May 22, 1956 B. C. FEATHERS 2,746,657

SWEATER STRETCHER

Filed July 15, 1954

Fig. 1

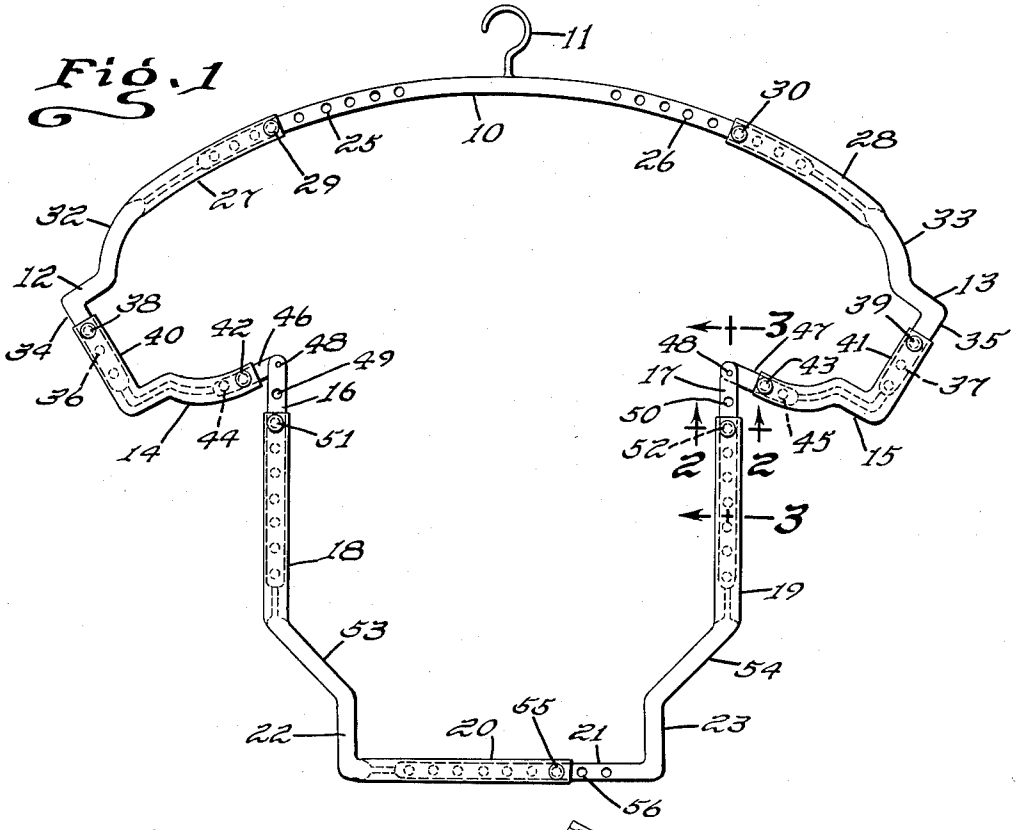


Fig. 2

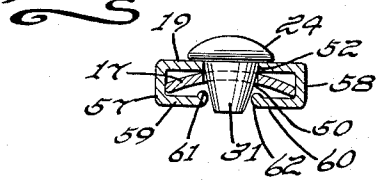


Fig. 3

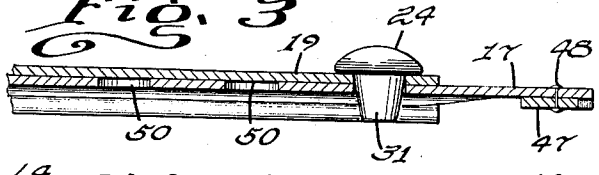


Fig. 4

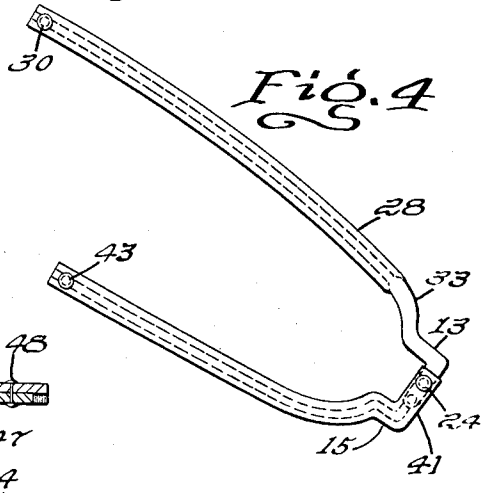


Fig. 5

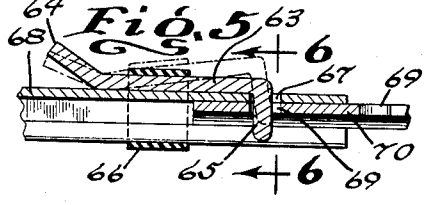
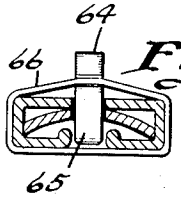


Fig. 6



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United States Patent Office 2,746,657 Patented May 22, 1956

2,746,657

SWEATER STRETCHER

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Application July 15, 1954, Serial No. 443,537

4 Claims. (Cl. 223—69)

This invention relates to drying frames for sweaters and the like, and in particular, a frame for holding a sweater in drying in which substantially all parts of the frame are adjustable so that the frame may be adjusted to hold sweaters of different sizes.

The purpose of this invention is to provide means for retaining a sweater in shape as a sweater dries after being washed or cleaned.

It is difficult to hang a sweater or garment of other knitted material on a line or clothes drier without the garment losing its original shape and also without the garment shrinking. With this thought in mind, this invention contemplates a drying frame patterned to conform to the shape of a body on which a sweater is positioned in which the body, sleeves and lower waist band are formed to correspond with the original shape or design of the sweater for which the frame is intended.

The object of this invention is, therefore, to provide means for adjustably holding parts of a sweater frame in assembled relation wherein substantially all parts thereof are adjustable.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sweater-drying frame having adjustable elements in which the adjusting parts are not subject to rust or corrosion resulting from dampness of a wet sweater positioned thereon.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved sweater-drying frame in which substantially all the parts thereof are adjustable in which the frame is of a simple and economical construction.

With these and other objects and advantages in view, the invention embodies a garment-drying frame having an arcuate upper bar with a hook extended therefrom, similar to a garment hanger, with adjustable sleeve-forming elements carried by the ends of the bar, with adjustable vertically disposed elements depending from the sleeve-forming elements to receive the body portion of a garment and adjustable horizontally disposed bars extended from inwardly extended ends of the vertically disposed elements.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view illustrating the improved adjustable sweater-drying stretcher.

Figure 2 is a cross section taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1, with the parts shown on an enlarged scale, illustrating a typical cross section through the adjustable elements of the frame.

Figure 3 is a detail showing a longitudinally disposed section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1 also illustrating the adjustable elements and showing the device with the parts on an enlarged scale.

Figure 4 is a detail similar to that shown in Figure 1 showing a sleeve portion of the frame with other parts omitted.

Figure 5 is a detail showing a longitudinal section, similar to that shown in Figure 3, illustrating a modification

wherein a rubber button for maintaining the parts in adjusted position is replaced with a clip, the clip being retained in position with a rubber band and the parts being shown on an enlarged scale.

Figure 6 is a cross section taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5 also showing the clip with the band of elastic material for retaining the clip in position.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts, the improved sweater-drying frame of this invention includes an arcuate bar **10** having a hook **11** extended upwardly therefrom, upper sleeve sections **12** and **13** carried by the ends of the bar **10**, lower sleeve sections **14** and **15** adjustably connected to ends of the sections **12** and **13**, respectively, vertically disposed side bars **16** and **17** slidably mounted in split tubular elements **18** and **19**, horizontally disposed sections **20** and **21** extended from the lower ends of inwardly extended portions **22** and **23**, respectively, of the elements **18** and **19** and buttons **24** of rubber or other suitable resilient material adapted to be extended through openings in the elements for retaining the elements in adjusted positions.

The arcuate bar **10** is provided with spaced openings **25** and **26** extended inwardly from the ends and the upper sleeve members **12** and **13** are provided with split tubular sections **27** and **28**, respectively, that are adapted to slide over the ends of the bar **10** and the ends of which are provided with openings **29** and **30** that are positioned to register with the openings **25** and **26** in the bar **10** to receive the shanks **31** of the buttons **24**. The ends of the bar **10** are arcuate in cross section, as illustrated in Figure 2, and spring inherent in the elements provides friction for retaining the elements in assembled relation. The buttons **24**, however, provide definite locating means for preventing accidental separation of the elements.

The upper sleeve members **12** and **13** are formed with arcuate sections **32** and **33** which extend from the tubular sections **27** and **28**, respectively, and the opposite ends of the elements **12** and **13**, which are formed at substantially right angles to the elements, are provided with bars **34** and **35** in which spaced openings **36** and **37**, respectively, are provided.

The openings **36** and **37** are positioned to register with openings **38** and **39** in split tubular sections **40** and **41** of the lower sleeve elements **14** and **15** and the opposite ends of the elements **14** and **15** are provided with openings **42** and **43** that are positioned to register with openings **44** and **45**, respectively, in arms **46** and **47** that are secured by rivets **48** to the upper ends of the side bars **16** and **17**.

The side bars **16** and **17** are provided with spaced openings **49** and **50** that are positioned to register with openings **51** and **52** in the upper ends of the split tubular elements **18** and **19**.

The lower ends of the elements **18** and **19** are provided with inwardly extended sections **53** and **54** by which the elements are connected to vertically disposed bars **22** and **23**, the lower end of the bar **22** being provided with a split tubular section **20** having an opening **55** therein and the section **23** having a horizontally disposed bar **21** having spaced openings **56** therein extended from the lower end. The bar **21** is retained in adjusted position in the element **20** by one of the buttons **24**, which are formed of rubber or other suitable resilient material.

In the typical cross section, shown in Figure 2, shank **31** of the button **24** extends through an opening **52** in the face of the split tubular element **19** and also through an opening, such as one of the openings **50**, in the bar **17**. The tubular element **19** includes a face in which the openings **52** are provided, end sections **57** and **58** and a back formed with flanges **59** and **60** the edges of which are provided with inwardly extended beads **61** and **62**.

With this arrangement of parts, shanks **31** of the buttons **24** are inserted in the openings and with the buttons pressed into place the parts will remain in assembled relation during the drying process of the sweater.

In the design illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, the button **24** is replaced with a latching clip **63** having a handle **64** and a finger **65** and, as illustrated in Figure 5, the clip is retained in position on one of the split tubular elements with a band **66** of elastic material. The band retains the clip in position wherein the finger **65** is adapted to extend through an opening **67** in a split tubular element **68** and an opening **69** in a tongue or arcuate bar **70** similar to one of the bars, such as the bar **17**. By this means the parts are latched together and may be released by pressing downwardly upon the handle **64** whereby the pin **65** is withdrawn from the openings. By this means the bars having the spaced openings therein, such as the bars **16**, **17** and **70**, are latched or locked in adjusted positions, by one of the elastic buttons **24** or by the clip **63** which is resiliently mounted on the split tubular elements. With the parts designed and assembled in this manner, a sweater-stretching frame is provided that is adjustable to sweaters of different sizes and with the parts formed of plastic or plated metal parts, the possibility of rust due to placing wet materials thereon is substantially eliminated.

The arm and body elements are carried by an arcuate support bar with upper sleeve elements adjustably connected to ends of the bar and with lower sleeve elements adjustably connected to the upper sleeve elements. The lower sleeve elements are pivotally connected to adjustable vertically disposed body elements and the lower ends of the body elements are adjustably connected with transversely disposed bracing or retaining elements.

With the elements of the frame adjusted to correspond with the shape and size of a sweater, the sweater is placed thereon and the material of the front and back is pinned together at the upper and lower ends to prevent the sweater pulling upwardly or downwardly on the frame in drying. The ends of the sleeve may also be pinned beyond the ends of the frame elements.

In Figure 4 the split tubular elements **23** and **15** are extended to illustrate that the frame may be used for comparatively large garments.

It will be understood that modifications, within the scope of the appended claims, may be made in the design and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A sweater-drying frame comprising an arcuate support bar having spaced openings in the ends and a hook extended upwardly from the intermediate portion, the ends of said support bar being arcuate in cross-section, upper sleeve bars having split tubular elements provided with a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges, said tubular elements being extended around the ends of said arcuate support bar and means passing through the ends of the support bar and outwardly of said split tubular elements for securing the tubular elements to the ends of said arcuate bar, said upper sleeve bars having depending ends that are arcuate in cross-section, and lower sleeve bars having split tubular elements provided with a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges, said tubular elements being extended to receive the depending ends of the upper sleeve bars, vertically disposed side bars depending from and connected to the lower sleeve bars, horizontally disposed bars extended inwardly on said ends of the vertically disposed body bars, and means passing through the ends of said horizontally disposed bars for adjustably connecting said horizontally disposed bars.

2. In a sweater stretcher, the combination which comprises an arcuate support bar having spaced openings in the ends and a hook extended upwardly from the intermediate part, the ends of said support bar being arcuate in cross-section, upper sleeve bars having split tubular sections provided with a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges, said tubular elements being extended over the ends of the support bar and having offset portions with depending end bars that are arcuate in cross-section, split tubular lower sleeve elements having a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges into which the end bars of the upper sleeve bars extend, spaced vertically disposed side bars with spaced openings therein and having arms on the upper ends that are arcuate in cross-section, extended into the split tubular lower sleeve elements, split tubular elements positioned over the side bars and having inwardly offset lower ends that are arcuate in cross-section, with horizontally disposed sections extended from said lower ends, and latching elements extending through the openings in the split tubular elements and bars and outwardly thereof, for retaining the parts in adjusted positions.

3. In a sweater stretcher, the combination which comprises an arcuate support bar having spaced openings in the ends and a hook extended upwardly from the intermediate part, the ends of said support bar being arcuate in cross-section, upper sleeve bars having split tubular sections provided with a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges, said tubular elements being extended over the ends of the support bar and having offset portions with depending end bars that are arcuate in cross-section, split tubular lower sleeve elements having a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges into which the end bars of the upper sleeve bars extend, spaced vertically disposed side bars with spaced openings therein and having arms on the upper ends that are arcuate in cross-section, extended into the split tubular lower sleeve elements, split tubular elements positioned over the side bars and having inwardly offset lower ends that are arcuate in cross-section, with horizontally disposed sections extended from said lower ends, and latching elements extending through the openings in the split tubular elements and bars and outwardly thereof for retaining the parts in adjusted positions, the horizontally disposed section of one of said split tubular elements of the side bars including a split tubular element and the horizontally disposed section of the split tubular element of the other side bar including a bar that is arcuate in cross-section, with spaced openings therein slidably mounted in the split tubular element of the former side bar.

4. In a sweater stretcher, the combination which comprises an arcuate support bar having spaced openings in the ends and a hook extended upwardly from the intermediate part, upper sleeve bars having split tubular sections provided with a flat face, side sections extending at right angles to said face at right angles to said side sections, and inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges, said tubular elements being extended over the ends of the support bar and having offset portions with depending end bars, split tubular lower sleeve elements having a flat face, side sections extending

at right angles to said face at the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, flanges extending at right angles to said side sections, inwardly extending beads on the longitudinal edges of said flanges into which the end bars of the upper sleeve bars extend, spaced vertically disposed side bars with spaced openings therein and having arms on the upper ends extended into the split tubular lower sleeve elements, split tubular elements positioned over the side bars and having inwardly offset lower ends with horizontally disposed sections extended from said lower ends, and latching elements extending through the openings in the split tubular elements and bars for retaining the parts in adjusted positions, the horizontally disposed section of one of said split tubular elements of the side bars including a

split tubular element and the horizontally disposed section of the split tubular element of the other side bar including a bar with spaced openings therein slidably mounted in the split tubular element of the former side bar, and said bars being arcuate in cross section providing resilient retaining means whereby the bars are frictionally retained in said split tubular elements.

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