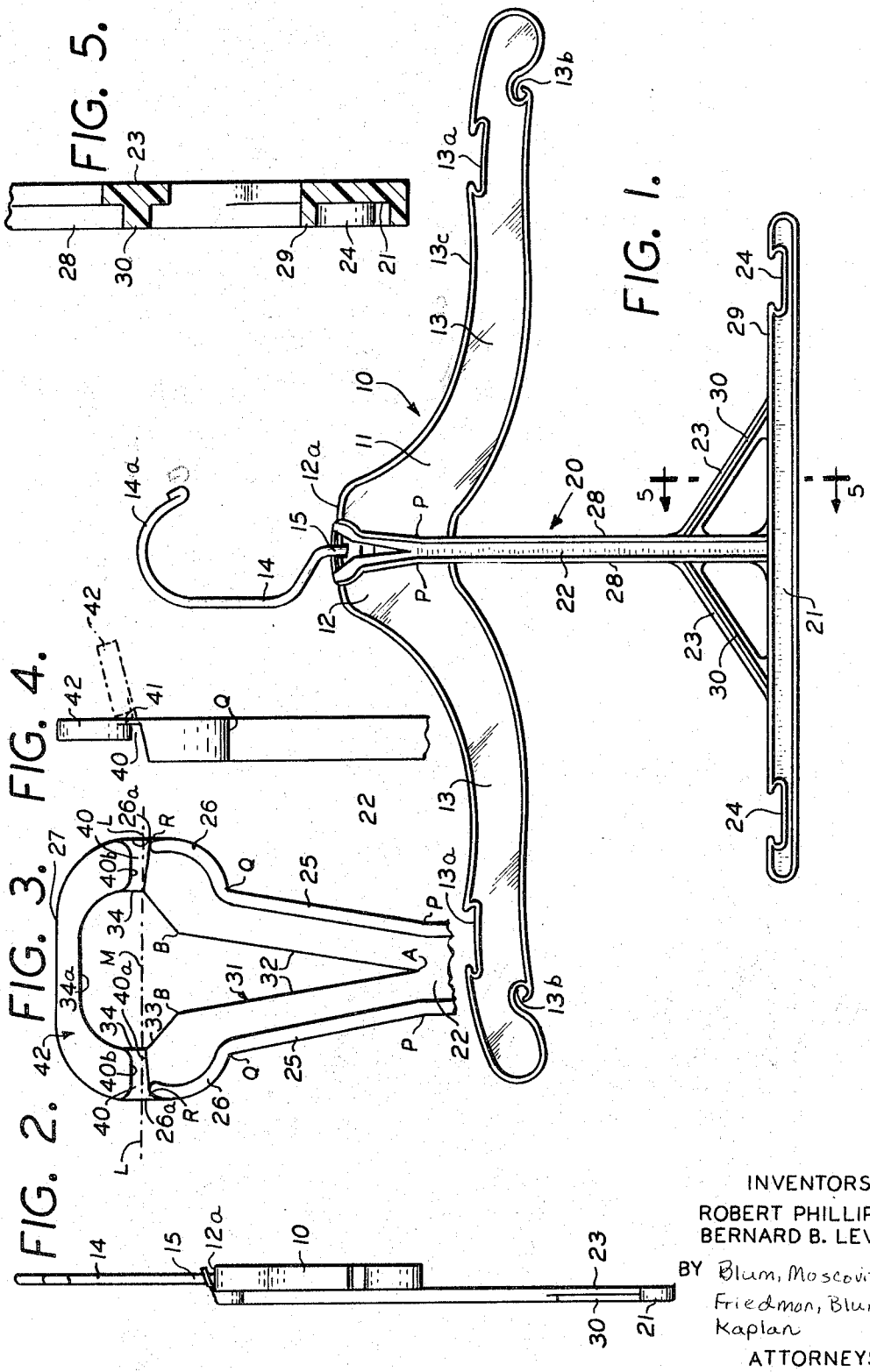
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AUXILIARY HANGER

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AUXILIARY HANGER

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This invention relates to hangers for supporting and displaying garments.

The invention has particular usefulness in the hanging and display of women's skirts, slacks-shorts or packaged folded items in conjunction with jackets, blouses or separate tops.

The invention particularly relates to an auxiliary attachment hanger which can be used in conjunction with existing jacket or blouse hangers to produce a composite hanger of the type referred to above. Further in accordance with the invention, the auxiliary hanger may be readily assembled with or disassembled from the conventional hanger so as to permit the garments to be shipped or displayed separately or together as desired.

The invention further relates to a low cost, unitarily molded auxiliary hanger which can, if desired, be disposed of to the retail customer after shipment and display of the garment.

One object of the invention, accordingly, is to provide a low cost auxiliary hanger especially adapted to the support and hanging of skirts (see above) and the like, which can be readily used in conjunction with existing hangers for jackets and the like, to display the composite garment with a visual appearance similar to that of the garment when worn.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, we provide such auxiliary hanger in the shape of an inverted T with a bar at the bottom and a vertical leg connected to the middle of the bar. The bar is provided with notches to receive the straps of a skirt or any other garment that has straps. The auxiliary hanger is unitarily molded of any suitable plastic such as polyethylene, so as to be relatively stiff and not easily bendable, and may if necessary be provided with a peripheral reinforcing rib for such purpose. At its upper end, the bar is provided with an aperture sized so that the hook, for example the swivel hook, of a conventional jacket hanger, may be extended through such aperture.

In accordance with the invention, the material of the bar is provided with a thin area on either side of the aperture extending from the aperture to the side edge of the bar, these two thin areas being aligned so as to define what may be considered as a line or band wherein the bar is bendable so as to bring the tip portion of the bar, above the bending band, into right angles with the remainder of the bar.

Accordingly, with the hook extended through the aperture, the bar may be bent so that the tip portion rests upon the top of the hanger and the remainder of the bar extends against the side of the hanger. The leg is of sufficient length to extend below the body sufficiently so as to locate a skirt supported on the bar in position relative to a jacket or the like supported by the hanger body in substantial correspondence to the relative jacket and skirt positions when worn by a natural person.

The auxiliary hanger may be assembled with or disassembled from the conventional hanger either before or after the jacket or the like is mounted upon the conventional hanger. Accordingly, the hangers may be used in conjunction in any suitable way. For example, if desired, the auxiliary hanger may be mounted on a hook and the skirt or other garment supported by it may thereby be shipped or displayed separately from the jacket or

the like on the conventional hanger. On the other hand, the two garments may be shipped and displayed together.

The invention is particularly useful in retail store displays and the like of separates. It has been common to display the skirts and tops of separates in different locations. With the present invention, it is possible at will to display such garment parts separately or together as the case may be.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description, in conjunction with the annexed drawings, in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is disclosed.

In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a front elevation of the hanger in accordance with the present invention, assembled with a conventional hanger.

FIG. 2 is a side elevation of the assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary front elevation, to enlarged scale, of the hanger in accordance with the invention, prior to its assembly with the conventional hanger.

FIG. 4 is a side elevation of the hanger shown in FIG. 3, showing the upper tip of the hanger in broken lines in flexed condition which it assumes when mounted upon the conventional hanger.

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary section on line 5—5 of FIG. 1.

The drawings are substantially to scale of a working model of the invention, and reference is made to the drawings to complete the disclosure herein.

Upon reference to the drawings in detail, it will be noted that they show an auxiliary hanger **20** for use in conjunction with a main hanger **10**. Main hanger **10** may be conventional and it may be in the form of a flat hanger body **11** having a neck **12** with a top surface **12***a* and arms **13** extending outwardly from the central neck **12**. These arms **13** may be provided with upper edge notches **13***a* and lower edge notches **13***b* for reception of the straps of skirts and other garments. However, with a jacket or the like mounted upon hanger **10** in the usual way, a skirt whose straps are mounted by means of the notches **13***a* or **13***b* will be located in a position relative to the jacket entirely different from that assumed when the skirt and jacket are being worn.

Any suitable hook **14** may be secured to neck **12** to be upstanding therefrom. In this case, a metal hook **14** is illustratively shown, the shank **15** of which is fastened into the neck **12** by any suitable means (conventional and not shown in detail) so that the shank **15** extends upwardly from the top surface **12***a* of neck **12**. The hook **14** may be bent at an angle at **14***a* at its upper end so that it may be placed over a support rod or the like. The hanger body optionally has front peripheral ribbing **13***c*.

It will be understood that the hanger **10** merely exemplifies any conventional hanger having a neck, arms extending outwardly from the neck and an upstanding hook.

The auxiliary hanger **20** is preferably unitarily molded from plastic and is relatively rigid although with some pliability. Any suitable plastic for this purpose may be used, such as polyethylene, and it is known as such to mold hangers from plastic of this type.

The auxiliary hanger **20**, in its normal use position shown in the drawing, is in the shape of an inverted T, having a bottom bar **21** and an upstanding leg **22**. By way of illustration, bar **21** may be approximately 11¼ inches long (distance between the two side edges in the orientation shown in FIG. 1), approximately ½ inch wide (distance between the upper and lower edges as taken in FIG. 1) and slightly more than ⅛ inch thick. The leg **22** may be approximately 7¾ inches long, and may otherwise have substantially the same dimensions as

bar **21**. The leg **22** is connected to the upper edge of bar **21** at a point equally distant between the ends of bar **21**. In order to assist in maintaining leg **22** perpendicular to bar **21**, a pair of struts **23** extend from leg **22**, slightly above bar **21**, to respective points on bar **21** on either side of leg **22**.

Bar **21** may be provided with any suitable means for support of a garment or the like, such as the notches **24** formed in the upper edge thereof, and which are adapted to receive the straps of a skirt or the like so that the garment hangs below the bar **21**.

Above the level of points **P** on either side edge of leg **22**, near the upper end thereof, the side edges **25** of leg **22** diverge upwardly outwardly, so that the width of leg **22** increases in the direction above points P. The straight outwardly diverging edge portions terminate at their upper ends at points Q. Above points Q, the side edge portions **26** of leg **22** are convex and first diverge sharply away from each other, then extend generally parallel to each other and finally converge toward each other to join the generally straight upper edge **27** of bar **22**. For convenience, the straight edge portions of the edge portions **26** are designated by the reference characters **26***a*.

The front face of leg **22** is provided with ribs **28** which extend along the side edges of leg **22** from the bottom thereof. These ribs **28** coincide with the edge portions **25** and continue into the edge portions **26**, terminating at points R which are within edge portions **26***a* and slightly below the midpoints L of these side edge portions **26***a*. Additionally, leg **21** is provided on its front face with a rib **29** extending around the entire periphery thereof. The struts **23** are provided on their front face with respective ribs **30** which extend between the upper run of rib **29** and the respective side ribs **28**.

The purpose of the ribs **28** and **29** is substantially to prevent flexing of the bar **21** and leg **22** in normal use of the hanger, although of course with sufficient force the material can be bent somewhat.

The upper end portion of leg **22** is provided with an aperture **31** extending between the front and rear faces thereof. This aperture **31** has a V-shaped lower portion comprising straight edges **32** which meet at a point A slightly above the level of points P. The straight edges **32** end at upper points B which are located above the level of points Q and below the level of points R. The upper portion of aperture **32** is generally round and is in the form of an edge **33** which extends from one point B outwardly, upwardly, then inwardly, then at **34***a* parallel to the upper edge **27**, and then outwardly, downwardly, and inwardly to return to the other point B. Therefore, the edge **33** has generally parallel and straight outer portions **34** which intersect the imaginary line M which connects the points L, such line M being shown in broken lines in FIG. 3.

As an important part of the invention, the leg **22** is provided with bend areas or zones **40** on each side of aperture **31** and extending from aperture **31** to the side edges of leg **22**. Specifically, each zone **40** extends above and below line M, terminating in a lower edge **40***a* which is approximately at the level of point R corresponding to the upper end of rib **25**. The two edges **40***a* are generally straight and generally aligned. The upper edges **40***b* of the zones **40** are also generally straight and generaly aligned. Each zone **40** extends between an edge portion **34** and an edge portion **26***a*. Each zone **40** is in the form of a groove or cutout in the front face of leg **22**, so that within the zone **40** the wall portion **41** of leg **22** is extremely thin.

The portion of leg **22** generally above line M will be referred to as the tip **42**, and the portion below line M will be referred to as the main portion of leg **22**.

As the result of the foregoing construction, the tip **42** may be bent rearwardly, relative to the main portion of leg **22**, about an axis generally coincident with the line M,

to a condition approaching right angles with the main portion of leg **22**, as shown in broken lines in FIG. 4.

It will be understood that the broken line position of FIG. 4 is merely illustrative of a possible bent condition of the tip.

It will be apparent that the auxiliary hanger **20** may be used independently of hanger **10**, for example by extending a rod or hook through aperture **37**. However, as a particular feature of the invention, and as stated above, the hanger **20** may be assembled with hanger **10**. This is possible by extending the hook **14** through aperture **31**, with the front or ribbed faces of the hangers oriented so that both are visible from the front, and bending the tip **42** to a position such as shown in broken lines in FIG. 3, and permitting the tip **42** to rest upon the upper edge **12***a* of neck **12**. The rear face of leg **22** abuts the front face of hanger **10**. As thus mounted, the leg **22** abuts the body **10** and extends below it. The shank **15** then abuts the upper edge portion of aperture **31**. Preferably, the distance between the rear edge of shank **15** and the front face of rib **13***c* of hanger body **13** is approximately equal to the distance between the edge **34***a* and the line M so as to make it posible for leg **22** to lie flat against hanger body **13**.

The length of leg **22** is preferably such that a skirt supported on skirt **21** will be in position relative to a jacket or the like supported on hanger **10** in substantial correspondence to the relative jacket and skirt positions when they are worn by a natural person. Accordingly, the use of the hanger assembly in this way results in an extremely realistic hanging and display of suits, separates and the like.

It will be apparent that in ordinary use, with the weight exerted by the skirt upon the bar **21**, the tip **42** will not remain at right angles to the remainder of leg **22**. Instead, the tip **42** will be inclined, for example at the angle shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, such that the edge **34***a* engages the shank **15** slightly above the upper surface **12***a* of hanger neck **12**. Accordingly, the wall portion **41** between the tip and the main portion of bar **22** substantially engages the front edge of the hanger top **12***a*, as best shown in FIG. 2.

It will be apparent that the two hangers can be assembled whether or not garments are on them because of the slim nature of the bar **22** and the fact that it engages over the central hook **14** which is ordinarily clear of any garment placed upon hanger **10**.

While we have disclosed a preferred embodiment of this invention, and have indicated various possible changes, missions and additions which may be made therein, it will be apparent that various other changes, omissions and additions may be made in the invention without departing from the scope and spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

Auxiliary display hanger for skirts and the like for use in conjunction with a conventional hanger for jackets and the like having a hanger body and hook upstanding therefrom, said auxiliary display hanger comprising a bar having notches in one edge thereof adjacent its ends adapted to receive skirt straps and the like to support the skirt, and a leg connected to said bar at the center of said edge and perpendicular thereto, said leg having an elongated aperture formed therein adjacent its free end and sized to permit extension of said hook therethrough to bring said leg into abutment with the top of said body, said leg made of relatively stiff bendable plastic material, said leg having a reinforcing rib extending around its periphery and preventing bending of said leg, said rib interrupted on opposite sides of said aperture to permit bending of said leg on a line between said interruptions and extending across said leg, said leg being grooved at said interruptions so as to reduce the thickness and thereby increase the flexibility thereof to define a bendable tip of said leg between said bend line and said free end, said bendable tip being bent ninety de-

grees out of the plane of said leg, said elongated aperture extending above and below the bend line toward the leg free end extremity and notched bar, respectively, to provide an aperture opening to permit said bendable tip to rest upon the top of said body with said hook through said aperture and the rest of said leg alongside said body, said bendable tip being capable of being bent back in the plane of said leg to facilitate packing of a plurality of auxiliary display hangers, said leg being of a substantial length to extend a considerable distance below said body sufficiently so as to locate the skirt supported on said bar in position relative to the jacket supported by said body in substantial correspondence to the relative jacket and skirt positions when worn by a natural person.

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