Aug. 23, 1966 C. O. LAWHORN 3,268,088

NECKTIE HOLDER

Filed May 21, 1964

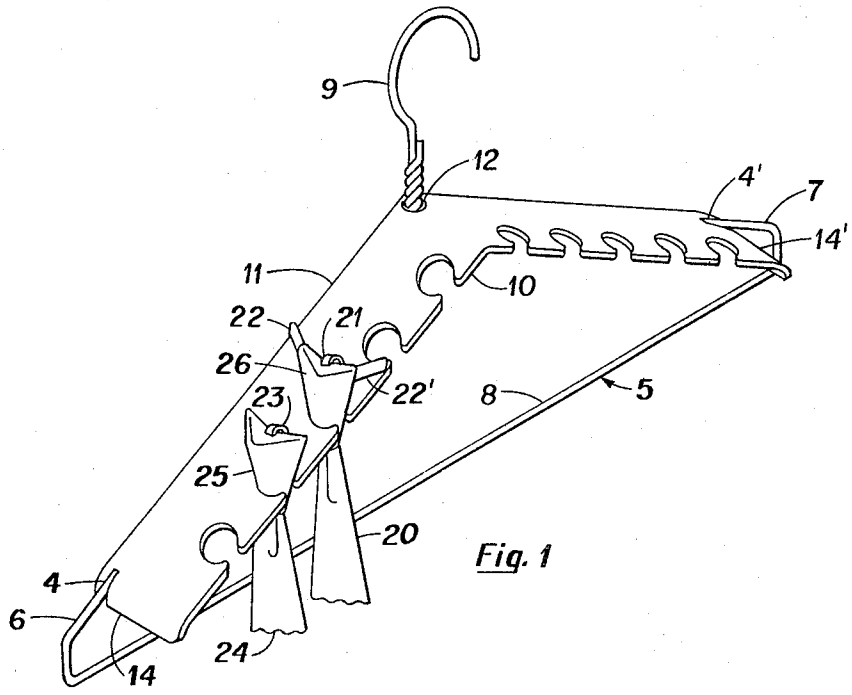


Fig. 1

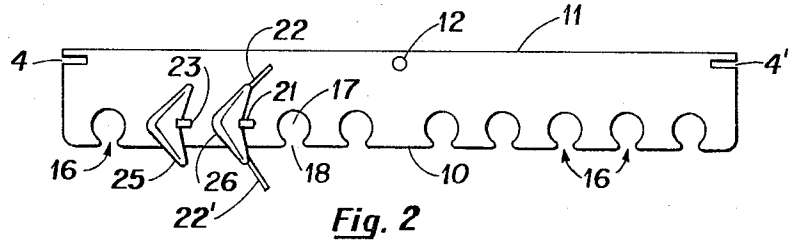


Fig. 2

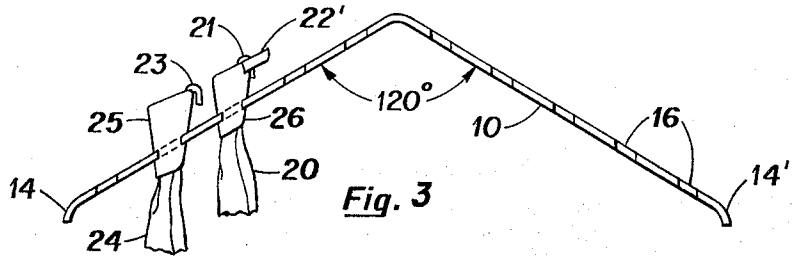


Fig. 3

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This invention relates to a necktie holder and specifically to a holder for pre-tied four-in-hand neckties.

Increasing acceptance of pre-tied four-in-hand neckties by the male fraction of the buying public and consequential increasing personal stores of pre-tied neckties have brought forward the need for an efficient storage means for these neckties. Known holders for pre-tied neckties utilize, as a grasping point for storing, the lateral wings of the usual plastic clip provided on pre-tied neckties as a foundation for the knot and for use in securing the necktie to the shirt of the wearer. To store a pre-tied necktie on these prior art holders, the wings are to be fitted into slots provided in the holder. This mode of support requires excessive time and needless effort in installing the wings into the slots which must necessarily be small in order to retain the wings, hence the necktie. This limitation of the prior art holders is compounded by the inadequate lighting frequently found in clothes closets, the usual location of stored neckties. Further, some plastic clips for pre-tied neckties are not provided with lateral wings and therefore cannot be stored on the prio rart holders. Moreover, the prior art holders do not possess the capability of storing a multiplicity of pre-tied neckties from a single holder suspendable from the hook, rod or tubular rack normally present in the usual clothes closet.

It is therefore an object of my invention to provide a pre-tied-necktie holder to which a pre-tied four-in-hand necktie may be positively secured and removed therefrom with a minimum of effort.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a single-point suspendable pre-tied necktie holder for storing of a multiplicity of pre-tied neckties thereon and which, alternatively, may be secured on a wall, door or other flat vertical surface.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a necktie holder for pre-tied neckties whose pre-tied knots are formed on a foundation clip either with or without lateral wings thereon.

It is a further object to provide a necktie holder inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will be evident from a consideration of the following description and the accompanying figures in which:

FIG. 1 is a view, in perspective, of a necktie holder according to my invention and showing pre-tied neckties of two types suspended therefrom, one type having lateral wings on its clip means and one without such lateral wings,

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the necktie-receiving shelf element of my invention and showing neckties stored thereon, and

FIG. 3 is a front elevation of the shelf element of FIG. 2 and also showing neckties stored thereon.

Referring now to FIG. 1, a preferred embodiment of my invention, one may visualize a conventional garment hanger **5** of substantially triangular configuration having laterally inclined side members **6** and **7** interconnected at their lowermost ends by a horizontal member **8** and being supportable in a substantially vertical plane by a hook means **9** located at the apex of said triangular configuration. Mounted on said hanger **5** is a shelf member **10** extending along a substantial portion of the length of each of side members **6** and **7** and projecting horizontally therefrom. Along one of its edges **11**, shelf member **10** contacts side members **6** and **7**. For purposes of description,

shelf member **10** may be described as an elongated strip of preferably plastic material centrally bent to conform, in angle, generally to the included angle formed by sides **6** and **7** of hanger **5** where said sides join at hook **9**. In its centermost portion and near its edge **11**, shelf member **10** is provided with an opening **12** for receipt of hook **9** therethrough. Opening **12** is selected of such size that hook **9** will fit snugly therein. Thus the central portion of shelf member **10** is precluded from moving with respect to hanger **5**. Portions of the extreme ends of shelf **10** are bent downwardly to form depending lips **14** and **14'** of small size, one on each end. Lips **14** and **14'** are each provided with a longitudinal slot **4** and **4'**, respectively, coextensive in length with the downwardly bent portion forming said lip **14** and **14'** and of a width approximating at least the diameter of a side **7** of hanger **5**. When shelf **10** is mounted on a conventional wire garment hanger **5**, each slot **4** and **4'** receives a side **6** and **7**, respectively, of hanger **5** therein. It is thus that when shelf **10** is fitted onto hanger **5**, the ends of shelf **10** are precluded from movement with respect to hanger **5**. An alternate means for securing the lateral portions of shelf **10** to hanger **5** is to provide, one on either side of hook **9**, a small clip means to the bottom of shelf **10** adjacent side **11** thereof. A pair of depending lugs sufficiently spaced apart to receive therebetween a side of hanger **5** will suffice as said clip means.

If desired, one may, in fabricating shelf **10**, provide a restricted entrance into each slot **14** and **14'** so that sides **6** and **7** will snap into engagement with their respective slot.

Shelf member **10** is provided along its unattached edge **19** with a multiplicity of laterally spaced, substantially annular slots **16** in open communication with said edge **19** for the receipt of pre-tied neckties therein. Each slot **16** comprises an annular body portion **17** having a diametral dimension substantially greater than the smallest dimension of the knot of a pre-tied necktie but less than the largest dimension of said knot and a mouth portion **18** substantially less in width than body portion **17** but equal to or greater in width than the most narrow width of the knot of a pre-tied necktie.

Two typical types of pre-tied neckties are depicted in the figures. One type **24** (FIG. 1) possesses a clip having only a single hook **23** centrally located in the back of the pre-tied knot **25**. Another type **20** possesses a hook **21** centrally located in the back of the pre-tied knot **26** and lateral wings **22** and **22'**. From the figures and the preceding description, one may visualize that in storing a pre-tied necktie on my holder, the most narrow width of the knot of a pre-tied necktie, which normally exists immediately adjacent the lowermost portion of the pre-tied knot of such necktie, is inserted through mouth portion **18** of slot **16**, and passes into body portion **17** of the slot. Upon fully passing into slot **16**, the necktie, when released, seats itself in said slot, being precluded from passing downwardly through slot **16** by the pre-tied knot, and thereby adopts a vertically suspended attitude. In removing a pre-tied necktie from the shirt, one normally grasps the necktie by the knot. It is a simple, natural movement, not requiring a specific mode of grasping of the knot, from the shirt and into one of the slots provided in my holder. Only one slot is required for each necktie and this slot is sufficiently large to be located without undue searching in a poorly lighted clothes closet.

Each slot **16** is designed to preclude inadvertent sliding of a seated necktie from the holder. This is especially important where neckties are stored amongst the variety of items normally found in a clothes closet and undergo extensive shuffling over a period of time. Moreover, the annular configuration of the body portion of each slot

performs a significant function in the removal of a necktie from its position of storage on my holder. When one desires to remove a necktie from a slot via the restricted mouth portion **18**, he will be required to lift the necktie slightly until that portion of the necktie immediately adjacent the lowermost portion of its pre-tied knot is adjacent mouth portion **18**. Then the necktie may be passed out through mouth portion **18**. Difficulty in passing the necktie out through mouth portion **18** is precluded by the annular configuration of slot **18**, the walls thereof aiding in the removal maneuver by providing guidance to the necktie in the direction of mouth portion **18**. As may be visualized from the foregoing description and the figures, stored neckties will not be dislodged by tilting or jostling of my holder.

The preferred choice of support means is an embodiment possessing downwardly inclined lateral projections as distinguished from horizontal lateral projections. This preferred construction design operates, when used in combination with a central single-point suspension means such as a hook, to maintain substantially the same degree of horizontal orientation of the support means when empty or when carrying an unbalanced burden of neckties. For example, a single necktie, when residing near the end of a horizontally held shelf member, will rotate the support means about its single point of suspension to a greater extent than is true of the preferred shelf member having inclined lateral portions and bearing the same necktie in a like position. The preferred included angle for the centrally bent shelf member **10** disclosed herein is approximately 120°. A lesser included angle fails to realize the full benefit of inclination and a greater included angle offers no significant advantage of reduced rotation as relates to support of neckties.

The preferred construction material for shelf **10** is a lightweight plastic. Whereas shelf **10** could be fabricated with an integral hook means and self-supporting lateral portions, its small mass would be insufficient to constitute a suitable stable holder for pre-tied neckties, in that excessive swivel action about the single point of support would occur. As a result of this excessive swivel action, stored neckties are susceptible to disengagement from their slot. The inclined lateral projections hereinbefore described alleviate this problem regardless of the construction material of shelf **10**. A further alleviating contribution is realized by the symetrically arrayed mass of the wire garment hanger which provides a stabilizing force to my holder in the preferred form.

A further advantage accruing from the choice of a conventional garment hanger is the support provided to the lateral portions of shelf **10** due to the rigidity of the hanger sides. Still further, by securing the shelf to the hanger along one edge of the shelf, said shelf projects horizontally in substantially only the forward direction. The back of the hanger and shelf are thus essentially flush and the holder may be suspended from a rod as any other garment hanger or from a hook or nail provided on the closet wall. In the latter instance, the shelf-bearing hanger will lie substantially flat against the wall.

It is preferred to fabricate shelf member **10** of a plastic of the styrene class by conventional injection molding techniques. As described in the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is anticipated that shelf member **10** will be manufactured as a separate item to be mounted on a conventional wire garment hanger. It is recognized that shelf member **10** can be integrally formed with a garment hanger or like support means by molding techniques known in the art.

The description of a conventional wire garment hanger as the support means for shelf **10** is intended to present a preferred embodiment. My invention should not be interpreted as being limited to a wire garment hanger but as including other suitable support means comprising a hook and lateral projections for receipt of shelf **10**. Wire garment hangers are inexpensive and readily procurable from existing sources. Their use in combination with a plastic shelf member provides an inexpensive holder.

I claim:

1. A necktie holder for pre-tied neckties comprising the combination of single-point suspension mount means having lateral extensions, said means and extensions adapted for mounting in a substantially vertical plane, an elongated shelf member secured along one of its edges to said lateral extensions and extending at substantially right angles therefrom in a horizontal direction, and a multiplicity of open recesses in the unattached edge of said shelf member for receipt of pre-tied four-in-hand neckties therein.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein said open recesses comprise mouth and body portions, said mouth portion being substantially more narrow than the width of said body portion and at least as wide as the most narrow width of the knot of said pre-tied necktie, said body portion having a diametral dimension substantially greater than the smallest dimension of the knot of a pre-tied necktie but less than the largest dimension of said knot.

3. A necktie holder for pre-tied neckties comprising, in combination with a conventional garment hanger, an elongated shelf member centrally bent to create an angle essentially equal to the included angle formed by the sides of said hanger where they join to form a hook, said shelf, along one of its edges, residing atop said hanger sides for a substantial distance along said sides, extending horizontally therefrom and having an opening in its centermost portion for passage of said hook therethrough, means securing said shelf to said hanger sides, a multiplicity of annular slots in open communication with the unattached edge of said shelf for receipt of pre-tied neckties therein.

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