United States Patent

[11] 3,578,226

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[21] Appl. No. **808,489**
[22] Filed **Mar. 19, 1969**
[45] Patented **May 11, 1971**

[54] **HAND TOTE DEVICE FOR GARMENTS ON CLOTHES HANGERS**
3 Claims, 5 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **224/45**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A47g 25/06**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 294/1 (A); 224/49, 45, 45 (W), 45.14, 42.45 (A), 42.46 (A), 29.3

[56] **References Cited**

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ABSTRACT: A rigid rodlike element has one end shaped to provide an opening to receive the hook ends of clothes hangers. The remainder of the element is shaped to form a hand grip portion which is at right angles to and spaced from the opening. The opening for the hanger hooks may be constituted of a loop formed in the element, or such one end of the element may be flattened and have a slot formed therein.

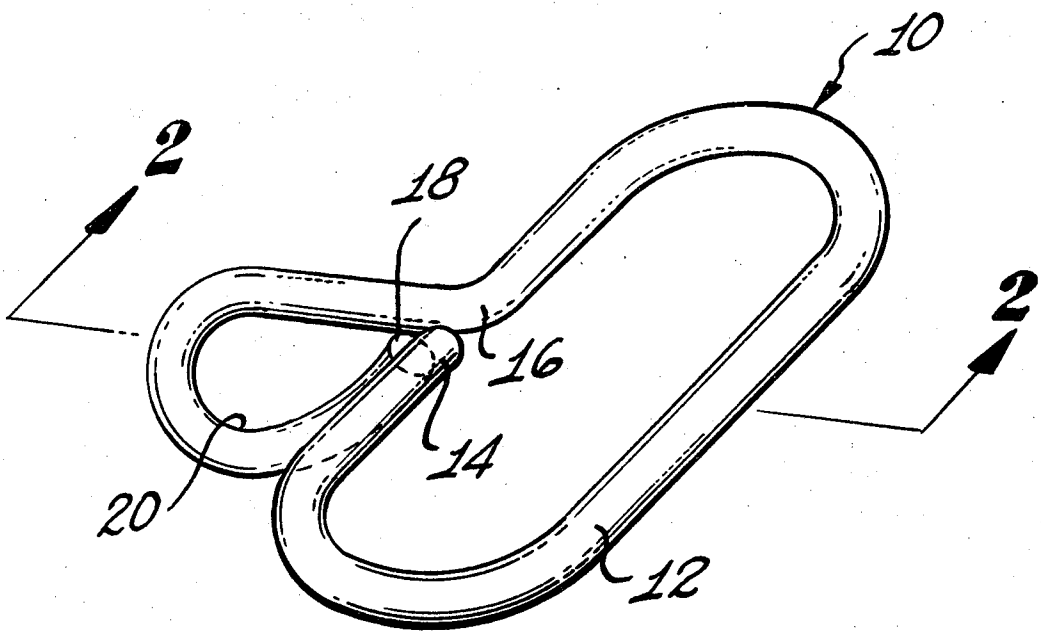
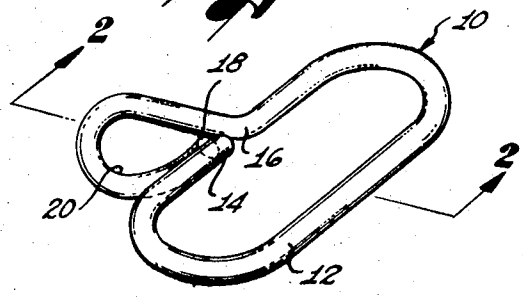


Fig. 1



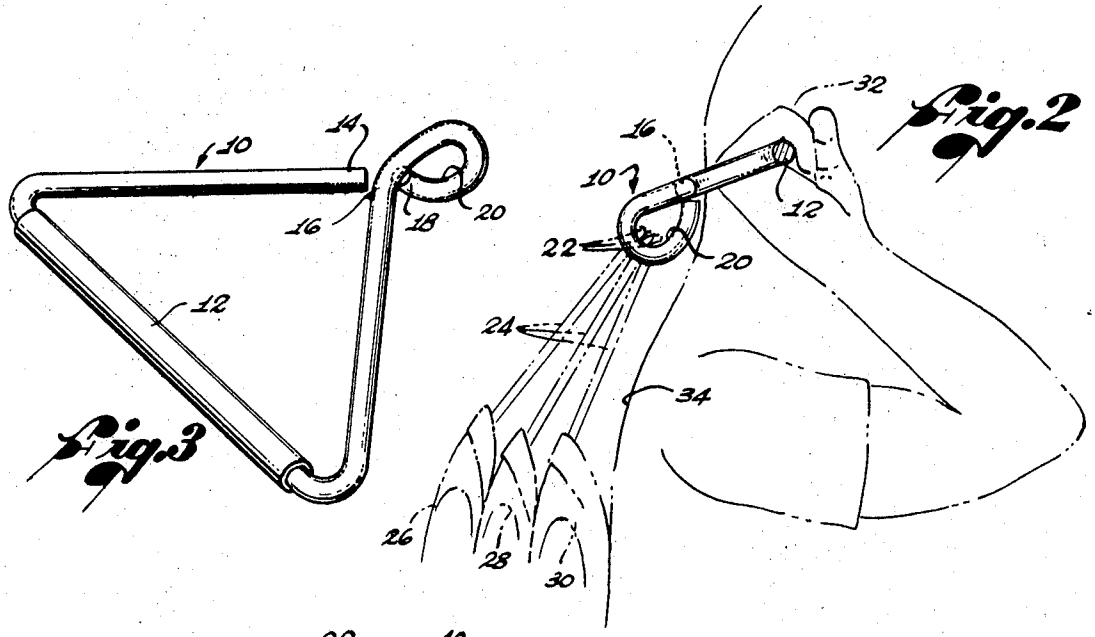


Fig. 3

Fig. 2

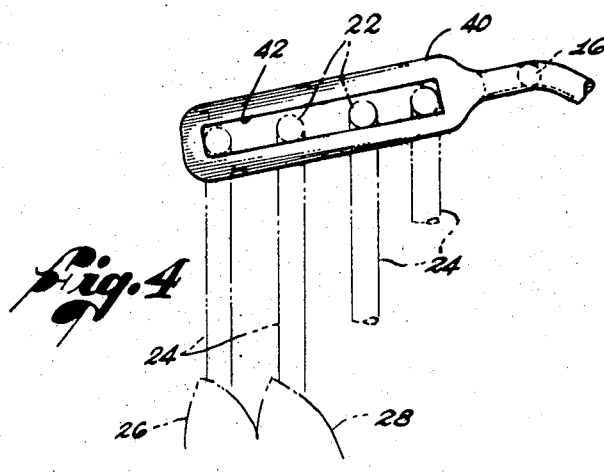


Fig. 4

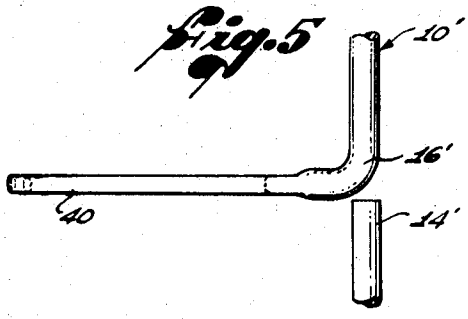


Fig. 5

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HAND TOTE DEVICE FOR GARMENTS ON CLOTHES HANGERS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to hand held devices for carrying garments on clothes hangers.

2. Description of the Prior Art

It has heretofore been known to provide devices to be held by hand, which have a handle portion and a portion for supporting clothes hangers on which garments are hung. The purpose, of course, is to permit a person to carry garments over his shoulder without using his fingers to support the hangers and garments thereon, e.g., while walking through train stations and air terminals.

However, such devices as heretofore known are unduly complex structures, and are expensive to manufacture. One approach (U.S. Patents 2, 598,643 and 2,728,503) is that of a loop or U-shaped member having one leg to be engaged by the fingers, and a parallel leg having a plurality of openings therein (or serrations thereon) for receiving the hooks of clothes hangers. Another approach (U.S. Patent No. 3,313,460) is to provide two rings, one forming a handle portion and the other a hanger receiving portion, such rings being connected via a universal joint. The manufacture of such devices involves considerable tooling, requires an undesirable amount of time to produce and assemble and is expensive. Further, such devices in use permit the hook ends of the hangers to be oriented to snag one's clothing or injure his hand, which readily occurs when one hurriedly grasps the device and maneuvers it with the hook ends directed against his shoulder.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

My invention embraces a single rigid element having one portion bent to provide a handle portion, and an end portion having therein an opening that lies in a plane perpendicular to the handle portion. Such device lends itself to high volume production at minimum expense, and does not orient hangers so they can snag one's clothing or injure his hand.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the hanger tote device of my invention;

FIG. **2** is a sectional view taken along the line **2–2** of FIG. **1**, to aid in explaining how the device is used;

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of another embodiment of my invention;

FIG. **4** is a fragmentary sectional view of the hanger holding portion of a further embodiment of my invention; and

FIG. **5** is a top view of the device of FIG. **4**.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIGS. **1** and **2**, there is shown a tote device **10** formed of a single rigid rodlike element. As shown, the element has a hand grip segment **12** at one side of hand access opening that is formed between one end **14** of the element and a portion **16** thereof intermediate its ends. The remaining portion of the element extends at right angles from the intermediate portion **16**, and is formed into a loop wherein the remaining end **18** of the element terminates adjacent the intermediate portion **16**. This loop provides an opening **20** to receive the hooks of hangers on which garments are hung. Preferably the loop is sufficiently closed that hangers cannot slip over the end **18** and fall off the device.

FIG. **2** illustrates the device **10** in use. Shown in phantom are the hook portions **22** of hangers **24**, and garments **26, 28, 30** placed thereon. After the hooks are placed in the opening **20**, one extends his fingers through the hand opening and wraps his fingers **32** around the grip portion **12**. He then manipulates the device **10** to place the garments **26, 28, 30** over his shoulder **34**. While walking with the element and garments thus arranged, the weights of the garments are effectively supported on his back and shoulder.

FIG. **3** illustrates another form of my invention. As shown, the portion of the element which forms the hand grip **12** is bent so as to be triangular. Although this portion of the element is shaped differently than in FIG. **1**, the hand grip **12** and the loop opening **20** are in the same right angle relationship.

In the arrangement shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**, in which prime numbers indicate parts similar to those shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, that part of the element extending at right angles from the intermediate portion **16'** is a flattened end **40** with an elongated opening **42** formed therein. The opening **42** is of sufficient size to receive the hook portions **22** of the coat hangers **24**. The device **10'** is utilized to carry garments **26, 28, 30, 32** in the same manner as the device **10** of FIGS. **1** and **2**. The flattened end **40** preferably slants downwardly from the hand access opening, so that the opening **42** slants downwardly as does the opening **20** in the device of FIGS. **1** and **2**. Such angling permits the device to be positioned more conveniently over one's shoulder.

It will be noted that my device is a rugged structure of utmost simplicity. Since the hanger supporting portion extends at right angles from the intermediate portion **16**, my device insures that the hook portions of hangers placed in the opening therein are disposed substantially parallel to the grip portion **12** so that their ends do not dig into one's shoulder and snag his clothing.

My invention embraces any desired material used for my tote device, e.g., plastic or metal. The particular cross section and size of the element formed in the manner illustrated and described may be varied as desired. For example, I have made devices as illustrated from aluminum bar stock of diameters from 0.25—0.50-in. Further, if desired, my construction may be made of a rigid rodlike element of varying cross section, e.g., a grip portion **12** of 0.50-in. diameter, with the remainder of the element of a diameter of 0.25-in.

In addition, it should be noted that the hand access opening may be formed as a substantially completed loop, as shown, or U-shaped having an elongated leg for the hand grip portion. In such case, one can slip his hand between the open end of the U-shaped portion to grasp the grip portion.

I claim:

1. In combination:

a rodlike element that is rigid throughout its length,

a first portion of said element between an intermediate portion and one end thereof being shaped in a closed loop defining an opening to receive the hook portions of one or more clothes hangers,

the remainder of said element between said intermediate portion and the other end thereof being shaped in a second closed loop substantially larger than said first-mentioned loop, said second loop defining a hand receiving opening and having a hand grip segment, said segment being at right angles to the plane of said hook receiving opening, said plane being substantially midway between the ends of said segment,

and said first portion, intermediate portion and hand grip segment being maintained in their relative positions solely by the rigidity of said element.

2. The combination of claim **1**, wherein said first and remaining portions of said element form respective loops in mutually perpendicular planes, both ends of said element terminating immediately adjacent said intermediate portion, whereby said loops are substantially closed.

3. In combination:

a rigid rod-like element,

a first portion of said element between an intermediate portion and one end thereof being shaped to define an opening to receive the hook portions of one or more clothes hangers,

wherein said first portion is flattened and has an elongated opening therein,

wherein said flattened first portion forms an angle to the plane of said loop,

the remainder of said element between said intermediate portion and the other end thereof being shaped to provide

a hand grip segment, said segment being at right angles to the plane of said opening, said plane being substantially midway between the ends of said segment, and said segment being spaced from said intermediate portion to provide clearance to permit one's fingers to be inserted

therebetween for gripping said segment,

wherein said remaining portion of the element is formed as a loop with said other end thereof terminating adjacent said intermediate end.