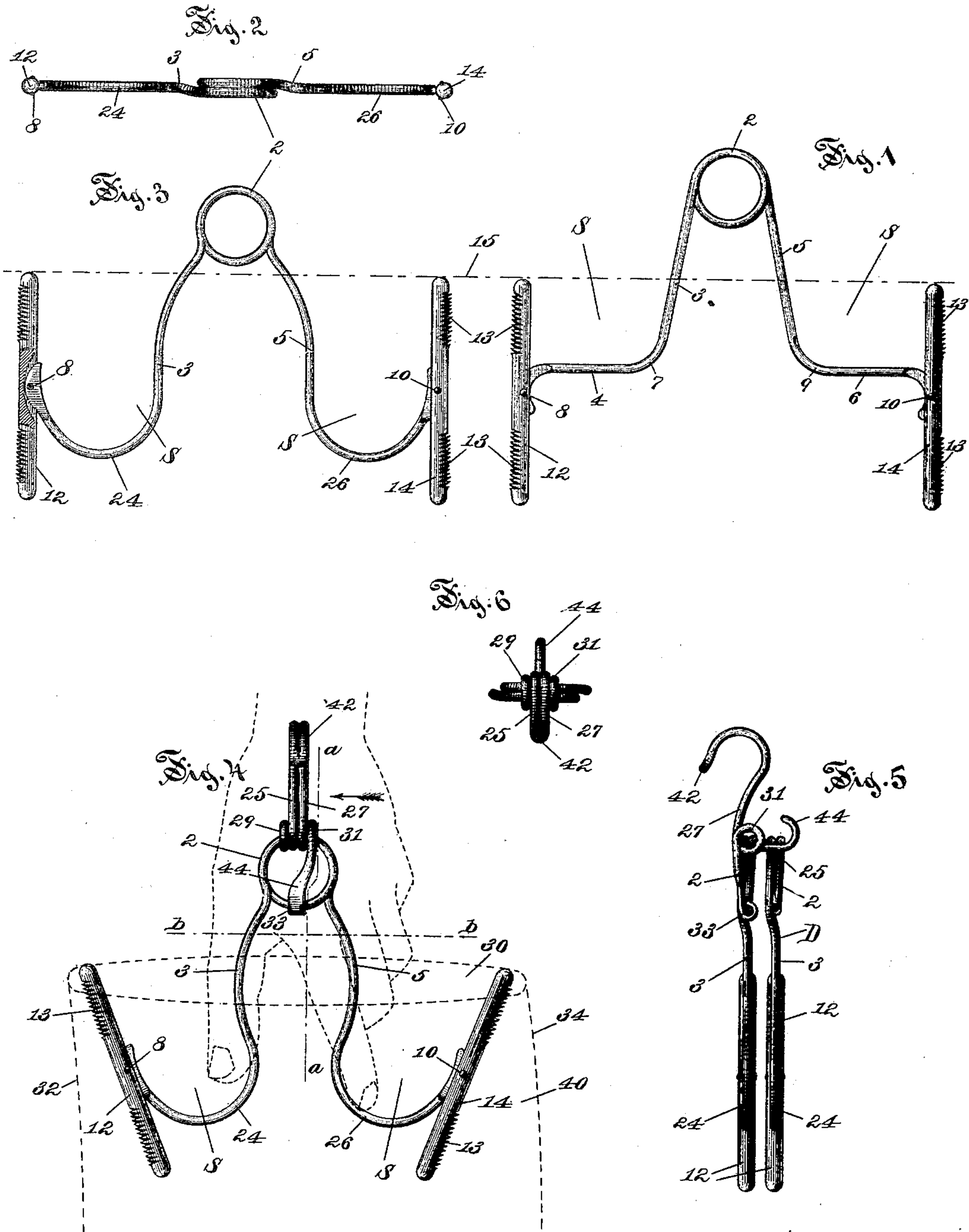


(No Model.)

J. A. TRAUT.
TROUSERS STRETCHER AND HANGER.

No. 445,099.

Patented Jan. 20, 1891.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TROUSERS STRETCHER AND HANGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 445,099, dated January 20, 1891.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JUSTUS A. TRAUT, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trousers Stretchers and Hangers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to supporters or stretchers for holding in shape and hanging up trousers or other articles of wearing-apparel, the object being to furnish a convenient and effective device for this purpose, readily operated by one hand and consisting of the improvements herein more fully set forth.

In the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a side view or elevation of a device embodying in simpler form some parts of my present improvements. Fig. 2 is a top or upper end view of an improved form of the supporter. Fig. 3 is a side view or elevation of the same. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 of the more complete form of supporter shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and illustrates the mode of using the same. In this figure there is also shown a further improvement, consisting of means for supporting one said device, and also a second one on said first one. Fig. 5 is an edge view of that portion of the supporter which is at the left hand of the line *a a*, Fig. 4, as seen in the direction of the arrow. In this figure is shown a second and similar supporter *D*, hanging on a hook carried by the first supporter. Fig. 6 is a top view of the upper part of the device shown in Fig. 4 above the line *b b*.

Similar characters designate like parts in all the figures.

The more simple form of my improvements (shown in Fig. 1) consists of a handle constituting a spring and having oppositely-disposed outwardly-extending arms carrying clamp-bars or pressure-bars pivoted to the outer ends of said arms, respectively. Said handle and spring consists of the coil of wire 2, whose ends 3 and 5 extend downwardly, substantially as shown, in the same general direction, and at 7 and 9 respectively turn outward to form the pressure-bar-carrying arms 4 and 6, to which arms are pivoted at 8 and 10, respectively, the pressure-bars 12 and

14 for engaging on the inner surface of the trousers. These bars, as shown in the drawings, are formed of short metal rods, usually provided with corrugations, as 13 13, for securing proper adhesion to the surface of the materials bearing thereon. Said bars 12 and 14 extend both upwardly and downwardly from the arms 4 and 6, thus bringing the lower part of the handle-bars 3 and 5 much below the line 15 of the upper end of said pressure-bars and forming the hand-spaces *SS* between the handle-bars and pressure-bars, thereby enabling the operator to grasp said handle-bars much below said line 15. By this means an instrument of sufficient range or capacity is provided having a very short vertical height, so that when inserted in the trousers-leg the loop 2, by which the device may be suspended from a hook, extends to a short distance only above the upper line 15 of the garment. This construction is also desirable for the reason that it gives to the device a greater degree of elasticity with a given weight of material therein, thereby increasing its utility and reducing its cost.

For still further increasing the aforesaid features of the device, I make said device, in its preferred form, in the manner shown in Figs. 2 to 5, inclusive, wherein the arms 3 and 5 are carried outward and backward, thus forming the depending curved arms 24 and 26, respectively, and bringing the pivots 8 and 10 considerably above the lower end of the handle-bars 3 and 5, and bringing the loop 2 nearer the line of the upper ends of the pressure-bars than in the form of device shown in Fig. 1, thereby shortening the length of said handle-bars; also, this improved construction of the handle-bars and outreaching arms makes available the elasticity of the entire length of those pairs of arms, whereas in the former device (shown in Fig. 1) the elasticity of the outreaching arms 4 and 6 is substantially neutralized, and is of no utility, owing to the strain being longitudinally of the said outreaching parts. In Fig. 3 the entire length of the wire, not only in the loop 2, but also throughout the length between said loop and the pivot 10 is available for elasticity, thus utilizing the same most completely and to the best advantage.

In using this device the user grasps the han-

dle-bars 3 and 5 by one hand, as indicated by
 dotted lines in Fig. 4, and closes together said
 bars, thereby bringing the points thereof to-
 ward each other in position for entering the
 5 open end 30 of the trousers-leg 40. (Also shown
 by dotted lines in said figure.) Having in-
 serted the device the length of the pressure-
 bars, the user allows the handle-bars to ex-
 pand by the force of their own elasticity to-
 10 gether with the elasticity of the spring-loop
 2, thus allowing the pressure-bars to come to
 the lines 32 34, representing the edges of the
 trousers-leg, when the instrument will stand
 substantially in the position shown in Fig. 3.
 15 When thus put in place, the corrugations 13
 bear against the fabric with sufficient force,
 the size of the wire being suitable therefor to
 hold up the weight of the suspended garment.
 For suspending the supporter, together
 20 with the garment thereon, upon a hook, and
 more especially upon a pole, I provide the
 supporter with a hook, as 42, attached to the
 loop 2, and for carrying a second supporter on
 the first one I also form an additional hook
 25 44, carried on said loop 2, as indicated in Figs.
 4 and 6, wherein the letter D designates said
 second supporter in a general way. The hook
 42 is shown formed of a wire bent back upon
 itself, and whose two parts 25 and 27 extend
 30 downward to the upper end of the loop 2,
 which they encircle at 29 31, one of said ends
 or parts 27 of said hook-loop passing down
 and being fastened at 33 to the lower side of
 said spring-loop 2, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5.
 35 The other end 25 of said hook-loop, after
 passing around the upper side of the spring-
 loop 2 at 29, reaches outwardly and upwardly
 to form the hook 44 for carrying said second
 device D. By means of this construction it
 40 is made convenient to use my improved sup-
 porter in pairs, one of the pair being sup-
 ported upon the other. By this means each
 device may be separately placed in the gar-
 ment and afterward one hooked upon the
 45 other, when both may be suspended together
 by the hook 42, thus providing a convenient
 and effective arrangement, meeting all re-
 quirements of actual use.

For convenience in manufacturing the de-
 vice and in securing the hook 42 thereto, the 50
 end of said hook, after passing around the
 upper end of the spring-loop 2, is flattened, as
 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, so as to more securely
 and more readily fasten the same to the lower
 side of said loop 2 by swaging or other analo- 55
 gous process.

Having thus described my invention, I
 claim—

1. In a trousers stretcher and hanger, the
 combination, with the spring-loop and with 60
 the handle-bars extending therefrom and car-
 rying pressure-bars, of the hook-loop carried
 on the spring-loop and having two hooks, one
 for suspending the stretcher and hanger and
 the other for receiving a duplicate stretcher 65
 and hanger, substantially as shown and de-
 scribed.

2. In a trousers stretcher and hanger, the
 combination, with the spring-loop and with 70
 handle-bars extending therefrom and carry-
 ing pressure-bars at the ends thereof, of a
 supporting-hook, substantially as described,
 engaging one side of said spring-loop and ex-
 tending to and fastened to the opposite side
 of said loop. 75

3. In a trousers stretcher and hanger, the
 combination, with a spring-loop and handle-
 bars carrying at their ends pressure-bars, sub-
 stantially as described, of the supporting-
 hook engaging one side of said loop and fast- 80
 ened to the other side of said loop, said hook
 carrying a second hook for supporting a sec-
 ond pants-supporter.

4. In a supporter of the class specified, the
 combination, with the central spring-loop, of 85
 a supporting-hook formed of the folded wire,
 one part of which is fastened to said spring-
 loop and the other part extends outwardly
 and upwardly to form a pants-supporter-car-
 rying hook.

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