This invention relates to garment collar supports of the type which are attachable to ordinary clothes hangers, and more particularly has to do with certain improvements in such devices directed to the collar supporting surface shape, means for holding the unit in its preferred shape, and to means for retaining the support on the hanger.

While many types of collar supports have been constructed in the past, to my knowledge none have proven entirely successful for various reasons, including the inability of certain forms to retain a desirable shape, the lack of means for properly positioning and anchoring such units on hangers, and the complexity of still other types of supporting devices.

The presently disclosed garment collar support incorporates definite improvements over previous devices of this type in that provision is made for shaping the unit to conform most desirably with the natural shape of such collars and for holding that shape for longer periods. Furthermore, means are provided for anchoring the collar support to a hanger in such a way as to prevent twisting displacement relative to the hanger, while at the same time permitting of quick attachment and detachment to and from the hanger. In addition, the device prevents contact of a supported collar with the hanger hook and may include means for supporting the front or rear of a garment below the collar in outward spaced relation from the hanger, to the end that the risk of damaging the garment through contact with the hook or other parts of the hanger is minimized.

In accordance with the invention, the body of the collar support comprises a single sheet of material, such as cardboard or plastic, which has been curved upon itself with its ends joined or molded together in the first instance to have a continuous, substantially frusto-conical shape. The form of the support body may be further characterized as being generally oval-shaped in cross-section, with the front and rear of the body corresponding to opposite flattened sides of the oval, this shape being desirable to conform most readily with the natural drape of the majority of garment collars. Various means for connecting the opposite ends of the sheet may be provided, including interconnectible flaps formed in these ends, or an adhesive substance or a pin to join them in overlapped relation. The upper narrowed edge of the sheet normally surrounds an aperture adapted to fit over a hanger hook, while the lower edge contains a pair of slots formed in opposite sides of the body and extending toward the upper edge. When the support is positioned on the hanger, the slots embrace the crossbar and anchor the support against twisting displacement.

All the various features and objects of the invention, as well as the details of an illustrative embodiment, will appear more fully understood from the following description of the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the collar support shown in mounted position on a hanger;

Fig. 2 is a plan of the collar support blank as it appears when formed;
Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken on line 3-3 of Fig. 1;
Fig. 4 is a plan of a collar support blank of modified form;
Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of an assembled portion of the blank shown in Fig. 4; and
Fig. 6 is a perspective of still another modified collar support.

The collar support comprising the present invention is shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 to consist of a thin sheet of material such as cardboard, plastic or the like which is given a definite shape in a blanking step and then assembled as shown in Fig. 1. In the blanked condition the support 10 comprises essentially a sector of an annulus, defined by circular inner and outer edges 11 and 12, and complementary side edge portions 13 terminating in substantially radial edges 14 which are spaced apart. In addition, a pair of radial slots 15 are formed in the blank to extend from the outer edge 12 toward the inner edge 11 and which terminate therebetween, each of the slots having a width slightly greater than the width of a hanger crossbar. Slots 15 are spaced apart at an angle which is less than 180 degrees and which is related to the angular separation of the side portions 13, so that when the latter are brought together in the manner to be described the slots will then extend on opposite sides of the assembled collar support and be separated by a substantially 180 degree angle.

In accordance with the above description, the side portions 13 are assembled in overlapping relation as shown in Fig. 1 and conveniently joined together as by pin 16. As thus formed, the collar support assumes a substantially frusto-conical shape between upper or inner edge 11 and lower or outer edge 12, a central aperture 17 being formed within the confines of the inner edge. The aperture 17 is sufficiently large to allow the collar support to fit over a hanger hook 18, so that the slots 15 may be fitted over the crossbar 19 of the hanger on opposite sides of the hook. In this position, the anchored collar support cannot twist relative to the hanger, and yet it may be readily removed therefrom.

The support is desirably given an oval shape as shown in Fig. 3 during assembly, so as to assume a frusto-conical shape in close conformance with the natural drape of a garment collar supported on a hanger. Accordingly, the cross-section shown in Fig. 5, representing the intersection of a plane extending perpendicular to the principal axis of the collar support with the frusto-conical body of the support, is oriented with the slots 15 formed in the opposite, most sharply curved portions of the oval, while the flattened front and rear oval portions 20 are disposed medially of the slots. The overlapping end portions 13 are desirably formed to lie intermediate the slots 15 at the front or rear of the oval when the support is in assembled condition. It is readily seen from the drawings that the assembled frusto-conical collar support is sufficiently spaced from the hanger hook 18 to prevent contact of a supported collar with the hook, and thus insures against tearing or other damaging of the collar. Furthermore, the oval shape of the support allows close spacing of adjacent hangers while continuing to give desired support to a garment.

The modified embodiment illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 is represented by the same numbers as previously applied, so far as it is similar to the support first described. The principal modification is represented by the provision of two flaps or tabs 21 attached to the side edge portions 13, upper and lower slits 22 being formed along the fold lines or webs 23 of the tabs, which are substantially co-extensive with the side edges 14. The purpose of the tabs is, of course, to provide an interlocking structure
illustrated in Fig. 5 for holding the collar support in assembled condition. Accordingly, when the tabs are interlocked, the respective slits 22 receive therethrough the fold lines or webs 23 formed in respective opposite tabs, forming a mutually interlocking tabular structure. Outward projection of the tabs 21 away from the support body 10 gives additional support to the front of a garment directly below the collar thereof. Accordingly, when the collar support 10 is positioned on a hanger, not only will the collar of a garment be advantageously supported, but also the front of the garment itself will be delineated outward away from the hanger. The tabular structure 21 is well suited to lending outward support to blouses and similar garments which are desirably maintained in an unwrinkled condition on a hanger.

The modification illustrated in Fig. 6 shows a similar frusto-conical collar support 10 which is wider in a transverse direction between slots 15 and somewhat more shallow between edges 11 and 12 to adapt it for use in supporting shirt collars. A flat tongue 25, for example comprising a cardboard sheet, is shown attached to that side of the support opposite the overlapping ends 13 and projecting downward from the bottom edge 12 thereof. The tongue serves to give backing support to a shirt front preventing wrinkling thereof, and its combination with the collar support results in an integrated structure well adapted to give proper support to a shirt on a hanger, and especially to soft shirts. In addition, the combined collar and shirt front support is useful off the hanger in supporting collars and fronts of folded shirts, and may be transferred to a hanger along with the shirt, as desired.

I claim:

1. A garment collar support for use on a clothes hanger having a hook and a cross bar, said support comprising an originally flat C-shaped blank of pliant sheet material the two opposite end edges of which have been brought closely together and opposite end portions of the material thereafter joined in overlapping relation so that the support has upstanding frusto-conical shape and forms a central upright opening, said support containing an opposite pair of slots extending from and terminating in the material upwardly and inwardly of the bottom edge thereof for receiving opposite arms of the cross bar when the support is placed centrally over the hook, the upper portion of the support above a transverse plane through the slot terminations extending substantially completely about said opening and everywhere sloping upwardly and inwardly to seat the collar in its natural position above garment shoulder level, said originally flat C-shaped blank being in the form of an annular sector extending throughout an angle greater than 180 degrees and said slots in said blank extending substantially radially and being separated by an angle of less than 180 degrees.

2. The invention as defined in claim 1 comprising a paper support having substantially oval transverse section, said oval section being elongated in the direction of a line passing through the slots.

3. The invention as defined in claim 2 comprising slit end portions mutually receiving one another in interlocking relation through the slits formed therein.

4. The invention as defined in claim 2 in which said support includes an integral tongue projecting downward and outward from the curved back of said shaped support for supporting engagement with the front portion of a garment below said collar.

5. The combination comprising a garment hanger including an upright hook and a substantially transversely extending cross-bar, and a garment collar support on the hanger formed from an originally flat C-shaped blank of pliant sheet material the two opposite end edges of which have been brought closely together and opposite end portions of the material thereafter joined in overlapping relation so that the support has upstanding frusto-conical shape above and below the cross-bar and forms a central upright opening through the support freely receiving the hook, said support containing an opposite pair of slots extending from and terminating in the material upwardly and inwardly of the bottom edge thereof and receiving opposite arms of the cross-bar, the upper portion of the support above a transverse plane through the slot terminations extending substantially completely about said opening and everywhere sloping upwardly and inwardly to seat the collar in its natural position above garment shoulder level, said originally flat C-shaped blank being in the form of an annular sector extending throughout an angle greater than 180 degrees and said slots in said blank extending substantially radially and being separated by an angle of less than 180 degrees.

6. The invention as defined in claim 5 comprising a paper support.

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