April 28, 1959 E. W. KNUTH 2,884,171

GARMENT HANGER

Filed May 10, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

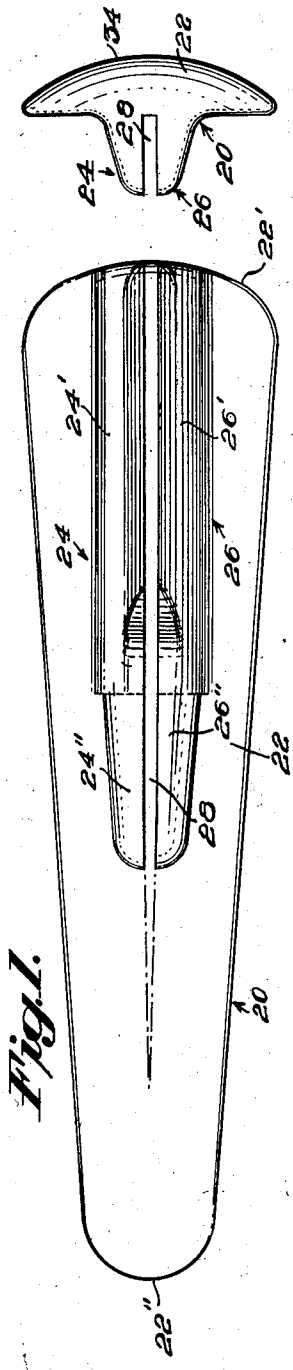


Fig. 1.

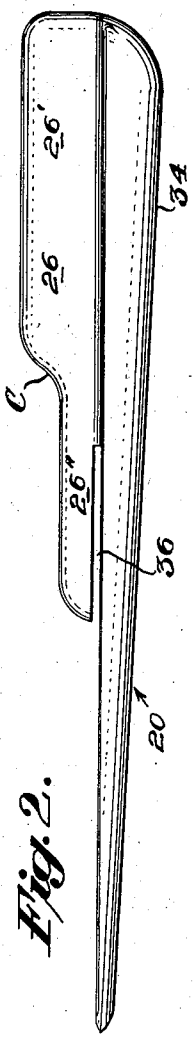


Fig. 2.

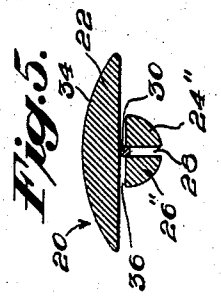


Fig. 5.

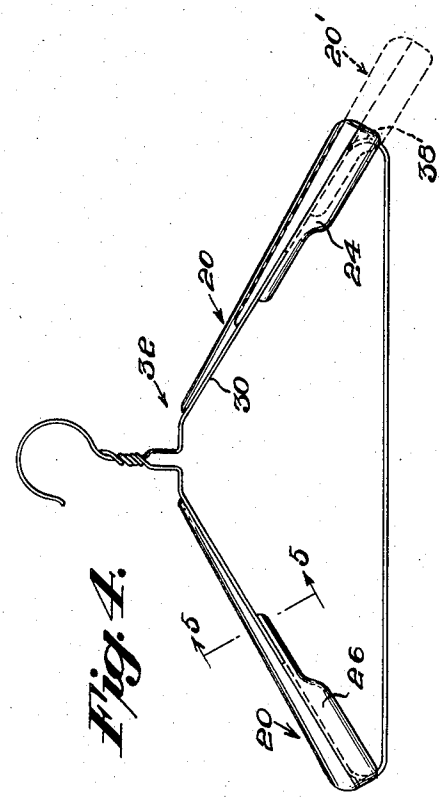


Fig. 4.

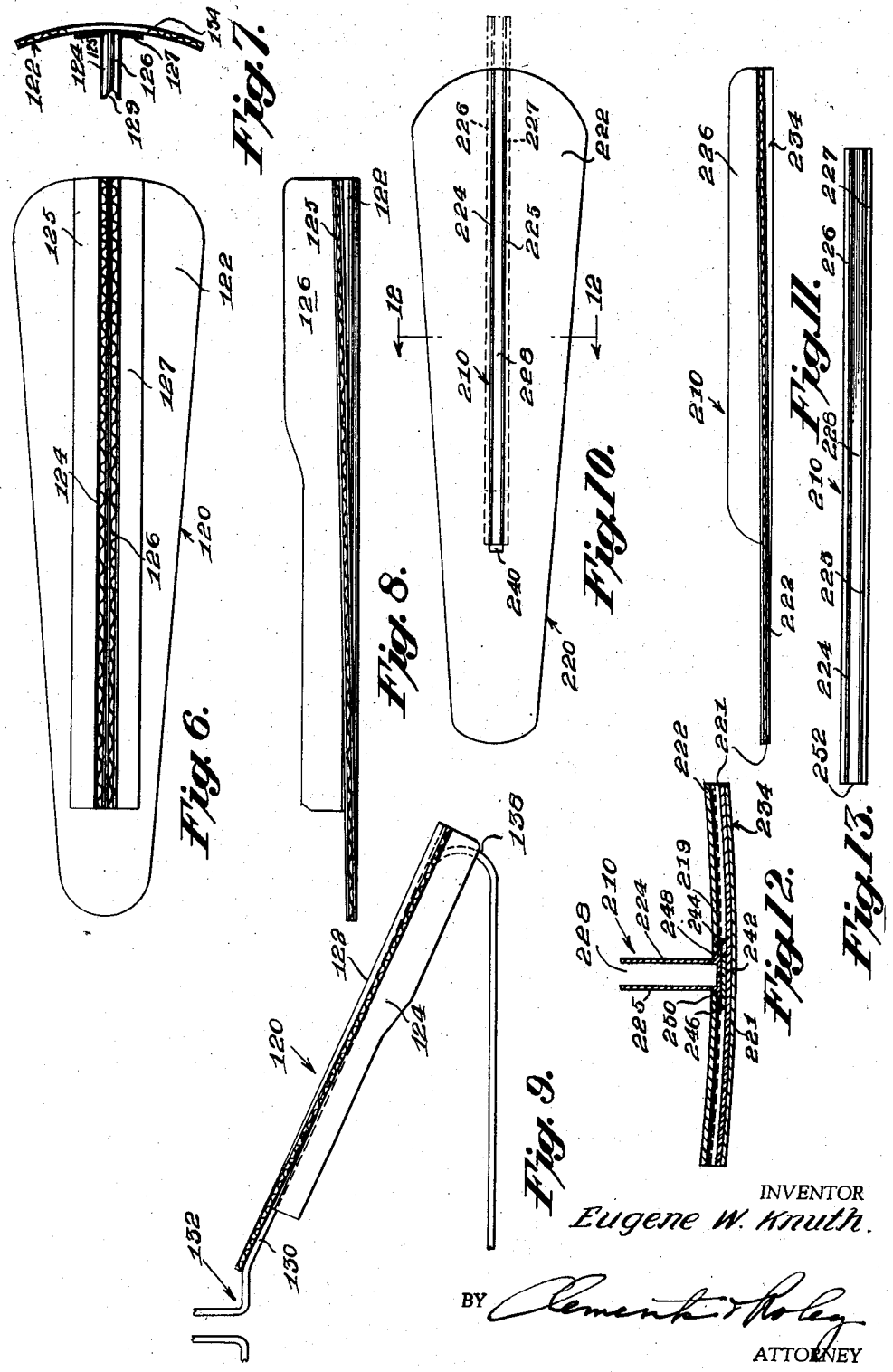
INVENTOR
Eugene W. Knuth.

BY Clement L. Hoberg
ATTORNEY

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GARMENT HANGER

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INVENTOR
Eugene W. Knuth.

BY Clement & Roley
ATTORNEY

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GARMENT HANGER

Eugene W. Knuth, Land O'Lakes, Wis.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 223—98)

This invention relates to improvements in garment hangers and more particularly for a form attachment adapted to be applied to a garment hanger and especially to such an attachment adapted to be applied to the usual wire coat hanger.

An object of this invention is the provision of an appliance of this character adapted for attachment to an ordinary wire coat hanger to embrace the shoulder engaging portions and to improve the drape of a garment being supported by the hanger.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a form attachment adapted to be applied to the oppositely inclined end portions of a wire coat hanger which will not readily move or become dislodged upon placing a garment on the hanger or removing it therefrom.

An additional object of this invention is the provision of a form attachment adapted to be applied to the end portions of a wire coat hanger and to be maintained thereon by inherent spring action.

Still another object of this invention is the provisions of a form attachment adapted to be frictionally applied to a wire coat hanger and to be retained thereon without turning or rotating in relation to the wire of the hanger in use.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a form attachment for a wire coat hanger which may be economically manufactured so as to be used as a "give-away" item.

A still further object of this invention is the provision of a two part form attachment for a wire coat hanger which may be bulk packed and shipped unassembled and which may be readily set up and/or assembled by the user and applied to a hanger for the better shaping and support of garments.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a readily attachable form for use with a wire coat hanger to prevent creasing of the shoulder portions of a garment by the wire of the coat hanger when the garment is supported thereby.

The above and other objects will appear when considering the following specification taken with the accompanying drawings forming a part thereof, and wherein like characters of reference indicate like parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a bottom view of a preferred form of my shoulder form attachment for wire coat hangers;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device in inverted position.

Fig. 3 is an end view looking to the left in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of a wire coat hanger having a pair of my shoulder form attachments thereon, one of them being shown in an optional outermost extended position, in dashed lines;

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4 looking in the direction of the arrows and showing the frictional engagement between the portions of the shoulder pad attachment and wire of the coat hanger;

Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view similar to Fig. 1, of a modified form of my invention showing the wire engaging parts thereof also made of reenforced paperboard;

Fig. 7 is an end view looking to the left in Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a side elevational view of the modified form of shoulder piece of Fig. 6, in inverted position;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a wire coat hanger having my shoulder form attachment of Figs. 6–8 mounted thereon;

Fig. 10 is a bottom view of a second modification of my shoulder form attachment having the parts thereof in assembled position for use and showing in dot and dashed lines that the base flanges of the wire engaging fins slidably engage beneath the plies of the reenforced paperboard;

Fig. 11 is a side elevational view of the shoulder form attachment of Fig. 10 in inverted position;

Fig. 12 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 12—12 of Fig. 10, looking in the direction of the arrows; and

Fig. 13 is a top plan view of the resilient sheet material insert strip of Figs. 10–11 and 12 as it would appear, disassembled from this modified shoulder form of reenforced paperboard or plastic or a combination of the two.

Referring now to Figs. 1 to 5, the wire coat hanger shoulder form attachment **20** comprises an elongated body portion **22** of any material such as plastic or wood and a pair of integral distal fins **24**, **26** separated by an axial slot **28**. The slot **28** is of a width slightly less than that of the wire of the coat hanger so as to grip, with inherent resilience, the inclined side wire arm **30** of the coat hanger **32**. The slot **28** is preferably slightly tapered from end to end thereof as shown by the dot-dash lines in Fig. 1.

The fins **24**, **26** extend substantially normal to the base along the longitudinal axis of the body **22**, wholly within the confines of the base, and terminate short of one end thereof. These fins **24**, **26** are divided into two parts **24'**, **24''** and **26'** and **26''** respectively connected by a smooth curve C, the portions **24'** and **26'** being adapted to function in a manner later to appear.

The dorsal surface **34** of the form attachment **20**, note Figs. 3 and 5, is preferably convexly curved for the purpose of improving the drape of a garment hung over it upon the hanger. All corners and ends such as **22'**, **22''**, of the body portion **22** are also preferably rounded to prevent damage to or creasing of a garment which might be caused by sharp edges, angles or corners. This attachment **20** may be formed of wood, plastic or metal or any other such relatively rigid material as desired. While the inherent resilience of the integral fins **24**, **26** is sufficient to hold this shoulder pad or form attachment in place, I prefer to also provide a relatively short transverse horizontal slot **36** adjacent the central base portion of the body **22**, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5, whereby the inner end portions of the fins **24**, **26** are separated not only from each other but from the base **22** for a short portion of their over all length. The smaller dimension of portions **24''** and **26''** increases the resilience of such portions as will be apparent from these figures. The slots **28** and **36**, as shown in Fig. 5, are also slightly less in width than the diameter of the wire **30** of the coat hanger. The height of the fins **24**, **26** is preferably sufficient for them to embrace and be supported by a portion of a downwardly curved end **38** of the wire hanger **32**, as shown in Fig. 4. In the operation of applying the form attachment **20** to a wire garment hanger, the fins snap on and off of the wire and the attachment is securely retained in

position by virtue of the resilience and spacing of the fins as explained above.

In Fig. 4 one form attachment **20** is shown in dashed line extended position **20'**. In this extended position of the form attachment the coat hanger is adapted to conveniently support a large oversize garment and to hold same draped properly thereover.

In Figs. 6 to 9, I show a modified form **120** of the coat hanger form attachment. Here the attachment **120** comprises an elongated body **122** and an attached pair of distal fins **124, 126** having substantially perpendicular flanges **125** and **127** respectively. The fins **124** and **126** are placed adjacent each other along the longitudinal axis of the base **122** and the flanges **125** and **127** are cemented or otherwise attached to the base **122** as shown. The outer adjacent edges of the fins **124, 126** may be slightly bevelled to form a V-notch **129** to facilitate placing the attachment **120** over the wire bar **130** of a coat hanger **132**. The fins **124, 126** are also of a height sufficient to embrace and be supported by a portion of the end curve **138** of the wire hanger **132** to prevent turning or rotation of the attachment on the wire bar **130** in use. This form of my invention is shown as cut from a relatively stiff laminated corrugated paperboard and in production may be easily stamped out, bent and assembled very economically. In the stamping operation, the body **122** may also be formed with a convex dorsal surface **134**. The paperboard is preferably of the type having two hard face laminae separated by a corrugated reenforcing lamina all firmly adhered together. Other materials obviously may be used for this purpose but the paperboard shown provides a very economical structure. In Fig. 9, the attachment **120** is shown in place on a wire hanger **132**.

In Figs. 10 to 12 I show a second modification of my coat hanger form attachment. This attachment **220** is also shown as formed of laminated hard paperboard having two smooth hard face laminae and a core lamina of corrugated reenforcing paperboard **221**. In forming this modification the body **222** is cut or stamped out of a suitable sheet of the above described reenforced paperboard and a mitered slot or groove **240** is provided in one surface lamina **219**. This slot is formed by obliquely cutting said surface lamina and the attached intermediate reenforcing layer or core along spaced parallel lines **244, 246** leaving therebetween a narrow plane strip or tongue **242** which is wider at its attached base than at its top. This tongue **242** is then pressure rolled or otherwise compressed downwardly with the intermediate reenforcing layer or core firmly against the inner face of the lamina **221** which may be formed at the same time wtih a convex dorsal outer surface **234** leaving the mitered slot or grooves having bevelled sides **248, 250** for a purpose now to be explained.

A separable attaching strip member **210** having spaced side fins **224, 225** and a base providing oppositely extending basal flanges **226, 227** is shown as formed from a single sheet of metal or other resilient sheet material. The attaching strip member **210** is thus generally U-shaped in cross section with the spring fins **224, 225** spaced to provide a wire receiving slot **228** therebetween. In use the body **222** and the fin carrying strip member **210** may be shipped separately to save space and to be assembled by the user. The user may then take this attaching strip member and insert the flanged end **252** thereof below the bevelled edges **248, 250** at the outer open end of the slot or groove **240**, and push said member **210** into the slot toward and to the closed end thereof as shown in full lines in Fig. 10. The end **252** of the metal strip will thus thread its way into and push aside portions of the intermediate reenforcing lamina **221** so that when fully inserted the attaching strip member **210** is firmly secured in the body **222**. As above stated the space between the base of the spring fins **224, 225** is substantially equal to the diameter of a coat hanger wire and the resilience thereof enables them to firmly grip such coat hanger wire. The fins also extend out normal to the base **222** a distance sufficient to embrace a curved position of the wire coat hanger to support same firmly against turning on the wire.

In all forms of the invention it is to be noted that the body **22, 122** and **222** tapers outwardly from a relatively narrow inner end portion as at **22''** adapted to be adjacent the collar of a garment on the hanger to a wider end portion as **22'** adapted to support the shoulder portions of a garment.

The form attachment of my invention as shown and described herein is easily and economically manufactured i.e., the form shown in Figs. 1 to 5 may be molded or cast, or it may be turned on a lathe such as may be used for turning gun stocks or the like, or it may be milled in any suitable manner. If it is milled, the slots **28** and **36** may be milled at the same time. However, the slots **28** and **36** may be sawed or milled in a suitable previously formed blank.

The forms shown in Figs. 6 to 12 may be stamped or otherwise cut from any suitable material such as the reenforced paperboard shown and are thus so economical to make that they may be used as "give-away" items. Such items may bear advertising matter and be dispensed by dry cleaners along with the wire coat hangers usually supplied with the cleaned garments.

It should be evident from the above that I have produced a form attachment for a wire coat hanger which may be easily applied and which will remain attached to such hanger in desired position thereon and will improve the drape and prevent creasing of a garment hung thereover.

Various modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A form attachment for the upper bar of a wire coat hanger comprising an elongated generally planar body portion having a pair of resilient distal fins projecting outwardly therefrom and substantially normal thereto and extending along the longitudinal axis thereof for a substantial portion of the length of said body portion, said fins being spaced apart less than the thickness of the wire of the wire coat hanger to which the attachment is to be applied to form a slot and being adapted to frictionally engage and embrace the upper wire bar and a portion of the curved end of a wire coat hanger to retain the attachment thereon, said body portion being formed of laminated corrugated paper board, and said fins being laminated corrugated paper angle members with each angle member having one side attached to the body portion and the other side being in face to face relation with the sides of the opposing angle member to form the slot.

2. The structure according to claim 1, wherein the mating outer edges of the projecting sides are bevelled to facilitate attachment over a wire bar of a wire coat hanger.

3. A form attachment for the upper bar of a wire coat hanger comprising, an elongated generally planar body portion formed of relatively stiff materal, said body portion having a pair of longitudinally extending relatively resilient distal fins along the longitudinal axis thereof and projecting outwardly therefrom and extending inwardly from the outer end thereof for a substantial portion of said body, said fins being spaced apart less than the thickness of the wire of the wire coat hanger to which the attachment is to be applied to form a slot to resiliently grip the upper bar of a wire coat hanger, and said fins being of a depth to embrace the upper bar and a portion of the curved end of a wire coat hanger to retain the attachment in position on such hanger and permit longitudinal adjustment thereon.

4. The structure according to claim 3 wherein the fins

comprise a pair of spaced angles formed of corrugated paper.

5. The structure according to claim 3 wherein the base portion is provided with a longitudinal groove and the fins comprise a U-shaped channel having a pair of flanges on the base thereof engaged in the groove.

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