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M. A. GILLESPIE ET AL

2,633,276

FOLDING GARMENT HANGER

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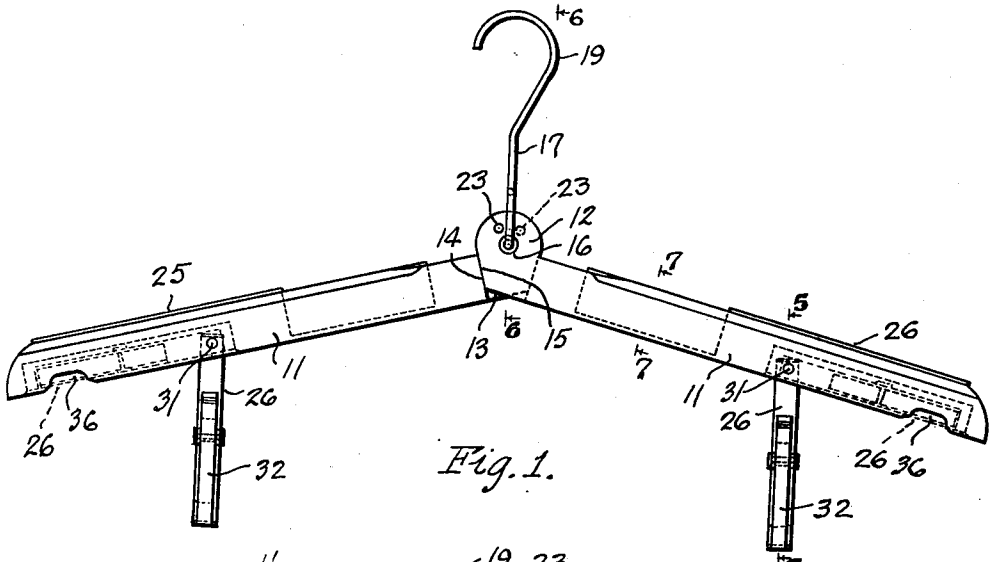


Fig. 1.

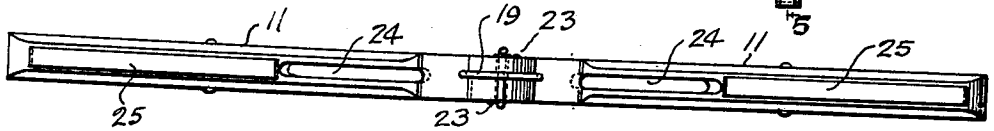


Fig. 2.

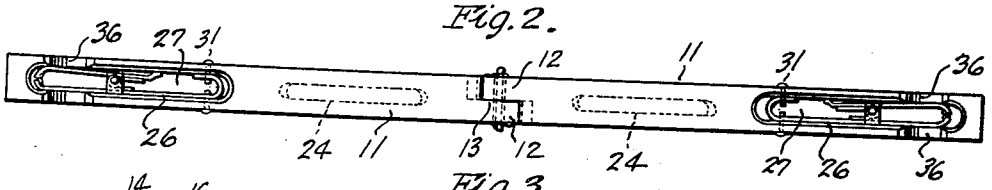


Fig. 3.

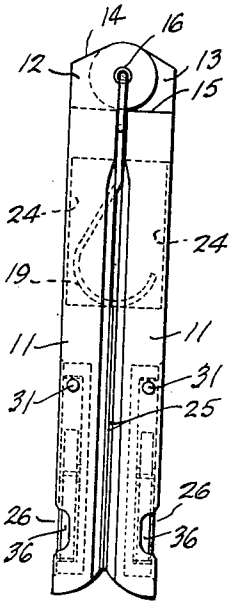


Fig. 4.

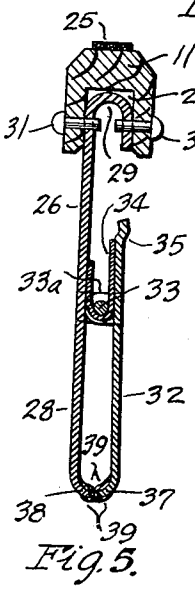


Fig. 5.

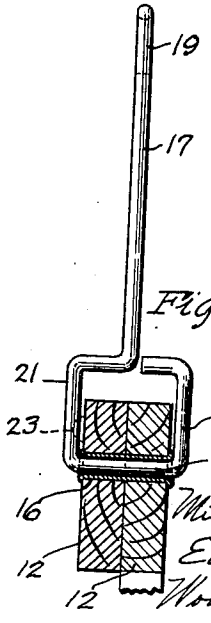


Fig. 6.

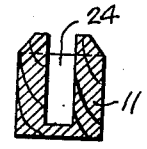


Fig. 7.

Inventors

Michael A. Gillespie

Earl L. Morey

Wooster & Davis Attorneys

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FOLDING GARMENT HANGER

Michael A. Gillespie and Earl L. Morey,
Bridgeport, Conn.

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223—90)

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This invention relates to folding garment hangers, and an object is to provide a hanger of this type having improved features of construction and operation.

Folding hangers are frequently used in traveling, and are adapted to be collapsed or folded into a compact arrangement capable of being packed in a small space. However, as heretofore constructed, the intended purpose has not been fully realized because some part, such, for example, as the hanger-supporting hook, has usually projected outward so as to become easily entangled with or interfere with other articles; or the construction of the hanger has been relatively complicated, and therefore expensive, or objectionable for other reasons.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved folding garment hanger constructed and arranged to be easily and quickly folded for packing and, when folded, to have no projecting hooks or other parts of any sort.

A further object is to provide a folding hanger having an improved arrangement for supporting such articles as trousers, skirts or the like.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, we have devised the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification. It is, however, to be understood the invention is not limited to the specific details of construction and arrangement shown, but may embody various changes and modifications within the scope of the invention.

In this drawing:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a folding garment hanger showing one embodiment of the invention extended for use;

Fig. 2 is a top plan of the hanger shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view thereof;

Fig. 4 is an elevation of the hanger folded for packing, and

Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are transverse sections on the lines 5—5, 6—6, 7—7 respectively, of Fig. 1.

The illustrated embodiment of the invention shows a pair of arms 11 which are of identical construction so that only one form of arm is required to make up the hanger, thus simplifying the manufacture thereof. They may be formed of any suitable material such, for example, as wood or plastic. At one end each arm 11 has a hinge forming ear 12 projecting outwardly from one side of the end and having a width about equal to one-half the width of the associated arm 11, whereby a recess 13 is provided at the side of each ear 12 to receive the ear of a cooperating arm for hinging the two arms together. A tapered end face 14 on each ear 12 is adapted to engage the edge 15 of the opposite recess 13, as

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shown in Fig. 1, to form stops to determine the relative positions of the arms 11 when in open position.

The ears 12 are hinged together by a hollow rivet 16 or the like, and a hanger-supporting member 17 has an arm 18 extending through the hollow rivet and a hanger-supporting, hook-shaped body portion 19 which is positioned to lie in the plane of the arms 11. The hook-shaped body portion 19 is connected to the arm 18 by an offset arm 21 which extends along one side of one ear 12. An arm 22 on the opposite end of the arm 18 is bent parallel to the arm 21 to lie closely adjacent to the other ear 12.

When the hanger is in extended open position, as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the supporting hook 19 is held automatically in extended operative position. As illustrated, a lug 23 is so located on each ear 12 as to engage the respective arms 21, 22 on the supporting member 17 on opposite sides and thus move the hook to proper or extended position of use by movement of the arms to open position and also to retain the hook in proper position for use.

Each arm 11 is formed to enclose the supporting member 17 and particularly the hook portion 19 thereof when the hanger is folded, as shown in Fig. 4, so that there are no projecting parts to interfere with other articles when the hanger is folded and packed. In the illustrated embodiment, a hook-receiving recess or slot 24 in each arm 11 is arranged to accommodate the opposite sides of the supporting member 17 and particularly the hook 19, see Fig. 4, when the hanger is folded. Each arm 11 has a non-slip surface 25 extending along the top face thereof for a suitable distance from the ends inward to retain garments in place and prevent their slipping off. This may be provided by a strip of felt or similar material cemented to the top surface of each arm.

The invention includes a simple, effective arrangement for supporting such garments as trousers, skirts and the like. As illustrated, this includes a clip 26 pivotally connected to each arm 11 for movement into depending operative position, as shown in Fig. 1, or to concealed inoperative position shown in Figs. 3 and 4 in a slot 27 or recess formed in the lower face of each arm 11 adjacent the outer end thereof. Each clip 26 includes a finger 28 having its inner end hinged or pivotally secured in the adjacent slot 27, the illustrated device having a curved inner end 29 supported on one or more pivot pins 31 extending through opposite sides of the slot 27, so that the clip 26 can be swung upwardly into the slot 27 when the hanger is folded. A cooperating spring pressed finger 32 is pivotally connected to the

finger 28 by a pin 33 extending through flanges or lugs 33a on the two fingers, and its free end forming a gripping jaw 37 is yieldingly pressed against the similar jaw 38 of finger 28 by a spring 34 coiled around the pin 33 and engaging the two fingers 28, 32 as shown in Fig. 5. In order to retain the skirt and trouser supporting fingers 26 in the confines of the associated slots when retracted therein, each slot is formed of such width that a projecting end 35 of each spring pressed finger 32 is engaged by the side of the slot sufficiently to apply a slight stress thereto enough to tension slightly the spring 34. This causes the end 35 of the spring pressed finger 32 to engage the side of the slot 27 with sufficient friction to retain the clip 26 in the slot when not in use. Each side wall of each slot 27 has indentations 36 to facilitate gripping the clips 26 when it is desired to draw them out of the slots for use. The jaws 37 and 38 may, if desired, be provided or covered with some plastic material 39 to improve the grip on the cloth or fabric.

In use, the hanger is opened out to the position shown in Fig. 1, for example, in which the end face 14 in each recess 13 is engaged by the end face 15 on the cooperating ear 12. These faces are so formed as to hold the arms 11 at the proper angle for use. In this position the hanger-supporting hook is held in operative upright position by the lugs 23 on the respective ears 12 as above described. When the skirt or trouser supporting clips 26 are drawn down into the operative position, such articles can be secured thereto easily and quickly. In order to fold the hanger, the clips 26 are swung into the associated slots 27 and the arms are then folded together as shown in Fig. 4. In this position it will be apparent that no parts of the hanger project outwardly in such a way as to interfere with other articles with which the hanger may be packed. The supporting hook 17 is housed within the slots or recesses 24 in each arm, while the arm 21 on the hook lies close to the adjacent ear.

Manufacture and assembly of the hanger is easy and inexpensive. The cooperating arms 11 are identical in size and shape so that only one form of arm is required, and this reduces the cost of manufacture to the minimum. They may be formed of any suitable material, preferably wood or plastic. Although we have described a specific construction of hanger in detail, the invention can be variously modified and adapted within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus set forth the nature of our invention, we claim:

1. A folding garment hanger comprising a pair of garment-supporting arms, a hinge-forming ear on one end of each arm overlapping a similar ear on the other arm, connecting means comprising a hollow rivet extending through each of said ears to hinge said arms together for relative movement into extended garment-supporting position or into folded position in which said arms lie edge to edge closely adjacent each other, a hanger-supporting member extending through said hollow rivet and having a hook-shaped body portion positioned within the plane of said garment-supporting arms, said arms having aligned slots in their opposed edges for housing said supporting member between them when folded.

2. A folding garment hanger comprising a pair of garment-supporting arms, a hinge-forming ear on one end of each arm overlapping a similar ear on the other arm, a hollow rivet extending through said ears to hinge said arms together for relative movement into extended garment-supporting position or into folded position in which said arms lie edge to edge closely adjacent each other, a hanger-supporting member comprising a wire having a loop extending through said hollow rivet including side arms positioned adjacent the outer sides of said ears, and a hook-shaped body portion positioned within the plane of said garment-supporting arms, said garment-supporting arms having aligned slots in their opposed edges for housing said supporting member when folded, and stop means on said ears engaging the opposite sides of the respective side arms of said hanger-supporting member to hold said hook-shaped body portion upright when said garment-supporting arms are extended.

3. A folding garment hanger comprising a pair of garment-supporting arms hinged together for relative movement into extended garment-supporting position or into folded position in which said arms lie edge to edge closely adjacent each other, a hanger-supporting member connected to said arms having a hook-shaped body portion, and a garment-supporting clip including a body member pivotally connected to each arm for movement in the plane of the arm into depending position relative to the associated arm and provided with a gripping jaw at its lower end, and a spring-operated clamp pivoted to the body member and provided with a gripping jaw opposed to that of the body member, each of said arms having a clip-receiving slot in the edge opposed to the other arm into which the associated clip is movable to enclose said clip when the arms are in folded position.

4. A folding garment hanger comprising a pair of garment-supporting arms hinged together for relative movement into extended garment-supporting position or into folded position in which said arms lie edge to edge closely adjacent each other, a hanger-supporting member connected to the arms having a hook-shaped body portion, and a garment-supporting clip including a body member pivotally connected to each arm for movement in the plane of the arm into depending position relative to the associated arm and provided with a gripping jaw at its lower end, each of said arms having a clip-receiving slot in its lower edge into which the associated clip is movable, a spring pressed finger on each clip including a gripping jaw opposed to that of the body member for holding a garment and provided with means to engage a wall of the slot when said clip is positioned in said slot to shift the jaw and tension the spring to retain the clip in the slot.

MICHAEL A. GILLESPIE.
EARL L. MOREY.

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