

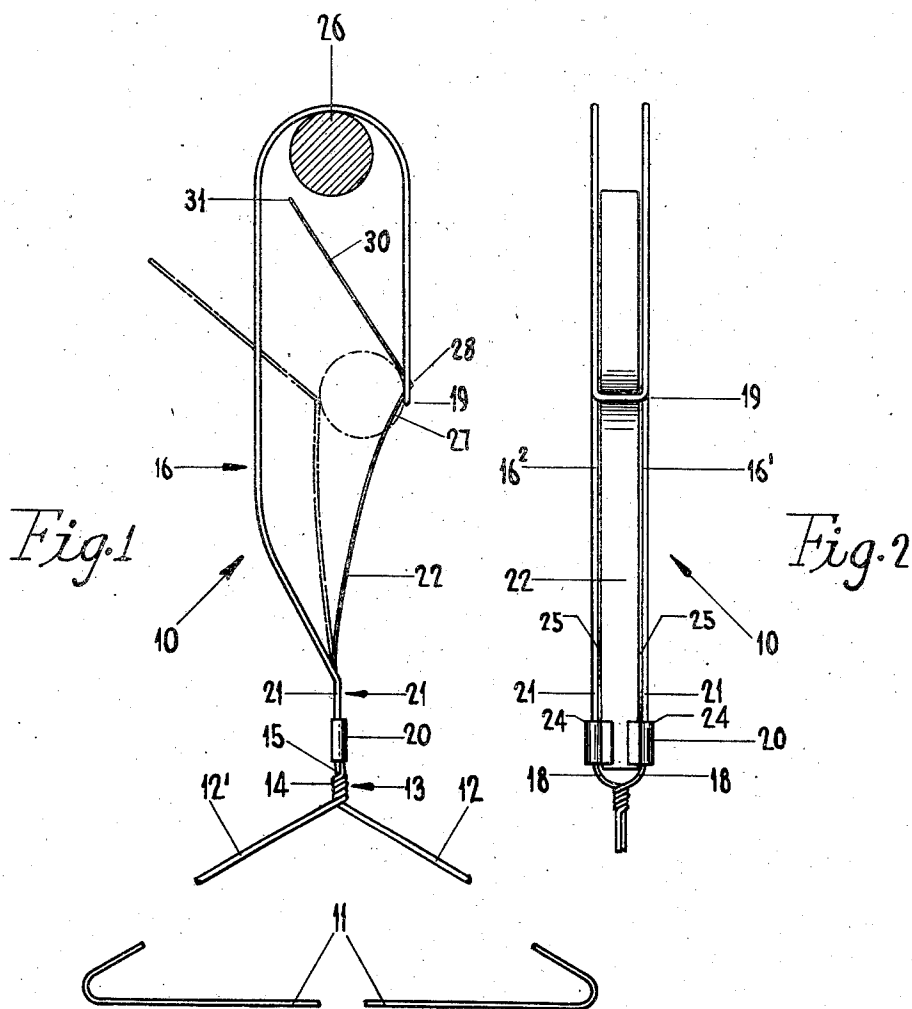
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SAFETY INTERLOCKING CLOTHES HANGER

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SAFETY INTERLOCKING CLOTHES HANGER

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This invention relates to garment hangers and more particularly to a garment hanger having a hook structure adapted for self-locking engagement with a supporting bar or clothes line without fear of the hanger becoming accidentally disengaged and falling to the floor.

An object of this invention is to provide a garment hanger having a bifurcated hook and an integral spring movable into the bifurcation, the hanger being attachable to a supporting bar by holding the hanger body in one hand and pressing the spring against the bar and causing swinging movement of the spring inwardly of the hook sufficiently to provide passage for the bar into the hook, when the spring springs back into the bifurcation and is mechanically interlocked by the bifurcation and automatically held against sideways sway to the right or left.

Another object of this invention is to provide a garment hanger having a bifurcated hook and a leaf spring with an angularly bent portion which is designed to enter the bifurcated hook, the spring having an upwardly facing extension whereby the hanger can be lockably attached to, or unlocked and removed from a supporting bar by a single movement of one hand of the user and without any manual manipulation of the locking means.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention will be hereinafter more particularly described, and the combination and arrangement of parts will be shown in the accompanying drawing and pointed out in the claims which form part of this specification.

Reference will now be had to the drawing, wherein like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of the hanger.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the hook portion of the hanger shown in Figure 1.

In the illustrated embodiment of the invention, the numeral 10 indicates a clothes hanger, formed from a single length of wire. The hanger comprises a garment supporting body having a horizontal portion 11, and angular sides, 12, 12'.

The sides 12, 12' converge into a straight vertical portion 13. The angular side 12 is twisted into a hollow coil 14.

The vertically extending portion 15 of the angular side 12' passes through the coil 14 and is bent into a hook 16 comprising a rear element 16' and a reversely bent forward element 16².

The hook elements 16' and 16² are in spaced-apart relation and form a bifurcation or receiv-

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ing means. Immediately above the coiled portion, the wire branches outwardly and upwardly at 18, 19 in opposite directions to form a bifurcation which extends parallelly the entire height of the hook 16 and all the way down to the free end portion 19 of the hook.

A clamping member 20 preferably made of a strip of sheet metal is bent around and grips the upwardly extending side wall elements 21 of the hook 16. The clamping member 20 has parallel side walls which are slightly spaced apart and serve to receive therebetween a flat leaf spring 22 in suitably fixed relation.

As best shown in Figure 2, the spaced-apart side wall elements 21 form a receiving means into which an extension of the spring 22 is received and held from swaying to the right or left.

The clamping member 20 has vertically elongated tubular end walls 24 in which the wire is held immovably fixed. During the motion of the spring 22 into the bifurcation of the hook and back into engagement with the bifurcated free end portion 19 of the hook, the spring 22 is prevented by the vertically elongated end walls of the clamp from swaying to the right or to the left. During the rearward movement of the spring, its lower portion passes through openings 25 which extend to the clamping member 20.

The portion of the clamping member 20 intermediate the tubular end walls 24 is flattened into gripping engagement with the leaf spring. It is to be noted that the lower end of the leaf spring 22 is immovably held in the clamping member 20 and the free upper end of the spring is held in the bight or receiving means 19 at the free end of the hook 16. The leaf spring 22 is thus securely held against sway either to the right or the left at its upper and lower ends.

In operation, the leaf spring 22 moves rearwardly into the hook 16 when forced against a supporting bar 26 to allow the bar to pass into the hook.

The user grasps one end portion of the body of the clothes hanger and brings the extension 27 forcibly against a supporting bar on which the hanger is to be mounted. The pressure exerted by the user forces the extension 27 inwardly of the hook sufficiently to permit the supporting bar 26 to enter the hook. The hanger is thus held securely and prevented from becoming disengaged and falling to the floor.

The hanger 10 is designed so that it can be lockably attached to, or unlocked and removed from a supporting bar by a single movement of one hand of the user and without any manual

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manipulation of the locking means. For this purpose the hook 16 of the hanger 10 is made considerably elongated. The spring 22 has an angularly bent portion 28 which is designed to enter into the free end portion 19 of the bifurcated hook 16.

The angularly bent portion 28 of the spring 22 has an upwardly facing extension 30. The free end portion 31 of the spring 22 terminates past the mid-portion of the supporting bar 26. When it is desired to detach the hanger 10 from the supporting bar 26, the hanger 10 is moved upwardly to bring the extension 30 against the bar and forcing the bent portion 28 inwardly of the bifurcated hook 16 sufficiently to permit the free end portion 19 of the hook and the spring portion 28 in its rearward position, to clear opposite sides of the bar 26. The hanger 10 is then disengaged from the bar 26.

In accordance with the patent statutes, we have described and illustrated the preferred embodiments of our invention, but it will be understood that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. In a clothes hanger comprising a hook for a supporting bar, said hook having parallel walls spaced apart throughout its entire extent and having a bifurcation at its free end, an elongated leaf spring pivotally held at its lower end and intermediate of said hook walls, said spring having an angularly bent portion extending into interengagement with said bifurcation and being held thereby against lateral sway, a clamp having vertically elongated tubular end walls in fixed engagement with both of said walls, the portion of said clamp intermediate said end walls being flattened, said clamp holding said spring in immovable engagement with the lower end portion

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of said hook, said hanger being attachable to said bar by pressing the free end portion of said spring below said bifurcation against said bar and causing movement of said spring inwardly of said hook and between said parallel walls sufficiently to provide passage for said bar into said hook, said spring having an upwardly facing angularly directed extension, the free end of said extension terminating past the mid portion of said bar to permit said hanger to be moved upwardly into disengagement from said bar by forcibly pressing said spring inwardly of said hook sufficiently to provide outward passage for said bar.

2. In a clothes hanger comprising a hook for a supporting bar, said hook having parallel walls spaced apart throughout its entire extent and having a bifurcation at its free end, an elongated leaf spring held at its lower end and intermediate of said hook walls, said spring having an angularly bent portion extending into interengagement with said bifurcation and being held thereby against lateral sway, a clamp in fixed engagement with both of said walls, said clamp holding said spring in immovable engagement with the lower end portion of said hook, said hanger being attachable to said bar by pressing the free end portion of said spring below said bifurcation against said bar and causing movement of said spring inwardly of said hook and between said parallel walls sufficiently to provide passage for said bar into said hook, said spring having an upwardly facing angularly directed extension, the free end of said extension terminating past the mid portion of said bar to permit said hanger to be moved upwardly into disengagement from said bar by forcibly pressing said spring inwardly of said hook sufficiently to provide outward passage for said bar.

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