Dec. 21, 1965 R. E. MALMQUIST 3,224,721

HANGER FOR ARTICLES HAVING HOOKED OR LOOPED HANDLES

Filed Sept. 2, 1964

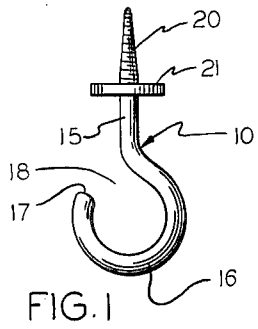

FIG. 1

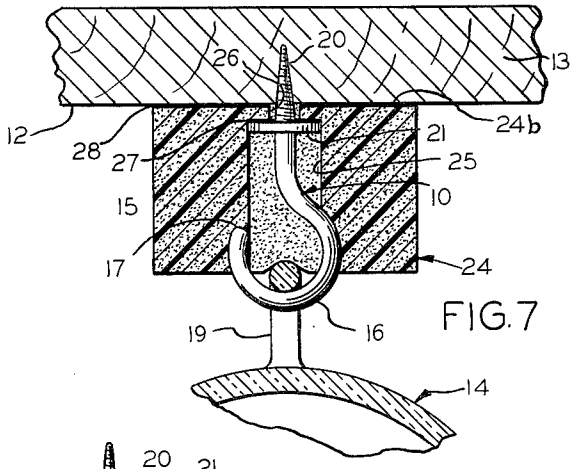

FIG. 7

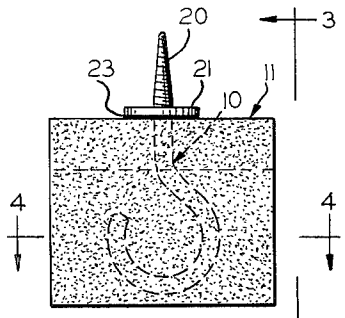

FIG. 2

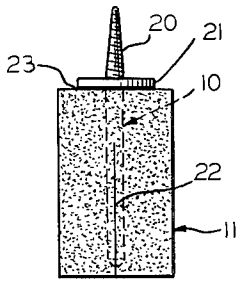

FIG. 3

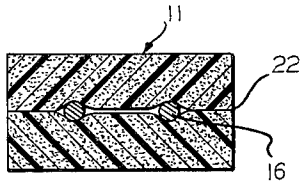

FIG. 4

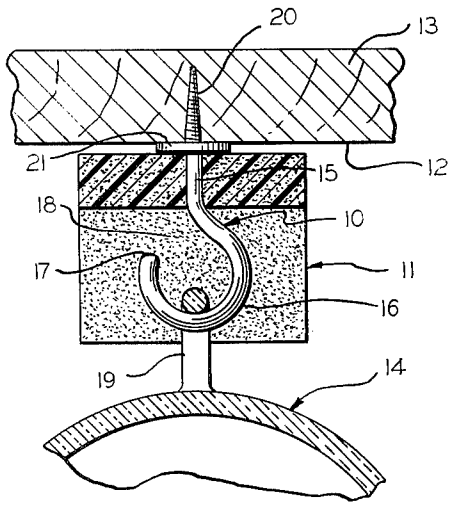

FIG. 6

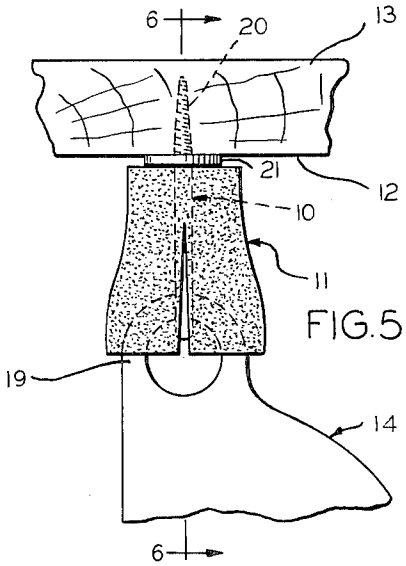

FIG. 5

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HANGER FOR ARTICLES HAVING HOOKED OR LOOPED HANDLES

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This invention relates in general to a hanger for articles having hooked or looped handles, and more particularly to a hanger for suspending such articles from a supporting surface, and still more particularly to a hanger particularly useful for supporting drinking cups.

The present invention is primarily concerned with the mounting of utensils, such as drinking cups, on a supporting surface, wherein normal vibration to the supporting surface will not dislodge the utensils from the surface. The invention includes a hook member having means for attaching it to a supporting surface such as the underside of a generally horizontally extending shelf, and a block or piece of resilient material arranged about the hook member, and displaceable or movable to permit the hook member to receive the looped handle of an article thereon but of such a nature as to impositively hold the handle of the hook member. The present invention is particularly useful to support drinking cups from a shelf in a movable vehicle such as a house trailer or boat. In such a movable vehicle cups suspended from ordinary hooks would nearly always be displaced or dislodged from the hook member during movement of the vehicle due to vibration, and such is undesirable. The present invention overcomes this difficulty by holding the cups on the hooks, yet it is of such a nature as to permit quick and easy mounting or removal of the cups from the hook member.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide an improved hanger for supporting articles having hooked or looped handles, such as cups and the like.

Another object of this invention is in the provision of a hanger for supporting articles having hooked or looped handles and for holding them in place even though subjected to vibration.

Still another object of this invention resides in the provision of a hanger for supporting drinking cups or the like including a hook member that is substantially surrounded by resilient material which functions to hold the looped handle of an article on the hook member after it has been inserted in place.

A further object of this invention is to provide a hanger for supporting articles having looped handles, such as cups or the like, and which includes a hook member in combination with a block of lightweight, highly resilient material, such as foam plastic or rubber which functions to hold the cup on the hook member but also permits it to be easily removed by a person.

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed disclosure, taken in conjunction with the accompanying sheet of drawing, wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts, in which:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of a hook member employed with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an elevational view of the hanger constructed in accordance with the invention and employing the hook member of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an end elevational view of the embodiment of FIG. 2 taken substantially along line 3—3 thereof;

FIG. 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken through the embodiment of FIG. 2 substantially along line 4—4 thereof;

FIG. 5 is a front elevational view of the embodiment

of the invention as shown in FIG. 2, and showing it mounted on a support member and having a cup carried thereby;

FIG. 6 is a vertical sectional view of the showing of FIG. 5 and taken substantially along line 6—6 thereof; and

FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 6 showing a modification of the invention.

Referring now to the drawings, the embodiment of the invention herein illustrated in FIGS. 1–6 includes generally a hook member 10 and a block of resilient material 11 adapted to be mounted to the under supporting surface 12 of a supporting member 13 for suspending from the supporting member an article or drinking cup 14.

The hook member 10 herein illustrated includes an upstanding shank portion 15, a parti-circular portion 16 extending from the downward end of the upstanding portion 15 and terminating at 17 to define an opening 18 through which the looped handle of a cup may be inserted, such as the looped handle 19 of the cup 14, and a screw-threaded portion 20 at the upper end of the upstanding shank 15 for attaching the hook member to a supporting member such as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6. A radial flange 21 is secured between the upstanding shank 15 and the threaded portion 20. It should be appreciated that the hook member 10 may take any desirable shape, and that the embodiment shown herein is merely for illustrating the invention. For example, the screw-threaded portion 20 may have substituted therefor a nail, a glued plate, a magnet, or any other type of fastener.

The block of resilient material 11 is rectangularly shaped herein but may be of any desired shape. This material is preferably light-weight and highly resilient. For example, the material may be of foam rubber or foam plastic. More particularly, if of foam plastic, it may be foam polyurethane which is a substance of light weight and highly flexible. However, once flexed, it will attempt to come back to its original shape. As shown in FIG. 3, a slit 22 may be formed in the block of resilient material 11 so that when the hook member 10 is assembled with the material, the parti-circular portion 16 extends primarily into the area of the material that is slit and particularly the portion 16 is arranged substantially in the center of the slit and in alignment therewith. It is preferable that the block of material 11 is suitably secured to the hook member 10 so that relative movement therebetween or disassembly is precluded. While any method of accomplishing this end may be employed, for purposes of illustration, a layer of glue or suitable adhesive 23 may be provided between the radial flange 21 and the upper side of the block of material 11 for connecting the hook member to the material. The upstanding shank portion 15 of the hook member extends through the upper end of the block of material as shown particularly in FIG. 6, while as heretofore already explained, the parti-circular portion 16 is arranged in the slit 22 so that access to the opening 18 of the hook member may be obtained. It should be appreciated that the slit 22 need not go through the entire lower part of the resilient material but need only be arranged so that a looped handle of an article may be inserted over the terminal end 17 of the hook member.

In operation, for mounting a cup or like article to the hanger, it is only necessary to force the looped handle 19 upward through the slit 22 and over the terminal end 17 and into the opening 18 to the position shown in FIG. 6. At that point, the resilient material, which is highly elastic, forms about the hook member and the handle and closes the opening 18 to prevent removal of the cup 14 from the hook member unless desired by the user. Thus normal vibration of the supporting member 13

would not permit the cup **14** to be dislodged from the hook member **10**, and the present invention would thereby provide a very positive and efficient hanger for cups or the like in moving vehicles.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in FIG. 7 which principally differs from the embodiments of FIGS. 2–6 in the arrangement of the hook member **10** with respect to a block of resilient material. The hook member **10** employed in this embodiment is like the one in FIG. 1, although as previously mentioned, it may take any desirable shape.

The block of resilient material employed with this embodiment is generally designated by the numeral **24**, and includes a central bore **25** that extends from the bottom surface **24***a* and just short of the upper surface **24***b*. A second bore **26** extends from the upper end of the bore **25** and out through the upper surface **24***b* of the block of resilient material. The bore **25** is preferably sized to snugly receive therein the radial flange **21** of the hook member **10** and which abuts against the shoulder defined by the junction of the bores **25** and **26**. If desired, a layer of glue **27** may be provided between the shoulder and the flange **21** to more firmly secure the hook member **10** to the block of resilient material **24**. In this embodiment, the screw-threaded portion **20** extends upwardly through the second bore **26** and for purposes of attaching the hanger to the support member **13**. It is also preferable that the block of resilient material **24** be secured to the support member **13**, and this can be accomplished by means of a layer of glue **28**. The surface **24***b* of the resilient material **24** may be provided with a dry adhesive that is activated upon being moistened for attachment of the resilient material to the underside **12** of the support member **13**. Any other type of glue or adhesive may be employed.

In the embodiment of FIG. 7, it is noted that the terminal end **17** of the hook portion **16** extends up into the block of resilient material **24** a distance beyond the lower surface **24***a*, while the major portion of the hook portion **16** extends through the bore **25** and slightly below the lower surface **24***a*. The operation of this embodiment is like the operation of the embodiment of FIGS. 2–6 in that the looped handle **19** of a cup **14** may be employed to depress the resilient material about the end **17** of the hook portion **16** to enable the handle **19** to be swung into position on the hook portion **16** as shown in FIG. 7, whereupon the resilient material of the block **24** springs back over the end **17** of the hook portion **16** and blocks removal of the cup from the hanger. This embodiment illustrates that the hook member may be combined with the block of resilient material in any desired manner.

It will be understood that modifications and variations may be effected without departing from the scope of the novel concepts of the present invention, but it is understood that this application is to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. A hanger for articles having looped handles and adapted to be attached to a supporting surface comprising, a hook member having means for attaching same to a supporting surface, and a block of resilient material about said hook member and openable to permit a looped handle of an article to be received on the hook member, whereby said block of resilient material holds the article on the hook member.

2. A hanger for suspending an article having a looped handle from a supporting surface comprising, a hook member, means on one end of said hook member for attaching same to the supporting surface, and a block of lightweight highly resilient and elastic material surrounding the hook member and being separable to permit a looped handle of an article to be received on the hook member, whereby said material holds the article on the hook member and against removal therefrom due to any vibration of the supporting surface.

3. A hanger for suspending an article having a looped handle from a supporting surface comprising, a hook member, means on one end of said hook member for attaching same to the supporting surface, a block of lightweight highly resilient and elastic material surrounding the hook member and being separable to permit a looped handle of an article to be received on the hook member, and means for securing the material to the hook member, whereby said material holds the article on the hook member and against removal therefrom due to any vibration of the supporting surface.

4. A hanger according to claim **3**, wherein said material is foam plastic.

5. A hanger according to claim **3**, wherein said material is foam rubber.

6. A hanger for suspending an article having a looped handle from a supporting member, said hanger comprising, a hook member, means on one end of the hook member for attaching same to the supporting member, a block of elastic material attached to said hook member and in substantial surrounding relation thereto, a slit in said material permitting access to the hook member and the placement of a looped handle of an article thereon, whereby the material forms about the hook member and handle and holds the handle in position on the hook member and against displacement due to vibration of the support member.

7. A hanger for suspending an article having a looped handle from a supporting member, said hanger comprising, a hook member, means on one end of the hook member for attaching same to the supporting member, a block of elastic material attached to said hook member and in substantial surrounding relation thereto, and a hook portion on said hook member extending through said block of resilient material and having its free end embedded in the material, whereby depressing of the resilient material allows positioning the looped handle of a container over the end of the hook portion and thereafter release of the material blocks displacement of the handle from the hook portion.

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