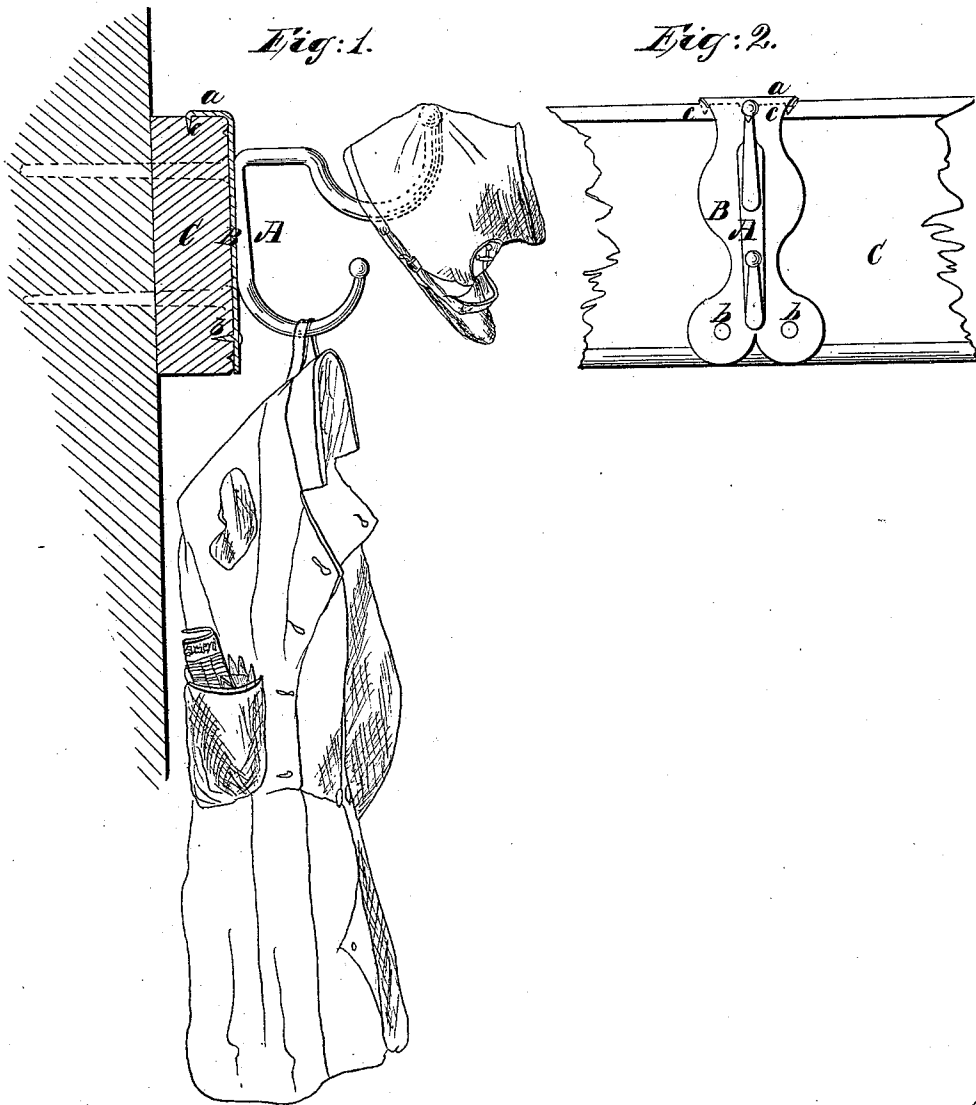


G. B. Fowler,
Hat and Coat Hook.

N^o 40,923.

Patented Dec. 15, 1863.



Witnesses:

Thos. H. Douglas
D. Robertson.

Inventor:
Geo. B. Fowler

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. FOWLER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES AND HAT HOOKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **40,923**, dated December 15, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. FOWLER, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Self-Fastening Hook; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a sectional side elevation of my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same.

Similar letters of reference in both views indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of hooks which are generally used on clothes or hat racks; and it consists in the arrangement of a claw at the upper end of the bracket, to which the hook is fastened, in combination with one or more brads projecting from the under surface of said bracket in such a manner that by pressing the claw over the top of the wooden slat to which the hooks are to be secured, and the brad or brads in its face, each hook is rendered self-fastening, and can be attached or detached in a short time and with the least possible labor or exertion.

To enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A represents a hook, made of brass or any other suitable material, and in any desirable form or shape suitable to hang on clothes or hats. This hook is attached to the bracket B by means of rivets or in any other desirable manner, and said bracket is provided with a claw, *a*, on top, and with one or more brads, *b*, which project from its under surface.

The bracket may be made of sheet metal by stamping or in any other desirable manner, and the claw is provided with three (more or less) points, *c*, as clearly shown in the drawings. The brads *b* are riveted or otherwise secured to the bracket at a suitable distance from the claw, said distance being made somewhat less

than the usual width of the slats C, to which the hooks are to be attached.

In order to attach one of my hooks to a slat, the bracket B is held close up to the outer surface of the same and depressed, causing the points of the claw to enter into the edge of said slat, and when the claw has been depressed far enough so that it rests upon the top edge of the slat, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, the lower part of the bracket is pressed in, causing the brads *b* to pass into the slat, and the hook is firmly held in place. Any strain exerted on the hook in a downward direction, or in the direction of the gravity, (this being the only strain to which it will be exposed by the clothes hung upon it,) causes the points of the claw and the brads to fasten themselves firmer and firmer in the slat, so that even if the hook should not be fastened perfectly firm from the beginning it will become fast in the course of time, thus rendering it self-fastening.

In order to detach one of my hooks, a strain exerted on the lower part of the bracket, in a direction from the slat and at right angles to its surface, will release the brads, and a slight upward pressure will unfasten the claw. My hooks can thus be fastened or unfastened in very little time and with the least possible exertion. A hook of this kind can be temporarily fastened to a door or closet, or to any piece of wood offering sufficient room, and for this reason my hook is of great convenience for travelers.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The claw *a* and brad or brads *b*, in combination with the bracket B of a hook, A, constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as herein shown and described.

GEO. B. FOWLER.

Witnesses:

THOS. L. J. DOUGLAS,
D. ROBERTSON.