That creases and wrinkles are not formed in the garment covering when said guard is applied and cover a portion of the inclined shoulders of a conventional wire garment hanger with locking means provided in said folds for engaging the horizontal portion of the hanger to insure the retention of the guard thereupon.

Another object is to provide a guard or cover having end portions folded in a manner to extend up and cover a portion of the inclined shoulders of a conventional wire garment hanger with notches being formed in the folds of said end portions to receive the horizontal portion of the hanger to lock said guard against rotative movement upon said hanger.

Still another object is to provide a guard or cover having transversely extending creases provided in the end portions thereof with notches formed in said creases in a plane normal thereto for receiving and retaining the horizontal rod portion of a conventional wire garment hanger.

Still other objects are to provide a guard that is readily attachable and retainable upon a wire garment hanger which provides relatively smooth and substantially rounded end portions and which is economical of manufacture. Other objects and advantages, more or less ancillary to the foregoing in the manner in which all of the various objects are realized will appear in the following description, which, when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing, sets forth the preferred embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawing wherein the preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated:

FIGURE 1 is a side elevational view with the guard of the present invention applied to a garment hanger; FIGURE 2 is a top plan view showing a portion of the guard and hanger, the view being taken on the plane 2—2 of FIGURE 1; FIGURE 3 is a bottom plan view of the guard and hanger shown in FIGURE 2; FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary top plan view showing the guard in a flat position; FIGURE 5 is a longitudinal sectional view of an end portion of the guard, the view being taken on the plane 5—5 of FIGURE 2; FIGURE 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of an end portion of a modified guard; and FIGURE 7 is a longitudinal sectional view of an end portion of a still further modified guard.

Referring to FIGURE 1 of the drawing, there is shown a conventional wire garment hanger formed from a single strand of wire and having a suspending hook 10 with inclined shoulder portions or segment 12 that are connected by a horizontal rod or bar portion 14, FIGURE 3. The inclined shoulder portions or segments 12 at their point of jointure with the horizontal rod 14 are bent or formed with a suitable radii to provide curved or bent segments 16 FIGURE 5.

The guard 18 is preferably formed from relatively stiff material such as thick paper stock, molded paper pulp having an adhesive binder or stiffener agent, cardboard or the like. The relatively stiff material is formed in a suitable die or mandrel, while in a slightly moist or dampened condition, to produce the guard 18 which is curved or of accurate configuration in cross-section. When so formed, the guard 18 is relatively rigid and stiff, yet it is, to a small degree, pliable and flexible in a direction transverse to its longitudinal axis so that it will have a tendency to flare outwardly in a transverse direction whenever a garment is placed thereon. The outwardly flaring action, however, is relatively small and only tends to slightly increase the area which forms the garment supporting surface as the material from which it is made.

The present invention relates to an improvement in the mounting or securing of a guard or cover upon a wire hanger for supporting thereon garments such as skirts, pants and the like.

The use of lightweight transparent plastic bags for covering or enclosing cleaned garments, supported on a conventional wire hanger, has become quite widespread in recent years. Such usage has resulted in a redesign of the paper or cardboard guard or cover that is customarily placed upon the horizontal rod of a wire garment hanger for supporting such items as shorts, slacks, skirts, pants and the like. This change in the guard or cover has been necessitated through the use of such bags formed from very thin plastic material in order to insure that the bags, when being placed over the garment supported on the hanger, would not be torn by the ends of the guard.

There is disclosed in Patent 3,037,675 issued June 5, 1962, of which the present applicant is a co-inventor, a guard or cover having the end portions thereof formed to follow the contours of the ends of a wire garment hanger and thus extend over a portion of the inclined sides or shoulder segments of the hanger. The guard or cover as disclosed in said patent has proven to be very satisfactory and successful when used in conjunction with garment bags formed of a very thin film of plastic material. This success has been attributed to the shape and configuration of the ends of the guard, in that, the thin plastic film bags slide over the ends of the guard and hanger in a very easy and forthright manner without tearing or snagging the bags. Such success is not achieved with conventional guards or covers where employed wherein the ends of the guard either project slightly beyond or terminate at the point where the inclined shoulder portion merges with the horizontal rod of the hanger.

While the guard or cover as disclosed in Patent 3,037,675 has greatly enhanced the use of thin plastic bags for covering and protecting cleaned garments supported on a conventional wire hanger, it has been found that said guard or cover has, at times, a tendency to move or rotate about the horizontal bar portion of the hanger when a garment is being placed thereon. This movement or rotation of the guard quite often results in an improper positioning of the garment upon the guard. That is, the rotation or movement of the guard upon the hanger as a garment is being placed thereon causes the arcuate shaped central portion of the guard to move to one side or the other so that the garment is not properly positioned thereon. As a result, the guard is not performing its primary function of providing a relatively arcluate shaped surface for receiving and properly supporting thereon a garment to insure that creases and wrinkles are not formed in the garment as it is supported upon the hanger.

The guard of the present invention constitutes an improvement upon the guard as disclosed in Patent 3,037,675. The present guard or cover is so designed as to insure its proper retention upon the horizontal bar portion of a wire garment hanger and still permit the ready insertion into a plastic bag of a garment supported on said hanger without said plastic bag being torn or ripped.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a guard having end portions configured to follow the contours of the inclined shoulder portions of a wire garment hanger to secure said guard against rotative movement on said hanger.
and the manner of forming the guard insures that it will retain its shape and not be crushed by the weight of the garment thereon. The guard 18 is formed with spaced parallel longitudinally extending side edges 20 that terminate in rounded or curved ends 22 which are provided with slight indentations or notches 24 formed on the longitudinal axis of the guard, FIGURE 4.

In forming the guard 18 the top and bottom surfaces of each of said portion thereof are subjected to the action of cooperating die members to produce the rounded ends 22 and notches 24 while at the same time, forming the diagonal creases or score lines 26. As shown in FIGURE 4, the diagonal score lines 26 have one end terminating adjacent the notch or indentation 24 in the end of the guard 18 with the other end terminating at approximately the point where the side edge 20 merges with the rounded end 22 of the guard. In addition to the diagonal score lines 26 each end portion of the guard 18 is formed with an arcuate shaped score or crease line 28. The ends of the score lines 28 intersect and terminate at the diagonal score lines 26 so that the score lines 26 and 28 define a segmental portion 30 with the arcuate score line 28 constituting the base of said segmental portion. Each end portion of the guard 18 is formed with a pair of longitudinally extending slits 32 that are disposed in spaced parallel relation to one another and arranged on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the guard. The slits 32 intersect the arcuate score line 28 and extend approximately the same distance on each side thereof into the segmental portion 30 and the body portion of the guard 18. The slits 32 define therebetween a tongue or segment portion 34 which is connected at one end to the body of the guard and at the other end to the segmental portion 30.

After the guard 18 is formed in the die or mandrel and the score lines 26 and 28 together with slits 32 have been formed in the end portions of the guard 18 the curved ends 22 are subjected to a folding action on the score lines 26. The ends 22 are bent inwardly towards one another so as to lie beneath and along and adjacent to the under-surface of the guard and thus define in conjunction with one another a guideway 26, as shown in FIGURE 5, to be engaged by the segments 22 of the guard when the guard is pushed down into engagement with the arcuate or curved segments 16 and the horizontal bar 14 so that said bar will be moved into the notches or slots 38. The notches 38 are of a width commensurate with the diameter of the horizontal rod 14 so that the guard will tend to snap upon the said rod. The positioning of the guard upon the horizontal rod portion 14 insures the proper positioning and retention of the guard upon the garment hanger so that it will not turn or rotate upon the rod when a garment is being placed thereon. Furthermore, the placing of a garment upon the guard tends to push the guard downwardly into closer engagement with the bar 14 due to the added weight of the garment, thus insuring that the notches 38 encompass and engage said bar to restrain any movement of the guard with respect to the bar.

The guard shown in FIGURES 6 and 7 is identical in all respects with the guard shown in FIGURES 1 through 5 with the exception of the segment or tongue portion 34 so that corresponding parts in FIGURES 6 and 7 have been identified with the same reference numerals as applied to like parts in the disclosures in FIGURES 1 through 5. In FIGURE 6, the segment 134 has been cut at one end to provide a transverse slit 136 so that said segment 134 defines a tongue or tab portion which has one end secured to and forming a part of the segmental portion 30. The segment or tab portion 134 is adapted to extend through the transverse slit 136 and notch 138 that are formed in the guard 18 and to lie along the under surface of the body portion of the guard 18 where it engages the horizontal rod portion 14 of the wire garment hanger when the guard 18 is placed thereon. In FIGURE 7, the segment or tab portion 234 is provided with a transverse slit 236 which causes said tab portion to be severed from the segmental portion 30 to define a tongue or tab portion that is carried by the body portion of the guard 18 and arranged to extend through the transverse slit 236 and notch 238 with the free end of said segment or tab portion underlying the segmental end portion 30.

It is to be noted that regardless of the manner in which the segment or tongue portion is formed in either FIGURES 5, 6, or 7, the bending or flexing of the guard along the crease line 28 will result in the portions of the guard on opposite sides of said crease line being forced downwardly towards the horizontal rod 14 of the garment hanger. The notches or slots 38, FIGURE 5, and 138 in FIGURE 6 and 238 in FIGURE 7 constitute a means for properly positioning and locking the guard upon the horizontal rod portion of the garment hanger when body garments placed upon said guard will be properly positioned thereon. At the same time that the notches or slots are engaging the horizontal rod portion 14 of the garment hanger to ensure the locking and retention of the guard thereon, the upwardly oriented portions of the guard will engage the curved segments 16 with said segments being positioned within the guideway 36 so that the guard will present a smooth outer surface that will readily facilitate the positioning of a thin pliable plastic bag over the garment hanger without fear of said bag being ripped or torn while being so placed thereon.

Although the foregoing description is necessarily of a detailed character, in order that the invention may be completely set forth, it is to be understood that the specific terminology is not intended to be restrictive or confining, and that various re-arrangements of parts and modifications of detail may be resorted to without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention as herein claimed.

I claim:

1. A guard for a wire garment hanger wherein the guard is formed of relatively stiff material and comprises an elongated body curved transversely of its length, said body formed with indentations at each end thereof coinciding with its longitudinal axis, said body provided at each end thereof with a pair of crease lines emanating from the end of said body adjacent to said indentations and arranged in diverging relation to the longitudinal axis of the body, each end portion of the body provided with an arcuate line arranged to extend inwardly towards the center of the body, the ends of said arcuate score line intersecting said pair of crease lines and defining thereon a segmental portion in each end of said body, a pair of elongated slits pro-
vided in said body in spaced parallel relation to one another on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said body, said slits intersecting said arcuate score line and having one end thereof terminating in said segmental portion, the sides of said body adjacent each end being folded inwardly towards one another along said crease lines with said folded portions being spaced from one another and lying adjacent the under surface of said body to define a guideway for a wire garment hanger, each segmental portion and folded side portions being bent upwardly with respect to said body along said arcuate score line to flex downwardly the portion of the body contiguous to said arcuate score line, said downwardly flexed portion of the body defining in conjunction with said slits a notch for receiving a wire garment hanger.

2. A guard for a wire garment hanger wherein the guard is formed of relatively stiff material and comprises an elongated body curved transversely of its length, said body formed with indentations at each end thereof coinciding with its longitudinal axis, said body provided at each end portion thereof with a pair of crease lines emanating from the ends of said body adjacent said indentations and arranged in diverging relation to the longitudinal axis of the body, each end portion of said body provided with an arcuate shaped score line arranged to extend inwardly towards the center of the body, the ends of said arcuate score line intersecting said pair of crease lines and defining therewith a segmental portion in each end of said body, a pair of elongated slits provided in said body in spaced parallel relation to one another on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said body, said slits intersecting said arcuate score line and having one end thereof terminating in a transverse slit in said segmental portion to define a tongue element having one end secured to said body, the sides of said body adjacent each end being folded inwardly towards one another along said crease lines with said folded portions being spaced from one another and lying adjacent the under surface of said body to define a guideway for a wire garment hanger, each segmental portion and folded side portions being bent upwardly with respect to said body along said arcuate score line to flex downwardly the portion of the body contiguous to said arcuate score line, said downwardly flexed portion of said body defining in conjunction with said slits a notch for receiving a wire garment hanger with said tongue element projecting across said notch and beneath said body to provide a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for said body.

4. A guard for a wire garment hanger wherein the guard is formed of relatively stiff material and comprises an elongated body curved transversely of its length, said body formed with indentations at each end thereof coinciding with its longitudinal axis, said body provided at each end portion thereof with a pair of crease lines emanating from the ends of said body adjacent said indentations and arranged in diverging relation to the longitudinal axis of the body, each end portion of said body provided with an arcuate shaped score line arranged to extend inwardly towards the center of the body, the ends of said arcuate score line intersecting said pair of crease lines and defining therewith a segmental portion in each end of said body, a pair of elongated slits provided in said body in spaced parallel relation to one another on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of said body, said slits intersecting said arcuate score line and defining a tab portion, the sides of said body adjacent each end being folded inwardly towards one another along said crease lines with said folded portions being spaced from one another and lying adjacent the under surface of said body to define a guideway for a wire garment hanger, each segmental portion and folded side portions being bent upwardly with respect to said body along said arcuate score line to flex downwardly the portion of the body contiguous to said arcuate score line, said downwardly flexed portion of said body defining in conjunction with said slits a notch for receiving a wire garment hanger with said tab portion overlying said notch to provide a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for said body.

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3,037,675 Tillery et al.--------------June 5, 1962