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APPAREL HANGER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 223-95)

This invention relates to hangers and more particularly to a multi-purpose apparel hanger.

An object of the invention is to provide a versatile, extensible hanger capable of being used as a support for many different types of clothing.

Briefly, the hanger constructed in accordance with the invention is made of an elongate rather thin body with which two rods are slidably connected. The rods are spring-biased to an extended position and are adapted to be withdrawn when the apparel is engaged with the grippers at the ends of the rods. The withdrawal force of the rods is transmitted to the spring or springs connected indirectly to the rods to provide yielding opposition to movement in one direction of each of the rods.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structurally improved hanger capable of long and satisfactory service.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a hanger constructed in accordance with the invention.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged fragmentary elevational view of the hanger in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3-3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary perspective view showing a modification of the gripper at one end of one of the rods of the hanger.

FIGURE 5 is a perspective view showing another modification of the gripper.

In the accompanying drawing there is an illustration of a hanger 10 which exemplifies the invention. The hanger is made of an elongated body 12, preferably made of plastic, and supporting a hook 14 at the center of the body. The hook has a shank 16 and a hook portion 18, and the shank extends through an opening 20 in the center of body 12. The longitudinal sides of the body have outwardly opening semi-cylindrical grooves which form guides or guide channels 22 and 24.

Two rods 26 and 28 are seated in the guides 22 and 24, and there are plates 30 and 32 attached to adjacent ends of the rods. Plate 32 is rigidly secured to one end of rod 26 and has an aperture 36 through which rod 28 is slidable. Plate 30 is rigidly secured to one end of rod 28 and has an aperture 38 through which rod 26 slidably extends.

There are resilient means connected to the lower end of shank 16 and to the two plates 32 and 30 to yieldingly bias the rods in one direction, i.e. outwardly of body 12. The resilient means consist preferably of a pair of springs 42 and 44, although a single spring may be used. When both springs 42 and 44 are used, the outer ends of the springs are engaged with plates 30 and 32, for instance by having the hooks 46 and 48 at the outer ends of the two springs engaged in apertures formed in plates 32 and 30. The inner ends of the two springs have hooks 50 and 52 engaged over the lower part of shank 16 to form an anchorage for the springs. There is an upper and a lower washer 54 and 56 on the opposite sides of hooks 50 and 52, washer 54 fitting flush against the lower

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surface of body 12 and washer 56 seating on a head at the lower extremity of shank 16. There is an enlargement 60 in shank 16 above body 12 and above the two washers 62 seated on the body. These washers are below the enlargement 60 so that they provide a bearing surface for the enlargement, enabling the hook 14 to be swiveled.

Grippers 64 and 66 are at the ends of the two rods 28 and 26. The grippers shown in FIGURE 1 consist of flat plates having serrations 68 on the outer edges thereof. These are used to engage the pants leg, skirt opening, etc. of the garment.

A modified gripper 64a is shown in FIGURE 4. This gripper is illustrated as it would appear, i.e. at the end of rod 28a. The modification consists of a difference in the means for securing the gripper 64a to rod 28a. Gripper 64a is fitted in a slot 65 at the end of rod 28 and held in place by friction, spot welding, riveting, etc. However, there is a sleeve 70 at the upper edge of gripper 64a, and the sleeve is frictionally fitted on the end of rod 28a.

Another modified gripper 64b is shown in FIGURE 5. This gripper is U-shaped, having sides 73 and 74 together with a top connecting member in the form of a plate 75. Sleeve 76 is in plate 75 and is used for frictionally gripping the end of one of the rods. Gripper 64b may be used in addition to gripper 64 or gripper 64a or may be used in place thereof. Gripper 64b provides two serrated edges for each gripper and is ideally suited for use with a pair of pants.

In use, the springs hold the rods extended. However, when the rods are brought together manually the springs 42 and 44 are stretched to provide a yielding force constantly urging the rods in an extended position whereby the grippers may engage the apparel and hold it firmly fastened onto the hanger.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. An apparel hanger comprising an elongate generally flat rigid body having guide channels on the opposite sides thereof, a hook rigidly fixed directly to said body at the center thereof to suspend the body, a pair of rods disposed in said guide channels, each rod having a plate secured at its inner end, each plate provided with an opening, the rods slidably disposed in the openings thereby slidably connecting said rods on opposite sides of the body, and resilient means between the plates reacting on said rods and extending parallel thereto to yieldingly oppose relative movement of said rods in one direction.

2. An apparel hanger comprising an elongate straight rigid body having guide channels on the opposite sides thereof, a hook rigidly fixed directly to said body at the center thereof between said sides and extending upwardly to suspend the body, a pair of rods slidably disposed in said guide channels, each rod having a plate secured at its inner end, each plate provided with an opening, the rods slidably disposed in the openings thereby slidably connecting said rods on opposite sides of the body, and resilient means reacting on said rods to yieldingly oppose relative movement of said rods in one direction, said resilient means including springs, each spring secured at one end to one of said plates and anchored at its other end to said body by being secured to said hook whereby said spring is parallel to each rod.

3. A hanger as recited in claim 2 wherein the lower end of the hook extends through said body and is fixed

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to said spring means which is located below the body thereby preventing damage to clothing supported on the hanger.

4. The subject matter of claim 3, wherein there is a gripper at the outer end of each rod, said gripper having a gripping edge which is relatively thin in relation to the rod whereby it may be inserted into the crease of a garment.

5. A hanger as recited in claim 3 wherein said rods define a first plane, said hook lies in a second plane, said planes being perpendicular to one another.

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