

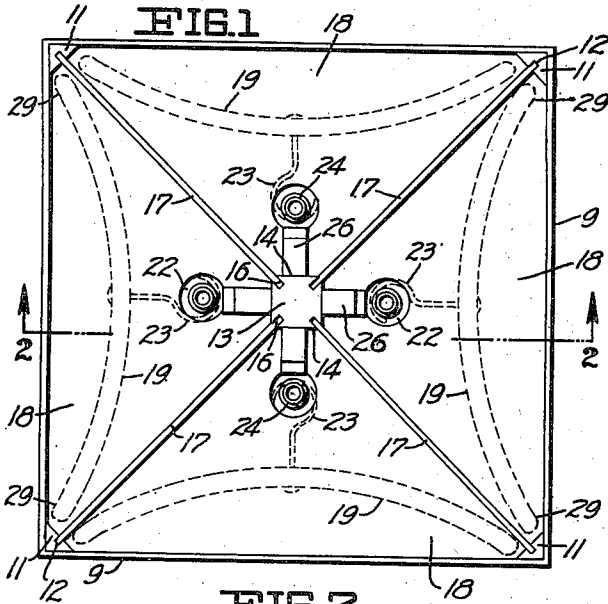
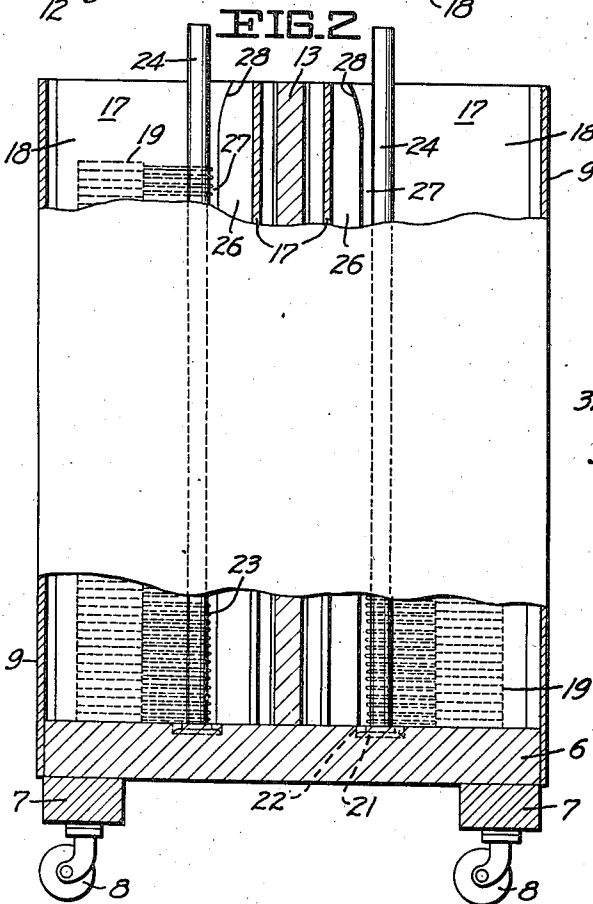
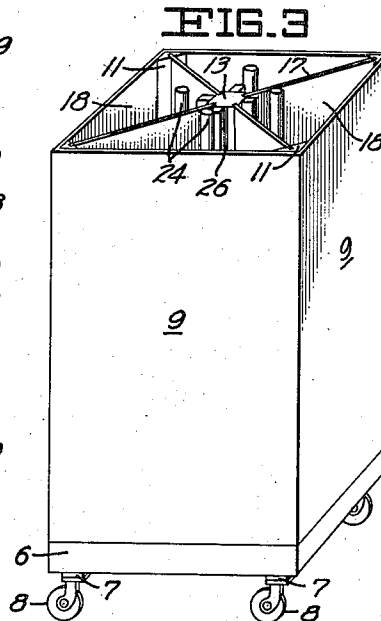
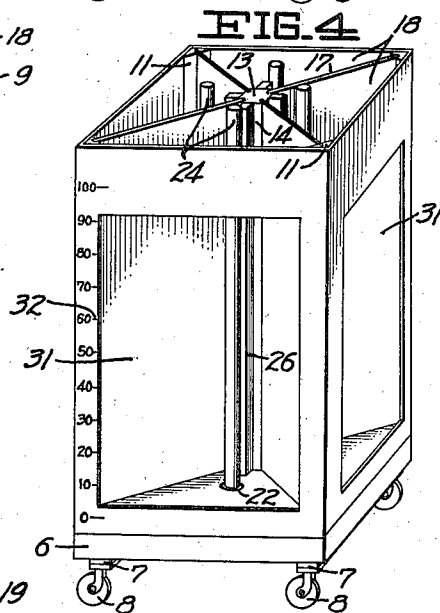
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GARMENT HANGER BIN

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GARMENT HANGER BIN

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This invention relates to bins for the storage, in orderly arrangement, of devices in the nature of garment hangers.

An object of the invention is to provide a bin for the purpose described in which a plurality of large groups of objects such as garment hangers may be stored or dispersed in orderly relationship and whose design characteristics are such that successive objects placed in the bin are forced to assume the aforesaid orderly relationship with previously deposited objects.

Another object of the invention is to provide, in a device of the character described, means functioning to facilitate the rapid insertion of objects such as garment hangers into substantially form-fitting storage compartments provided therefor in the bin.

A further object of the invention is to provide a mobile bin of the character described which is designed with a low center of gravity so that forceful shoves imposed on the bin in projecting it for considerable distances along a floor, or its sudden striking of an obstruction during such movement, will not cause the bin to upset.

Still another object of the invention is to provide, in a bin for the storage and dispensing of stacked articles such as garment hangers, means providing a visual indication so that an estimate of the number of articles contained in a given portion of the stack may be had and the said number of articles may be then grasped and removed from the bin.

The invention possesses other objects and features of advantage, some of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood, however, that variations in the showing made by the said drawings and description may be adopted within the scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the bin of my invention.

Figure 2 is a view of the bin partly in side elevation and partly in vertical section. The sectional portions of the view are taken in the plane indicated by the line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a reduced scale perspective view of the bin.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of the bin.

In establishments such as clothing stores,

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cleaning plants and tailoring shops through which large volumes of wearing-apparel are constantly passing, very large quantities of garment hangers are employed in storing, handling and delivering the garments. It is usually the case that these establishments accumulate a large reserve supply of hangers to replace those delivered with purchased or reclaimed garments with the result that orderly storage of the hangers until they are needed plus distribution thereof to various parts of the establishment where they are required become serious problems which, if handled in the usual way, can waste considerable valuable time. The peculiar form of the hangers does not promote orderly stacking or grouping thereof in any considerable quantities. It is usually the practice to assemble hangers on an unused section of garment rack from which they are procured when needed and carried to various points in the establishment. This, however, is not satisfactory since it reduces the garment capacity of the rack and, in the event of a large influx of work, some or all of the extra hangers must be cleared from their storage place to make room for the garments. It is definitely not desirable to store the displaced or other unused hangers in an unsupported stack for the reason that, eventually, the hangers will become disarranged and will evolve into a tangled pile. In any event a considerable portion of a working day can be utilized in the unprofitable pursuits of separating hangers from jumbled groups, thereof or securing and returning hangers from and to remote storage locations and, where the volume of hangers used in a day's time runs into the thousands, these time losses can become very serious matters. I have provided a bin in which a large number of hangers may be stored in orderly fashion and which occupies a minimum of space so that the hanger supply may be always conveniently at hand when needed and can be moved from place to place as the work demand requires.

In detail, I provide a comparatively thick, rectangular and preferably wooden, base 6 to the bottom of which is secured, along opposite sides thereof, a pair of thick wooden sills 7 at whose respective ends are mounted, in any suitable manner, pivotal caster wheels 8. In one form of the invention, sheet members forming side walls 9 are secured to and rise from the respective sides of the base 6 and are secured together along adjoining vertical edges by triangular corner posts 14 each of which, in its diagonal surface facing the center of the base, is provided with a central

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vertically-extending groove 12. Secured to and rising from the center post 13 whose vertical sides 14 parallel the sides of the base and whose respective corners are provided with vertically extending notches 16 similar to and in planar alignment with the notches 12. Sheet material partitions 17 extending diagonally of the base have their vertical edges engaged in related pairs of the notches 12 and 16 and divide the space within the side walls 9 into a plurality of triangularly-shaped compartments 18 each having a common apex substantially coincident with the vertical centerline of the center post 13. As will be seen in Figure 2, the side walls 9, the corner posts 11, the partitions 17, and the center post 13 each terminate above the base 6 in a common plane.

Means is provided in each of the compartments 18 for maintaining substantially vertical alignment in a stack of garment hangers 19 which may be placed therein. Attached to and rising from a flanged base member 21 which is secured in a recess 22, provided in each compartment, located on a line normal to and bisecting the side wall 9 thereof and spaced from the latter a distance accommodating and registered with the support hook 23 of the hanger 19, is an axially vertical metal or wooden guide rod 24 paralleling the center post 13 and terminating above the latter and above the upper ends of the side walls and compartment partitions. Strips 26 of wood or other material are provided, one in each compartment being attached to the vertical sides 14 of the center post and extending toward the guide rods 24 so as to provide along each of the latter a comparatively narrow and vertically extended slot 27 open at its upper end and in which the hooks 23 of the hangers may be received and are confined. The strips 26 are each coextensive with the center post 13 and, if desired, may be tapered adjacent their upper ends, as indicated by the curved lines 28, to formed widened entering ends for the slots 27 so as to facilitate the starting thereof of the hanger hooks 23. The form of each compartment 18, and the position of the guide rod 24 therein, is such that when a hanger is in engagement with the guide rod the ends 29 of the hanger bar will enter the opposite corners of the compartment defined by the side walls 9 and the partitions 17 and will approach into close proximity with each of the members. The result is that the hanger will be confined against substantial horizontal movement in the compartment which will function to retain a plurality of the hangers, which may be placed in the compartment, in substantial vertical alignment.

In Figure 4, I have illustrated a modified form of the invention designed to afford, under certain circumstances, improved operation of the bin. In this structure the essential parts are identical with those previously described and bear similar reference designations. The side walls 9 however are each provided with a cut-out or window 31 through which a view may be had into the interior of the compartment so that the user may instantly know how near depletion is the quantity of hangers stored in the compartment. The windows also permit the user to grasp a desired number of the hangers and elevate them toward the open upper end of the compartment where they may be removed. The windows also permit the utilization of measurement scales 32 which will give the user, numerically the quantity of hangers remaining in the compartment and will enable him to gauge the number of hangers that

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he may desire to remove as a group from the compartment.

As stated above, the described devices are particularly adapted for use in establishments employing large numbers of garment hangers and lend efficiency of operation to such establishments by effecting the storage, in a minimized volumetric space, of a large quantity of the hangers and by providing for the ready access to such hangers as they are needed. The particular design of bin employed, also tends toward efficiency of operation since the weighted bottom structure of the device provides a comparatively low center of gravity. This is beneficial in preventing accidental upsetting of the bin as it is shoved forcibly along the floor of the establishment.

I claim:

1. A portable bin for storing and displaying garment hangers having opposed ends and a hook member medially of such ends comprising a substantially horizontal rectangular base, interconnected vertical side walls rising from the respective sides of said base, a center post rising vertically from substantially the center of said base, vertical partitions extending between said center post and the junctions of said side walls and combining therewith to divide said bin into a plurality of substantially triangular shaped open top compartments adapted to receive said garment hangers, a vertical guide rod in each compartment adapted to be engaged by the hook element of said hangers, and said guide rod rising from said base being disposed with relation to spaced points on said partitions of a compartment adapted to be engaged by said opposed ends of said garment hanger, said walls and partitions and said guide rod cooperating in each compartment whereby said hangers in a plurality thereof placed in said compartment are retained in a vertically aligned stack and are restrained against substantial relative horizontal movement with respect to each other and said partitions.

2. A portable bin for storing and displaying garment hangers having opposed ends and a hook member medially of such ends comprising a substantially horizontal rectangular base, interconnected vertical side walls rising from the respective sides of said base, a center post rising vertically from substantially the center of said base, vertical partitions extending between said center post and the junctions of said side walls and combining therewith to divide said bin into a plurality of compartments substantially triangular shaped with opposing recesses therein adapted to receive said opposed ends of garment hangers, a vertical guide rod in each compartment adapted to be engaged by the hook element of said hangers, vertical strips attached to and coextensive with said center post, said strips approaching said guide rods and forming between each strip and guide rod a vertically extending open top slot adapted to receive the said hook elements of said hangers, and said guide rod rising vertically from said base being disposed with relation to said opposing recesses in each compartment adapted to be engaged by end portions of the bar member of said garment hanger, said walls and partitions and said guide rod cooperating in each compartment whereby said hangers in a plurality thereof placed in said compartment are retained in a vertically aligned stack and are restrained against substantial relative horizontal movement with respect to each other and said partitions.

3. A portable bin for storing and displaying

garment hangers having opposed ends and a hook member medially of such ends comprising a substantially horizontal rectangular base, vertical side walls rising from the respective sides of the base and interconnected along their respective adjoining vertical edges, a vertical center post rising medially from said base and terminating coincident with the upper end of said side walls, vertical partitions extending between said center post and said side walls and combining therewith to divide said bin into a plurality of compartments substantially triangular shaped adapted to receive said garment hangers, said partitions being co-extensive with said side walls, an axially vertical guide rod in each compartment and positioned therein and adapted to engage in the hook element of said garment hanger when said opposed ends of said hanger are substantially engaging spaced opposing recesses in each of said compartments, said guide rod rising from said base and extending above said center post, and vertically extending strips attached to and coextensive with said center post, said strips extending toward said guide rods to define therealong vertically extended slots in which a portion of each hook element may be inserted.

4. A portable bin for storing and displaying garment hangers having opposed ends and a hook member medially of such ends comprising a substantially horizontal rectangular base, interconnected vertical side walls rising from said base, diagonal vertical partitions extending between said side walls and combining therewith to divide the bin into a plurality of substantially triangular shaped open top compartments with opposing recesses therein adapted to receive said opposed ends of the hanger, a vertical guide rod in the

other corner of each of said compartments adapted to be engaged by said hook member of the hanger, said walls and partitions and said guide rod cooperating in each compartment to retain a plurality of said garment hangers in a vertically aligned stack when in the compartment.

5. A portable unit for storing and displaying garment hangers having opposed ends and a hook member medially of such ends comprising an open top compartment, a vertical guide rod in said compartment, arranged to be engaged by the hook member of the hanger, opposing receiving members in said compartment spaced from each other and from said guide rod, said receiving members adapted to engage said opposed ends of the hanger when the hook of said hanger is operatively engaged with said guide rod, and vertically extending means in juxtaposition to said guide rod for cooperating therewith to retain the hook member against transverse displacement on the rod.

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