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(54) **GARMENT HANGER**

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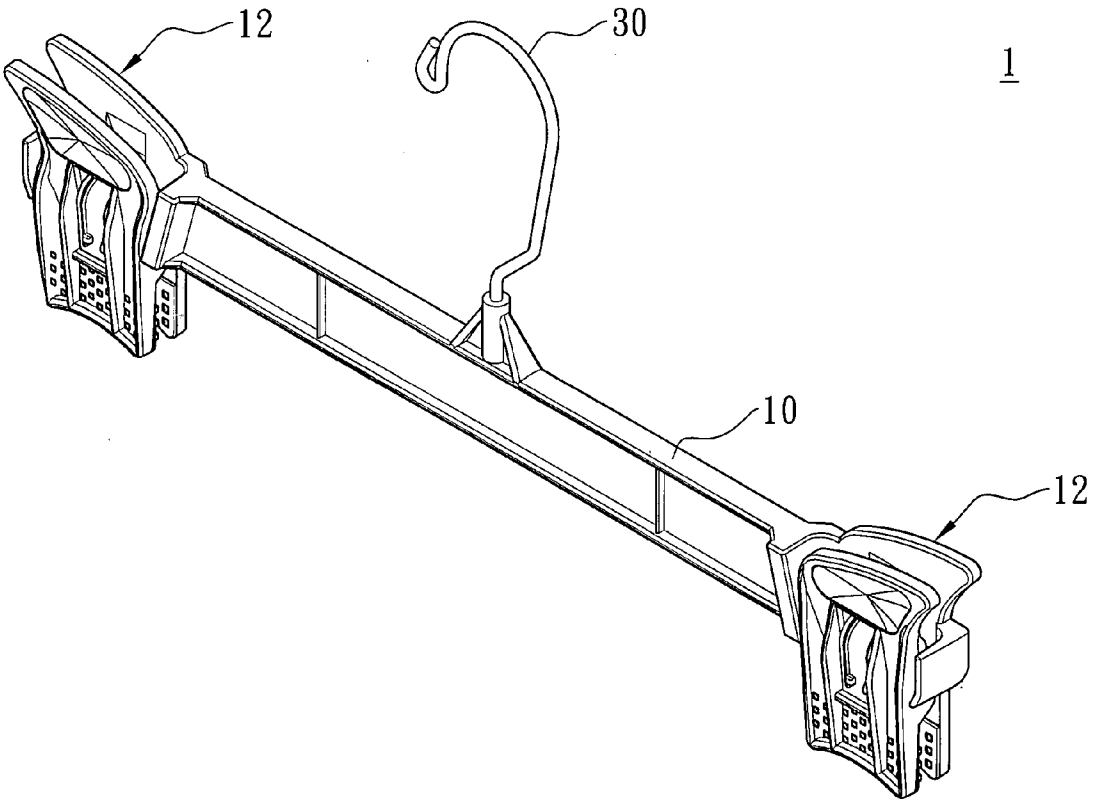
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A garment hanger includes a crosspiece formed with a pair of clothespins and with a hook extending upward therefrom. Each of the clothespins includes a first jaw and a second jaw arranged oppositely, with each jaw having a distal end and a proximal end and having an inner griping surface formed at the distal end. Furthermore, the first jaw has a plurality of holes defined in the gripping surface thereof, while the second jaw has a plurality of blunt protuberances projecting from the gripping surface thereof in positions corresponding to the holes and entering the latter when the clothespin is in the second position, thereby to provide an increased friction of the jaws.



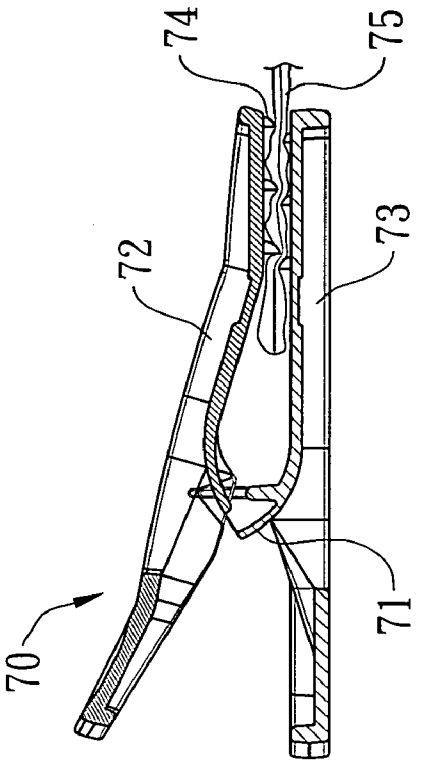


FIG. 1B
(Prior Art)

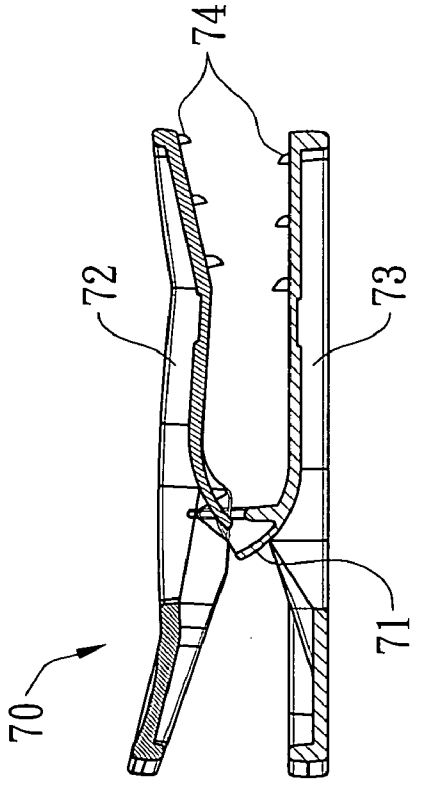


FIG. 1A
(Prior Art)

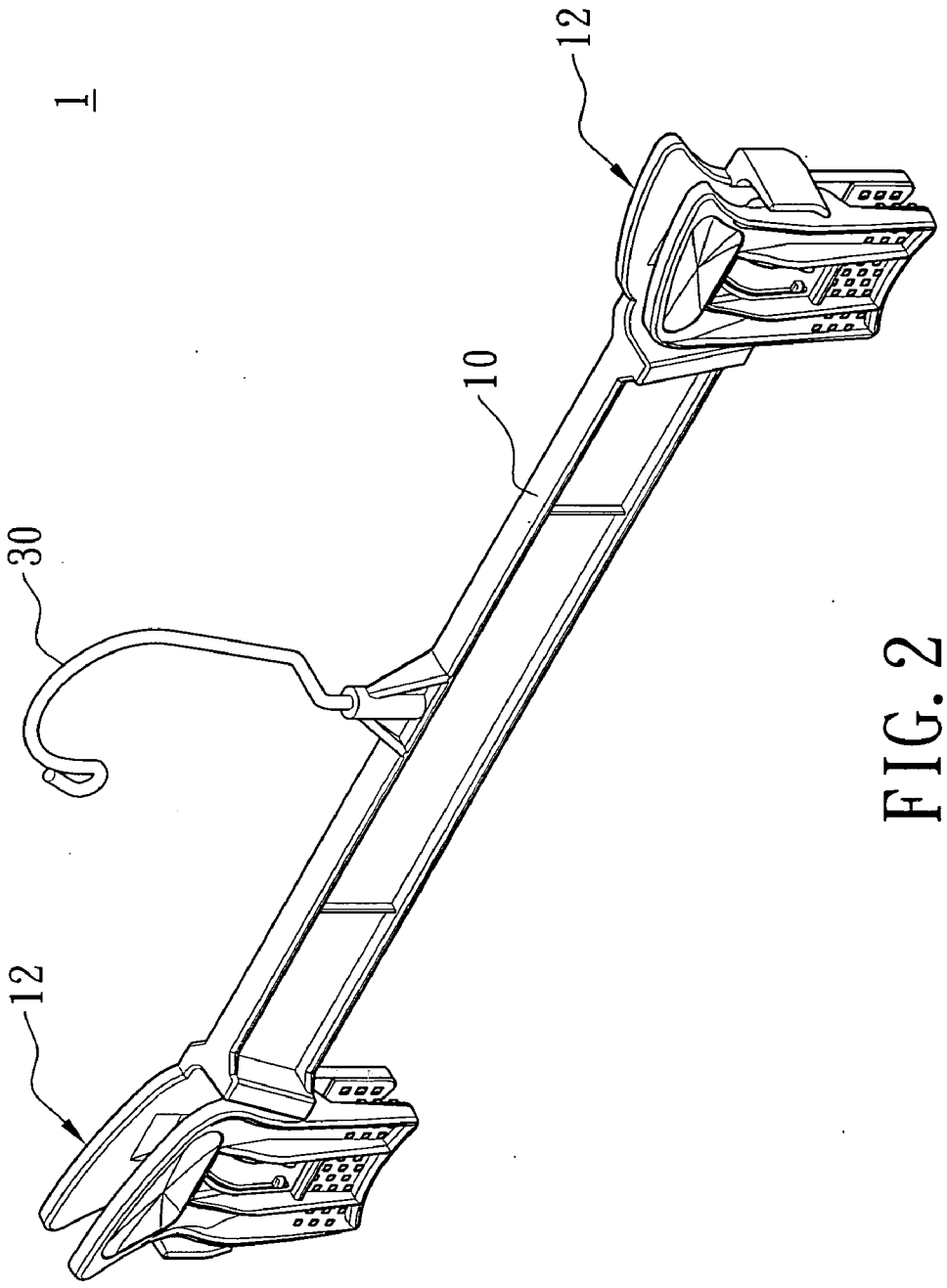


FIG. 2

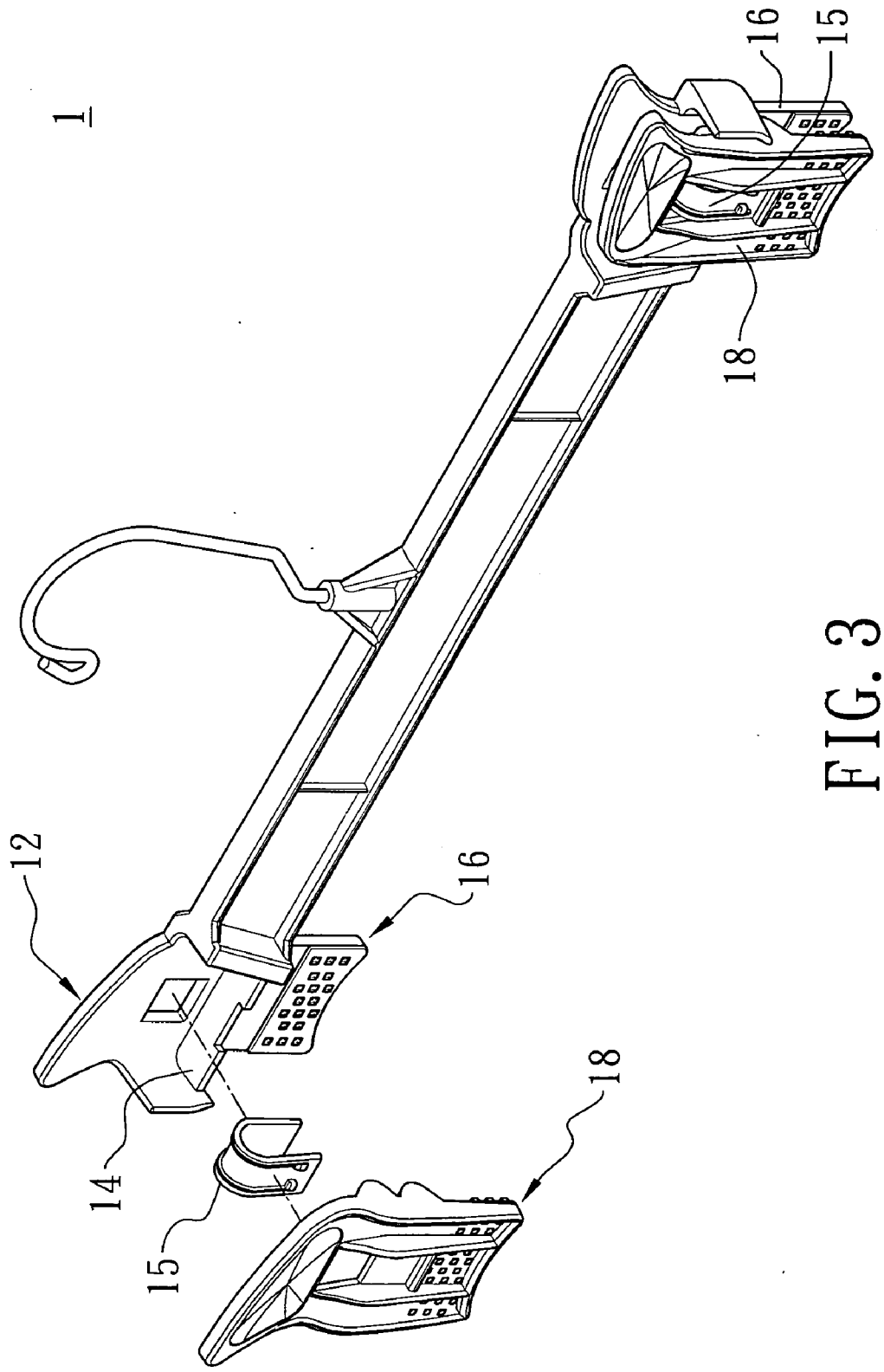


FIG. 3

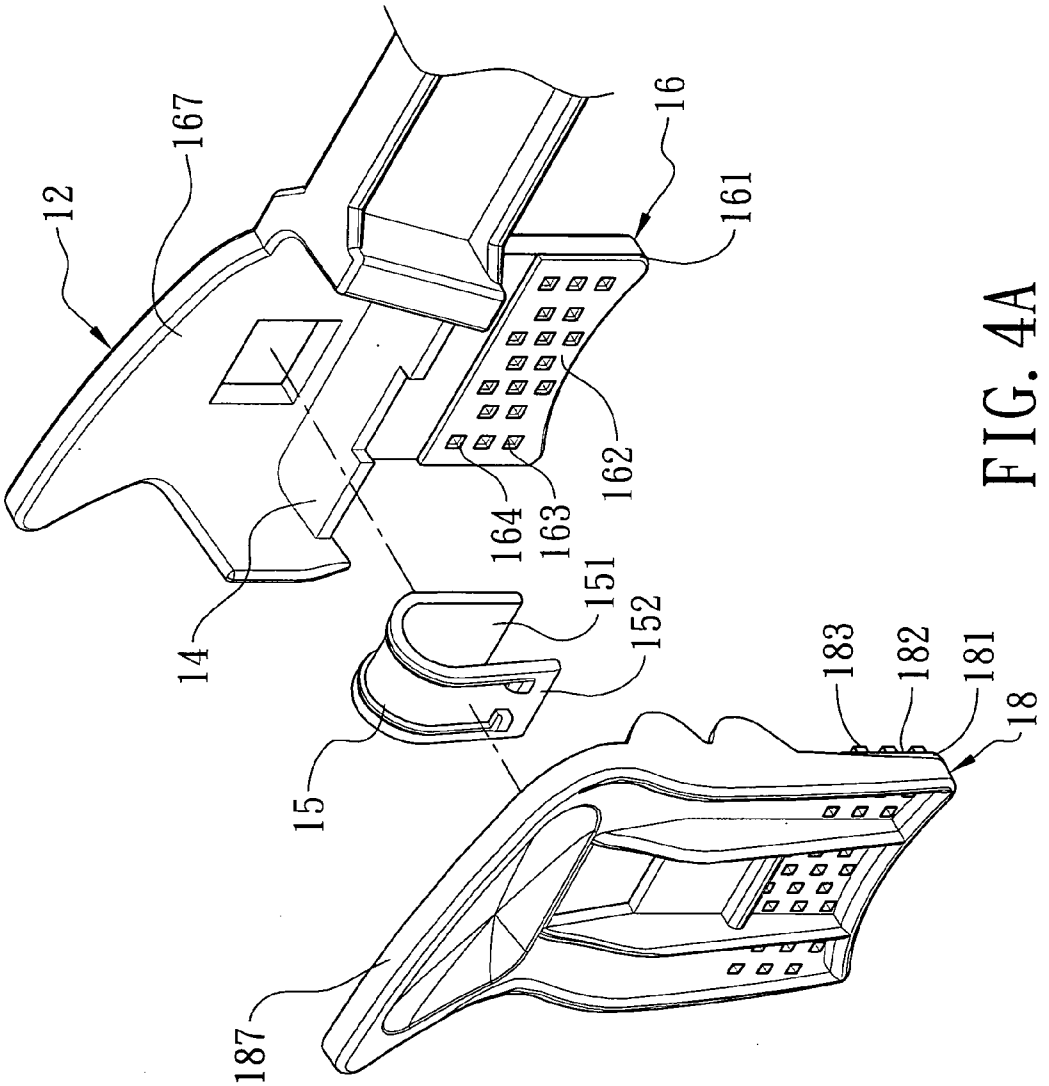


FIG. 4A

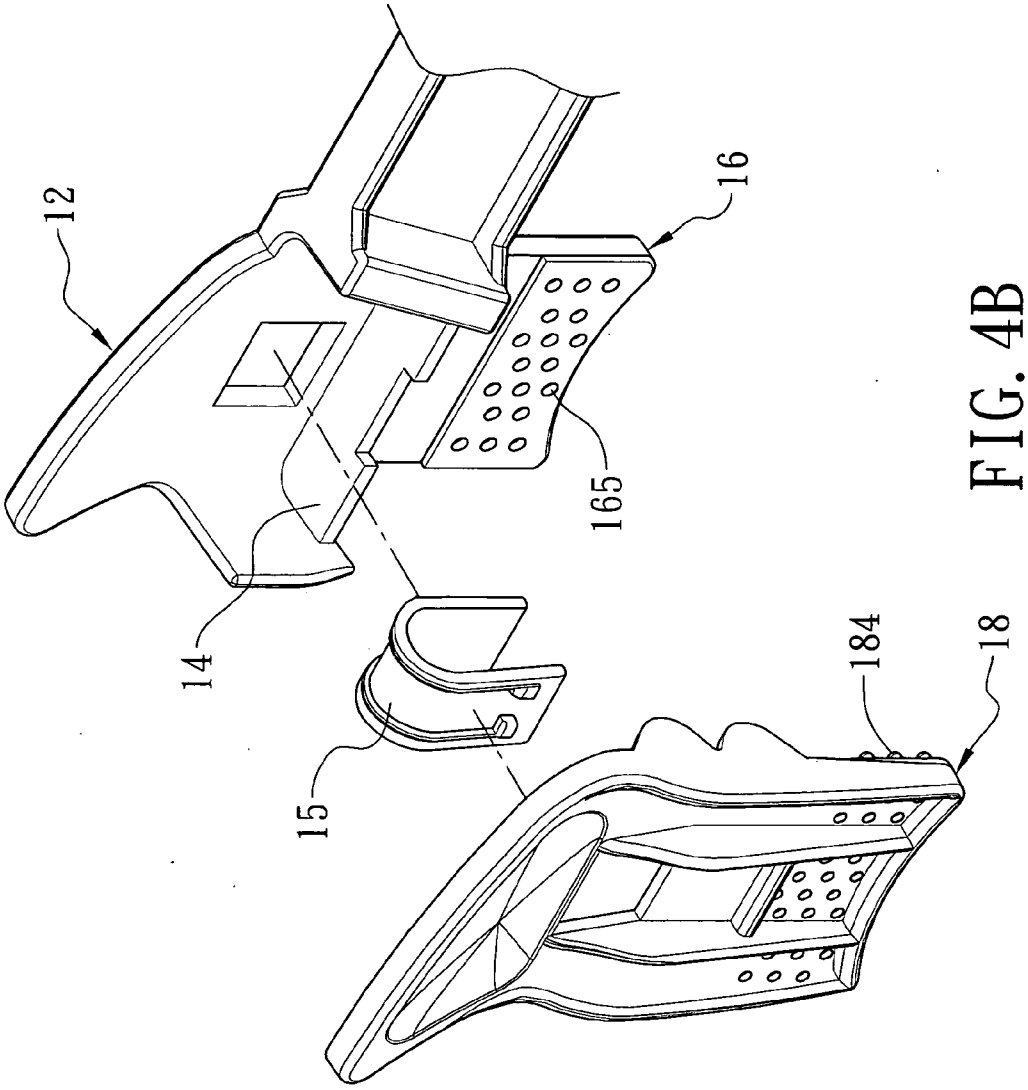


FIG. 4B

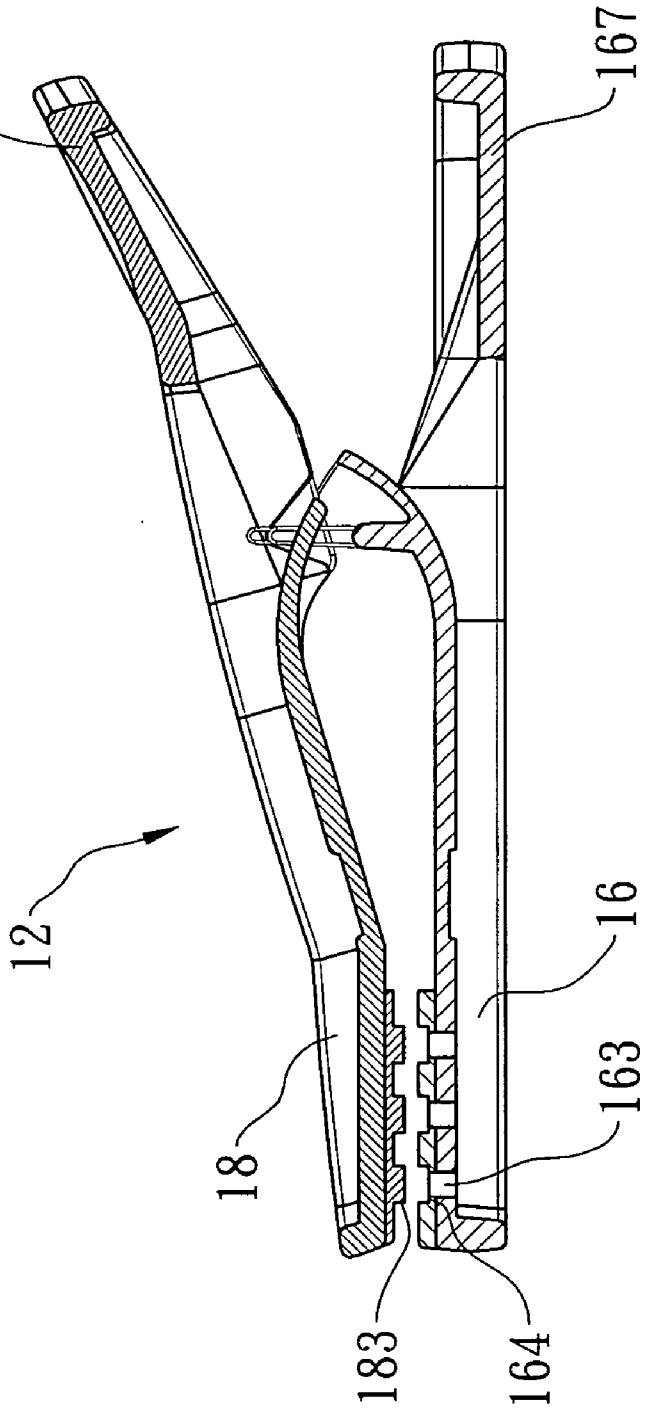


FIG. 5

GARMENT HANGER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a garment hanger and, more particularly, to a garment hanger which is formed with at least one clothespin adapted to securely hold an article of clothing without causing any damages.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Various garment hangers are now available. One of them is formed with clothespins at ends to hold more articles of clothing or even a suit of garments on the same hanger.

Such clothespins are different one from one. Yet they always has a pair of spring-loaded jaws tightly held together in a manner as teeth are clenched.

[0003] FIG. **1**A shows a front sectional view of a conventional clothespin **70**. As can be seen, the clothespin **70** includes a U-shaped spring **71** used to hold a pair of jaws **72** and **73** tightly together. Generally, the opposite jaws **72** and **73** are provided with sharp, canine-like protuberances **74** so as to securely grip and hold up garment made of heavy material, such as jeans. The cruel grip, however, usually does damage to the garment **75** and leaves permanent marks on it, as shown in FIG. **1**B, and so the clothespin **70** is not suitable for garment made of light and soft material, such as silk.

[0004] Therefore, there is a need for an improved garment hanger to overcome the shortcomings of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] It is an object of the present invention to provide a garment hanger which is formed with at least one clothespin adapted to securely hold an article of clothing without causing any damage.

[0006] To achieve the aforementioned objects, the present invention provides a garment hanger including a crosspiece formed with at least one clothespin and with a hook extending upward therefrom. The clothespin includes a first jaw and a second jaw arranged oppositely, with each jaw having a distal end and a proximal end and having an inner griping surface formed at the distal end. The jaws are pivotally connected to each other in a place between the distal end and the proximal end and is pivotal relative to each other between a first position in which the inner griping surfaces are brought apart and a second position in which the inner griping surfaces are brought closer. The jaws are spring-loaded so as to tend to pivot to the second position. Furthermore, the first jaw has a plurality of holes defined in the gripping surface thereof, while the second jaw has a plurality of blunt protuberances projecting from the gripping surface thereof in positions corresponding to the holes. The protuberances enter the holes when the clothespin is in the second position, thereby providing an increased friction for securely holding an article of clothing between the jaws.

[0007] As one aspect of the present invention, the blunt protuberances each have a substantially hemispherical terminal and the holes are shaped correspondingly to receive the protuberances in such shape, thus securely holding the article of clothing without causing any damage.

[0008] Other objects, advantages and novel features of this invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIGS. **1**A and **1**B are front sectional view of a clothespin of prior art;

[0010] FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a garment hanger in accordance with the present invention, with a pair of clothespins being formed at ends of the hanger;

[0011] FIG. **3** is an exploded perspective view of the garment hanger of FIG. **2**;

[0012] FIG. **4**A is an enlarged, exploded perspective view of one of the clothespins shown in FIG. **2**;

[0013] FIG. **4**B is an enlarged, exploded perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the clothespin; and

[0014] FIG. **5** is a sectional view of the clothespin of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0015] FIGS. **2** and **3** show perspective and exploded perspective views of a garment hanger **1** in accordance with the present invention, respectively. The inventive garment hanger **1** includes a crosspiece **10** formed with a hook **30** extending upward therefrom. The hook **30** can be made of plastic, aluminum or any other material suitable for this purpose. The hook **30** may be made separately and have a threaded lower end (not shown) threadedly connected to the crosspiece **10**, or, alternatively, may be made integrally with the crosspiece **10**.

[0016] The crosspiece **10** is formed with a pair of clothespins **12** at its ends. The clothespins **12** can be made of the same material as the crosspiece **10** is made of, and preferably made integrally with the crosspiece **10**. It is to be noticed that a single clothespin **12** may be really required though two are illustrated.

[0017] Referring to FIG. **4**A, each of the clothespins **12** includes a first jaw **16** and a second jaw **18** arranged oppositely. Each of the jaws **16** and **18** has a distal end **161** or **181** and a proximal end **167** or **187**, with an inner griping surface **162** or **182** being formed at the distal end **161** or **181**. The first jaw **16** further includes a wing **14** extending inward from a place between the ends **161** and **167** with its extremity being engaged with a pair of opposite V-shaped notches (only one is shown) of the second jaw **18**. The combination of the wing **14** and the notches here serves as a hinge which pivotally connects the jaws **16** and **18** to each other. The pivotal connection enables the jaws **16** and **18** to be pivotal relative to each other between a first position in which the inner griping surfaces **162** and **182** are brought apart, and a second position in which the inner griping surfaces **162** and **182** are brought closer.

[0018] Furthermore, the two jaws **16** and **18** are spring-loaded by a U-shaped spring **15** which, as shown, has a pair of legs **151** and **152** extending outward through openings (not numbered) of the jaws **16** and **18** and pressed against respective outsides of the same jaws **16** and **18**, making the

jaw **16** and **18** tend to pivot to the second position, as well as preventing the two jaw **16** and **18** from separating.

[**0019**] Under the action of the spring **15**, an article of clothing can be held by the clothespin **12** between the griping surfaces **162** and **182**. The article of clothing can be released simply by pressing the proximal ends **167** and **187** until the jaws **16** and **18** are pivoted to their first position.

[**0020**] In the present invention, the first jaw **16** further includes a plurality of holes **163** defined in its griping surface **162**, while the second jaw **18** includes a plurality of blunt protuberances **183** projecting from its inner griping surface **182** in positions corresponding to the holes **163**. These protuberances **183** enter the holes **163** when the clothespin **12** is in the second position, so as to provide an increased friction for holding the article of clothing between the jaws **16** and **18**. The friction can also be adjusted by changing the arrangement of the holes **163**, which can be arranged either randomly or regularly.

[**0021**] As best shown in FIG. **5**, the holes **163** may be formed with respective inner steps **164**, so that the protuberances **183** are pressed against them when the clothespin **12** is in the second position. In additionally, the blunt protuberances **183** may have a predetermined shape in cross-section, such as a round, as shown in FIG. **4**B, or a square, as shown in FIG. **4**A, while the holes **163** are shaped to mate with the protuberances **183**. In a highly preferred embodiment, as also shown in FIG. **4**B, each of the protuberances **183** has a substantially hemispherical terminal **184** and the holes **163** are shaped correspondingly to receive the protuberances **183** in such shape.

[**0022**] It is preferable that the jaws **16** and **18** are each formed integrally by injection of a material selected from a group consisting of polystyrene, polypropylene, and polyethylene.

[**0023**] From the foregoing, it is apparent that the clothespins **12** can securely hold the article of clothing without causing any damaging, due to the holes and the blunt protuberances.

[**0024**] Although embodiments together with structures and functions of the present invention have been described in detail, many modifications and variations may be made from the teachings disclosed hereinabove. For example, the jaws can be pivotally connected to each other in a way other than the combination of the wing and notches. Therefore, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that any modification and variation equivalent to the spirit of the present invention be regarded to fall into the scope covered by the appended claims.

1. A garment hanger comprising a crosspiece formed with at least one clothespin and with a hook extending upward therefrom; and

said clothespin comprising a first jaw and a second jaw arranged oppositely, each of said jaws having a distal end and a proximal end and having an inner griping surface formed at said distal end, said jaws being pivotally connected to each other in a place between said distal end and said proximal end and being pivotal relative to each other between a first position in which said inner griping surfaces are brought apart and a second position in which said inner griping surfaces are brought closer, said jaws being spring-loaded so as to tend to pivot to said second position;

wherein said first jaw has a plurality of holes defined in said inner gripping surface thereof, while said second jaw has a plurality of blunt protuberances projecting from said inner gripping surface thereof in positions corresponding to said holes, and said protuberances are configured to both enter and be surrounded by said holes when said clothespin is in said second position, thereby providing an increased friction for securely holding an article of clothing between said jaws.

2. The garment hanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein said holes are formed with respective inner steps, and wherein said protuberances are pressed against said inner steps when said clothespin is in said second position.

3. The garment hanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein said blunt protuberances have a predetermined shape in cross-section, and wherein said holes are shaped to mate with said blunt protuberances.

4. The garment hanger as claimed in claim 1, wherein said blunt protuberances each have a substantially hemispherical terminal, and wherein said holes are shaped correspondingly to receive said protuberances in such shape.

5. A clothespin comprising a first jaw and a second jaw arranged oppositely, each of said jaws having a distal end and a proximal end and having an inner griping surface formed at said distal end, said jaws being pivotally connected to each other in a place between said distal end and said proximal end and being pivotal relative to each other between a first position in which said inner griping surfaces are brought apart and a second position in which said inner griping surfaces are brought closer, said jaws being spring-loaded so as to tend to pivot to said second position; and

wherein said first jaw has a plurality of holes defined in said inner gripping surface thereof, while said second jaw has a plurality of blunt protuberances projecting from said inner gripping surface thereof in positions corresponding to said holes, and said protuberances are configured to both enter and be surrounded by said holes when said clothespin is in said second position, thereby providing an increased friction for securely holding an article between said jaws.

6. The clothespin as claimed in claim 5, wherein said holes are formed with respective inner steps, and wherein said protuberances are pressed against said inner steps when said clothespin is in said second position.

7. The clothespin as claimed in claim 5, wherein said blunt protuberances have a predetermined shape in cross-section, and wherein said holes are shaped to mate with said blunt protuberances.

8. The clothespin as claimed in claim 5, wherein said blunt protuberances each have a substantially hemispherical terminal, and wherein said holes are shaped correspondingly to receive said protuberances in such shape.

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