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SURFACE-MOUNTED HAT AND COAT RACK

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SURFACE-MOUNTED HAT AND COAT RACK
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
A hat and coat rack having two laterally spaced transversely extending hat supporting knobs and a pair of vertically spaced transversely extending hook slots mounted between them. The hook-ends are upwardly turned and slotted to retain hanger stems, and the top hook extends past the lower hook to keep garments spaced apart.

The present invention relates generally to hat and coat racks which are intended for mounting on a vertical surface such as wall, and more particularly to a novel relationship of a hat and coat rack and complementary s hangers.

Wherever people are expected to come it is usually necessary to provide means for accommodating their coats and hats in such a way as to prevent them from being crushed or otherwise misshapen. Coats and similar outer garments are desirably received on hangers inserted within their shoulder portions so that they can hang in wrinkle-free position. Numerous forms of devices and schemes to accomplish these ends have been proposed and many are presently available that do so successfully. These include wall-mounted shelving and free-standing racks with hooks and hanger rails.

When garment hangers are provided there are additional and very practical problems that attend. Nonethel least of these flow from the form of the hanger itself. Common hook-stemmed wire hangers, though relatively inexpensive, provide inadequate support, are unattractive, are easily bent, and are capable of but relatively short service. Hangers with wood or simulated wood bodies, through more expensive, can fairly be said to obviate those deficiencies, but they are subject to yet another problem—pillerage. This is especially true if the hangers are decoratively fashioned or are constructed principally of high-quality wood. To overcome pillerage various constructions and arrangements have been tried. Hangers have been made captive, but this is inconvenient and such installations in some locations might be considered amusing or even insulting to patrons. Perhaps the most practical concept to relieve the pillerage problem is to so form the hanger stem that it can be received only in supporting receptacles peculiarly adapted for that purpose and cannot be hung on the usual home closet hanger rod or garment hook. Such hangers comprise bodies of various forms and materials with stems extending therefrom and terminating at their upper ends in small Y-shaped, ball-shaped or T-shaped tops.

But these stem-topped forms give rise to yet another problem: They have in the past become accidentally dislodged quite easily from non-captive supporting receptacles so as to fall to the floor, dropping a garment supported thereon. Actually they are more easily dislodged when empty, thus annoyingly requiring a user who often already has his coat in hand, to retrieve the fallen hanger from the floor before he can put it to use.

A further problem arises from the fact that there are numerous places where multiple garment hanging devices are a necessity but space is at a premium. Among these places are business and professional offices, fitting rooms, and the like. While in such places the number of hats and coats to be accommodated at any one time is usually quite small, nevertheless the problem of space for that purpose is magnified and the other objections noted above are present also. Further, it is particularly desirable that devices of this type for small offices and the like, because of their relative intimacy, not only be utilitarian, but also be decorative in order to enhance their attractiveness and hospitable atmosphere.

Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide a hat and coat rack which finds particular though by no means exclusive utility in locations where space is at a premium and which while presenting a pleasing appearance can nevertheless receive and hold hats and garment hangers for coats and similar articles of apparel in spaced wrinkle-free condition.

A related object is to provide such a rack for use with hangers which are equipped with T-shaped or similarly formed outer ends with minimum danger of falling of the hangers, yet which facilitates their intentional disengagement for receiving or removing a garment.

It is a further object to provide such a rack and hanger in which hangers can be retained in alternative storage position or in use position.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description and upon reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective of a hat and coat rack, together with a garment hanger, embodying the features of the present invention as installed on a wall;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the rack of FIGURE 1, and also showing in dotted lines a hanger turned sideways in the upper hook;

FIG. 3 is a horizontal section taken substantially on the line 3—3 in FIG. 1 showing the lower hook with a hanger thereon;

FIG. 4 is an end elevation of the hat and coat rack of the preceding figures and showing hangers in place on the hooks;

FIG. 5 is a central vertical section taken substantially along the line 5—5 in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary section taken substantially along the line 6—6 in FIG. 1.

While the invention will be described in connection with a preferred embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to the specific form described. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, there is shown a hat and coat rack, generally indicated at 10, embodying the features of the present invention. The illustrative rack includes a mounting plate 12 to which are secured a hanger bracket 14 and a pair of hat knobs 16. To enhance the attractiveness as well as the utility of the rack the plate 12 is preferably fashioned of a durable material such that in addition to its supporting function it provides a pleasing appearance in conjunction with the bracket and knobs and this may be of high grade wood such, for example, as walnut, mahogany, ebony, appropriately finished. The rack 10 is intended to be mounted in an elevated position upon a vertical supporting surface, and thus for illustrative purposes it is shown as being mounted upon a wall 18 which is fragmentarily depicted in the drawings.

Preferably the hat knobs 16 are secured to the plate 12 adjacent the upper corners of the plate in spaced relation to each other. Each of the knobs has a frusto-conical body 16a terminating at its outer end in an enlarged elliptoidal head 16b. While the knobs are primarily intended to support hats, it is apparent that a coat or other garment can simply be hung thereon without danger of
being pierced or torn because of the smoothly rounded form of the heads 16b. Similarly the knobs can be used to receive conventional garment hangers (not shown) with hook slots 16a or elevated hooks over them. The heads 16b of the hooks, rearwardly of the heads 16b. The outer taper of the knob bodies 16a causes such hangers to slide toward the heads 16b thereby spacing a garment so supported thereon away from the wall 18 upon which the rack is mounted.

For securing the hat knob 16 in place upon the mounting plate 12 immediate its ends and centrally between the hat knobs 16. To aid in sustaining the weight of garments that might be hung on the bracket 14 or distributed along the ends of the shank 20 is provided with a rearwardly extending 20 which overlies and rests upon the juxtaossed portion of the upper horizontal edge of the mounting plate 12 of the rack 10.

The hooks 22 and 24 of the hanger bracket 14 are disposed adjacent the lower edge of the plate 12 to provide adequate spaced for the accommodation of hats placed upon the knobs 16. As can be best seen in FIGS. 4 and 5 of the drawings the bottom surface of the lowestmost hook 22 is substantially coplanar with the corresponding surface of the mounting plate 12. The hook 24 is disposed in upwardly spaced relation to the hook 22 and is of a sufficient length so that its outer end is disposed substantially farther out from the shank than the corresponding portion of the lower hook. Thus there is insured the provision and maintenance of adequate space for receiving a hat, and at the same time the reception upon and removal from either of a garment hanger from either or both of the hooks 22 and 24 is facilitated.

As hereinbefore noted it is advantageous to utilize garment hangers which are equipped with T-shaped, Y-shaped, or similarly formed stems. For purposes of illustration T-topped hangers 27 are shown. Each comprises both ends of an upwardly projecting stem 39. The latter has a short cross-head 29a rigid with its outer end and extending longitudinally with respect to the hanger body 28. Desirably the body 28 is formed of wood or other material like that of the mounting plate 12.

While it is obvious that the hooks 22 and 24 of the hanger bracket 14 can be used for the directed hanging of garments thereon, in accordance with one of the principal features of the present invention the hooks are especially formed to receive and retain garment hangers such as the T-topped type 28, 29, 29a in both storage position and in use position with minimum danger of their becoming accidentally dislodged. To this end the outer ends of each of the hooks 22 and 24 are bifurcated to accept the stems 29 of the garment hangers 27. Thus the hooks are provided with vertical slots 32 and 34, respectively, which extend longitudinally inward from their free ends. The slots 32 and 34 are of a width slightly greater than the cross-sectional dimension of the hanger stems 29, but the slot width is substantially less than the length of the stem cross-heads 29a. Thus the undersides of the cross-heads 29a rest upon the top surfaces 22a and 24a of the hooks 22 and 24 when the hooks are received within the slots 32 and 34. To limit outward movement of the hangers along their supporting hooks the outer ends of the hooks are fashioned to extend upward and rearwardly with respect to their upper surfaces thereby de-
further lessening danger of accidental hanger dislodgement.

I claim as my invention:

1. A hat and coat rack intended primarily for support upon a vertical surface such as a wall and for receiving garment hangers having T-topped or Y-topped stems, said rack comprising in combination
   (a) a mounting plate adapted to be secured to the vertical surface, and
   (b) a hanger bracket secured to said plate intermediate its ends, said bracket having
      (1) a hook rigid therewith located adjacent the lower edge of said plate and projecting outwardly from said plate,
      (A) said hook having a bifurcated outer end portion terminating in an upwardly directed tip and defining a vertical slot for receiving the stem of a garment hanger with the hanger stem cross-head resting upon the upper surface of the hook and engageable with said tip to limit movement of the hanger with respect to the hook, and
      (B) the length of said hook together with the thickness of said plate locating said hook tip for limiting to an acute angle the maximum rotational movement, until it engages the vertical supporting surface, of a hanger about an axis defined by its stem when the latter is received in said slide.

2. In a hat and coat rack intended primarily for support upon a vertical surface such as a wall and for receiving garment hangers having supporting stems terminating in a cross-head, said rack having a mounting plate adapted to be secured to the vertical surface, the improvement comprising the combination of
   (a) a bracket

(1) mounted intermediate the ends of said plate, and
   (2) having an upwardly extending shank, and
   (b) a pair of hooks,

(1) supported on said shank in vertically spaced relation,

(2) projecting outwardly from said shank, with the upper one of said pair of hooks having a length greater than that of the lower one, and

(3) each having a bifurcated outer end portion terminating in an outer upturned tip and defining a slot for receiving the stem of a hanger with the hanger stem cross-head resting upon the upwardly facing surface of the hook, said upper surface of each of said hooks sloping outward and downward for directing a hanger supported thereon toward engagement with said tip so that hangers supported on the respective hooks are not only spaced outwardly from a supporting surface but are also spaced outwardly with respect to each other and in vertically offset relation to each other.

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