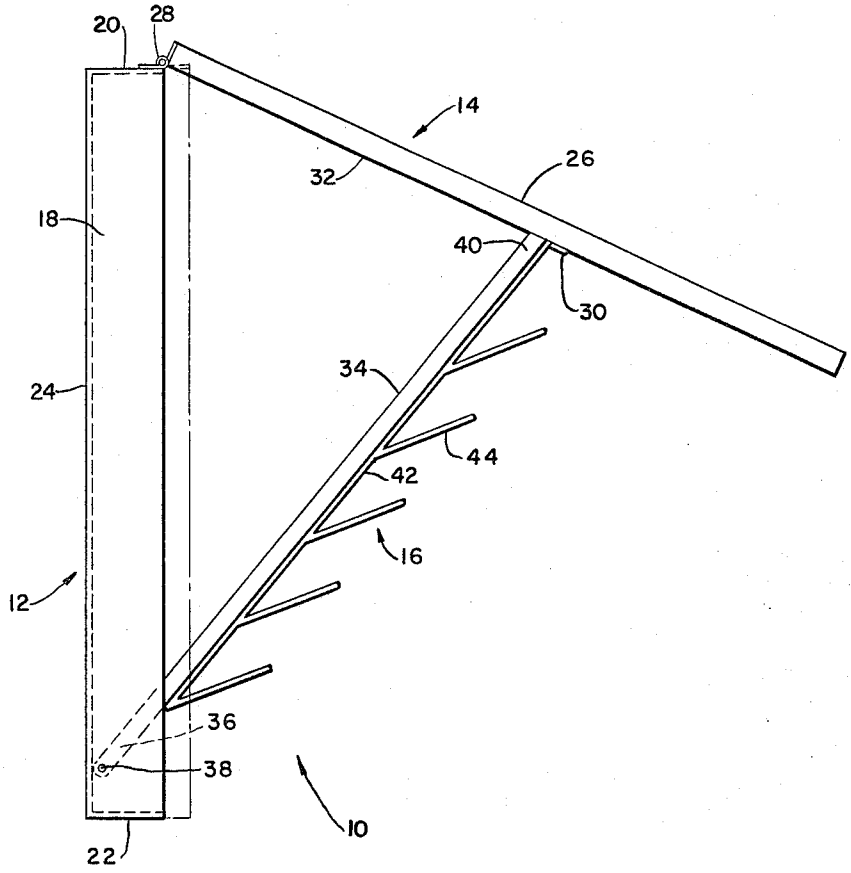
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COLLAPSIBLE WALL BRACKET FOR HANGING CLOTHES

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COLLAPSIBLE WALL BRACKET FOR HANGING CLOTHES

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The present invention relates to a collapsible wall bracket for handling clothes or other similar garments or articles thereon, and, more particularly, to a collapsible wall bracket which is space saving and decorative at the same time.

Modern apartments are generally small and the rooms, particularly efficiency apartments, serve for living as well as bedrooms. Therefore, in the absence of sufficient closet space, the rooms frequently have an untidy appearance with clothes being disposed on furniture, chairs, etc. In addition, in all homes and apartments, particularly older homes, there is always a need for additional hanging space.

Collapsible wall brackets are known in the prior art, but these are not entirely satisfactory. The devices of the prior art are often unsightly. In addition, these devices are often supported by weak chains or fragile sliding elements of one type or another. Furthermore, such devices are often, particularly if they use sliding members, relatively expensive and easy to jam.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved collapsible wall bracket for supporting garments and the like which obviates the difficulties of the prior art, such as those indicated above.

It is another object of the present invention to provide means for supporting articles which is both space saving and decorative at the same time.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a collapsible wall bracket which is sturdy, strong and effective, and yet is simple and relatively inexpensive to fabricate.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a collapsible wall bracket which occupies a minimum of space.

These and other objects and the nature and advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent in the course of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the figure is a side-view of the device in open operative position.

A collapsible wall bracket for supporting garments and the like is generally shown at **10** and includes essentially three portions, a combined base and container member **12**, a cover member **14** and a garment supporting member **16**.

The combined base and container member **12** is adapted to be mounted in a substantially vertical position on a suitable supporting surface, such as a wall or a closet door. The combined base and container member **12** comprises a pair of extended side walls illustrated by the side wall **18**, as well as a top wall **20** and a bottom wall **22** which joins the two side walls. In addition, and if desired, the base and container **12** may also have a back wall **24**. The base and container **12** is hollow and is adapted to receive the garment supporting member **16** therein when the bracket **10** is in its closed or collapsed position.

The cover comprises a cover member **26** attached to the top wall **20** via a hinge **28**. While the preferred embodiment shows the hinge attached to the front of the top wall **20**, it is understood that through suitable size and selection of components, the hinge may be provided at other locations along the length of the top wall **20** or may even be associated with the side walls, such as **18**. When the bracket **10** is not in use, the top or cover **14** is adapted to close the open end of the container **12**.

Provided along the length of the cover member **26** at a predetermined distance is a suitable retaining member **30** which extends from the inner or bottom of the surface **32** of the cover element **26**. The function of the retaining means **30** is to maintain the garment supporting member **16** in a proper position during use of the bracket **10** for supporting garments and the like. While the retaining means **30** is here illustrated as a simple stop against which the garment supporting member **16** rests and is retained by gravity, it should be understood that any suitable retaining means such as a hook will suffice.

The garment supporting member **16** includes a rigid extended support board **34** of such a size that it will fit within the box **12** so that the lid **14** may be closed thereon when the wall bracket **10** is collapsed and not in use. The rigid support board **34** is swingably attached at its lower end **36** to the inside of the base and container member **12** via any suitable means such as a shaft **38** passing through the side walls. It will be understood that any suitable means may be utilized to attach the bottom **36** of the support board **34** to the inside of the container **12**, such as a hinge attached to the inside of the bottom wall **22**. As is shown in the figure, the top **40** of the support board **34** is adapted to rest against the stop **30** to dispose the support board at a predetermined position of inclination to the container **12** when the bracket **10** is in operative position.

The garment supporting member **34** further comprises a series of hook-like members **44** extending from the lower surface **42** of the support board **34**. As can be readily imagined, hangers may be supported from the hook-like members **44** when the bracket **10** is in its open operative position, as shown in the figure. The weight of the garments in addition to the weight of the support board **34** will urge the support board **34** against the stop **30** and will maintain the bracket in operative position.

When not in use, the garment supporting member **34** is merely folded into the container **12** and the cover **14** is closed. Preferably, the cover **14** has on its upper outer surface suitable decoration.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and therefore the invention is not limited to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification, but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A collapsible wall bracket for supporting garments and the like comprising:

a combined base and container member adapted to be mounted in a substantially vertical position on a supporting surface, said base and container member including two extended side walls and a top wall and a bottom wall joining said side walls;

a cover for said container member hingedly attached to said top wall and adapted to close over said container when said wall bracket is collapsed, said cover including retaining means along its length adapted for use when said bracket is open for use; and

a garment supporting member including an extended rigid support board swingably attached at its lower end to the inside of said base and container member in the area of said bottom wall, said support board being of a size to fit within said container when said cover is closed over said container when said bracket is collapsed, the top of said support board

being adapted to rest against said retaining means to dispose said support board at a predetermined position of inclination to said base and container when said bracket is in operative position, said garment supporting member further including a plurality of hook-like members projecting from the lower surface of said support board when said bracket is in operative position.

2. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said cover is hingedly attached to the front of said top wall.

3. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said garment supporting member is swingably attached to said side walls adjacent to said bottom wall.

4. A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said retaining means comprises a stop.

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