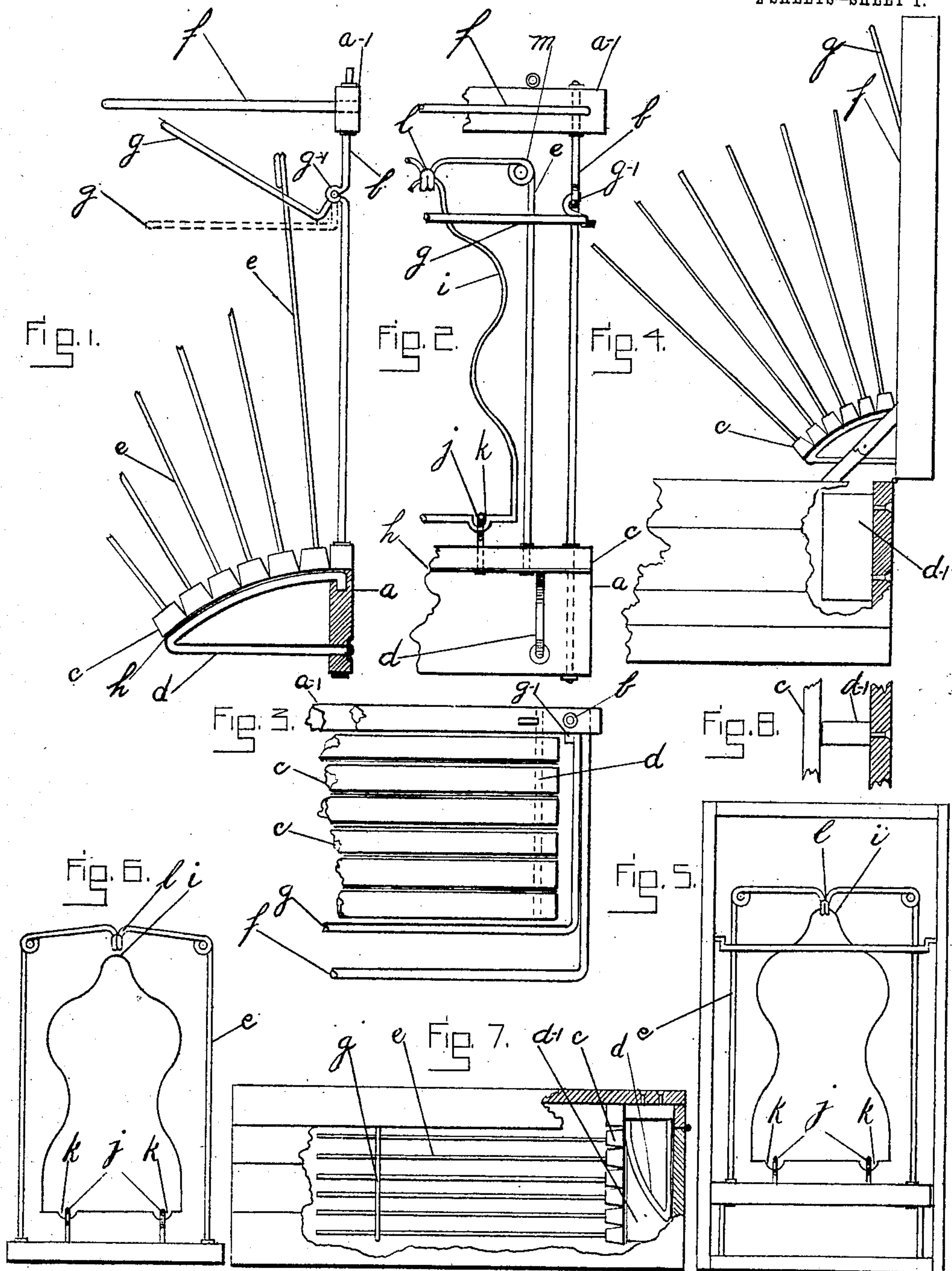


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APPLICATION FILED FEB. 24, 1908.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



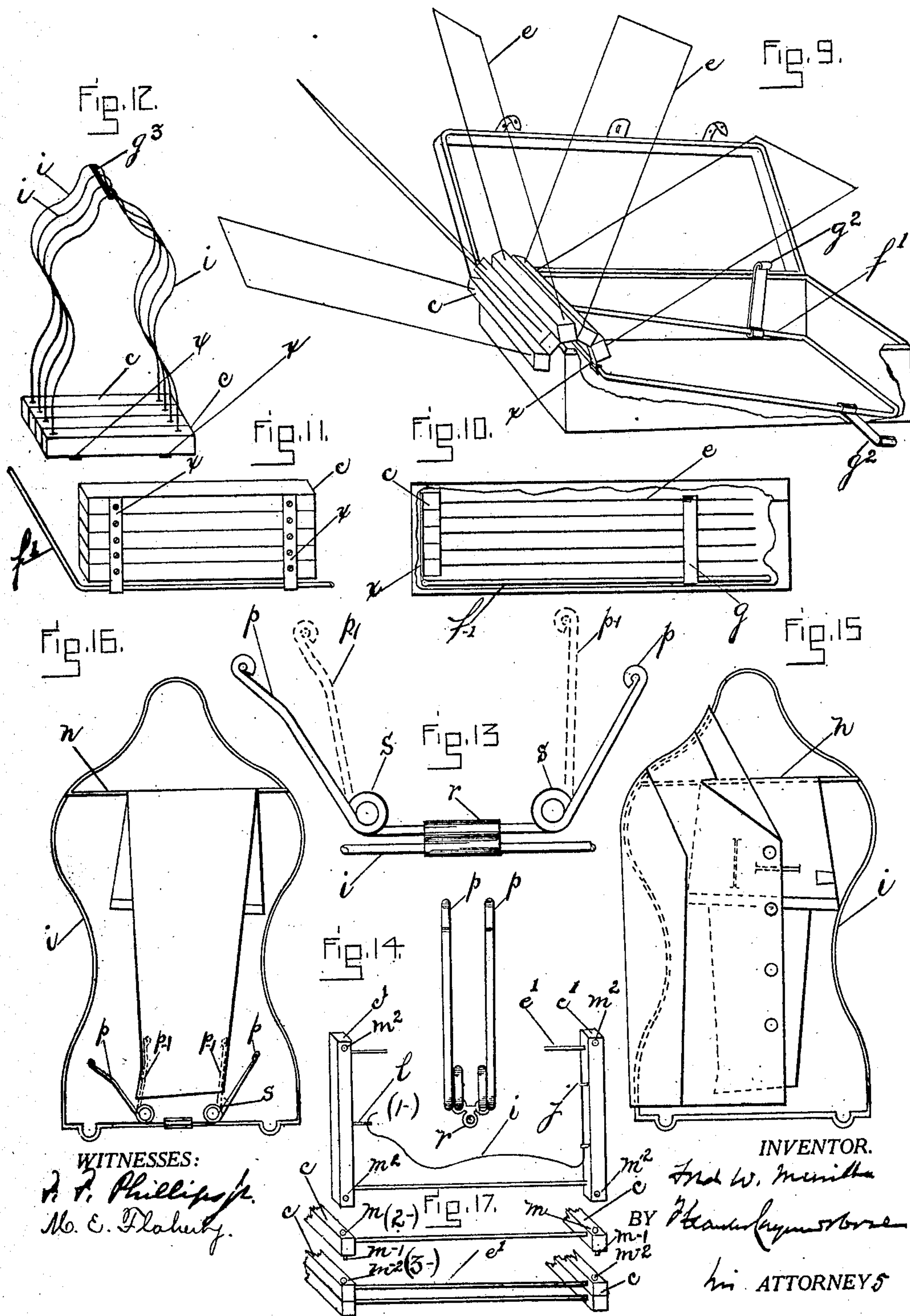
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## GARMENT HANGER AND PROTECTOR.

No. 916,571.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 30, 1909.

Application filed February 24, 1908. Serial No. 417,285.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRED W. MERRILL, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, a citizen of the United States, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Garment Hangers and Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has for its object the manufacture of a garment hanger composed of several units each capable of receiving one or more garments and each adapted to be united with a group and each easily removable from the group of units. This group of units, moreover, is so combined and mounted that it may be attached to any flat surface, wall, trunk cover, etc. in a manner which permits an orderly hanging or packing of garments any one of which may be conveniently removed without the disarrangement of the rest.

My invention will be readily understood by reference to the drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are portions of side and front views respectively of a garment hanger attached to a frame to be supported on a wall or other perpendicular surface. Fig. 3 is a portion of a top view of the garment hanger and shows the relative position of drapery support, hinged guard and straps which support frames. Fig. 4 is a side view showing appearance of garment hanger connected to box cover. Fig. 5 is a front view of box cover showing garment hanger connected to the same, also partially illustrating the manner of holding form to frame. Fig. 6 is a front view of the frame and form partially showing the manner of detaching the form from the frame. Fig. 7 is a side view of box closed showing the position of garment hanger attached to the same. Fig. 8 is a top sectional view in part of the end of box, showing manner of supporting rack when folded in the same. Fig. 9 shows several frames to which forms may be attached and the manner of folding and securing the same for use in dress suit case or specially made case. Fig. 10 is a side view of the same closed in case. Fig. 11 is an end view of rack and shows the manner of securing the same to spring support. Fig. 12 shows a series of forms supported by racks

designed to be used without frame, the same opening and closing in same manner as those supported by frames. Fig. 13 shows a device to be attached to form when the same is used for men's clothing, and serves to hold the bottom of trousers in position, also to form crease in same. Fig. 14 is an end view of the same showing manner of attaching to form. Fig. 15 shows a form for men's clothes and illustrates the manner of holding the same. Fig. 16 shows the manner of securing a pair of trousers to form. Fig. 17 shows several form-supporting frames and the manner of using them in transporting garments.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings: The particular mode of construction most plainly appears in Figs. 1 and 2 where *a*, *a*<sup>1</sup> represent frame supports preferably of wood. These supports are connected by rods *b*. Fastened to the support *a* is a curved bracket part *d* preferably made of a bent metal rod on which are supported wood or metal supporting bars *c* which carry the hanger frames *e*. Above these hanger frames is a rod *f* mounted in the support *a*<sup>1</sup> and adapted to carry a dust-protecting drapery when my device is used upon a wall. The hanger frames *e* may be swung to and from the rods *b* and when swung together they may be retained in place by the holder *g* which is loosely mounted in the sockets *g*<sup>1</sup> formed by bending the rods *b*. The supporting strips *c* of the hanger frames *e* are fastened to a strip of canvas or other flexible material *h*. This construction allows the supporting bars to assume a position about the curved top of the part *d* as shown in Fig. 1, whereby, when the holder *g* is removed, the hanger frames may separate radially to permit the easy removal of garments hung thereon.

The hanger which is inserted in the garment is represented by *i* best seen in Fig. 2. This hanger suitably shaped to receive the garment to be hung thereon is easily removable from its frame *e* by the following means: In each supporting bar *c* are two hooked pins *j* adapted to engage corresponding loops *k* in the bottom part of the hanger *i* while the top part of the hanger frame *e* is bent into a hook *l* adapted to engage and



hold the top of the hanger *i* which being made of a heavy yet flexible wire may be easily sprung into secure engagement with these hooks *j* and *l*. This is more easily effected by the spring turns *m* in the upper corners of the hanger frames *e* which permit the top of the frames to bend downward.

Fig. 4 which shows my device adapted to the cover of a box or trunk, shows also a strip *d*<sup>1</sup> secured to the end of the box or trunk and affording a bearing for the supporting bars *c* when the cover is closed so that these supporting bars *c* on their flexible canvas backing *h* hang down perpendicularly when the box or trunk lies flat on its base and require support in case the box or trunk is set on its hinged end.

In Fig. 9 I have shown my invention adapted to a suit case by attaching to the end of frame *f*<sup>1</sup> the series of supporting bars *c* mounted upon springs *x* one end of each of which is fastened about the frame *f*<sup>1</sup>. *g*<sup>2</sup>, *g*<sup>2</sup> are holders meant to clamp about the top hanger frame *e*.

In Fig. 12 appears a modified form of my invention, the hanger *i* being attached directly to the supporting bars *c* and the series of hangers being joined together at their top by the clasp or holder *g*<sup>3</sup>.

Fig. 16 shows one of the hanger units in what may be considered its fully completed form, fitted with parts adapted to carry trousers which are folded over the rod *n* in the upper part of the hanger, the bottom part of which is provided with bent wires having ends *p*, *p* adapted to be inserted in the bottom of the trouser legs along the creases and hold the trousers in position. These wires are bent in spring form at *s*, *s* in order that while their normal position will be that shown at *p*, *p*, their ends may be compressed into the position shown at *p*<sup>1</sup>, *p*<sup>1</sup> in order to permit their insertion into the trouser legs. The tension of the springs will then bring the ends of the wires firmly into contact with the trousers. This holder for the bottom of the trousers is attached to the bottom of the hanger frame *i* by the band *r*.

The series of views in Fig. 17 shows a possible arrangement of unitary hangers set in frames made of wooden bars *e*<sup>1</sup> and rods *e*<sup>1</sup>. These frames are adapted to be stacked by inserting pins *m*<sup>1</sup> in holes *m*<sup>2</sup>.

Having thus fully described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States:—

1. In a garment hanging and packing device, a plurality of hangers, supports for said hangers, a hinged connection closely binding said supports whereby said hangers may be folded into close proximity or opened radially.

2. In a garment hanging and packing device, a plurality of hangers each adapted to

be inserted in a garment, frames surrounding said hangers to support said hangers at opposite ends thereof, and means whereby said hangers may be removed from said frames.

3. In a garment hanging and packing device, a plurality of hangers, frames to support said hangers, means whereby said hangers may be removed from said frames, and a hinged connection between the ends of said frames whereby said frames may be folded into contact each with the other or opened radially.

4. In a garment hanging and packing device, a plurality of united hangers, frames to support said hangers, means whereby said hangers may be removably supported in said frames consisting of hooks on said frames, and means on said hangers adapted to engage said hooks or to be disengaged therefrom upon the bending of said hangers.

5. In a garment hanging and packing device, a frame, a hanger and means whereby said hanger may be removably supported at opposite ends of said frame.

6. In a garment hanging and packing device, a frame, a flexible hanger, means for supporting said hanger within said frame in a manner whereby said hanger may be removed from its supports by bending said hanger.

7. In a garment hanging and packing device, a frame, a flexible hanger, means comprising hooks for supporting said hanger within said frame in a manner whereby said hanger may be removed from said hooks by bending said hanger.

8. In a garment hanging and packing device, a frame having a metal rod member, springs formed by bends in said rod at the top thereof whereby it may be flexible at its upper part, a hanger and means adapted to support said hanger in said frame, and means whereby it may be removed therefrom by the bending of the upper portion of said frame.

9. In a garment hanging and packing device, a plurality of hangers, a support for said series of hangers consisting of an upright part and a bracket attached to said upright part, a curved or inclined top to said bracket, bars on which said hangers are mounted, a flexible connection along the bottom of said bars whereby said bars may be permitted to assume a position conforming to the curved or inclined top of said bracket and effect a radial disposition of the hangers, substantially as described.

10. In a garment hanging or packing device, the combination of a hanger adapted to receive a coat with a rod across the upper part of said hanger adapted to receive a pair of trousers to be folded across said rod, and means at the bottom part of said hanger for securely holding the legs of trousers to be folded across said rod, said means com-



prising wires attached to the bottom part of  
said hanger, upwardly extending ends on  
said wires adapted to be inserted into the  
legs of trousers to be held thereby, and  
5 means whereby said ends of the wires may  
tend to spring apart, when inserted in said  
trouser legs, in a manner whereby said

trouser legs may be held securely, substan-  
tially as described.

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