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CLOTHES RACK

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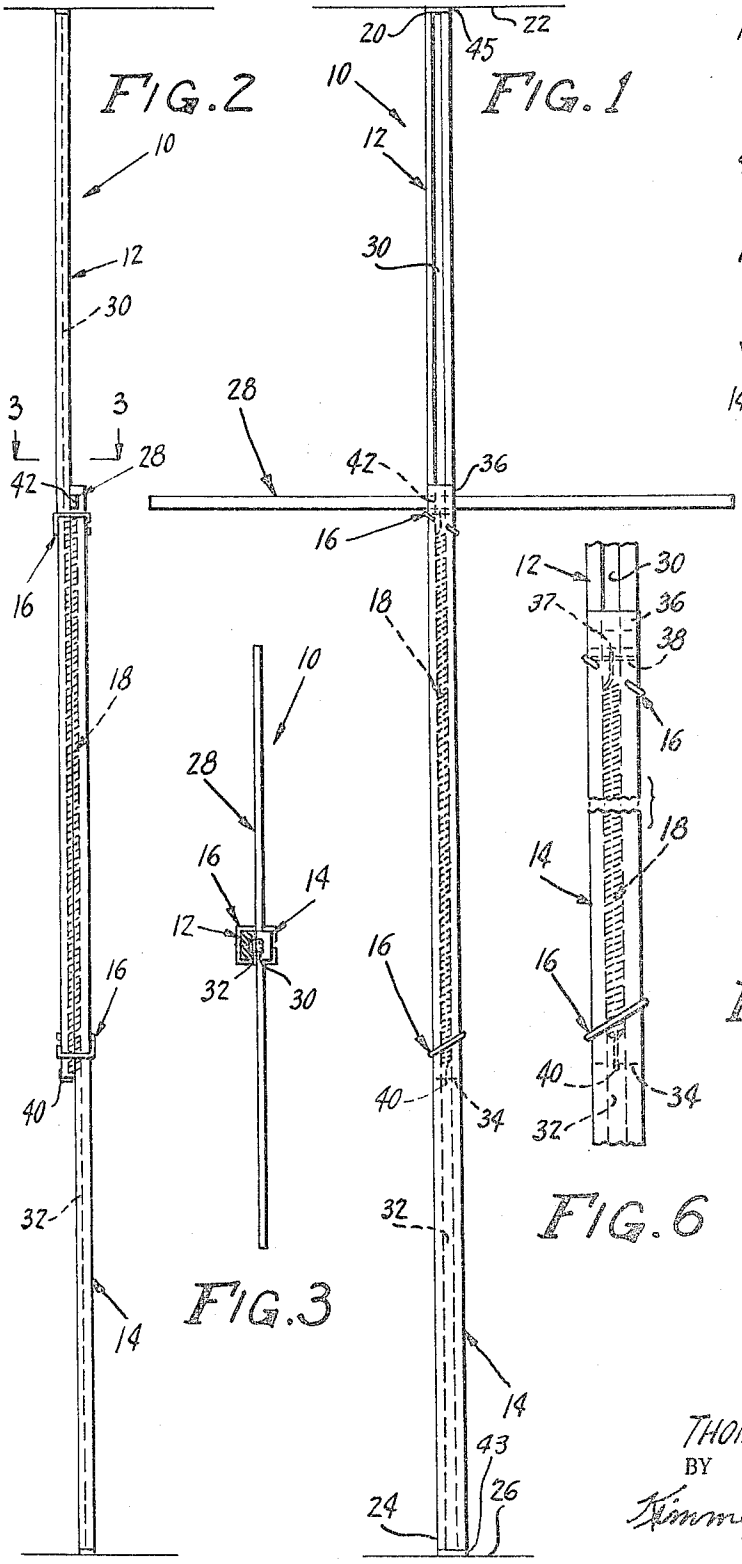

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CLOTHES RACK

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This invention relates to a clothes rack and relates particularly to a collapsible rack with a tension type support which may be readily set up and taken down.

A primary object of this invention is the provision of a device of the type described which is sturdy and durable in construction, reliable and efficient in operation, and relatively simple and inexpensive to manufacture, assemble, utilize and maintain.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a clothes rack having a tension type support means which automatically adjusts itself within limits to the specific location wherein it is used.

A further object of the instant invention is the provision of a clothes rack or the like which is collapsible and which will form a compact unit for storage.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a collapsible clothes rack which may be quickly and easily assembled for use, and quickly and easily disassembled for storage.

Other and further objects reside in the combination of elements, arrangement of parts, and features of construction.

Still other objects will in part be obvious and in part be pointed out as the description of the invention proceeds and as shown in the accompanying drawing wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view of the device of the instant invention assembled in operative relationship;

FIGURE 2 is an end elevational view thereof;

FIGURE 3 is a transverse cross sectional view taken substantially on line 3—3 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged longitudinal cross sectional view of a portion of the device particularly showing the tension spring means therein maintaining the same in assembled relationship;

FIGURE 5 is a transverse cross sectional view taken substantially on line 5—5 of FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the portion of the device shown in FIGURE 4; and

FIGURE 7 is an elevational view of the device collapsed for storage.

Like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views of the drawing.

Referring now to the drawing, a clothes rack or the like in accordance with the instant inventive concept is designated by the reference numeral **10** and comprises basically an upper standard member **12**, a lower standard member **14**, guide means **16** slidably securing the two standard members to each other, tension spring means **18** normally urging the standard members apart for engagement of the upper end **20** of the upper standard member **12** with a ceiling or the like **22** and the lower end **24** of the lower standard member **14** with a floor or the like **26**, and a crossbar **28** carried by the standard members and adapted for receiving clothes or the like either on hanger members or in any other conventional manner.

The standard members **12, 14** are illustrated as having a regular polygonal cross-sectional configuration including side surfaces and face surfaces and have elongated longitudinally extending grooves **30, 32** defined in opposed face surfaces which are maintained juxtaposed to each other by the guide members **16**. Each guide member **16** is substantially C-shaped and one of the guide members has its free end portions secured to a lower end **34** of the

upper standard member **12** receiving the lower standard member **14** in sliding relationship, while the other guide member **16** has its free end portions secured adjacent the upper end **36** of the lower standard member **14** while receiving the upper standard member **12** in sliding relationship.

One end **37** of the spring means **18** is fixedly secured by engagement over a pin or the like **38** carried by the upper end **36** of the lower standard member **14** with a hooked free end **40** of the spring means **18** removably engaged over the lower end **34** of the upper standard member **12**. By detaching the hook element **40** the entire spring means **18** may be received in the elongated longitudinally extending grooves **30, 32** for storage.

A transversely extending groove **42** is defined in spaced relationship to the upper end **36** of the lower standard member **14** for slidingly receiving the crossbar **28** in the assembled relationship. The standard members **12, 14** bearing elongated longitudinally extending grooves **30, 32**, the spring means **18** and the crossbar are dimensioned so that the crossbar **28** may be received in the elongated longitudinally extending grooves **30, 32** for storage when the hook end **40** of the spring means **18** is detached and the standard members **12, 14** are slid with respect to each other until the upper ends **20, 36** and the lower ends **24, 34** of each are substantially aligned as shown particularly in FIGURE 7.

The standard members and the crossbar may be made of any desired material and in any desired shape. For illustrative purposes the elements are shown as rectangular in cross section, but it will be readily understood that they could be cylindrical if desired. Inexpensive models may be formed of wood, while more sophisticated embodiments may be made of plastic or metal. The crossbar **28** can have grooves or the like (not shown) to maintain conventional clothes hangers in position. The upper end **20** of the upper standard member **12** and the lower end **24** of the lower standard member **14** can include pads **43, 45** to preclude damage or discoloration of the surfaces which they engage. The dimensions of this device will vary depending upon the location where it is to be used. For example, the length of the standard members and the spring means could be such that the device could be readily utilized without further adjustment in rooms having from 7 to 9 foot ceilings.

The use and operation of the device of the instant invention will now be apparent. When it is desired to assemble the device for use, the crossbar **28** is slid from the elongated longitudinally extending grooves **30, 32** and the standard members **12, 14** are slid apart within the guide means **16** until the hook end **40** of the spring means **18** can be engaged over the lower end **34** of the upper standard member **12** whereby the tension of the spring means **18** will force the standard members apart for secure engagement between the ceiling and the floor. The crossbar **28** can then be slipped into the transverse groove **42** for use. Disassembly of the device merely requires reversing the above procedure. The clothes rack may be utilized in a bath tub to receive drip dry clothes or may be utilized in a storage area for extra hanging space, or adjacent an ironing board as a caddy for ironed clothes. Other such uses will be obvious to those with ordinary skill in the art.

It will now be seen that there is herein provided an improved clothes rack or the like which satisfies all of the objectives of the instant invention and others, including many advantages of great practical utility and commercial importance.

Since many embodiments may be made of this inventive concept, and since many modifications may be made of the embodiments hereinbefore shown and de-

scribed, it is to be understood that all matter herein is to be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A clothes rack or the like comprising an upper standard member and a lower standard member each having upper ends, lower ends, side surfaces and opposed face surfaces, guide means secured to one of said standard members and slidingly receiving the other standard member with face surfaces of each standard member juxtaposed to each other, elongated longitudinally extending grooves defined in said last mentioned face surfaces of each standard member in opposed relation, tension spring means received in said grooves and having opposite ends secured to said upper end of said lower standard member and said lower end of said upper standard member, respectively, a transversely extending groove defined in said last mentioned face surface of said lower standard member spaced from said upper end thereof, and a crossbar slidingly received in said transversely extending groove with end portions extending beyond both side surfaces of said standard members.

2. The structure of claim 1 wherein one end of said spring means is fixedly secured to said lower standard member adjacent said upper end thereof, the other end of said spring means being removably secured to said upper standard member adjacent said lower end thereof, whereby when said other end of said spring means is detached, the entire spring means may be received in said elongated longitudinally extending grooves for storage.

3. The structure of claim 2 wherein said other end of said spring means includes a hook element engageable over said lower end of said upper standard member.

4. The structure of claim 2 wherein said standard members, said elongated longitudinally extending grooves, said spring means and said crossbar are dimensioned so that said crossbar may be received in said elongated longitudinally extending grooves for storage when said other end of said spring means is detached and said standard members are slid with respect to each other until said upper ends of each and said lower ends of each are substantially aligned.

5. The structure of claim 1 wherein pads are provided on the lower ends of said lower standard members for precluding damage to a supporting surface.

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