Dec. 24, 1968 B. V. BRYANT 3,417,874

EXTENDIBLE CLOTHING RACK

Filed Aug. 25, 1967 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

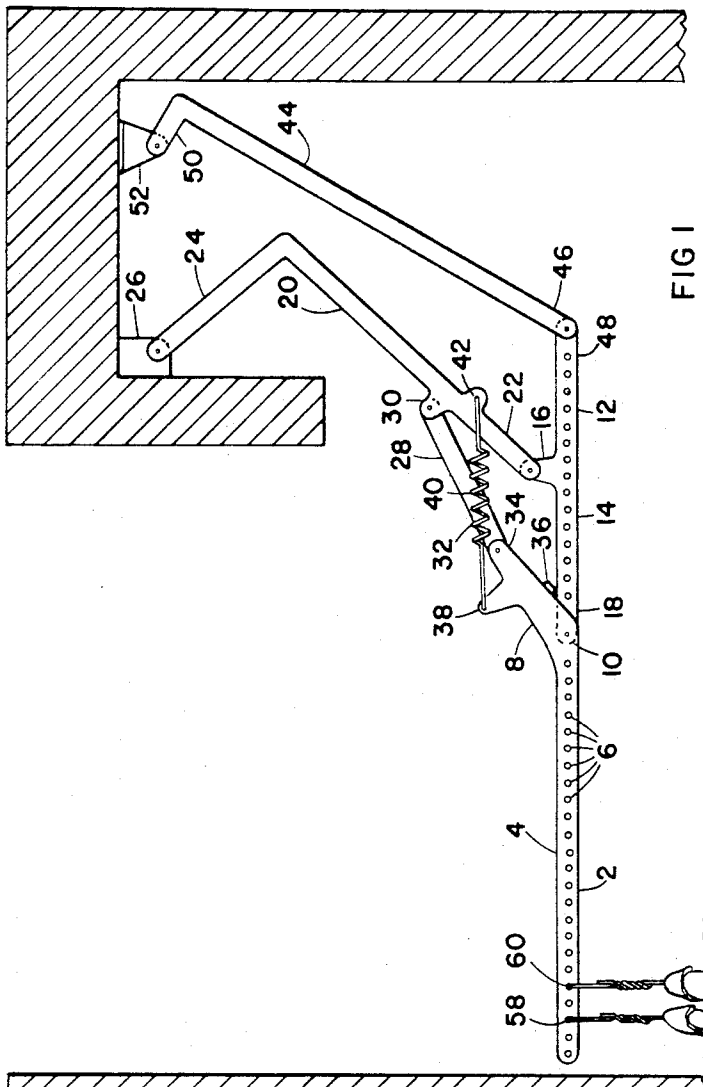


FIG 1

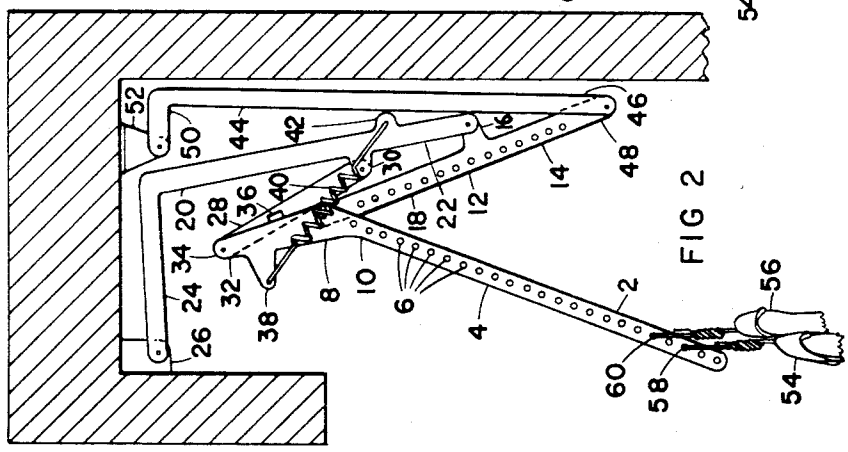


FIG 2

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EXTENDIBLE CLOTHING RACK

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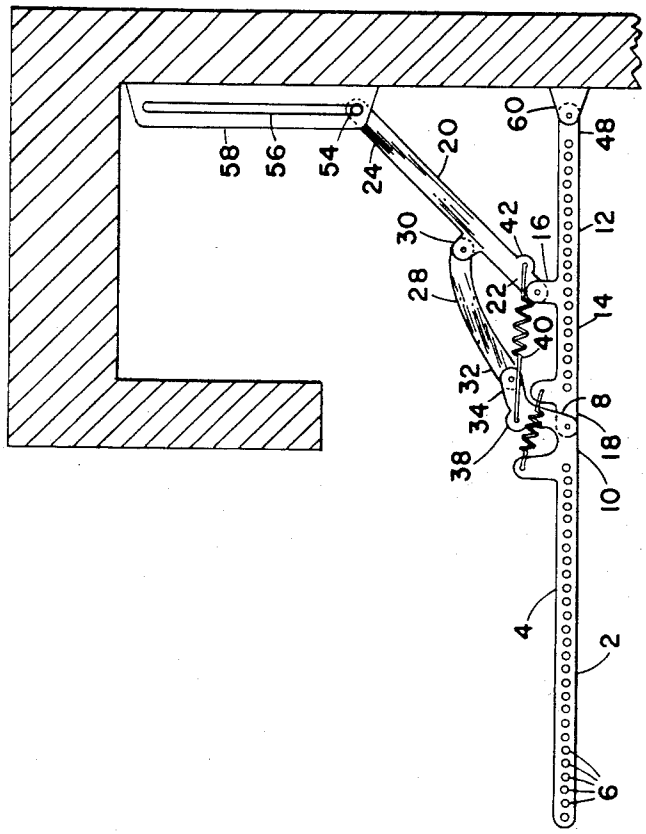


FIG 3

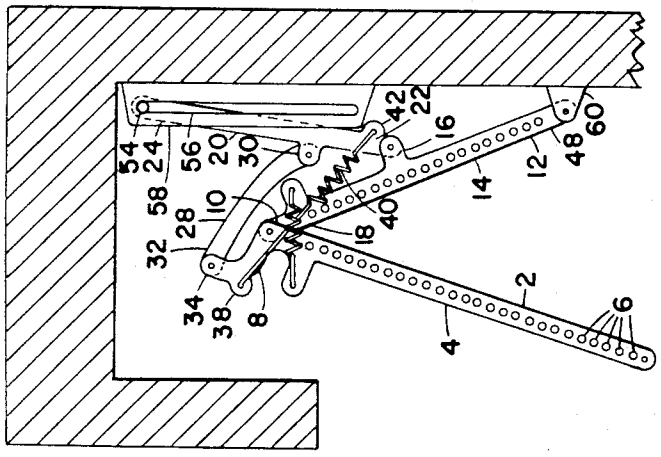


FIG 4

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United States Patent Office 3,417,874
Patented Dec. 24, 1968

3,417,874

EXTENDIBLE CLOTHING RACK

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Filed Aug. 25, 1967, Ser. No. 663,331
6 Claims. (Cl. 211—100)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A retractable clothing hanger supporting rack having a pair of pivotally interconnected elongated hanger supporting arms. One of the arms has an offset portion adjacent the pivotal connection of the arms. A support member is connected to the other of the pair of arms and a link member extends between the support member and the offset portion.

This invention relates to clothing racks and is particularly directed to clothing racks for providing maximum utilization of available storage space.

In modern houses, apartments, and mobile homes, it is almost axiomatic that the storage space for clothing is limited, if not inadequate.

Due to the high costs of construction of houses and apartments, and the space restrictions of mobile homes, the problem becomes a trade-off between room size and storage space. However, most closets and other clothing storage areas simply provide one or more horizontal bars on which clothing may be hung. Unfortunately, this arrangement results in inefficient use of the available storage space and frequently creates areas, for example, at the ends of the bar, where clothing hung on the bar is relatively inaccessable. Numerous devices have been proposed heretofore to overcome these problems. However, none of the prior art devices have been entirely satisfactory. Many of the prior art devices have been unduly complicated and expensive. Other prior art devices have been poorly designed and have had insufficient strength to support the weight of the clothing which they could accommodate.

These disadvantages of the prior art are overcome with the present invention and a clothing rack is provided which is simple and economical to construct and install; yet, which is extremely rugged and provides maximum utilization of available storage space.

The advantages of the present invention are preferably attained by providing a clothing rack which is foldable between an extended position, providing ready access to clothing hung thereon, and a retracted position, providing highly efficient use of the available space. In addition, support means are provided for the clothing rack which assure that the rack has sufficient strength to support the clothing that can be accommodated by the rack.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide improved clothing rack means.

Another object of the present invention is to provide clothing rack means yielding maximum utilization of available storage space.

A further object of the present invention is to provide clothing rack means which is simple and economical to construct and install; yet, which provides maximum utilization of available storage space and ready access to clothing hung on the rack.

A specific object of the present invention is to provide a clothing rack which is foldable between an extended position, providing ready access to clothing hung thereon, and a retracted position, providing highly efficient utilization of the available space; together with support means for assuring that the rack has sufficient strength

to support the clothing that can be accommodated by the rack.

These and other objects and features of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description taken with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevation of a clothing rack embodying the present invention, shown in the extended position;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation of the clothing rack of FIG. 1, shown in the retracted position;

FIGURE 3 is a side elevation of a modified form of the clothing rack of FIG. 1, shown in the extended position; and

FIGURE 4 is a side elevation of the clothing rack of FIG. 3, shown in the retracted position.

In that form of the present invention chosen for purposes of illustration in FIG. 1, a clothing rack is shown comprising a first clothing supporting member **2** having an elongated portion **4** formed with a plurality of openings **6** therein to receive the hooks of clothes hangers or the like. An offset portion **8** is provided adjacent one end **10** of the elongated portion **4** and projects upwardly and rearwardly from the elongated portion **4** when the rack is in the extended position. A second clothing supporting member **12** has an elongated portion **14** formed with a plurality of openings therein, similar to the openings **6**, and has a projection **16** extending perpendicular to the elongated portion **14** and located approximately mid-way along the elongated portion **14**. One end **18** of the elongated portion **14** of clothing supporting member **12** is pivotally secured to the end **10** of the elongated portion **4** of clothing supporting member **2**. A first, generally L-shaped, support member **20** has one end **22** pivotally secured to the projection **16** of clothing supporting member **12** and has the other end **24** pivotally secured to a suitable mounting bracket **26**. In addition, a link member **28** has one end thereof pivotally secured to the support member **20** at a point **30** spaced from the end **22** of support member **20**, while the other end **32** of link member **28** is pivotally secured to the end **34** of the offset portion **8** of clothing supporting member **2**. The length of link member **28** and the location of pivot point **30** are chosen so that, in the extended position, the elongated portions **4** and **14** of clothing supporting members **2** and **12** form a substantially straight line, as seen in FIG. 1. If desired, suitable stop means **36** may be provided between the offset portion **8** of clothing supporting member **2** and the elongated portion **14** of clothing supporting member **12** to prevent over-travel. A projection **38** is formed on the offset portion **8** of clothing supporting member **2** and resilient means, such as spring **40**, is connected between the projections **38** and a suitable point **42** on the support member **20**. The size and location of projection **38** and the location of point **42** are chosen such that spring **40** will form passing above the point where end **32** of link **28** is secured to offset portion **8** and below pivot point **30**, when the rack is in the extended position of FIG. 1; and passing below the point where end **32** of link **28** is secured to offset portion **8** and above pivot point **30**, when the rack is in the retracted position of FIG. 2. Finally, a second, generally L-shaped, support member **44** has one end **46** thereof pivotally secured to end **48** of the elongated portion **14** of clothing supporting member **12** and has the other end **50** pivotally secured to a suitable mounting bracket **52**.

In use, mounting brackets **26** and **52** are preferably secured to the ceiling of a storage area, such as a closet, and the clothing rack of the present invention depends therefrom, as seen in FIGS. 1 and 2. Clothing **54** and **56** to be

stored are hung on conventional clothes hangers and are supported on the rack by inserting the hooks of the hangers through the openings **6**, as indicated at **58** and **60**. When the rack is in the retracted position, as seen in FIG. 2, the clothing **54** and **56** are closely hung, providing highly efficient use of the available storage space. However, when the rack is in the extended position, as seen in FIG. 1, ready access may be had to the clothing **54** and **56**. Moreover, since support members **20** and **44** are L-shaped, it will be seen that the rack moves away from the rear wall of the storage area as the rack is moved between the retracted position, seen in FIG. 2, and the extended position, seen in FIG. 1; thereby facilitating access to clothing hung toward the rear of the rack. In fact, by proper dimensioning of the support members **20** and **44**, the rack may be made to move completely outside the storage area, as seen in FIG. 1 to facilitate access to clothing hung toward the rear of the rack. It will also be seen that, by positioning spring **40** in the manner described above, the spring **40** is placed in tension in both the extended and retracted positions of the rack and tends to maintain the rack in the desired position.

In some instances, it may be desirable to mount the rack of the present invention on a vertical wall, rather than on a ceiling. To accomplish this, the support member **20** may be made straight, as seen in FIGS. 3 and 4, and may be provided on end **24** with a pin **54**, or the like, to cooperate with a slot **56** in a suitable mounting bracket **58**. In this form of the invention, support member **44** is omitted and end **48** of the elongated portion **14** of clothing supporting member **12** is pivotally connected to a suitable mounting bracket **60**. This form of the present invention functions in substantially the same manner as that of FIG. 1. However, the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 has the disadvantage that, in moving from the retracted position to the extended position, it does not move away from the rear wall of the storage area. Consequently, access to clothing hung near the end **48** of clothing supporting member **12** is less readily available in the form of the invention shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 than in the form shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Obviously, numerous other variations and modifications may be made without departing from the present invention. Accordingly, it should be clearly understood that the forms of the present invention described above and shown in the figures of the accompanying drawing are illustrative only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A clothing rack comprising:

a first clothing supporting member having an enlongted portion and an offset portion located adjacent one end of said enlongated portion;

a second clothing supporting member having an elongated portion and having one end thereof pivotally secured to said one end of the elongated portion of said first clothing supporting member;

a first support member having one end thereof pivotally secured to the elongated portion of said second clothing supporting member at approximately the midpoint thereof; and

link means having one end thereof pivotally secured to the free end of said offset portion of said first clothing supporting member and having the other end of said link means pivotally secured to said first support member at a point spaced from said one end of said first support member.

2. The clothing rack of claim **1** further comprising:

resilent means connected to retain said clothing rack in a selected position.

3. The clothing rack of claim **1** further comprising:

a first projection extending from said offset portion adjacent the free end thereof; and

resilient means having one end thereof connected to said first projection and the other end thereof connected to said first support member in a manner such that said resilient means defines a line passing above said free end of said offset portion, when said rack is in the extended position, and below said free end of said offset portion, when said rack is in the retracted position.

4. The clothing rack of claim **1** further comprising:

said first support member being generally L-shaped; and

a second, generally L-shaped, support member having one end thereof pivotally connected to the free end of the elongated portion of said second clothing supporting member.

5. The clothing rack of claim **4**, further comprising:

means pivotally mounting each of said support members to depend from a horizontal structure.

6. The clothing rack of claim **1** further comprising:

said first support member being straight,

means slidably securing one end of said first support member to a vertical wall, and

means pivotally securing the free end of the elongated portion of said second clothing supporting member to a vertical wall.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

211—104; 312—325