Dec. 8, 1931. W. P. DE SAUSSURE, JR 1,835,762

HAT AND COAT RACK

Filed Dec. 12, 1928 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

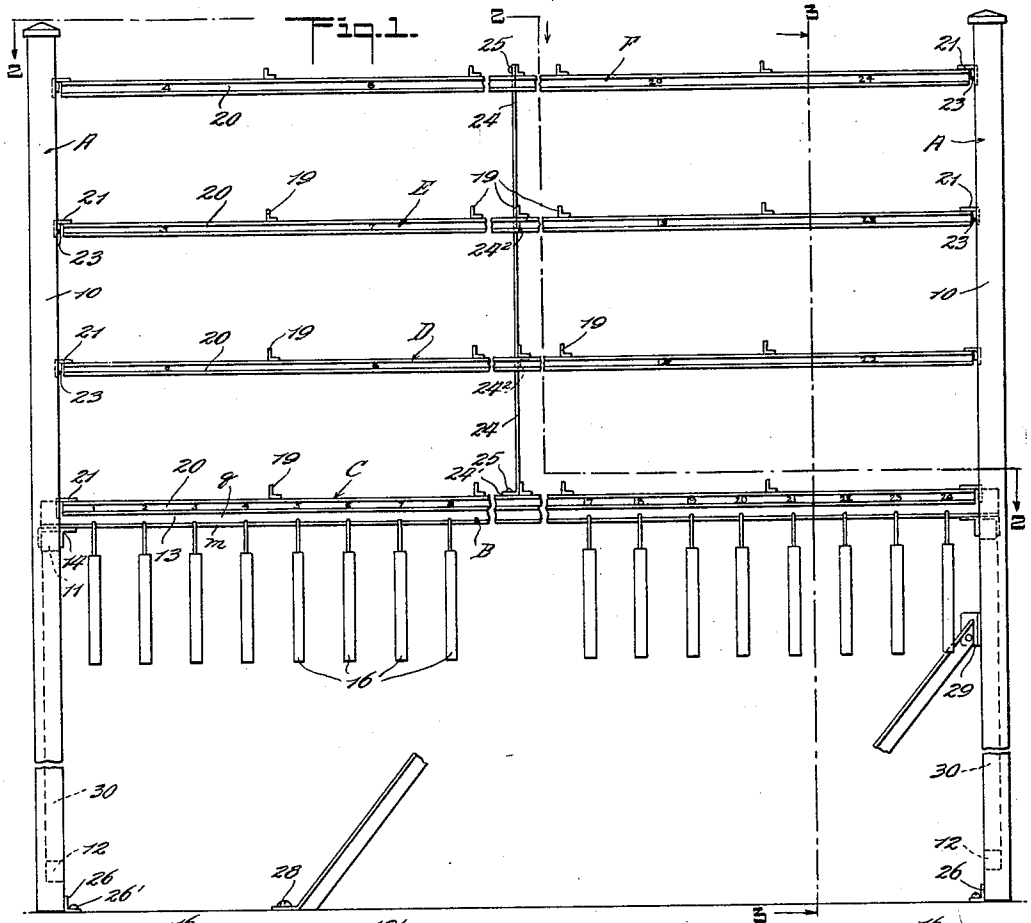
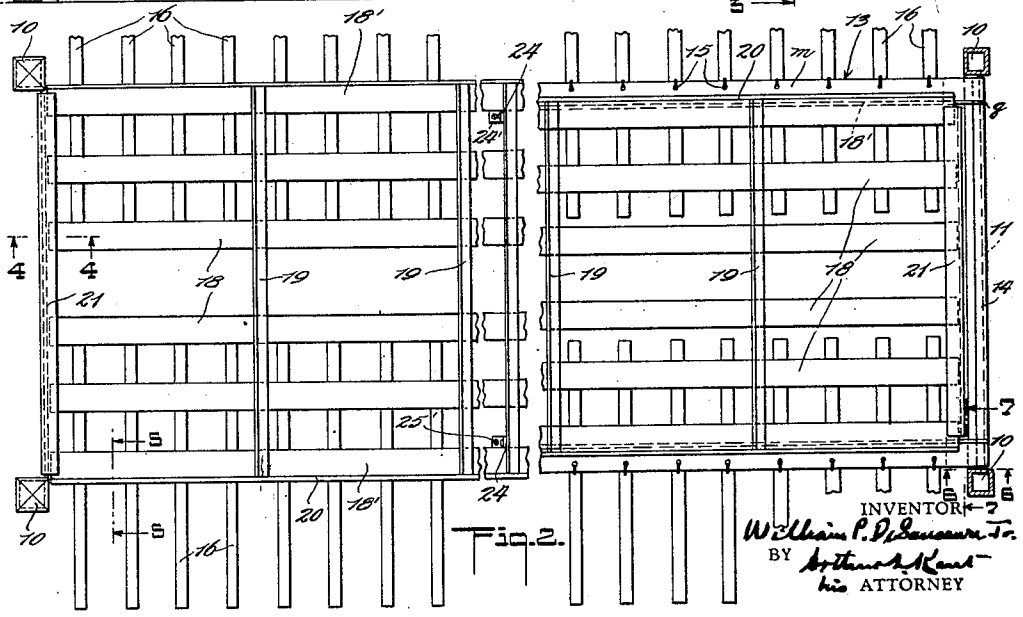


Fig. 2.

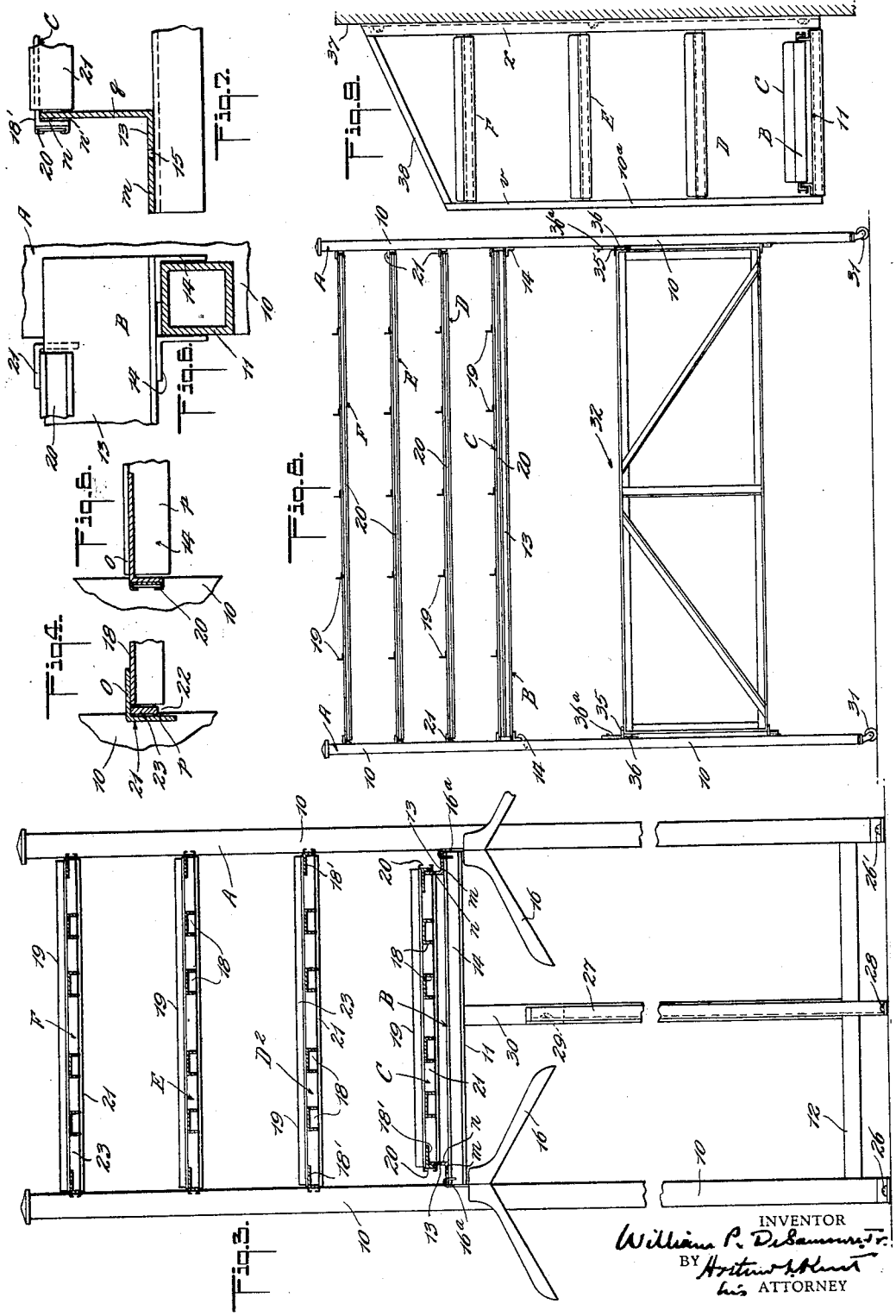


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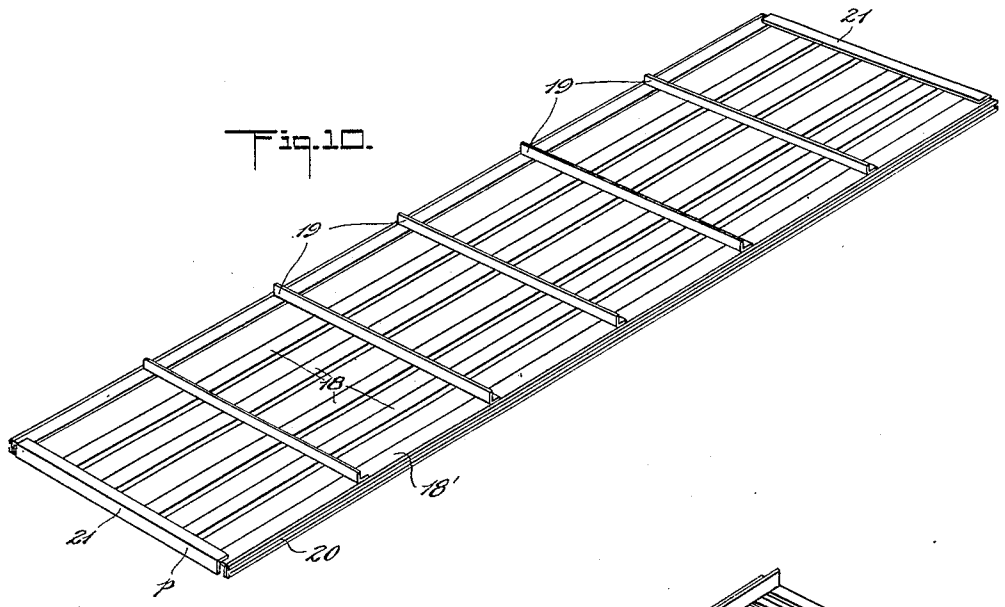
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HAT AND COAT RACK

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Fig. 10.



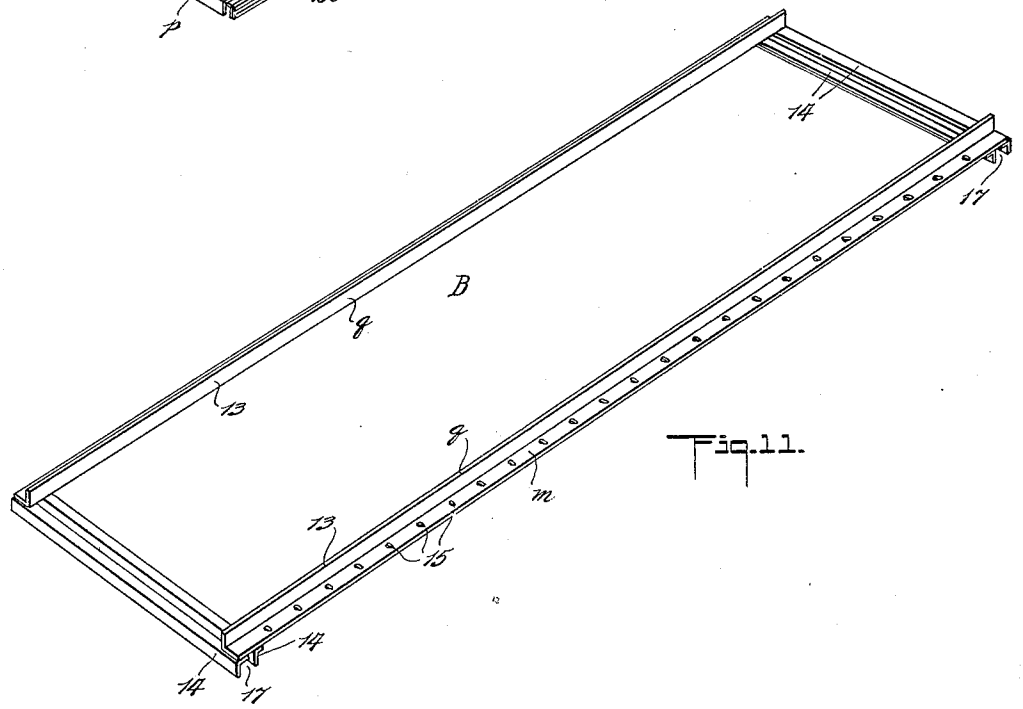


Fig. 11.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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HAT AND COAT RACK

Application filed December 12, 1928. Serial No. 325,542.

The present invention relates to combined hat and coat racks, and has for its general object the provision of an improved rack or support for coats and other garments, hats, parcels and the like for use in restaurants and other places, which possesses the merits of simple, compact and relatively inexpensive construction, and which while made up of parts or units which may readily be assembled and set up or disassembled, is, when assembled, particularly rigid and substantial. My improved rack has the further advantages of being, if desired, readily portable when assembled, and of occupying a comparatively small space in relation to its capacity as a holder or container for hats, garments and the like. Other advantages will appear hereinafter.

To the above and other ends my invention consists in the features of construction, combinations of devices and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The invention will be described in detail in connection with the drawings which illustrate the preferred form and modifications thereof.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a rack constructed in accordance with the invention, parts being broken away to indicate that it may be of greater length than illustrated in the drawings;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the rack as shown in Fig. 1 but with a portion in section and taken substantially on the section line 2—2 of Fig. 1 to illustrate details of construction;

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view of the rack and is taken substantially on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view taken substantially on line 5—5 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail fragmentary sectional view taken substantially on line 6—6 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary detail sectional view taken substantially on line 7—7 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 8 is a side elevation of a modified construction of rack having the feature of portability;

Fig. 9 illustrates a further modified construction adapted for attachment to a wall or other stationary support;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of one of the hat supporting shelves; and

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of the coat supporting horizontal frame of the rack.

Referring first to the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 7, inclusive, 10 and 11, the rack comprises a knock-down framework or skeleton structure made up of a number of detachable elements or units. These elements or units include two end frames each designated generally by the reference character A, a lower supporting frame B for garments such as coats, and a plurality of overlying shelf elements C, D, E and F adapted to support hats, parcels and the like. The end frames are set vertically and are detachably connected by the horizontal shelf elements in such a way as to provide a rigid structure as will subsequently be set forth in detail.

Each end frame A comprises a pair of vertical posts 10 spaced apart and held in rigid relationship by horizontal cross bars 11 and 12, the bar 11 being positioned at a point about midway the length of the posts and the bar 12 connecting their lower end portions. The posts and the connecting cross bars are of metal and, as will be understood by reference to Figs. 2 and 6, are square in cross section and hollow, the parts being preferably welded together. The construction has marked advantages particularly as compared with angle iron frames, the employment of the hollow square posts and cross bars resulting in great rigidity and strength although of comparatively light weight.

Extending between the pair of end frames A is the horizontal frame B which as perhaps most clearly disclosed in Fig. 11 is composed of a pair of side rails 13 formed of angle bars connected at each end by a pair of cross bars 14 which preferably are angle

bars and are connected to the side rails 13 by welding. Said rails 13 are spaced apart a distance equal substantially to the space between the posts 10 of the end frames. The angle bars which constitute each pair of end bars 14 are disposed so that they have depending flanges and are spaced apart sufficiently to enable each pair of these depending flanges to receive between them one of the end frame cross bars 11. The frame B serves a double purpose, it being the main spacing and connecting frame between the end frames A, while its side rails 13 also serve as supports for coats or other garments. To adapt the rails for supporting purposes in the construction shown they are so arranged that each has one flange *m* extending horizontally outward and perforated to provide a series of openings indicated at 15 suitably spaced apart to receive the hooks or suspending members 16*a* of garment or coat hangers 16. It will be noted that the channels or grooves 17 provided by each pair of end bars 14 are adapted to slidably fit over and thus detachably engage the cross bars 11.

When it is desired to give additional strength to the frames B, as when their length is extended, the side rails may conveniently be made of the necessary greater strength by forming them each of two angle bars arranged so that their opposite flanges are in contact, providing in effect an inverted T-bar.

The shelf elements C, D, E and F are substantially alike, although, as clearly appears, the lower shelf C differs slightly from the others. The shelves are most desirably constructed from stock material such as metal strips commonly referred to as channel bars and L-angle bars.

Particularly referring to Figure 10, it will be seen that each shelf is composed of a plurality of parallel spaced bars 18 connected at their ends by cross bars 21, the bars 18 as shown being channel bars set with their channel sides facing downward, except that the outermost bars, or side bars 18′, are plain angle bars set with one flange extending inward horizontally and the other downward. The cross bars 21 are preferably of angle iron so arranged that the flange *o* of each is horizontally disposed and overlies the bars 18 while the other flange *p* depends and in the shelves D, E and F is spaced from the ends of the bars 18 as most clearly appears from Fig. 4. The bars 18 and the bars 21 are most desirably connected by welding. The space between the flange *p* and the associate ends of the bars 18 of the shelves D, E and F, which for convenience of description is designated in Fig. 4 by the reference character 22, provides a sort of slot or channel-way which fits over horizontal ties or cross bars 23 extending between each pair of posts 10 to which they are welded or otherwise secured.

The construction is such that the shelves are readily attached to or detached from the end frames A by reason of what may be called the slot and bar connection 22, 23. The cross bars or ties 23 are above the cross bars 11 of the end frames and so spaced as to provide a sufficient distance between the shelves to receive and accommodate on the shelves hats, parcels and the like. It is to be understood that the construction above described applies to the shelves D, E and F, the lowermost shelf being supported on the frame B as hereinafter described.

Transverse bars 19 preferably of angle iron are arranged at intervals on the upper faces of the channel bars 18 and secured thereto in any suitable way, as by welding, the bars 19 serving the double purpose of lending rigidity and strength to the shelves and also affording convenient hat or parcel divisions. To the outer faces of the depending flanges *n* of the side bars 18′ of each of the shelves are secured channel strips or grooved elements 20 adapted to receive cards, tickets or the like (see Figs. 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10).

The construction of all of the shelves as above described is alike except that the lowermost shelf C is narrowed sufficiently to enable it to rest on the frame B, instead of on tie rods such as 23 used in supporting the upper shelves.

The shelf C is of such width that it does not extend over the hangar openings 15 in the side rails 13 of the frame B as will be clear from Figs. 2, 3 and 7, but its outside bars 18′ seat on the upstanding flanges *q* of the side rails 13 with their depending flanges *n* outside the flanges *q*. The flanges *n* cooperate with the outer ends of the transverse angle bars 21 at the ends of the shelf C to form in effect pockets *n′* which cooperate with the flange *q* to prevent sidewise displacement of the shelf C.

The shelf members when constructed as shown and described have been found in practice not to require intermediate bracing or supports unless the shelves are of very light material or the rack is very long. If, however, the rack is of such length that the shelves would otherwise sag, the shelves may be prevented from sagging and the structure as a whole additionally strengthened by the employment of one or more pairs of vertical supports or bars 24 arranged inside the channel bars 18′ of the upper shelves D, E and F, the bars 24 of each pair being secured as by screws or bolts 25 to one of the angle bars 19 of the top shelf, and at their lower ends having feet 24′ which rest on the tops of the channel bars 18′ of the shelf C and are secured thereto as by screws or bolts 25′. The intermediate shelves D and E are supported by offsets 24^2 on the bars 24 which extend beneath cross bars 19 of the shelves.

If the set-up rack is to remain in a stationary position, the posts 10 may be fastened to the floor in any suitable way as by angled cleats 26 secured in place as by screws 26′, and in such case the rack is, most desirably, longitudinally braced by an angled brace 27 diagonally arranged within and below the rack with one end resting on the floor and secured thereto at 28, and having its upper end secured at 29 to a vertical strut 30 of one of the end frames A. Each end frame may have a strut 30 positioned between its pair of posts 10 and extending between the bars 11 and 12 of the end frame.

When, however, the rack is to be portable, the lower ends of the posts 10 may be provided with casters or rollers 31 and the rack is most desirably braced by a frame or truss 32, as shown in Fig. 8. The upper and lower corners of the truss at each end are provided with lugs or fingers 35 which extend downward and are received in sockets 36 on the struts 30 of the end frames A, the construction affording ready application of the truss to the rack and detachment therefrom. The truss is held in place by pivoted latches 36*a*.

The shelves C, D, E and F of the racks shown in Figs. 1 to 8 and 10 and 11 are of a width sufficient to receive and accommodate two rows of hats which are put in from opposite sides, the angle bars 19 being so spaced as to provide hat compartments of proper width. In practice it has been found that four garments or coats may conveniently be hung from each of the garment supporting rails 13 in the space corresponding to the width of a hat compartment, and the openings 15 for the garment hangers are spaced accordingly. There will thus be four hat compartments located one above another on the four shelves over each four hanger openings, or over each four hangers which may be hung on each of the rails 13; and for each garment hung from either of the rails 13 there will be a compartment within easy reach for the accompanying hat. The hanger openings 15 are most desirably serially numbered or marked with other identifying indicia, and the corresponding hat compartments are correspondingly marked. In the construction shown, this marking is by means of strips or cards 20*a* bearing the numbers or other indicia placed in the channel strips 20 on the edges of the shelves. The numbers thus provided on the edges of the shelf C mark the hanger openings 15, and the first one of each four of these numbers marks the shelf C hat compartment; and the hat compartments of the shelves D, E and F are marked by numbers on the edges of these shelves. When a coat and hat are checked, the hanger holding the coat is hung in one of the openings 15 in one of the rails 13 and the accompanying hat is placed in the correspondingly numbered hat compartment above, the owner of the articles receiving a correspondingly numbered check. For example, the owner whose coat is hung at position marked 1 will have his hat placed on shelf C immediately above; and the coat placed at 19 will have its companion hat in the compartment marked 19 directly above on shelf E. When a duplicate check system is used, the garments or other articles being tagged with the number of the check given to the owner, will be placed on the rack at the correspondingly numbered positions.

In Fig. 9 is shown a modification which is particularly adapted to be applied to a wall or other stationary side support. The Fig. 9 construction is largely the same as that disclosed in Figs. 1 to 7. However, the rack is of single width to receive a single row of coats and a single row of hats on each shelf, and the lower portions of the outer or suspended supporting posts 10*a* terminate at the frame B, the lower or leg portions of the prior construction being dispensed with. The posts 10*a* are spaced from the wall at each end of the rack, and the companion posts designated as *x* are suitably attached directly to the wall or supporting element 37, the posts 10*a* and the posts *x* being connected at their tops by cross bars or braces 38 which extend diagonally upward from the posts 10*a*, as preferably the wall supports *x* are longer than the outer posts 10*a*.

The rack or holder provided by the present invention is simple and inexpensive to construct, being made, if desired, almost entirely of stock material, and its framework, comprising members made of hollow tubing square in cross section, has unusual rigidity combined with comparatively light weight. The rack is of knock-down construction so that it is readily assembled or taken apart for shipment or storage, without the use of tools, no screws or bolts being employed in setting up the rack except when the brace 27 and the bars 24 are used.

The plurality of parallel horizontal cross frames or shelf members detachably interlock with the vertical end frames through what has been referred to as slot and bar connections, in such a way that while the cross frames may be readily slipped into and out of place, they constitute with the end frames when assembled a particularly tight and unyielding frame-work which is without looseness and consequent tendency to rattle or chatter. When set up for use the rack presents an attractive appearance and its parts are so related as to provide a maximum of space for the accommodation of garments, hats, parcels and the like in a systematic manner which facilitates indentification and consequent speed of service.

Where in the claims such terms as hat and coat rack, coat supports, hat shelves and the like are employed, it is to be understood that

these are not to be interpreted as limiting the rack to employment in connection with coats, hats and the like, specifically. Various changes may be made without departing from the invention.

What I claim is:

1. A rack of the character described, comprising vertical end frames each comprising two spaced hollow metal uprights square in cross-section connected by a cross bar of metal angular in cross-section welded thereto and having above said cross bar a plurality of shelf supporting cross bars, and a detachable garment supporting frame connected to the first said cross bar, a hat shelf seated on said garment supporting frame, and a plurality of hat shelves detachably connected to said shelf supporting cross bars.

2. A knock-down hat and coat rack, having skeletonized vertical end frames, and skeletonized horizontal connecting frames detachably connected to said end frames, one of said horizontal frames comprising longitudinal rails having outwardly extending flanges provided with openings to receive hooks of garment hangers.

3. A rack for the purposes described, which comprises a horizontal frame having garment supporting side rails each having an outwardly extending garment supporting flange, a hat shelf resting on said rails, said shelf being narrower than the frame to avoid interference with the function of the side rails as garment supports and means for supporting said frame adjacent each end thereof.

4. A rack for the purposes described, which comprises a horizontal frame having garment supporting side rails each having an upstanding flange and an outwardly extending garment supporting flange, a hat shelf resting on said rails and provided with slots or seats which cooperate with the upstanding flanges of the rails to prevent sidewise displacement of the shelf and means for supporting said frame adjacent each end thereof.

5. A rack for the purposes described, which comprises a horizontal frame having garment supporting side rails, a hat shelf resting on said rails and provided with slots or seats which cooperate with upstanding flanges of the rails to prevent sidewise displacement of the shelf, said rails also being provided with horizontal flanges extending beyond the sides of the shelf and having devices for receiving garment hangers and means for supporting said frame adjacent each end thereof.

6. A rack for the purposes described, comprising end supports, and a plurality of shelves connecting said end supports, each shelf comprising a plurality of longitudinal bars connected at their ends by cross bars each of which cross bars has a downwardly extending flange spaced from the ends of the longitudinal bars to provide a slot-way or channel cooperative with portions of the end supports.

7. A rack for the purposes described, comprising end supports, and a plurality of shelves connecting said end supports, each shelf comprising a plurality of longitudinal bars connected at their ends by cross bars each of which cross bars has a downwardly extending flange spaced from the ends of the longitudinal bars to provide a slot-way or channel cooperative with portions of the end supports, and strengthening bars spaced apart and fixed at intervals transversely of the longitudinal bars, said strengthening bars providing hat compartments.

8. In a coat and hat rack, a shelf comprising a plurality of spaced bars extending longitudinally of the shelf, an angle iron cross bar at each end of the shelf having one flange thereof secured to the upper surface of the longitudinal bars and the other flange extending downwardly and spaced from the ends of the longitudinal bars to provide a channel, and transverse angle bars secured to the upper surfaces of said longitudinal bars at intervals in the length of the shelf.

9. A hat and coat rack, comprising two end frames each including a pair of spaced supporting posts connected intermediate their ends by a cross bar, a horizontal coat supporting frame including a pair of spaced side rails connected at their ends by transverse members having spaced depending flanges to provide a channel at each end of the coat frame to detachably receive and of a width to fit over said cross bars of the end frames, and superposed hat supporting shelves extending between said end frames and having a detachable interlocking engagement with said end frames, whereby the rack is braced.

10. A hat and coat rack comprising two end frames each including a pair of spaced supporting posts connected intermediate their ends by a cross bar, a horizontal coat supporting frame including a pair of spaced side rails connected at their ends by transverse members having spaced depending flanges to provide a channel at each end of the coat frame to detachably receive and slip over said cross bars of the end frames, a hat shelf having depending members fitting down over said side rails of the coat frame, and outwardly extending flanges on said side rails of the coat frame projecting beyond said hat shelf to be detachably engaged by a plurality of coat suspending devices.

11. A hat and coat rack, comprising two end frames each including a pair of spaced supporting posts connected intermediate their ends by a cross bar, a horizontal coat supporting frame including a pair of spaced side rails connected at their ends by trans-

verse members having spaced depending flanges to provide a channel at each end of the coat frame to detachably receive and slip over said cross bars of the end frames, superposed tie rods extending between the posts of each end frame above the cross bar, and a plurality of hat shelves each formed with transverse channels on the underside of its end portions to receive and fit over adjacent tie rods on the end frames, whereby said coat frame and hat shelves are in detachable interlocking engagement and said rack structure is braced.

12. A hat and coat rack, comprising two end frames each including a pair of spaced supporting posts connected intermediate their ends by a cross bar, a horizontal coat supporting frame including a pair of spaced side rails connected at their ends by transverse members having spaced depending flanges to provide a channel at each end of the coat frame to detachably receive and slip over said cross bars of said end frames, superposed tie rods extending between the posts of each end frame above the cross bar, and a plurality of hat shelves each formed with transverse channels on the underside of its end portions to receive and fit over adjacent tie rods on the end frames, whereby said coat frame and hat shelves are in detachable interlocking engagement and said rack structure is braced, said end frames each further having a transverse cross bar connecting the posts thereof adjacent the lower ends of the latter, a vertical strut positioned between said cross bars on the frame and connected thereto, and a brace member extending between said frames and detachably connected to said struts.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

WILLIAM P. DE SAUSSURE, JR.