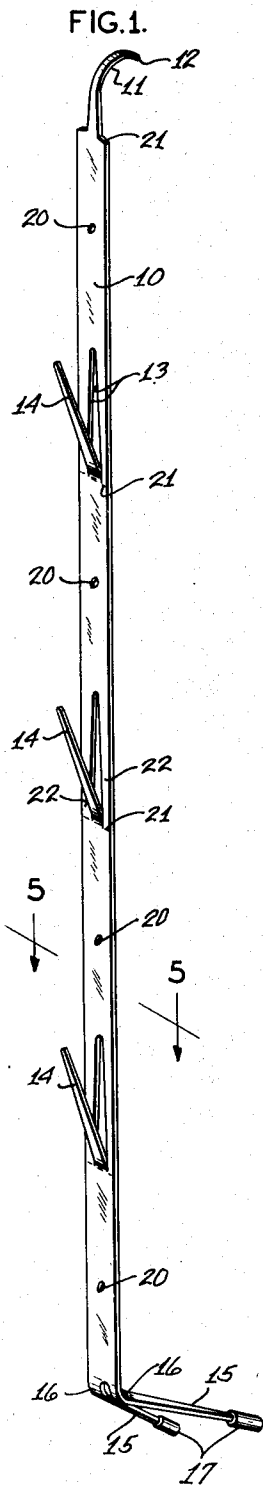
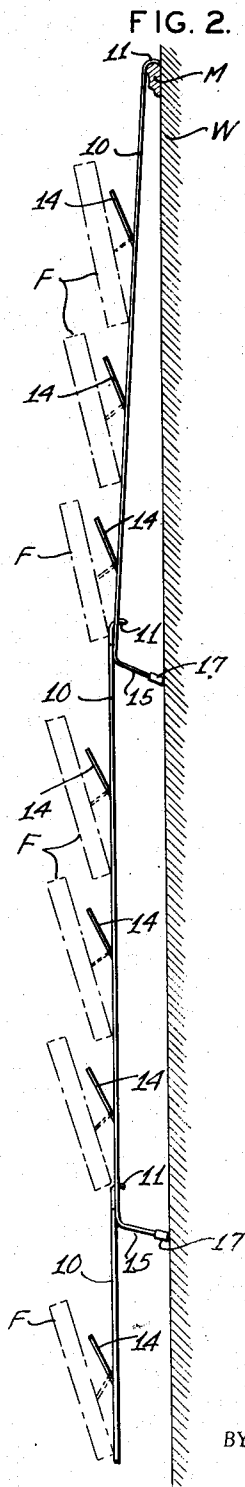
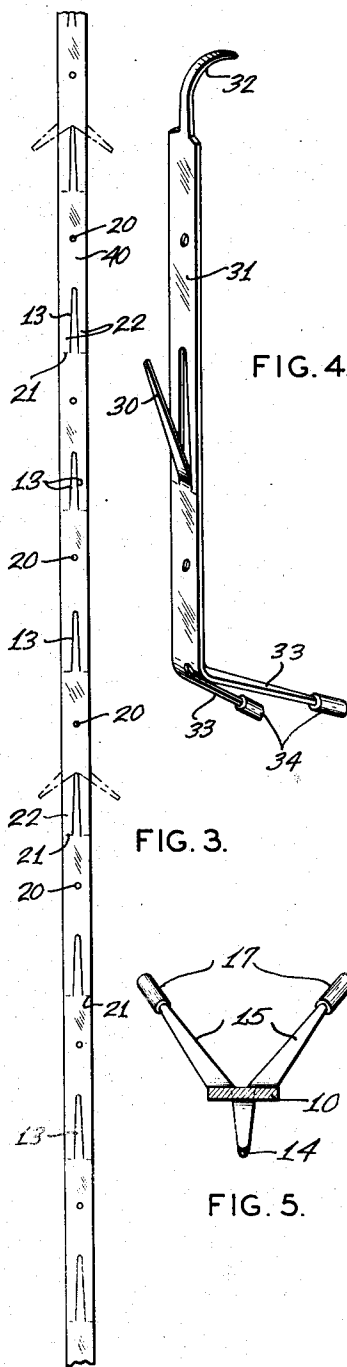
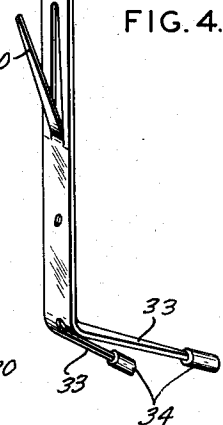
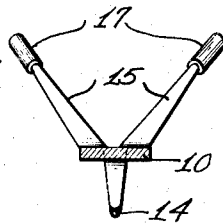


July 7, 1942.

V. A. HERR
MULTIPLE-HOOK HANGER
Filed Dec. 18, 1939

2,288,706



INVENTOR.
VINCENT A. HERR
Robert B. Terry
ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,288,706

MULTIPLE-HOOK HANGER

Vincent A. Herr, Collinsville, Ill.

Application December 18, 1939, Serial No. 309,801

2 Claims. (Cl. 248-215)

This invention relates to multiple-hook hangers, and more particularly to a vertical hanger adapted for mounting on a wall or the like, for the support of a number of light weight temporary decorative units, for example, floral pieces or floral designs, in undertakers' parlors or chapels.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved multiple-hook hanger of a type which may be readily moved from place to place to facilitate its utilization as a temporary mounting for decorative elements or units.

A further object of the invention is attained in a light weight low cost article which may be formed entirely of a single strip of sheet metal by production punching and forming processes, and of a type such that the hanger may be formed by substantially the same process, to provide any reasonable number of hook elements for the reception of the units to be mounted on the hanger, such as floral pieces.

Yet another object of the invention is attained in an improved article for the purposes noted, so constructed that it may be used either singly, or in multiple, and such that one of the units may be quickly and positively supported on or by another such unit, so that they may be utilized in chain fashion, and thus care for any particular exigencies encountered in various locations in which the hangers are utilized.

The foregoing and numerous other objects and advantages will more clearly appear from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, and from the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevation in perspective showing a three-hook hanger of my improved design; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of a plurality of the hangers of Fig. 1 as utilized in multiple, with one of the hangers engaging a wall molding or the like and the others suspended in depending relation to the first hanger; Fig. 3 is a plan view of a partially formed section of the metal strip stock utilized in producing the hangers; Fig. 4 is an elevation in perspective of a single-hook type of hanger, and Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional elevation as viewed along line 5-5 of Fig. 1.

Referring now by characters of reference to the drawing, the body of the hanger as indicated generally at 10, is of metal of a flat strip form and arranged for vertical disposition, for example, with an upper hook portion 11 conforming to and partly embracing the molding M on the wall W. The hook 11 is preferably partly bent into arcuate form substantially as shown. It is

preferably distinctly elongate and rather narrow, approaching a point 12 at its outer end, being somewhat wider near its base and in the zone of its junction with the body 10.

In forming up the hanger, a strip steel stock, say of one inch in width and of twelve to sixteen gauge metal is employed. An initial operation consists in punching or otherwise slitting the strip in a plurality of evenly spaced zones, as best shown by Fig. 3. These incisions are indicated at 13, and are of furcate form, the two legs of each such slit or incision being joined at the upper portions of the two slits, to define an inverted V or U shaped area. This permits the portion intervening the two legs of the slit, to be deformed outwardly or forwardly of the plane thereof so as to constitute a tongue portion 14 (Fig. 1), in each of the plurality of spaced zones characterized by the incisions.

It is preferred that the projections or tongues 14 extend forwardly of the plane of the strip, say at about a thirty degree angle. The tongues 14, as will appear from Fig. 2, constitute the hooks for the reception of the extraneous articles or units F, such as floral pieces or the like.

Experience has shown it to be highly desirable in the hanging of most articles such as decorations, wreaths, etc. to make provision such that the body 10 of the hanger is held outwardly somewhat from an adjacent wall or other vertical surface, such as W. To this end, the lower extremity of the hanger body is provided with a rearwardly directed abutment. In the example disclosed, and by preference, this consists of a pair of legs 15. As best appears from Fig. 5, the portions of the body strip are so bent in the zone 16, that the legs 15 are substantially divergent, and so that the rearwardly projecting wall abutment constituted by the legs, engages the wall at opposite limits of a zone which is of a substantially greater width than that of the body 10 of the strip. This feature offers a distinct advantage in that it obviates exact centering of the articles or units F, on the hooks or tongues 14, the spread of the legs 15 minimizing any tendency of the hanger to be canted toward one side or the other, in case the article is suspended in off-center relation to the body of the hanger.

In order to obviate any marring, scratching or abrading effects on the wall or like surface, it is a preference that the tips of the legs 15 be provided with tubular socketed rubber cushion elements 17, one of these cushion elements resiliently gripping the end portion of each of the legs 15 and preferably extending slightly therebeyond,

so as to avoid any possibility of the sharp ends of the legs engaging the plaster or other finished surface, say of the wall W. Although the exact angle of divergence of the legs 15 is not critical, it may be noted as a preference, with the parts proportioned about as shown, that this angle approximate 60°.

For a purpose better hereinafter appearing, the strip from which the hanger is formed up, is preferably characterized by a plurality of apertures of appreciable size, indicated at 20 (Fig. 3). The tongues 14 being evenly spaced along the strip as formed, it is a preference to locate the apertures 20 midway of the distance between the adjacent slotted apertures from which the tongues are formed, the openings 20 serving the purpose of enabling an interfitting connection of two or more of the hangers.

Referring now in more detail to the preferred manner of producing the hangers of the form illustrated by the drawing, it is sufficient for the present purpose to state that the strip 40 is passed through the punching and forming equipment, and is so indexed that the strip is apertured to constitute the U-shape slits 13, regularly and evenly spaced along the length of the strip. By the same or a different punching and forming process, and optionally after the tongues 14 are displaced outwardly of the plane of the strip, the holes 20 are formed as by drilling or punching, each half way between the tongue-forming slits thereabove and therebelow.

To form up the hanger, a suitable length of strip is selected, according to the number of hook-forming tongues or prongs desired thereon. If, for example, a three-prong hanger is desired, as shown by Fig. 1, the narrow lateral portions, one on each side of the slit 13 just above the uppermost prong 14, are severed. This severance would, as will now readily appear from the drawing, take place along one of the severance lines indicated at 21. Upon severance of the remaining lateral portions of the strip at each side of the uppermost tongue of the selected length of strip, this tongue is bent, not forwardly, but rearwardly after the manner of the hook 11 in Fig. 1, to form a hook for suspending the hanger.

The now-severed lateral portions correspond to the narrow elements 22 (Figs. 1 and 3) and will appear next above the strip section carrying the hook 11 which is composed of the metal originally between the portions 22. A bending operation consisting of the rearward extension of the portions 22, and spreading them to a suitable predetermined angle, say as shown by Fig. 5, results in the formation of the wall abutment. As before noted, it is a preference to provide the legs 15 with the cushion elements 17 after a suitable finish is applied to the otherwise completed hanger.

Referring now to the preferred manner of using the hangers in multiple, as in a chain or articulate structure where increased capacity is desired, the uppermost hanger is suspended from the molding M, following which the one next below is secured to the uppermost hanger by engagement of the free end of its hook 11 in one, say the lowermost, aperture 20 of the upper hanger. In case the desired capacity for hanging articles F exceeds that provided by a single hanger, it is obvious that by bending some of the tongues or prongs 14 somewhat back toward the plane of their associated body 10, the hook end 11 of the lower hanger may be disposed in any of the openings 20 to provide any reasonable desired

length of the hanger elements arranged in chain form.

There is shown by Fig. 4 a structure corresponding in all important respects to that of Figs. 1 and 2 except that it makes provision for only a single article-receiving hook such as 30, carried on a body designated generally at 31 provided with an appliance supporting hook 32 which may be identical with hook 11. The furcations or legs 33 are similar to those heretofore designated as 15, are divergently arranged and provided with socketed or tubular cushion elements 34.

It will now have become obvious from the foregoing description that the hangers constructed according to present improvements, may be produced from a uniformly punched strip material, without any waste whatsoever in length of the strip, the only metal lost in processing the strip being the almost negligible amount incident to drilling or punching the holes 20.

It will further have appeared that hangers constructed in accordance with the improvements described, serve fully to realize each and all of the several objects above specifically set forth, as well as the numerous advantages expressed and implied in the more detailed description of the preferred embodiments.

Although the invention has been described by making specific reference to presently preferred constructions, this description is to be understood solely in an instructive rather than a limiting sense, since numerous changes may be made within the scope of the claims hereunto appended.

I claim as my invention:

1. A hook type floral hanger for vertical mounting, formed of a single strip of metal, provided with a plurality of inverted, substantially V shaped slits in spaced zones along and near the ends of the strip, the metal portions embraced by at least one of the slits in an intermediate portion of the strip being bent forwardly of the strip to form a hook of pointed shape for the hanging engagement of articles on the hanger, one such portion at the upper end of the strip being substantially pointed and curved rearwardly of the plane of the strip to serve as a hook for supporting the hanger from a ledge or moulding, the lower end of the strip being formed of the metal laterally of one of the slits, the two such lateral portions bent rearwardly to constitute a wall abutment, and substantially divergently related to resist lateral rocking movement of the hanger when in use, the strip being provided, at substantially even distances above and below a hook element, with openings of a size to receive the rearwardly curved, pointed supporting end of a similar hanger, whereby the hanger is adapted for plural use with a superposed pair or more of the hangers in selectively overlapping relation and hence adapted for arrangement in selective lengths less than their combined lengths.

2. A wall hanger for floral pieces or the like, formed of a flat strip stock, punched through in each of a plurality of spaced zones to define tongue elements, one or more intermediate tongue elements being bent forwardly of the strip and presented upwardly at a substantial angle to serve as a hook or hooks for the articles on the hanger, a similar tongue element at the upper end of the hanger, bent rearwardly and arcuately to engage a moulding or the like for support of the hanger, the strip being provided at substantially even distances above and below a hook element with openings of a size to receive the rearwardly curved supporting end of a similar hook, whereby the

hanger is adapted for plural use with a superposed pair or more in selectively overlapping relation, and hence adapted for arrangement in selective lengths less than the combined lengths of the several hangers, and a V shaped abutment projected rearwardly of the lower end of the hanger, with the arms of the abutment substantially divergent,

and a separate resilient tubular cap on each of the abutment arms, the tubular portion of each cap being resiliently retained on the associated arm, and projecting therebeyond for protection of an adjacent wall against direct abutting contact by the arm proper.

VINCENT A. HERR.