Oct. 21, 1952 C. B. WILLIAMS 2,614,735

GARMENT HANGER

Filed Sept. 29, 1950 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1

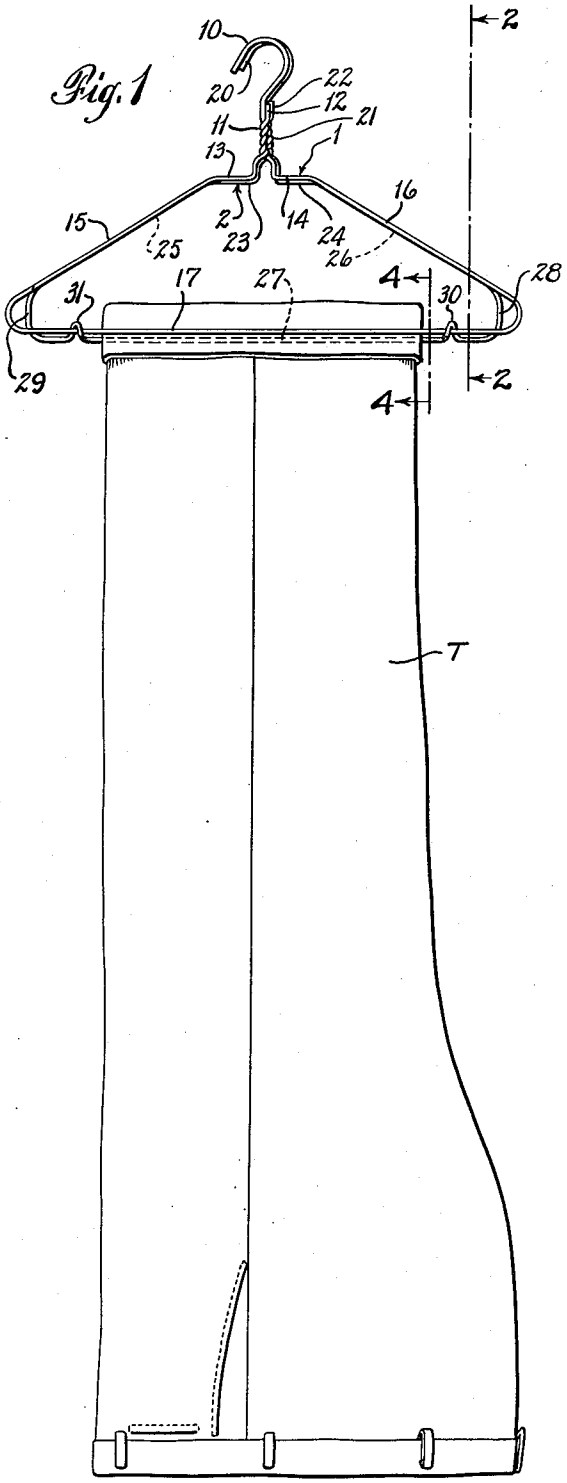


Fig. 2

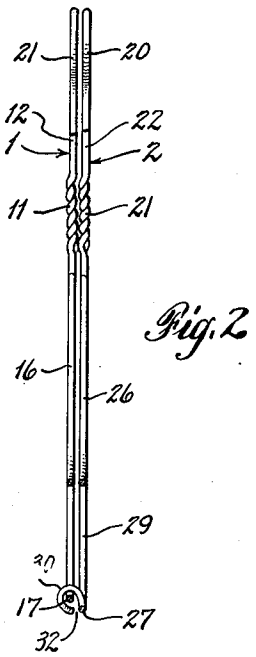


Fig. 3

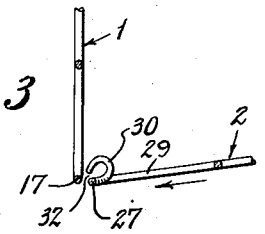
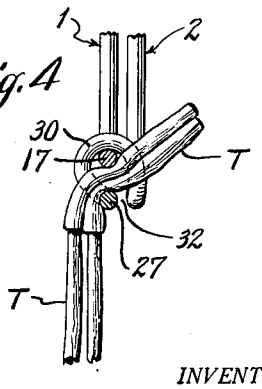


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

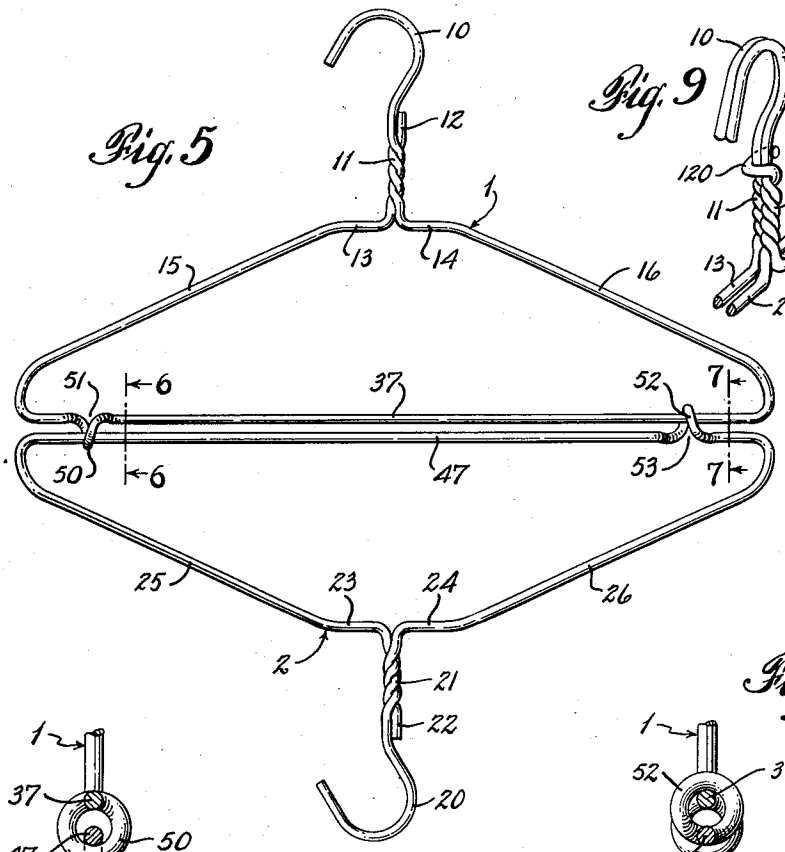
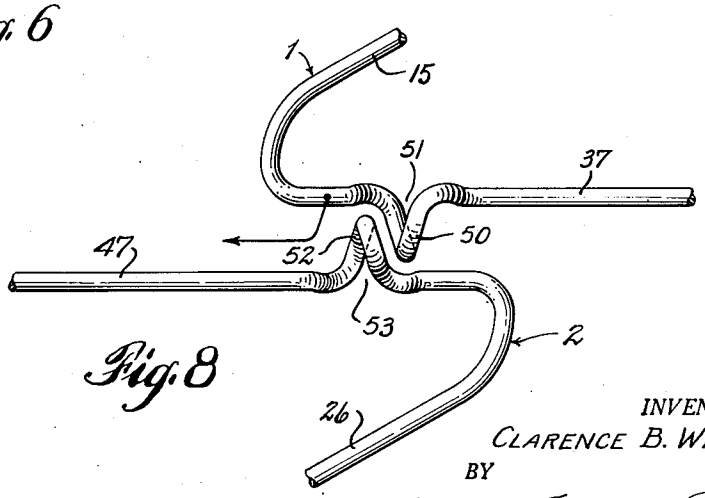


Fig. 9

Fig. 7

Fig. 6

Fig. 8



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GARMENT HANGER

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5 Claims. (Cl. 223—91)

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The invention relates to garment hangers and more particularly to a novel and useful combination of a plurality of garment hangers for supporting both coats and trousers.

Objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part hereinafter and in part will be obvious herefrom, or may be learned by practice with the invention, the same being realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention consists in the novel parts, constructions, arrangements, combinations and improvements herein shown and described.

The accompanying drawings, referred to herein and constituting a part hereof, illustrate embodiments of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Of the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of an embodiment of the invention shown in use, supporting a pair of trousers by the cuffs;

Fig. 2 is a vertical section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail showing the interlocking action of two hanger bars while being moved to connect as viewed in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical section on line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is an elevation of a modified form of the invention showing two hangers with their bars connected but with the hooks spread apart;

Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a section on line 7—7 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary elevation showing the joining action of the bars in the modification of Fig. 5; and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective of a modification showing a temporary interlocking of two hanger hooks.

Many attempts have been made to modify or adapt the transverse bar of the conventional wire coat-hanger so that it will grip and support trousers by the cuffs or the ends of the leg portions. However, such modifications have either required the addition of extra parts which detract from the normal usefulness of the coat hanger, or they have required the permanent interlocking of a pair of hangers so as to render them no longer separately useful.

The present invention is directed to the utilization of a pair of wire garment hangers which are completely useful as separate devices, but which are designed and adapted to be used together in removably interlocked relation so as to provide, when so interlocked, a combined coat and trousers hanger.

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By the present invention conventional wire garment hangers, having the usual transverse bar, can be used in their normal manner, as by dry cleaning establishments, in hotel closets and the like. However, by means of the invention, a pair of such hangers can be removably connected or interlocked together to form a frictional gripping or clamping device for receiving and holding trousers, so that the trousers can hang free from their cuff or leg ends and thus preserve the creases. By providing a small, simple and un-objectionable change in the transverse bar of one or both hangers of the pair they can be very readily interconnected and disconnected, yet remain wholly unimpaired for service as individual hangers.

In accordance with the invention, the cross bar of a conventional wire hanger may have one or two loops or partial loops twisted into the pliable metal of the bar adjacent the end or ends thereof, so as to leave clear and straight substantially the total useful length of said bar as a smooth, straight, garment-supporting member, the other, similar conventional wire hanger of the pair to be used may be totally unchanged, if two loops are formed in the bar of the first hanger of the pair; or, if only one loop is formed therein, the bar of the second hanger may be similarly looped adjacent the opposite end of its bar. The bar of one hanger is then loosely interlocked with the bar of the other by means of said loops and a resilient, trouser-gripping pair of spaced bars is thus provided.

It will be understood that the foregoing general description and the following detailed description as well are exemplary and explanatory but are not restrictive of the invention.

Referring now to the present preferred embodiments of the invention shown by way of example in the accompanying drawings, an assembled and interconnected pair of hangers are shown in Fig. 1 supporting a pair of trousers at the cuffs. As shown, a conventional wire hanger 1 is interlocked with a second similar hanger 2 by means of loops or twists formed in the transverse rod of the latter. Referring to the hanger 1, it consists of a single piece of conventional, pliable, fairly resilient metal wire formed with a hook 10, the shank of which is inter-twisted at 11 with the terminal portion 12 of the wire piece. Below twisted shank 11, the hanger is formed as a yoke with two short horizontal bars 13 and 14 inclined downwardly and outwardly to form the sloping shoulder pieces 15 and 16. The shoulder pieces turn inwardly at their lower ends to form the transverse rod 17 which joins them

together and forms a conventional bar on which trousers, skirts or other garments may be draped. The second hanger 2 is of identical construction and thereon the parts are correspondingly numbered in the 20's. That is, hook 20 is the same as hook 10, twisted shank 21 is the same as shank 11 and so on.

In accordance with the invention, the transverse bar 27 of the second hanger is provided with twisted loops 30 and 31 which are bent into the wire forming the bar at distances spaced as closely as possible to the ends of the transverse bar where it turns to form the sloping shoulder pieces 25 and 26. As will be clear from the drawing, these loops form a complete circle above the line of the rod 27 with the bottom part of the loop being spread lengthwise of the rod so as to provide opening 32 at the bottom of the loop. These openings are sufficiently wide to permit the rod 17 of the other hanger to pass easily therethrough. When so passed by the movements indicated in Fig. 3, the two hangers are loosely connected together and may be turned to form the unit as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4. When so turned into the vertical matching position as shown, the two bars 17 and 27 form together a pair of opposed, resiliently-separable, garment-gripping clamp elements. Thus the cuffs or ends of a pair of trousers T may be placed and gripped between them, the inherent resiliency of the wires of the hangers tending to tighten the grip while the hooks of the pair of hangers are hung as a unit over a rod or the like in the position shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4. However, the two hangers may be very readily separated to release the trousers. By rocking them or turning them apart, to a 180° position (shown in Fig. 5 with a modification), the rod 17 of the hanger may be readily withdrawn from the open bottoms of the loops 30 and 31. When this is done the two separate hangers 1 and 2 may again be used as individual complete garment hangers in the conventional way.

It will be noted that the spacing apart of the two loops 30 and 31 is such that substantially the entire length of the bar 27 is left clear and smooth in its original form. Thus it can serve as an individual separate hanger just as though the loops had never been formed therein. It will also be observed that the forming of the loops in the bar 27 tends to draw in the curved corners 28 and 29 of the hanger 2, making the distance between said corners a little shorter than it is in the hanger without the loops. This, however, is an unimportant difference which does not affect the utility of the hanger 2 as a separate individual hanger.

Referring now to the modification shown in Fig. 5, the invention is not limited to forming both loops or all the loops in the transverse bar of one of the pair of hangers. Fig. 5 shows a form in which one loop is formed in one bar and the second loop formed in the other bar. The parts in Fig. 5 which are identical with those in the form of Figs. 1 to 4 are numbered the same, but the bar of hanger 1 is numbered 37 and the bar of hanger 2 is numbered 47. As shown, a loop 50 is formed in bar 37, the node or closed portion of the loop being below the bar in its upright position and the open part or mouth 51 of the loop being in the upper part of the bar and in line therewith. A second similarly disposed loop 52 is formed in bar 47 of the other hanger, said second loop having an opening or mouth 53. In this form of the invention the two bars are interconnected most conveniently by the method illustrated in Fig. 8, whereby a lateral motion and slight twisting and the two loops are brought together and then the bars slid along each other to bring the two hangers into the position shown in Fig. 5. Having thus interconnected the rods of the two hangers, the hooks may be rotated to bring them together in the upright position, that is, similar to the position shown in Fig. 1.

The invention also contemplates a provision of means for releasably locking the hooks 10 and 20 of the pair of hangers in the closed position shown in Fig. 1. Such means may be provided in a variety of ways and Fig. 9 shows a simple adaptation for that purpose wherein the twisted shank 21 of hanger 2 is formed with its terminal portion 22 bent out to form a relatively wide horizontally disposed hook 120. Said hook is thus positioned to embrace the shanks of both hooks 10 and 20 just above the twisted portions thereof when the two hangers are brought together in the position of Fig. 1. This relatively loose hook engagement holds the two hangers more tightly together when they are in the interlocked position, but disengagement thereof may be readily effected by sliding the hangers a short distance laterally with respect to each other.

In lieu of forming the hook 120 as shown, a similar temporary interlocking of the hooks 10 and 20 may be effected by twisting the ends of said hooks so that they overlap and interlock. If desired a small ring or coil of wire or other metal can be provided to slip over the two hooks 10 and 20 and temporarily hold them together. Other similar simple means can alternatively be provided for holding the tops of the two hangers from separating, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that other forms of loops may be provided for releasably connecting two hanger rods together for the purposes and in accordance with the principles of the invention and that the invention is not limited to the two forms herein illustratively shown.

The invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific mechanisms shown and described but departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the accompanying claims without departing from the principles of the invention and without sacrificing its chief advantages.

What is claimed is:

1. A garment hanger having divergent sloping portions and a transverse portion, said garment hanger including two triangular frames in adjacent relation to each other, each of said frames having divergent sloping shoulder-supporting members forming the sloping portions of said hanger and a transverse bar forming the transverse portion of said hanger, said triangular frames being in releasable engagement with each other by means of loop members on said transverse portion adjacent its ends thereof, each of said loop members being integral with one of said transverse bars of said transverse portion and engaging an adjacent transverse bar of said transverse portion to form a pair of resiliently separable garment engaging elements, said frames being capable of independent use as conventional garment hangers when disengaged.

2. A hanger in accordance with claim 1, wherein one of said loops is formed in the bar of one frame and another loop is formed in the bar of the other frame.

3. A hanger in accordance with claim 1, wherein both said loops are formed in the bar of one of said frames and are positioned adjacent the ends thereof.

4. A garment hanger including in combination, a triangular frame formed of a continuous piece of resilient wire and having divergent sloping shoulder-supporting members, a hook above the apex of said sloping members, a transverse bar connecting the lower ends of said sloping members, a second frame of substantially the same construction, said triangular frames being in releasable engagement with each other by means of loop members integral with a transverse bar and adjacent the ends thereof, engaging the transverse bar of its adjacent frame to form a pair of

resiliently separable garment gripping elements, said frames being capable of independent use as conventional garment hangers when disengaged.

5. A garment hanger as defined in claim 4 which includes means for releasably locking the hooks of said triangular frames.

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