Oct. 23, 1951 S. SUMMER 2,572,534

GARMENT HANGER

Filed June 29, 1949

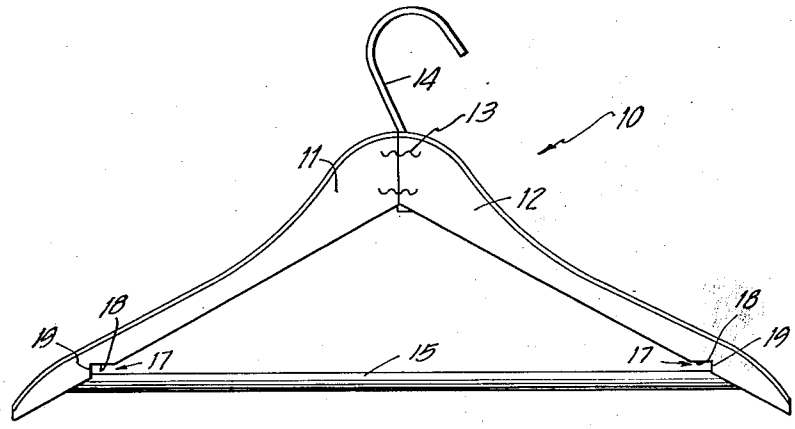



FIG. 1

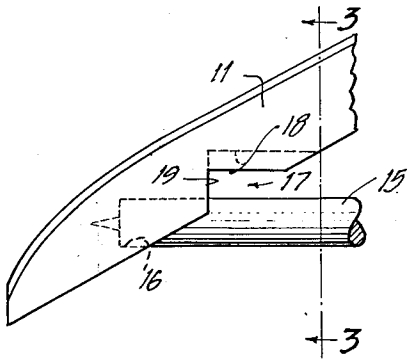



FIG. 2

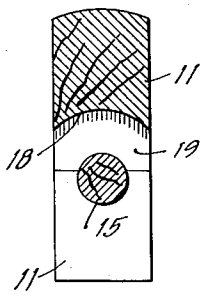



FIG. 3

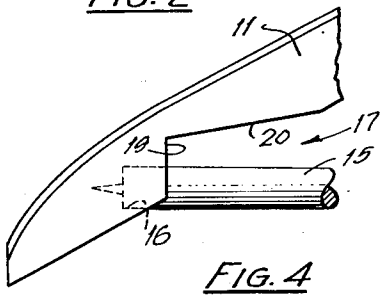



FIG. 4

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## GARMENT HANGER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 223—88)

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This invention relates to improvements in garment hangers made of wood and of the type adapted to support a pair of trousers folded over a cross member connected to arms which extend outwardly and downwardly in opposite directions and over which the coat is hung. The undersides of the arms are plane surfaces which intersect the cross member at an acute angle, thus forming with the cross member, at each end of the latter, an acute angular space therebetween. Since a pair of trousers, when folded, has an appreciable thickness consisting of four folds or plies of cloth, the space available for hanging them over the cross member without wrinkling is limited at each end of said member by the close proximity of the adjacent arm.

Garment hangers of the general type above described are well known and in wide spread use. The conventional type hanger of this kind is frequently limited in width both for reasons of economy in construction and to avoid having the lowermost ends of the arms spaced further apart than is necessary to fit the shoulders of the coat. For these reasons, such hangers are commonly manufactured no wider than 17" between the lowermost ends of the downwardly-extending arms. The cost of manufacturing increases sharply as the size is increased, and the chance of the longer arms causing distortion to the coat likewise increases.

It has been found that, when a pair of trousers is folded and suspended over the cross member of the smaller size hangers, particularly that in popular use known as the 17" size, wrinkling occurs along the front and back crease lines of the trousers due to the fact that it is usual to draw them through the hanger so that the portions thereof depending from the opposite sides of the cross member will be balanced in order to prevent their slipping from the hanger. There is also the possibility of the trousers becoming wedged in the angular corners between the cross member and the arms and being damaged when being removed from the hanger. This wrinkling and wedging occurs because the upper parts of the trousers legs which are in contact with the cross member are of greater width than the lower part of the trousers legs, particularly in the so-called "slack" styles which are very wide in the zones where they fold over the cross member of the hanger. The length of the cross member is, of course, limited by the overall size of the hanger and, in the smaller size, such as the 17", it is insufficient for many trouser sizes which regularly accompany a coat size for which the hanger arms are ample.

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It is therefore extremely desirable not only to have a greater available length or width along the upper surface of the cross member, but also to eliminate the acute angles between the cross member and the arms at each end of said member to reduce or eliminate the possibility of the edges of the trousers becoming wedged between the cross member and said arms.

In order to overcome this difficulty, the overall size of the conventional hanger between the ends of the arms has frequently been increased by one or two inches to provide a cross member of greater length. However, there are two definite disadvantages which accompany a hanger of increased size. In the first place, there is a substantial increase in cost and, in the second place, the arms extend outwardly too far and cause bulges to appear in the shoulder of the coat.

The principal object of my invention, therefore, is to provide a garment hanger of the type above described which is of the minimum size required for the coat and which will support trousers in a more securely folded and balanced position on the cross member without wrinkling them along their front and back crease lines or damaging them by wedging in the angular corner spaces between the cross bar and the arms. A further object is to accomplish the foregoing at little or no additional cost.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference should be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view illustrating a coat hanger embodied by the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary portion of one end of such a hanger;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the lines 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing a slight modification of the invention.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, there is indicated generally at 10 a conventional type of garment hanger having two arms 11 and 12 joined together at their tops in any suitable manner such as by brads 13. Extending through the top of the hanger is a conventional type of hook 14 whereby the hanger can be placed in suspended position.

The arms 11 and 12 extend outwardly and downwardly in opposite directions and are connected adjacent their bottoms by a cross member 15, the ends of which are merely inserted in cylindrical recesses 16 drilled in the arms for that purpose.

A notch 17 is provided in each of the arms 11 and 12 just above the cross member 15. As illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, this leaves one surface 18 in each arm that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cross member 15. This surface may either be plane as shown in Fig. 1, or a surface of revolution, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The depth of the notch is defined by another surface 19 that is substantially normal or perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cross member 15. However, the upper surface of the notch may be inclined to the axis of the cross member, as shown at 20 in Fig. 4.

The conventional practice in the manufacture of such hangers is to drill each arm 11 and 12 separately to provide the openings 16 and then join them together with the cross member fitted in the openings 16. I have found that a garment hanger as above described can be formed with slots or notches 17 therein of the type shown in Figs. 2 and 3 at no additional cost whatsoever by using a drill with a counter-boring device attached thereto, or by using a special drill having an end portion of a size adapted to drill a hole to receive the cross member 15 followed by a second portion coaxial with said first portion but of larger diameter to cut the surfaces 18 in each of the arms.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that by means of my invention, I provide a garment hanger of small overall size or width which will perform the function of supporting trousers without wrinkling or wedging them in the corners in a manner which is just as satisfactory as with a larger size hanger, without any increase in manufacturing cost and without the accompanying disadvantage of having the arms extend outwardly to such an extent that bulges occur in the shoulders of a coat when placed thereon. The useful length of the upper surface of the cross member is equal to that of any hanger of the same type in the next larger size which is usually 1'' wider.

Since certain changes may be made in the above article and different embodiments of the invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the following claims are intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

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

1. A garment hanger of the type adapted for a coat and trousers; said hanger comprising a pair of outwardly and downwardly extending arms formed of wood, substantially straight throughout on their lower sides, adapted to hold a coat when hung thereover and provided with opposed cylindrical recesses therein closely adjacent the lower ends thereof; means securing the upper ends of said arms together; a cylindrical bar formed of wood and adapted to support a pair of folded trousers when hung thereover, extending transversely between said arms and having its ends disposed in said recesses and supported by said arms; said hanger being characterized by having opposed portions of said arms on the lower sides thereof above the portions of said bar adjacent the entrances to said recesses cut out to form, with the top of said bar, open slots extending into said arms; said slots being of a vertical depth or height throughout adapted to receive the edge portions of said trousers when hung over said bar without pinching or wrinkling the same; whereby, the width of the trousers'-hanging space between said arms is substantially increased without increasing the overall width of said hanger.

2. A garment hanger of the type adapted for a coat and trousers and comprising, two, separate, outwardly and downwardly extending arms, formed of wood, substantially straight throughout the lower sides thereof, and adapted to hold a coat when hung thereover; means securing the upper ends of said arms together; said arms being provided with opposed, substantially coaxial, cylindrical recesses therein adjacent their lower ends; and a cylindrical bar of wood adapted to support a pair of folded trousers when hung thereover, having its ends disposed in said recesses and supported by said arms; said hanger being characterized by having those portions of said arms on the underside thereof above the portions of said bar adjacent the entrances to said recesses cut out to form open slots between said arms and the top of said bar of a depth or height adapted to receive the edges of said trousers without pinching or wrinkling the same; whereby the trousers'-hanging space in said hanger is substantially increased without increasing the overall width of said hanger; the surfaces of those portions of said arms defining the tops of said slots being surfaces of revolution coaxial with said recesses.

SAMUEL SUMMER.


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