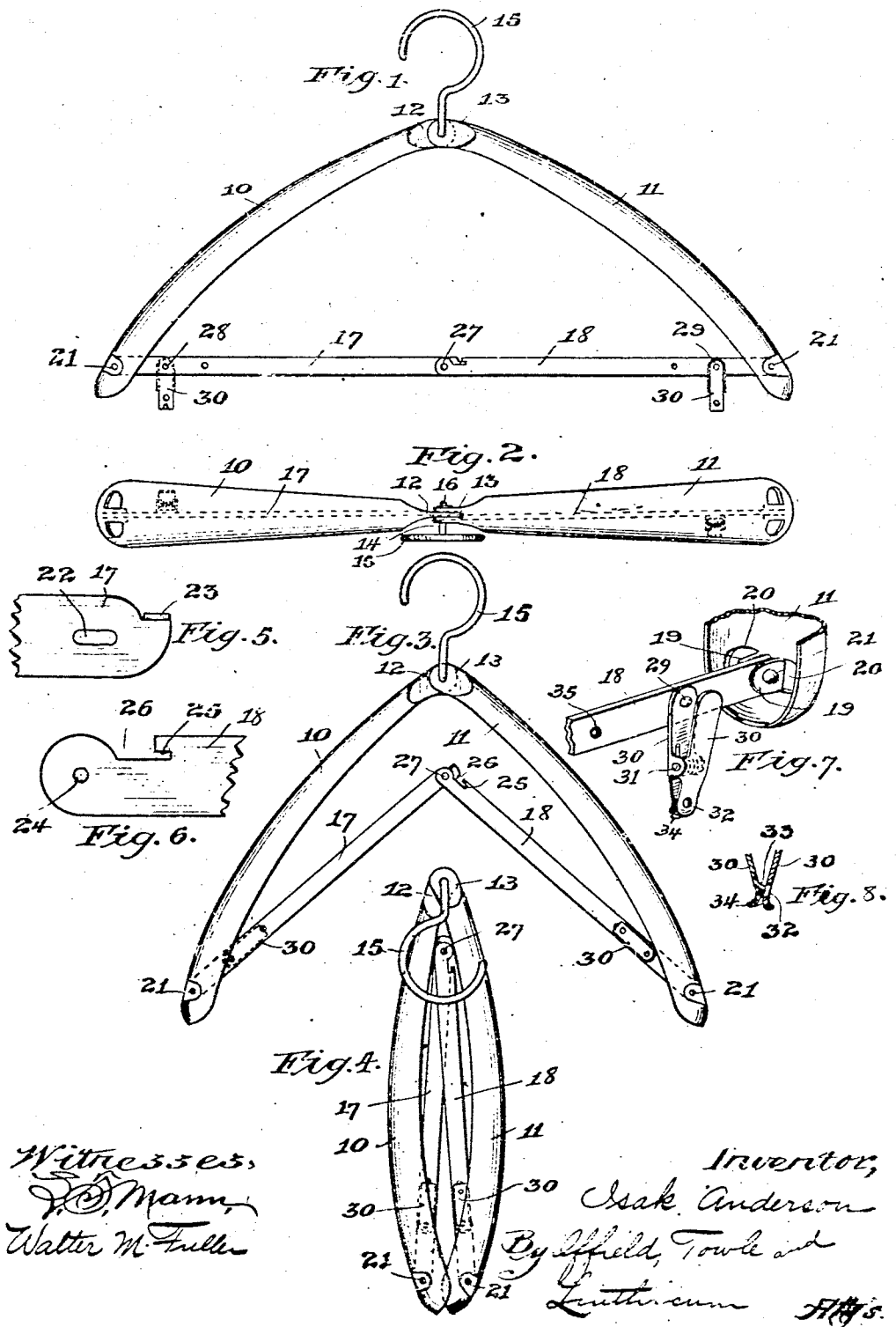


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FOLDING GARMENT HANGER.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## FOLDING GARMENT-HANGER.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ISAK ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Evanston, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Garment-Hangers, of which the following is a specification.

The main object of this invention is the provision of a folding garment hanger which may be easily and cheaply constructed, which will occupy but a small space when in collapsed condition, and which may be locked in expanded or operative condition so that the device cannot accidentally or unintentionally fold up.

My preferred embodiment of the invention has a two-part garment-supporting arch, the pair of parts of which are pivoted or hinged together, and to hold or maintain the members of the arch in operative unfolded relation the hanger is equipped with a two-part brace or separator pivoted to the ends of the arch, the two parts thereof being hinged together and supplied with a device for locking them in fixed relation or alinement. If desired the brace may be provided with clamps with which to support one or more pairs of trousers or skirts, and preferably the clamps or clasps are pivoted to the brace and supplied with means for disengageably holding them in fixed positions on the brace.

On the accompanying drawing which forms a part of this specification, I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of my invention, and on this drawing like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout.

Figure 1 is a face view of the collapsible or folding garment hanger in normal or unfolded condition; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the structure shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 shows the garment hanger partially collapsed; Fig. 4 shows the device completely folded; Figs. 5 and 6 are fragmentary details illustrating the means for locking the two parts of the brace in fixed relation; Fig. 7 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the manner of attachment of one end of the brace to one of the parts of the arch and also illustrating one of the garment-supporting clamps; and Fig. 8 is an enlarged longitudinal section through the garment-engaging portion of one of the clamps.

This garment supporter includes a coat-

supporting arch preferably made of sheet metal and formed of two parts 10 and 11. The adjacent ends of these parts are crushed or flattened as shown in Fig. 2, so as to provide on the part 10 the tongue 12 adapted to fit between the pair of ears 13 of the other part. Apertures are provided in these parts through which passes a laterally bent or offset end 14 of a supporting hook or loop 15. As will be observed from the drawings, this part 14 forms the pivot or hinge-pin of the arch and it may be headed over at its free end at 16 to maintain the parts in the proper relation. As is shown in Fig. 7, the parts of this garment-supporting arch are made of sheet metal and are preferably substantially semi-circular in cross-section. By this construction a smooth and neatly curved surface is provided to fit within the supported garment and sustain the same without causing any wrinkles or creases to appear. The longitudinal curving of these parts 10 and 11 is made such that they support the garment in such a manner that it tends to maintain its proper shape, and the length of these parts is such that their ends have no tendency to push out the top portions of the sleeves.

The divided or two-part brace which is used to hold the members 10 and 11 in expanded position includes the two bars 17 and 18 pivoted at their outer ends to the free ends of members 10 and 11. In order to provide an economical and satisfactory hinge or pivotal connection, a pair of ears or lugs 19 is bent inwardly out of the plane of the arch members 10 and 11 near their free ends, leaving the substantially semicircular apertures 20. Between these ears or fingers 19 the ends of the brace-bars 17 and 18 fit and are pivoted thereto by means of pins 21. It is desirable to provide this brace with a locking means to keep the bars 17 and 18 in alinement, and to accomplish this result the inner end of bar 17 is equipped with a centrally disposed slot 22 and a laterally bent-over ear or lug 23, while the corresponding end of the cooperating bar 18 has an aperture 24 and a slot 25 with a wide mouth 26 sufficiently broad to receive the locking lug 23. A pin 27 passes through the slot 22 and hole 24 and forms the pivot or hinge-pin for the two bars. It will be apparent from this construction that the bars 17 and 18 may be slid longitudinally a slight extent corresponding to the length of slot 22, this slid-

ing construction being provided in order that the lug 23 may be inserted in and withdrawn from the substantially right-angle notch or slot 25.

- 5 At the points 28 and 29 on the bars 17 and 18 I pivot a pair of spring-actuated clamps or clasps each of which consists of two clamping fingers 30 pivoted together at 31 and spring-pressed so as to force their lower free ends toward one another. The garment-engaging end of one of the members 30 is provided with an aperture 32, and the other member 30 opposite this aperture has a projection 33 formed by denting the metal adapted to partially enter the hole 32 so as to more firmly secure a grasp upon the garment to be supported. At its extreme end the member 30 lying adjacent to the brace-bar has a projection 34 adapted to enter the hole 35 of the bar to maintain the clamp in fixed position as shown in Fig. 3 while the hanger is being collapsed, and after it has been completely folded, as shown in Fig. 4. The inner member 30 of each clamp is made of spring metal so that after the projection 34 has entered the aperture 35 it is held therein by the elasticity of the metal.

In order to fold the hanger when it is in expanded or operative position as shown in Fig. 1, the trousers or skirt holding clamps 30 are swung around on their pivots until their small lugs 34 fit in the aperture 35, so that the clamps are held in fixed position with relation to the brace-bars. The free ends of the arch members 10 and 11 are then pulled apart a slight amount so as to bring the lug 23 of bar 17 at the mouth 26 of the slot 25. Then the arch members may be brought together as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the lug or ear 23 passing out of the mouth 26, as is obvious. After the brace and arch have been completely folded as shown in Fig. 4, the supporting hook or rib 15 may be swung around so as to overlap the same and occupy as little space as possible. Owing to the concave shape of the arch members, parts of the brace fit within the same in the collapsed or folded position of the device. To unfold the hanger the hook 15 is swung around and the arch spread until the locking lug 23 passes into the mouth 26 of slot 25. Then by pushing the free ends of the arch members toward each other slightly the lug 23 becomes locked in the notch 25 and the brace becomes rigid, its bars 17 and 18 being in alinement. The trousers or skirt clasps 30 may be turned down to operative position, as shown in Fig. 1, and the device is then ready to receive and support the garments to be hung up.

To those skilled in the art it will be apparent that various minor mechanical changes may be made in the structure shown and described without departing from the heart of my invention or sacrificing its advantages.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of two bars connected together by a pin-and-slot connection whereby pivotal and sliding movements of the bars are permitted, means to lock said bars in fixed relation including a cooperating slot and lug, means to support said device, and one or more garment-supporting clamps pivoted to said bars, each of said clamps having a projection adapted to fit in an aperture of one of the bars to maintain the clamp in position, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of a supporting bar, a clamp pivoted thereto, said clamp having a spring member provided with a projection adapted to enter an aperture in said bar and be disengageably maintained therein by the spring of said clamp member to hold said clamp in position, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination of two bars connected together by a pin and slot connection whereby pivotal and sliding movements of the bars are permitted, means to lock said bars in fixed relation including an angle slot in one of said bars and a cooperating lug on the other bar, means to support said bars, and means on said bars to sustain a garment, substantially as described.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination of a two-part garment-supporting arch, the pair of parts of which are pivoted or hinged together, a brace pivoted to the free ends of said arch, said brace comprising two bars connected together by a pin and slot connection whereby pivotal and sliding movements of the bars are permitted, means to lock said bars in fixed relation with said arch in extended condition, including an angle slot in one of said bars and a cooperating lug on the other bar, means to support the device, and means on said bars to sustain a garment, substantially as described.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination of a two-part garment-supporting arch, the pair of parts of which are pivoted or hinged together, a brace pivoted to the free ends of said arch, said brace comprising two bars connected together by a pin and slot connection whereby pivotal and sliding movements of the bars are permitted, means to lock said bars in fixed relation with said arch in extended condition including an angle slot in one of said bars and a cooperating lug on the other bar, and means to support the device, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

ISAK ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

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FREDERICK C. GOODWIN.