Sept. 5, 1950 A. PROVOST 2,521,604

TOWEL OR CLOTHES HANGER

Filed Jan. 29, 1948

Fig. 1.

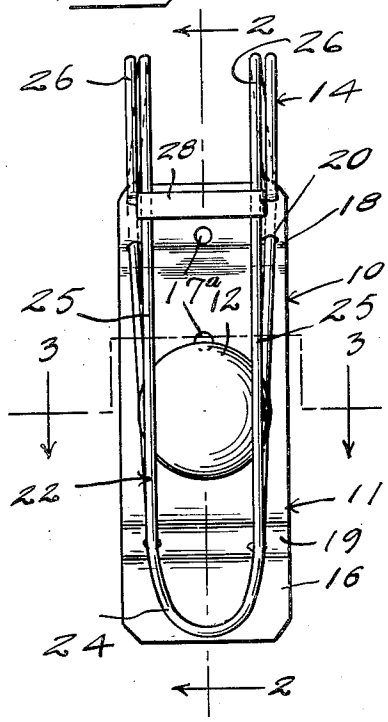


Fig. 2.

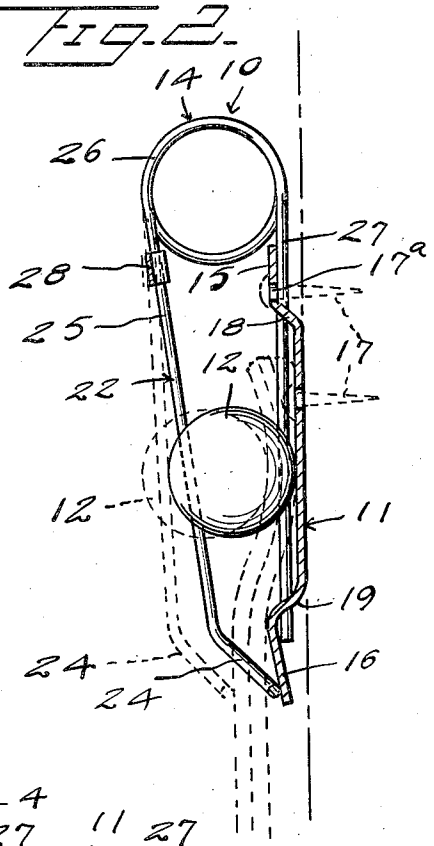


Fig. 3.

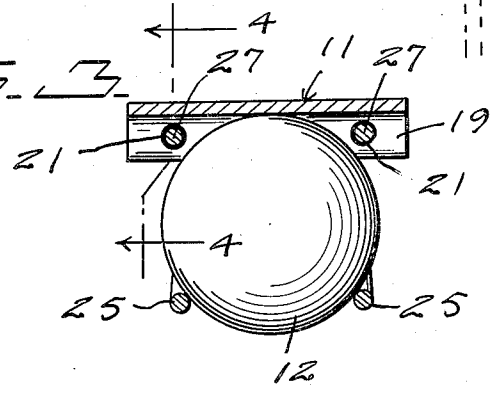
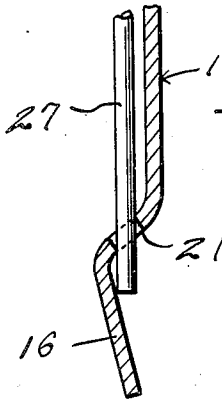


Fig. 4.



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TOWEL OR CLOTHES HANGER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 24—244)

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This invention relates to hangers and more particularly to a spring-pressed hanger for removably supporting towels or clothing.

It is an object of this invention to provide an improved hanger of the kind to be more particularly described hereinafter which is formed with a spring-pressed ball held against a rear supporting plate by a spring which also forms a guide means for the ball. The ball is disposed within the spring guides for rolling or sliding movement therein.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved hanger of this kind which is so constructed and arranged that it may be readily manufactured and assembled with a minimum number of machines and labor and which will result in a very efficient and attractive hanger.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a towel or clothes hanger of this kind within which the towel may be readily inserted and from which the towel may be removed by a downward pull. Any excess downward force on the material engaged in this hanger will release the material as distinguished from the ripping or tearing result when a towel or the like is removed in this way from a conventional type of hook.

A further object of this invention is to provide a towel rack which will take up a minimum amount of space on a wall or door or other place of installation while providing a readily accessible and secure rack.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the arrangement, combination and details of construction disclosed in the drawings and specifications, and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a towel hanger constructed according to an embodiment of this invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical section taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detailed section taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally a towel hanger or rack provided with a movable or sliding clamp for resiliently securing a towel or garment therefrom. The towel hanger 10 is formed with a rectangular flat supporting base 11 upon which the clamping ball 12 is loosely secured.

The ball 12 is slidably or rotatably contained between the inner and outer guide members of a

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spring guide 14 fixed on the supporting plate 11. The supporting plate 11 is formed with outwardly offset upper and lower ends 15 and 16 respectively.

The plate 11 intermediate the length thereof is adapted to be secured to a wall or other fixed supporting members by screws 17 or other suitable fastening devices which may engage through openings 17a in the plate 11.

The offset flanges 15 and 16 are formed with outwardly extending arms 18 and 19 respectively. The flanges 15 and 16 are substantially parallel to the center of the plate 11, extending outwardly therefrom. The outwardly extending arms 18 and 19 are formed with openings 20 and 21 respectively.

The guide member 14 which supports the ball 12 on the supporting plate 11 is formed of an elongated length of wire bent upon itself to the required shape. The wire or guide 14 is first bent at the center thereof to form a U-shaped outer guide member 22, having an arcuate bight 24 and a pair of substantially parallel upwardly extending arms 25. The wire is bent at the upper end of the arms 25 into a coil spring 26. The reverted coil spring 26 is continued to form a pair of inner or rear downwardly convergent bars 27 behind the front guide member 22.

The guide bars 27 are substantially a pair of downwardly extending arms forming a continuation of the spring 26 carried by the upper end of the arms 25 of the outer guide member 22. The inner guide bars 27, formed of the downwardly extending arms, extend through the openings 20 and 21 of the offset ends 15 and 16 of the plate 11 for securing the ball guide member 14 to the plate 11.

The bars 27 are adapted to underlie the flanges 15 and 16 of the plate 11, extending through the outwardly extending arms 19 and overlying the center portion of the plate 11. The bars 27 overlying the plate 11 provide or form the inner guide member for the ball 12 to hold the ball from rolling or sliding to the side and from the hanger 10.

The spring 26 constantly urges the lower ends of the outer guide member 22 toward the lower end 16 of the plate 11. As the arms or bars 27 and 25 extend substantially tangentially from the coil spring 26, the spring provides a means for spacing apart the upper ends of the guide members 22 and 27. The engagement of the arms 27 through the openings 20 and 21 of the plate 11 provides for securing these arms in a fixed spaced relation to each other.

For fixedly spacing the arms 25 of the guide

member 22 from each other, a connecting bar 28 is fixed across the upper end of the guide member 22 and is fixedly secured at its opposite ends to the arms 25. The lower end of the guide member 22 which is formed by the bight 24 is offset inwardly from the arms 25, extending at a downwardly and inwardly inclined angle thereto. This offset lower end will space the lower end of the guide members 22 and 27 from each other so that the spring tension on the ball 12 will not be excessive when the ball is disposed at this point.

The lower end 16 of the plate 11 is extended slightly and also inclined inwardly at a slight angle where the bight 24 is in engagement with it. The ball 12 which is adapted to clamp a towel between the plate 11 and the inner surface of the ball 12 is loosely disposed between the inner and outer guide members so that it may freely roll or slide therebetween for a portion of the length of the guide 14.

The chord of the ball 12 where the ball underlies the arms 25 of the outer guide member 22 is substantially less than the space between the inner and outer guide members 22 and 27 at their upper end adjacent the spring 26 so that the ball 12 is exceedingly loose at this point. As the ball is moved downwardly relative to the hanger 10 the arms 25 come into engagement resiliently with the chord of the ball for urging the ball 12 clampingly toward the inner guide member 27 and plate 11 for clamping the towel between the ball and the plate 11.

In the use and operation of this towel hanger 10 a towel may be clamped by moving the ball 12 outwardly from its lower end and inserting the towel between the ball and the plate and releasing the ball so that it may clamp the towel. Another manner in which the towel may be inserted is to engage a corner of the towel above the ball 12 between the inner and outer guides 27 and 22 and sliding the towel downwardly behind the ball. For removing the towel it is necessary only to exert a downward or side force on the towel sufficient to overcome the spring tension which forces the ball 12 against the plate 11. The spring tension of the coil spring 26 may be just enough to hold a towel against its own weight and sufficient to permit the towel to be drawn from the hanger upon the application of a slight excess force.

What I claim is:

A towel rack comprising a base plate of rectangular configuration adapted to be disposed in vertical position on a support, forwardly projecting extensions at the upper and lower ends of said plate, each extension having a pair of openings therein, an upper flange projecting from the upper extension in parallel relation to said plate, a lower flange projecting downwardly and rearwardly, a U-shaped resilient ball guide wire forwardly of said plate and formed with a rearwardly bent lower portion, a coil at the upper end of each side of said guide wire, and a pair of downwardly projecting bars integral with said coils and extended through said openings, said bars engaging on the rear sides of said flanges and engaging on the forward side of said base plate, said bars being disposed in downwardly convergent relation, a towel clamping ball disposed between the legs of said guide and said bars, and a connecting strap fixed between the side of said guide adjacent said coils for holding said sides against spreading.

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