Dec. 18, 1956 E. I. REUER 2,774,526

GARMENT HANGER

Filed Sept. 7, 1954

Fig. 1

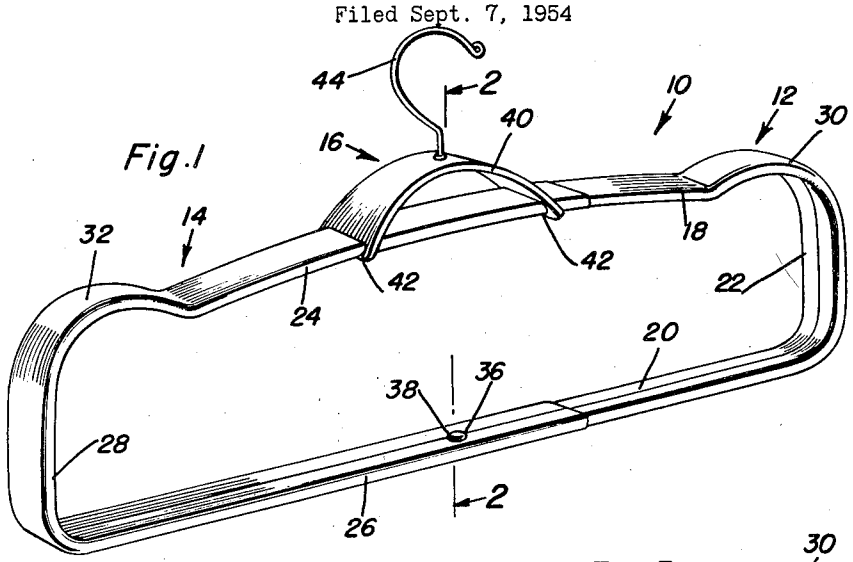


Fig. 3

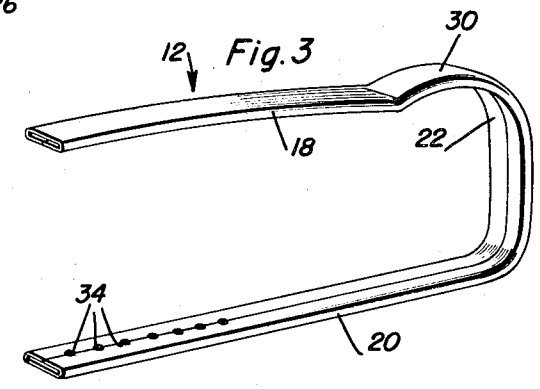


Fig. 2

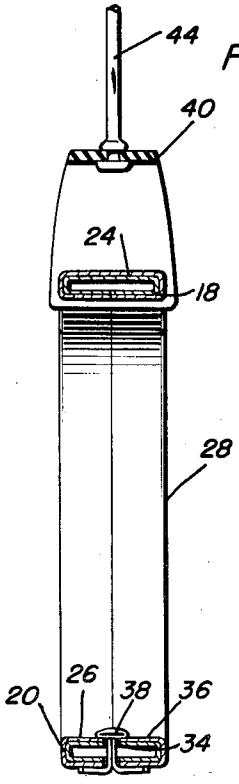
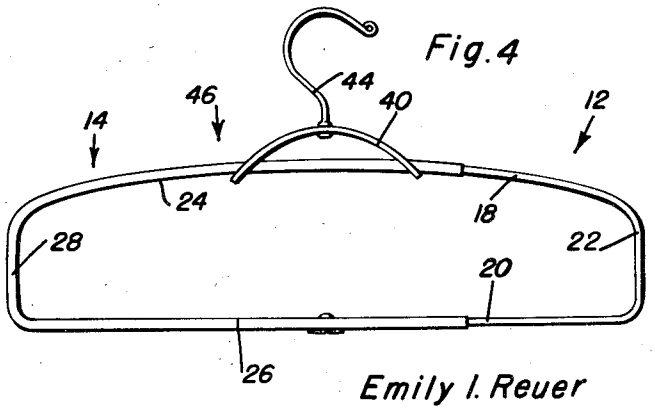


Fig. 4



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GARMENT HANGER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—89)

The present invention relates to garment hangers and more particularly relates to an adjustable garment hanger for the hanging of varying sized and shaped garments as well as garments of different weights.

A primary object of the invention is in the provision of a novel adjustable garment hanger wherein the hanger is laterally adjustable to adjust to differ shoulder sizes, shoulder paddings and fabric weights in accordance with the type of garment to be hung.

A highly important object of the invention is in the provision of such an adjustable garment hanger which is contoured in a novel manner to fit in a natural manner the shoulder seams of garments without creating uneven hanging of the garment and without creating any undue stresses on the shoulder seams.

A further object of the invention is in the provision of an adjustable garment hanger which may be both frictionally adjustable among its varying expanded and contracted positions as well as positively locked in any given position when desired.

It is another object of the invention to provide an adjustable garment hanger which consists of only two moving parts, which is exceedingly light weight in construction and durable in use.

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 the garment hanger constituting the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view of the garment hanger taken substantially along the plane of section line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of one element of the garment hanger; and

Figure 4 is a front elevation view of a modified garment hanger.

In the drawings, the garment hanger constituting the invention is designated in its entirety by the numeral **10**. Essentially, the hanger consists of three basic parts, first and second U-shaped members **12** and **14** constituting the adjustable hanger and the supporting or suspension hook assembly **16**.

Each of the U-shaped elements **12** and **14** includes upper and lower legs interconnected by a web. The upper and lower legs of the U-shaped member **12** are designated by the numerals **18** and **20** and the web of this element is designated by the numeral **22**. The upper and lower legs of the member **14** are designated by the numerals **24** and **26**, respectively and the web is designated by the numeral **28**.

Each of the U-shaped members **12** and **14** is tubular and the ends of the legs **18** and **20** telescope within the legs **24** and **26** so that the U-shaped members **12** and **14** may be drawn apart from one another or pressed toward one another by sliding the legs **18** and **20** of the member **12** within the legs **24** and **26** of the member **14**.

The major portion of the legs **18** and **24** constituting the upper legs of the members **12** and **14**, respectively are curved but possess some inherent flexibility so that as the legs are slid one within the other, they will frictionally retain themselves in any adjusted position desired by the user of the hanger.

The webs **28** and **22** are substantially vertical and connected to the major portion of the legs **18** and **24** by the humped portions **30** and **32**, respectively, which are adapted to give shoulder support to a garment suspended from the hanger.

The lower legs **20** and **26** of the members **12** and **14** are substantially horizontally aligned as is customary with garment hangers.

To effect a positive lock against expansion or retraction of the hanger member **10**, the lower leg **20** of the member **12** is provided with a plurality of longitudinally spaced apertures **34** adapted to mate with a corresponding aperture in the lower leg **26** of the member **14**. The aperture in the member **14** is designated by the numeral **36**. Fastener **38** extending through the aperture **36** and one of the registering apertures **34** positively secure the members together in any adjusted position.

In order to provide a supporting hook assembly which will adjust with the garment hanger to be centered at all times regardless of the expanded or retracted position of the U-shaped members **12** and **14**, the specific suspension hook assembly **16** previously mentioned is utilized. This suspension hook assembly **16** consists essentially of a flexible strip **40** having a transverse slot **42** adjacent each end thereof. A supporting hook **44** is secured to the central portion of the flexible strip **40**.

To mount the assembly **16**, the strip **40** is simply flexed so that the upper leg **24** of the member **14** is received in the slots **42** at the ends of the flexible strip **40**, the slots partaking in the shape of the cross-sectional shape of the tubular leg **24** being only slightly greater in size than the cross-sectional size of the leg **24** whereby the top and bottom edges of the slots **42** will catch the top and bottom surfaces of the leg **24** and prevent the natural resiliency of the strip from straightening the strip out and consequently locking the resilient strip **40** in any selected position along the leg **24**. To slide the assembly **16** to a new position, it is simply necessary to pull the ends of the flexible strip **40** toward one another and move the strip along the leg **24** or the leg **18** or in partial straddling relation to both legs, depending on where the probable center would be. Then release this action and the strip **40** will flex into frictional engagement and remain in place.

In Figure 4 there is shown a slightly modified hanger designated by the numeral **46** and distinguishing over the previously described hanger by virtue of omitting the shoulder humps **30** and **32**. Consequently, the two U-shaped members **12** and **14** remain exactly as previously described with the exception that the humps **30** and **32** are no longer present, the legs **18** and **24** joining the web portions **28** and **22** along a smooth curved line.

In both modifications, the resulting structure is a two-piece adjustable garment hanger with an adjustable suspension hook assembly for maintaining the garment hanger centered when in suspended position regardless of the expansion or retraction of the adjustable elements of the hanger.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, 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 shown and described,

and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. An adjustable clothes hanger comprising a pair of substantially U-shaped hanger elements each including a pair of legs interconnected by a web, the legs of one member slidably telescoping within the legs of the other, and a supporting hook assembly movably mounted on one of the legs for suspending the hanger, said supporting hook assembly including an elongated resilient flat strip having slots adjacent each end thereof of substantially the same cross-sectional shape as said one of said legs, said one of said legs being received in said slots and normally retaining said strip in a bowed position, and a supporting hook attached to said strip.

2. In an adjustable clothes hanger including an elongated supporting element, a supporting hook assembly carried by said supporting element, said assembly comprising an elongated, resilient bowed strip having an opening adjacent each end thereof through which said supporting element extends, a supporting hook attached to said strip intermediate the ends thereof, the strip openings aligning with one another and loosely receiving said supporting element for movement therealong as the ends of the strip are bowed toward parallel relation with one another in opposition to the resilience of the strip, the strip edges defining said openings clamping said strip fixedly to said supporting element as the ends

of said strip are biased toward alignment with one another by the resilience of the strip.

3. An adjustable clothes hanger including an extensible clothes supporting element, a hook assembly movably carried by said supporting element for centering thereon, said hook assembly comprising an elongated, flat, resilient strip having a slot adjacent each end thereof, said supporting element extending through the strip slots and bowing said strip to an arcuate shape whereby the resiliency of the strip tending to return the same to a flat condition clamps the strip fixedly to said supporting element.

4. A hook suspension assembly for attachment to an elongated supporting element comprising an elongated, resilient, normally flat strip having slots adjacent the ends thereof, and a supporting hook carried by said strip intermediate the ends thereof, said strip being adapted to loosely receive a supporting element through said slots as the ends of the strip are bowed toward parallel relation with one another and tightly clamp the strip to the supporting element as the normal resilience of the strip biases the same toward a flat condition.

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