Dec. 12, 1950 A. M. MENDLE 2,533,324

GARMENT RACK

Filed Oct. 8, 1945

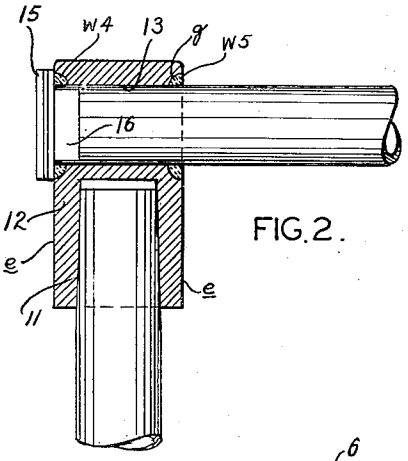


FIG. 2.

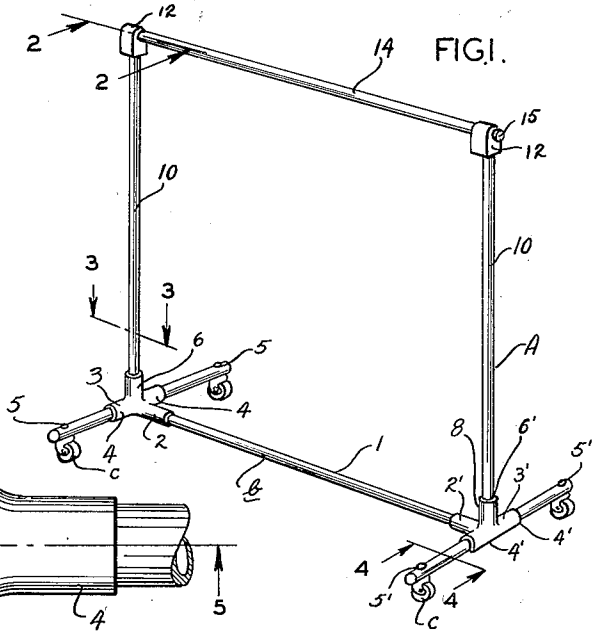


FIG. 1.

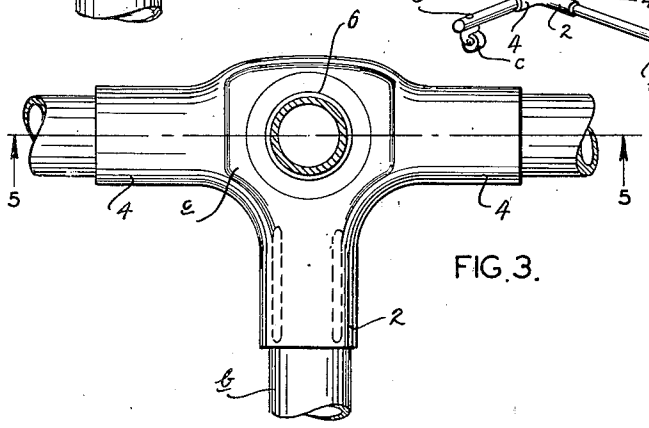


FIG. 3.

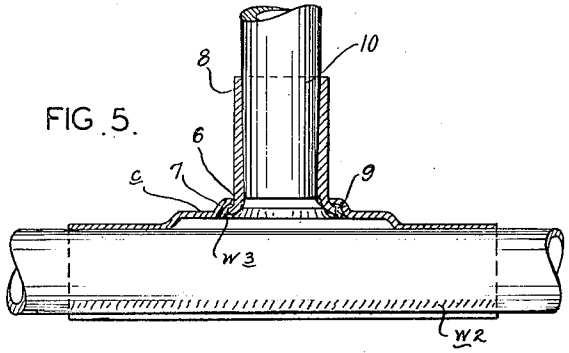


FIG. 5.

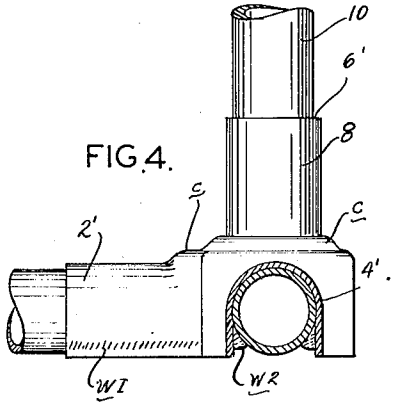


FIG. 4.

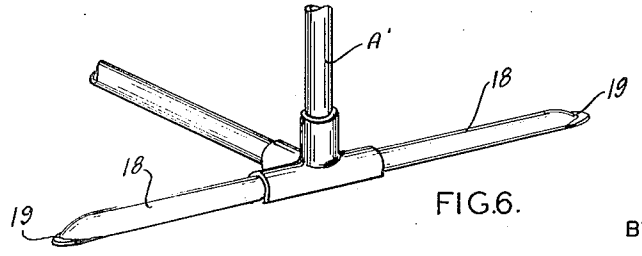


FIG. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GARMENT RACK

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Application October 8, 1945, Serial No. 621,113

1 Claim. (Cl. 211—177)

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This invention relates in general to certain new and useful improvements in garment racks.

Garment racks have ordinarily consisted of pipe-like or tubular members which are threadedly engaged by suitable fittings and when set up for operative use cannot be simply or conveniently disassembled. So far as I am aware, all existing garment racks actually require a certain amount of mechanical skill and the aid of mechanical tools both during assembly and disassembly. Because of their rather bulky nature, garment racks cannot be readily shipped or transported in assembled condition. As a result, traveling salesmen in the garment industry cannot ordinarily carry such items with them and are forced to use various make-shifts and substitutes if the hotel rooms or sample rooms in which they are frequently called upon to work are not equipped with fully assembled garment racks. In addition, manufacturers frequently have need for a relatively large number of racks during seasonal peaks and at other periods of the year or so-called off seasons do not need so many racks upon their display floors, in which case they are at present required to push the empty and rather unsightly garment racks off to one side or into a corner of the display floor at the sacrifice both of appearance and wasted space because it would entail far too much difficulty and labor to "knock down" or disassemble the extra garment racks when not in use.

It is, therefore, the primary object of the present invention to provide a new and unique type of garment rack which is extremely simple and economical in construction and is unusually strong and rigid when assembled into operative condition, but is nevertheless capable of being very quickly and simply assembled or disassembled without requiring mechanical skill or mechanical tools for such purpose.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a garment rack of the type stated which is rugged and durable yet light in weight and readily disassembled for convenient portability and transportation from place to place and storage within relatively small space when not in use.

And with the above and other objects in view, my invention resides in the novel features of form, construction, arrangement, and combination of parts presently described and pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred

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form of garment rack constructed in accordance with and embodying my present invention;

Figures 2, 3, and 4 are fragmentary sectional views taken along lines 2—2, 3—3, and 4—4, respectively, of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along line 5—5 of Figure 3; and

Figure 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of a modified form of garment rack also constructed in accordance with and embodying the present invention.

Referring now in more detail and by reference characters to the drawing, which illustrates practical embodiments of the present invention, A designates a garment rack including a base-forming assembly or unit *b* which comprises a central or main tubular bar 1 seated at its opposite ends in, and welded to, the lateral arms 2, 2', of T-shaped stamped fittings 3, 3'. The fitting 3, 3', is also integrally provided with two oppositely presented side arms, 4, 4, 4', 4', each for receiving outwardly extending tubular foot bars 5, 5, 5', 5', which are seated and welded therein. In this connection it may be noted that the several arms 2, 2', 4, 4', are all of inverted U-shape in horizontal cross-section and are held in place by fillet-welds w^1, w^2. At their outer ends, the foot bars 5, 5', may, if desired, be provided with conventional casters C, so that the rack A, when assembled and loaded, may be conveniently pushed from place to place.

The stampings 3, 3', are upwardly relieved at their center portions, as at *c*, and provided with circular apertures 6, 6', surrounded by an inverted semi-bead 7. Disposed within, and extending upwardly from, each of the apertures 6, is a sleeve 8 provided at its lower end with an outwardly curled flange 9 for disposition within the semi-bead 7 and securement thereto by means of a circular fillet-weld w^3. The sleeves 8 are upwardly and outwardly tapered for receiving the complementarily tapered ends of tubular uprights 10, which are, in turn, similarly tapered at their upper ends for tight fitting engagement in the downwardly presented tapered recesses 11 of top fittings 12, which may be forged, cast, or fabricated in any other suitable or conventional manner. As will be noted by reference to Figure 5, the lower tapered end of the tubular uprights 10 are substantially shorter than the internally tapered socket-forming sleeves 8 so that the bottom faces of the uprights 10 will be supported in substantially upwardly spaced relation to the lower outwardly flared ends of the sleeves 8 thus preventing unauthorized accidental spreading of the inserted

ends of the uprights 10 so that the latter may always be readily removed when it is desired to dismantle the rack A.

Extending through the upper portion of each of the top fittings 12 and opening upon the oppositely presented end faces *e* thereof, is a horizontal bore 13, which is diametrally enlarged at its ends in the provision of circular weld grooves *g*. Disposed at its ends in the bores 13 and extending horizontally between the top fittings 12, is a tubular hanger rod 14 rigidly secured in place by circular fillet-welds w^4, w^5, which are run into the weld grooves *g*, the outwardly presented welds w^4 and the outwardly presented ends of the rod 14 being smoothly faced off flush with the outwardly presented or corresponding end faces *e* to receive an end trimming button 15 formed preferably of plastic or any other suitable material and having a diametrally reduced plug portion 16 sized for tight fitting disposition within the ends of the rod 14, all as best seen in Figure 2. It will, of course, be apparent that the hanger rod 14 and the top fittings 12 rigidly associated therewith may be quickly and conveniently removed from the uprights by a couple of sharp light blows upon the under side and thereupon the two uprights 10 may be similarly removed from the base unit *b*. The entire rack A may thus be quickly and conveniently disassembled into four component elements capable of compact packaging, storage, and handling. In addition, the ease of assembly and disassembly makes it possible to ship such racks from the factory to the user in a compact package and the user, in turn, may quickly assemble the rack without any great difficulty and without the necessity of using mechanical tools. Thereafter, the rack may be disassembled and re-assembled as many times as the user finds convenient. Finally, whenever the rack is assembled for use, it will be found to be firm and rigid and will even be more secure than the conventional types of racks. In fact, the weight of the garments, which are hung from the hanger rod 14, will tend to force the tapered fittings more tightly together and will increase, rather than decrease, the rigidity and stability of the entire structure.

If desired, a modified form of rack A' may be provided which is identical in all respects to the previously described rack A, except that it is provided with foot bars 18 which are closed and flattened at their outer ends, as at 19, in the provision of a more or less stationary or non-rollable structure.

It should be understood that changes and modifications in the form, construction, arrangement, and combination of the several parts of the garment rack may be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

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

A rack comprising a base member including a central bar, a pair of T-shaped stamped fittings each having a downwardly opening U-shaped lateral arm and downwardly opening U-shaped side arms extending in co-axial alignment on opposite sides of and at right angles to the lateral arm, said fittings each also having an upwardly presented, internally tapered socket-forming sleeve rising from the region of juncture between the lateral arm and side arms said sleeve being internally enlarged and spread at its bottom, the lateral arms of said fittings being disposed around and rigidly secured to the opposite ends respectively of the central bar, a foot bar rigidly secured in and extending through the side arms of each fitting, a cross bar provided at its opposite ends with fittings having downwardly presented tapered recesses adapted for alignment, each with one of said sleeves, and a pair of uprights having tapered upper ends for removable disposition within said recesses and having tapered lower ends for removable disposition within said sleeves for holding the cross bar in upwardly spaced parallel relation to the base member, said tapered lower ends being substantially shorter than the sleeves so that the lower ends of the uprights will be supported upwardly out of contact with the foot bars.

ALVIN M. MENDLE.

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