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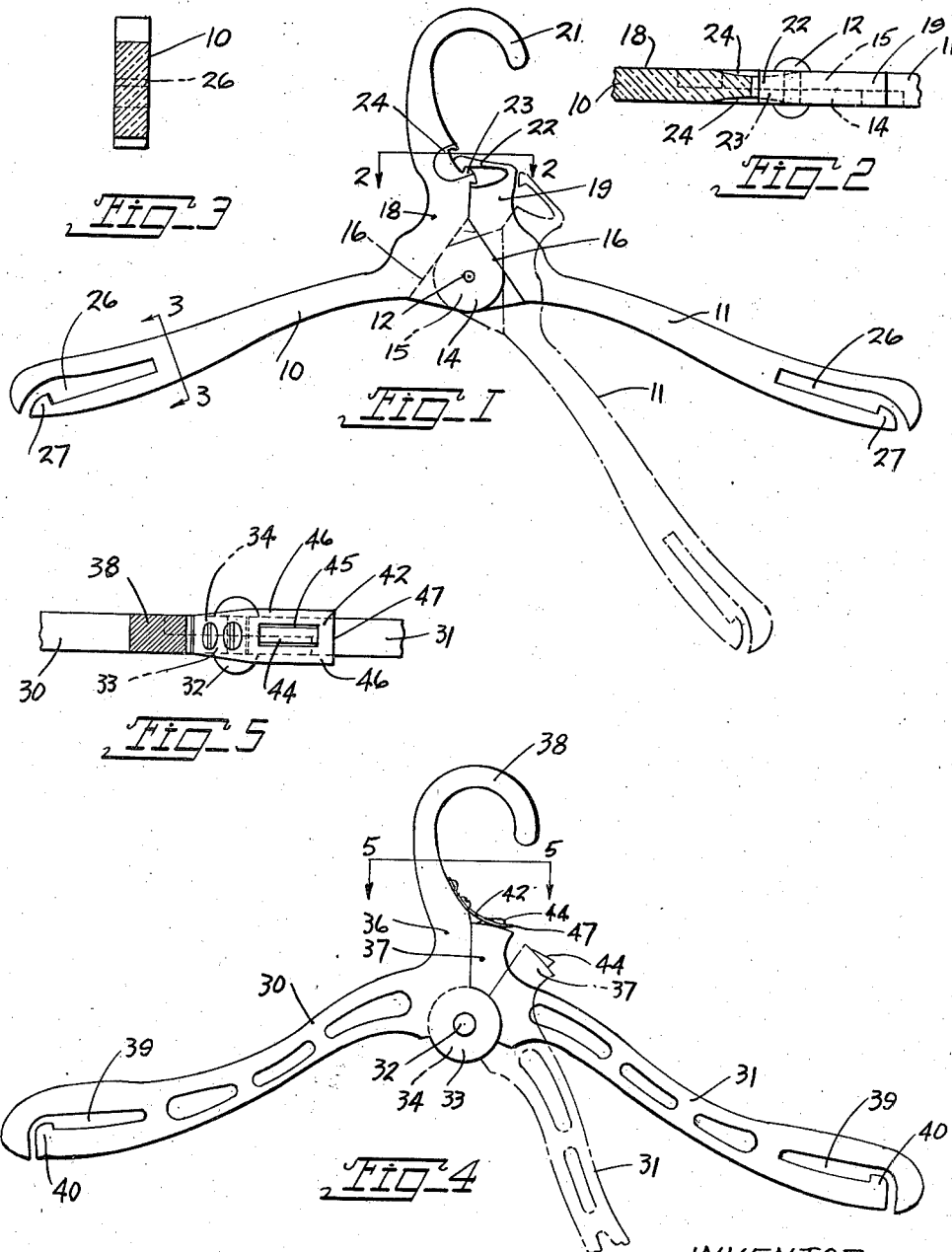
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2,440,637

CLOTHES HANGER

Filed Jan. 3, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

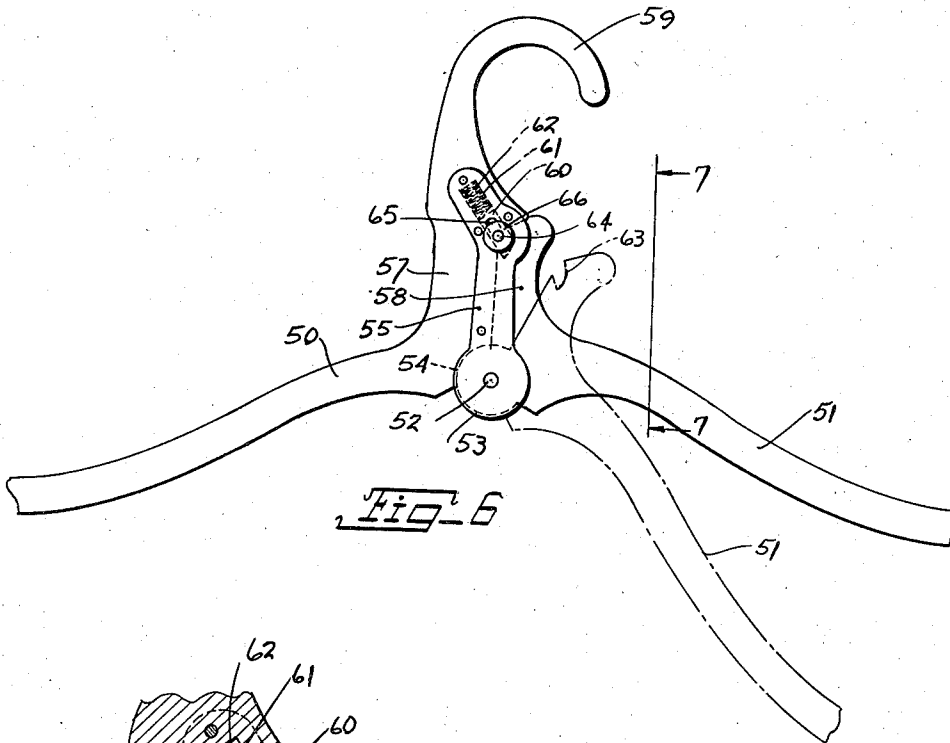


Fig. 6

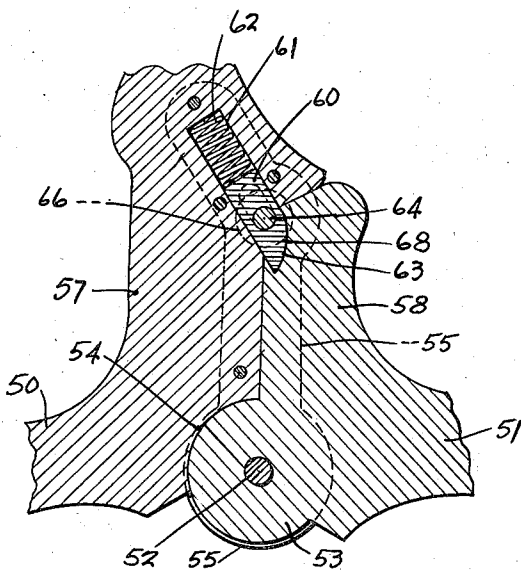
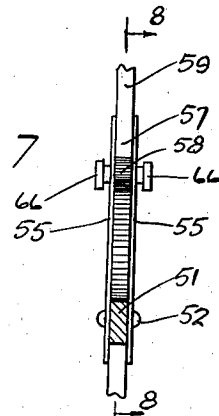


Fig. 8

Fig. 7



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CLOTHES HANGER

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Application January 3, 1946, Serial No. 638,834

3 Claims. (Cl. 223—94)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in clothes hangers.

This application is directed to similar subject matter as disclosed in my copending application for a clothes hanger Serial No. 627,909, filed November 10, 1945.

This application particularly covers improved handles for operating the pair of shoulder pieces so that the hanger may be readily manipulated with one hand. With the improved handle portions it is a simple matter to pivot the shoulder pieces of the hanger.

The invention also proposes new and improved latch means for releasably holding the handle portions together.

Another object of the invention is the construction of a device as described, which is simple and durable and which may be manufactured and sold at a reasonable cost.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claims in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a clothes hanger constructed in accordance with one form of this invention, the dot and dash lines schematically indicate a partially closed position of the hanger.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of another clothes hanger embodying another form of this invention.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary enlarged horizontal sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary elevational view of still another clothes hanger constructed in accordance with still another form of this invention.

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary enlarged transverse sectional view taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7.

The new and improved clothes hanger, as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, includes a pair of shoulder pieces 10, 11 constructed of substantially flat material and hingedly connected together at their adjacent bottom portions with a pinle pin or rivet 12. The bottom portions of

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the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 are cut out so as to form portions 14 and 15 of reduced thicknesses which are engaged adjacent each other. The portions 14 and 15 are also provided with abutting shoulders 16 which limits pivoting of the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 from a substantially horizontal position upwards. However, the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 are free to pivot downwards.

The shoulder pieces 10 and 11 are provided with upwardly directed handle portions 18 and 19, respectively. These handle portions project upwards from points close to and above the hinge of the shoulder pieces 10 and 11. The handle portions 18 and 19 normally abut each other, and further assist in limiting pivoting of said shoulder pieces from the horizontal position upwards.

The handle portion 18 continues into a top hook 21 by which the hanger may be supported. A latch is connected with the handle portions 18 and 19 for releasably holding said handle portions. This latch comprises a flexible element or hook portion 22 formed on the top and projecting from the handle portion 19 and engageable with a complementary keeper element 23 formed on the handle portion 18. The sides of the handle portion 18 are formed with recesses 24 in the vicinity of the complementary keeper element 23 so as to provide room for the finger tips when the hook portion 22 is manually gripped. This facilitates manual opening of the latch. The front of the hook portion 22 is curved and engageable against a complementary curve formed on the complementary keeper portion 23 which causes the latch to automatically close when the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 are pivoted to their substantially horizontal position. Said handle portions 18 and 19 have inwardly curved sides by which the handle portions 18 and 19 may be supported with the thumb and the third or fourth fingers.

The outer ends of the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 are formed with slots 26 provided with hook portions 27 for receiving and holding shoulder straps and loops of garments.

The operation and use of the clothes hanger may be understood from the following:

The clothes hanger may be held with one hand by engaging the fingers around the handle portions 18 and 19. With one of the fingers the hook portion 22 may be cammed upwards for opening the latch. The shoulder pieces 10 and 11 may then be let down by separating the fingers. The dot and dash lines 11 schematically indicate another position of the shoulder piece

11. In this way the clothes hanger may easily be engaged through the neck opening of a small necked garment. With the hands still holding the handle portions 18 and 19, the fingers may be moved together for moving the shoulder pieces 10 and 11 back into their spread position. The latch automatically closes when the front curved end of the hook portion 22 strikes the curved complementary keeper element 23. The handle portions 18 and 19 may be supported by the thumb and third finger and the index finger may be engaged beneath the flexible element 22 and pressure applied to flex said element 22 upwards to open the latch.

In Figs. 4 and 5 a modified form of the invention has been disclosed which distinguishes in several ways from the prior form. In this form the clothes hanger is provided with a pair of shoulder pieces 30 and 31 of substantially flat material hingedly connected together at their adjacent bottom portions with a pintle pin or rivet 32. The adjacent bottom portions are recessed into relatively thin portions 33 and 34 which overlap each other. The pintle pin or rivet 32 is mounted through these overlapping portions.

The shoulder pieces 30 and 31 are provided with handle portions 36 and 37 projecting upwards at points close to and above the hinge pin or rivet 32. The handle portions 36 and 37 normally abut each other for limiting pivoting of the shoulder pieces 30 and 31 from a substantially horizontal position upwards. Said handle portions 36 and 37 have inwardly curved sides by which the handle portions 36 and 37 may be supported with the thumb and third or fourth fingers. The handle portion 36 continues into a top hook 38 by which the hanger may be supported. The outer ends of the shoulder pieces 30 and 31 are provided with slots 39 and hook portions 40 adapted to receive and hold the loops and shoulder straps of garments.

A latch is mounted on the handle portions 36 and 37. This latch comprises a flexible element such as a leaf spring 42 mounted upon the handle portion 36 and extending over the handle portion 37. The handle portion 37 has a cam shaped top projection 44 engageable into a complementary opening 45 formed in the leaf spring 42. Said top projection 44 has, starting from its inner end, a rising top surface which terminates at its outer end in a downwardly extending shoulder. The bottom end portion of the leaf spring 42 is wider than the thickness of the handle portion 37 so that there are projecting side portions 46 which may be easily manually engaged by the fingers. The front end 47 of the leaf spring 42 is turned upwards and is adapted to ride along the top surface of the cam projection 44 when the handle portions 36 and 37 are moved towards each other so that the leaf spring 42 is flexed upwards until said top projection is aligned with said opening 45 and then the leaf spring 42 flexes downwards and the outer end of the opening 45 engages the shoulder of the projection 44 for holding the latch closed.

The operation and use of this hanger is substantially identical to the prior form. The shoulder pieces 30 and 31 may be controlled with one hand engaging the handle portions 36 and 37. The latch automatically closes when the handle portions are moved together. It may be opened by moving a finger upwards against one or both of the side projecting portions 46 of the leaf spring 42. The handle portions 36 and 37 may

be supported by the thumb and third finger, and the index finger may be engaged against the edge of the leaf spring 42 and pressure applied to flex the leaf spring upwards to open the latch.

In Figs. 6 to 8 inclusive still another form of the invention has been disclosed. This clothes hanger includes a pair of shoulder pieces 50 and 51 of substantially flat material hingedly connected together at their adjacent bottom portions with a pintle pin or rivet 52. The shoulder piece 51 has a circular bottom portion 53 which engages against a circular socket 54 formed in the shoulder piece 50. A pair of plates 55 are mounted upon the sides of the shoulder piece 50 and extend over the circular portion 53. The pintle pin or rivet 52 is mounted on and through the plates 55 and through the circular portion 53. In this way the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 are hingedly connected.

Handle portions 57 and 58 project upwards from the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 at points close and above the hinge pin or rivet 52. These handle portions normally abut each other for limiting pivoting of the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 from a horizontal position upwards. However, the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 are free to pivot downwards. The handle portion 57 is provided with a top hook 59 by which the hanger may be supported. The handle portions 57 and 58 have inwardly curved sides by which the handle portions 57 and 58 may be supported with the thumb and third or fourth fingers.

A latch is mounted on and acts between the handle portions 57 and 58. This latch is in the nature of a bolt 60 slidably mounted in a slot 61 formed in the handle portion 57. A spring 62 mounted in the slot 61 acts to normally urge the bolt 60 outwards. The bolt 60 normally engages a complementary keeper opening 63 formed in the handle portion 58. The bolt 60 is slidably mounted between the top portions of the pair of plates 55. A pin 64 is mounted on and through the bolt 60 and passes through short limiting slots 65 formed in the pair of plates 55. Projecting elements such as knobs or handles 66 are mounted on the ends of the pin 64 by which the bolt 60 may be manually moved into an open condition. The front end of the bolt 60 is formed with a rounded cam portion 68 by which it will be naturally forced inwards by a portion of the handle portion 58 when the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 of the hanger are spread open.

The operation and use of this clothes hanger is substantially identical to the prior forms. With one hand it is possible to engage the handle portions 57 and 58 and operate the latch by moving the projecting element or knob 66. In this way the latch may be opened and the shoulder pieces 50 and 51 may be let down to a desirable extent. The shoulder pieces may be moved back to their original positions and the latch will automatically function to latch the handle portions 57 and 58 together.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a clothes hanger having a pair of shoulder pieces of substantially flat material hingedly con-

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ected together at their adjacent bottom portions, flat handle portions having inwardly curved sides and projecting upwards from said shoulder pieces and normally abutting each other for limiting pivoting of said shoulder pieces from a substantially horizontal position upwards and by which the shoulder pieces may be pivoted downwards and then upwards with two fingers of one hand engaging against said inwardly curved sides, a projection on one of said handle portions, a leaf spring on the other handle portion and engaging said projection for holding said handle portions latched together, and said leaf spring having side portions projecting from the faces of said handle portions by which the leaf spring may be manually engaged and flexed by another finger of said hand for unlatching said handle portions.

2. In a clothes hanger having a pair of shoulder pieces of substantially flat material hingedly connected together at their adjacent bottom portions, flat handle portions having inwardly curved sides and projecting upwards from said shoulder pieces and normally abutting each other for limiting pivoting of said shoulder pieces from a substantially horizontal position upwards and by which the shoulder pieces may be pivoted downwards and then upwards with two fingers of one hand engaging against said inwardly curved sides, a projection on one of said handle portions, a flexible element on the other handle portion and engaging said projection for holding said handle portions latched together, and said flexible ele-

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ment projecting from said handle portions by which the flexible element may be manually engaged and flexed by another finger of said hand for unlatching said handle portions.

3. In a clothes hanger having a pair of shoulder pieces of substantially flat material hingedly connected together at their adjacent bottom portions, flat handle portions having inwardly curved sides and projecting upwards from said shoulder pieces and normally abutting each other for limiting pivoting of said shoulder pieces from a substantially horizontal position upwards and by which the shoulder pieces may be pivoted downwards and then upwards with two fingers of one hand engaging against said inwardly curved sides, a latch on said handle portions for holding said handle portions latched together and having a projecting element movable upwards for opening said latch and which may be manually engaged and moved by another finger of said hand for unlatching said handle portions.

MARTIN LOWE.

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25 The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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