

Nov. 3, 1931.

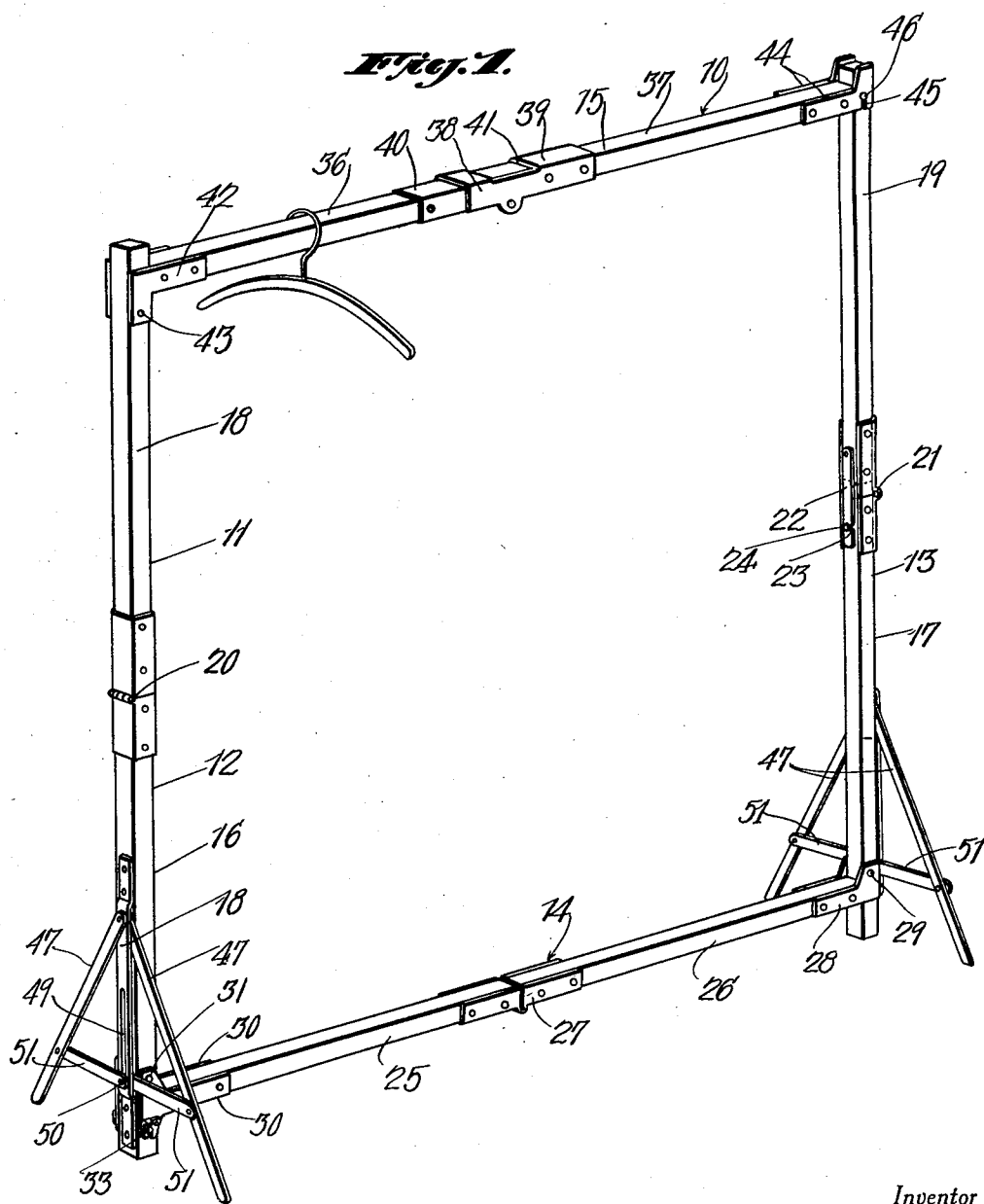
H. V. LORCH

1,830,282

CLOTHESRACK

Filed July 15, 1930

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



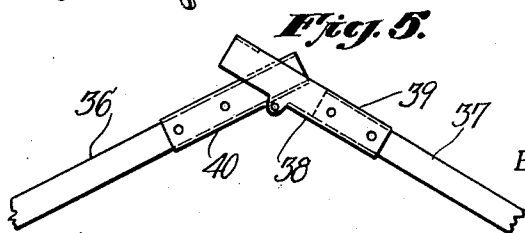
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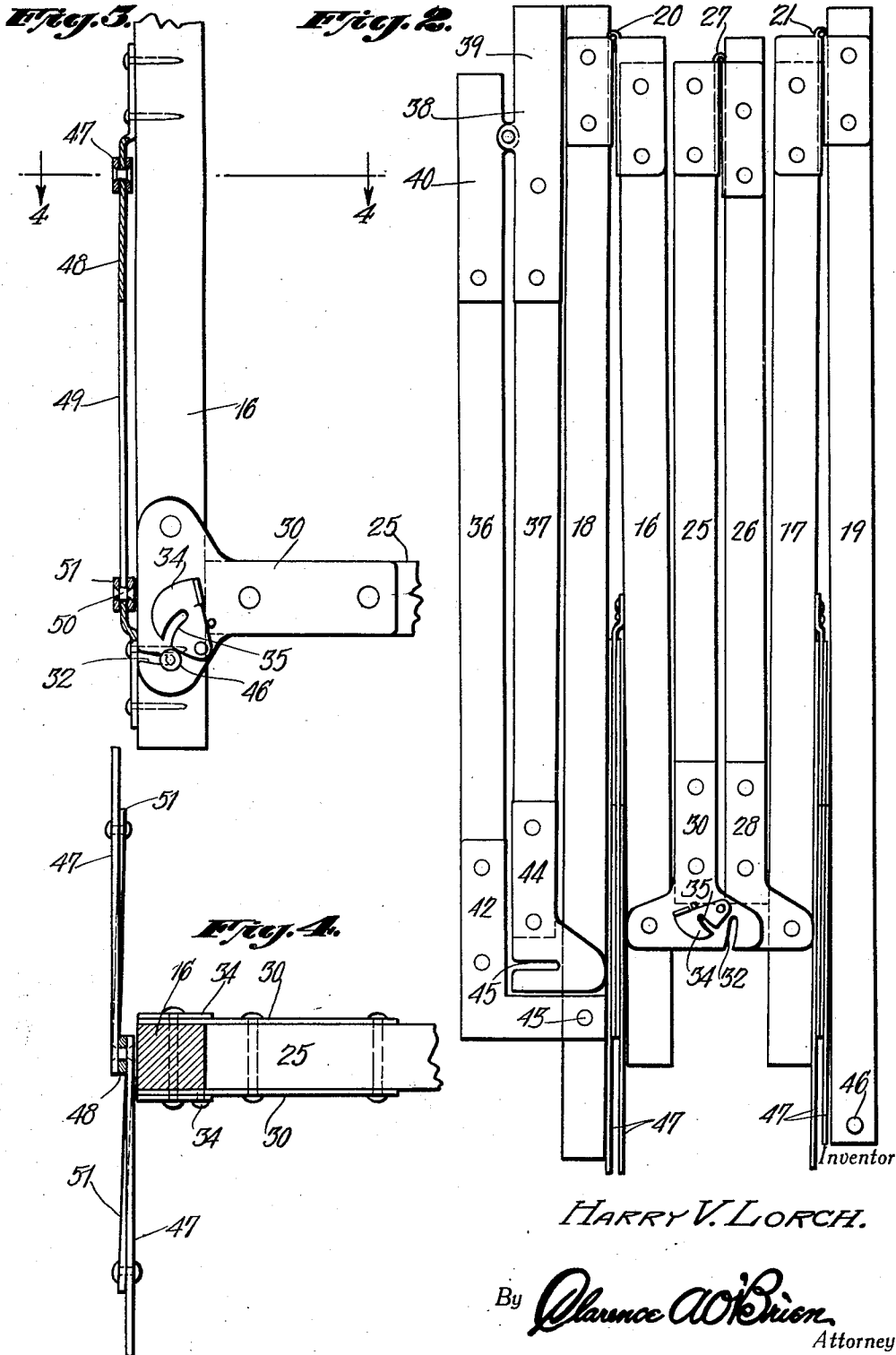
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CLOTHESRACK

Application filed July 15, 1930. Serial No. 468,133.

This invention relates to improvements in clothes racks and has particular reference to a collapsible or folding rack.

The primary object of the invention resides in a foldable clothes rack which will be found convenient and useful to campers to permit the hanging of articles of clothing thereon when the rack is in set up position for use, and which may be compactly folded for packing in a relatively small space when not in use. Although the rack is intended for temporary use, the same may be set up for permanent use in store rooms and like places for the hanging of clothes and other articles thereon.

Another object of the invention is to provide a collapsible clothes rack which is strong and rigid when set up for use to withstand the load of the articles to be supported thereon.

A further object is the provision of a foldable clothes rack which is easy and quick to set up and collapse, and which may be handled by a single person.

With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in the certain novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts, the essential features of which are hereinafter fully described, are particularly pointed out in the appended claim, and are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved foldable clothes rack in a set up position.

Figure 2 is a side elevational view of the rack in a folded position.

Figure 3 is a detail sectional elevational view of one of the lower corners of the rack.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a detail side elevational view showing the manner in which the rail sections of the top rail are hingedly connected.

Referring to the drawings by reference characters, the numeral 10 designates my improved foldable clothes rack in its entirety which includes a rectangular frame structure 11 constructed of vertical side rails 12 and 13, a bottom rail 14 and a top rail 15. The side rails 12 and 13 include lower rail sec-

tions 16 and 17 respectively, and upper rail sections 18 and 19 respectively, the rail sections of the respective sides being hingedly connected together as at 20 and 21 respectively. The pivots of the hinges 20 and 21 are disposed on the outer sides of the side rail so that the rail sections fold outwardly one upon the other when in folded position. For bracing the joints between the respective side rail sections, I provide a pivoted arm 22 carried by one of the sections and provided with a slot 23 for receiving a pin 24 carried by the other adjacent section. When the arm 22 is in engagement with the pin the respective joints between the side rail sections is strengthened and prevented from accidental breaking.

The bottom rail 14 is constructed of bottom rail sections 25 and 26, the meeting ends being connected by a hinge 27, the pivot of the hinge being disposed on the under side of the rail so that the joint breaks inwardly when the bottom rail sections 25 and 26 are folded one upon the other. Angle brackets 28 are carried by opposite sides of the free ends of the bottom rail sections 26 and which angle plates are pivotally connected to the lower end of the lower rail sections 17 as at 29. The angle plates 28 extend beyond the ends of the sections 26 to permit the lower end of the rail sections 17 to extend there-through and engage the supporting surface or ground when the frame or rack is in set up position. The outer end of the bottom rail section 25 carries plates 30 on opposite sides thereof and which plates are in turn pivoted to the lower end of the lower side rail sections 16 as at 31. The lower end of the section 16 extends through the plate 30 when the rack is in set up position and like the other lower rail section 17, engages the ground or supporting surface. For locking the pivot connection between the rail section 25 and the rail section 16, I provide the plates 30 with arcuate shaped slots 32 for the reception of pins 33 extending from opposite sides of the rail section 16. For locking the pin in the arcuate shaped slots 32, the plates carry pivoted latch members 34 having arcuate slots 35 which receive the shank of the

pin 33. This latch member prevents any possibility of the joints breaking when the rack is in set up position.

The top rail 15 is constructed of top rail sections 36 and 37, the meeting ends of which are pivotally connected together by a hinge 38. The hinge 38 includes a pair of pivotally connected socket sections 39 and 40, the rail section 37 extending into the socket member 39, while the inner end of the section 36 is received in the socket member 40. The top of the socket member 39 is cut away as at 41 to permit breaking of the joint at which time the inner end of the rail sections 36 which overlap the pivot of the hinge joint passes through the slots 41 as indicated in Figure 5 of the drawings. It will be noted that the hinge joint connecting the top rail sections breaks outwardly and not inwardly as does the bottom rail sections. The outer end of the top rail sections 36 has angle plates 42 fixedly connected to opposite sides and which straddle opposite sides of the upper rail sections 18 and to which sections the plates are pivotally connected as at 43. By pivotally connecting the rail sections 18 and 36 by the angle plates 42, the rail section 37 is permitted to fold against the section 36 and lie parallel to the side rail section 18 when the parts are in folded position as illustrated in Figure 2 of the drawings.

Carried by the outer ends of the top rail sections 37 and secured to opposite sides thereof are hook plates 44, the outer ends of which extend beyond the end of the section 37 and which extending ends are provided with slots or notches 45 for receiving outwardly extending pins 46 carried by the upper ends of the side rail section 19. When the hook plates are in engagement with the respective pins, the said plates straddle the sides of the side rail sections 19 and lock the several rail sections in set up position.

For supporting the frame structure 11 in an upright position, I provide sets of folding legs 47, the upper ends of which are pivotally connected on the same axis to brackets 48 fixedly secured to the outer sides of the respective lower rail sections 16 and 17. The brackets 48 are provided with elongated slots 49 for slidably receiving the pivot pins 50 connecting the inner ends of a pair of brace links 51, the opposite or outer ends of the links being pivotally connected to the respective leg members 47. By sliding the pivot 50 upwardly in the slot 49, the leg member 47 will be drawn into folded position against the bracket 48, but when the said pivot is moved to the bottom of the slot, the leg will be disposed in extended position and held braced by the arms 51.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that when the rack is in set up position as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, garment hangers may be hung upon the top

rail 15 and clothing hung thereon, or if desired, the clothing may be hung directly upon the top rail. The joints connecting the several hingedly connected sections are locked against accidental breaking and therefore the rack is capable of supporting many articles thereon. Assuming that the rack is in set up position as shown in Figure 1, and it is desired to collapse the same, the first step is to disconnect the hook plate 44 with the pins 46 whereupon the hinge joint 38 may be broken as well as the joints 20 and 21 so that the top and side rail sections may be folded one upon the other, after which the legs are moved to their folded position as previously explained, and the catch members 34 is disconnected from their engaging pins 33 to permit folding of the sections of the bottom rail 14. When completely folded the structure appears as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, and provides a compact structure to enable the same to be conveniently packed and carried. The device will be found extremely useful for campers in setting up in tents for use and for collapsing when not in use and during travel from place to place.

While I have shown and described what I deem to be the most desirable embodiment of my invention, I wish it to be understood that various changes in construction may be resorted to if desired, and I do not limit myself to the exact details herein shown and described, nor to anything less than the whole of my invention, limited only by the appended claim.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A foldable clothes rack comprising side rails, each side rail constituting upper and lower hingedly connected side rail sections the hinges of the side rails being located on the outer edges thereof whereby the rails can be moved inwardly, a bottom rail consisting of two hingedly connected bottom rail sections, the bottom rail sections being hingedly connected to the lower sections of the respective side rails, means for locking one of the bottom rail sections to its hingedly connected lower side rail section, a top rail section embodying a pair of hingedly connected top rail sections, one of the top rail sections being hingedly connected to one of the upper side rail sections, and interengaging elements carried by the free end of the other top rail section and the free end of the other upper side rail section the hinges of the top and bottom rails being located on the under edges thereof whereby the sections of said rails can be moved upwardly, and foldable legs carried by the lower side rail sections for supporting the rack in an upstanding position when said rail sections are in set up position each leg assembly comprising a

pair of members pivotally connected at their upper ends to a side rail, a link pivotally connected to each member and extended inwardly, a slotted part on the side rail, and a pin passing through the inner ends of the links and engaging the slots whereby when the pin is in the lower end of the slot, the links will hold the leg members in extended position and when the pin is in the upper end of the slot the links will draw the leg members inwardly and parallel to the side rails.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

HARRY V. LORCH.