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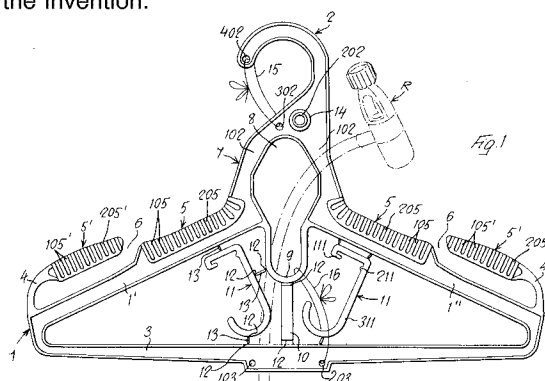
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(54) **Dress-hanger, particularly for a diving outfit such as a diving suit or the like.**

(57) A dress-hanger, particularly meant for a diving outfit, such as a diving suit and diving outfit pieces, which comprises at least one supporting element or jacket-carrying element (1) consisting of two arms (1', 1''), and which in the median top portion thereof is formed with an intermediately located dress-hanger-suspending hook member (2), the said arms (1', 1'') extending outwardly from both side ends of the dress-hanger hook member (2). The jacket-carrying element (1) has both of its arms (1', 1'') provided with an overlying jacket-bearing member, whereby any deformation is avoided of the parts resting thereon of a jacket or a diving suit. This jacket-bearing member consists of two parts (5, 5') which are transversely enlarged relative to the longitudinal extent of the jacket-carrying element (1), and have an upwardly roundish cross-sectional shape. These parts (5, 5') are so formed that also a sleeveless jacket can be borne by its shoulders thereby. The dress-hanger is also formed with a lower supporting element, or trousers-carrying bar (3). Further immovable or removable means (14, 8, 11), meant for carrying pieces of a diving outfit, such as annular seals, pressure-reducing valves (R) of air-delivery devices for air-breathing apparatus, hanger members, are provided in the dress-hanger according to

the invention.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 93 11 4312

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	US-A-5 056 693 (DEBOE) * column 1, line 65 - column 4, line 12; figures *	1,3,4	A47G25/16 A47G25/30 A47G25/32
A	---	2,26	A47G25/48 A47G25/50 A47G25/20
X	US-A-4 029 239 (DOLAN) * the whole document *	1	
X	US-A-4 157 776 (DOLAN) ---	1	
A	US-A-3 225 978 (WACH) * column 4, line 45 - column 4, line 65; claims 1,2,5-7; figures 1-3 *	6-8, 15-17, 22,26	
A	AU-B-544 211 (SPOTLESS LIMITED) * page 5, line 8 - page 7, line 4; figures *	2,5,9, 10,12, 14,26	
A	US-A-3 517 823 (PAPINEAU) * the whole document *	9-12,19, 26	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5) A47G A47J
A	US-A-3 691 596 (ULANSEY) * column 2, line 1 - column 4, line 27; figures *	18,19,21	
A	US-A-4 274 564 (WARMATH) * column 2, line 48 - column 6, line 68; figures *	2,26	
A	US-A-4 768 657 (LONOW) ---		
A	US-A-3 168 970 (WILSON) -----		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 August 1994	Examiner Vistisen, L
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet -B-

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims: mentioned in groups 1,2,3
- ☐ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



#### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

The problem underlying the invention stated in the independent claim 1 is not novel, and the same solution to it has already been found, cf. US5056693 which discloses a dress-hanger for diving equipment, having all the features as disclosed in the present independent claim 1.

There is thus no technical relationship or technical features defining a common contribution over the prior art (Rule 30 EPC) for the dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 15, 22-26.

Therefore, the original single general inventive concept also covering the subject matters of the dependant claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 15, 22-26 is not acceptable any more, resulting in lack of unity *à posteriori* and making it necessary to re-establish the technical relationship or interaction of the very characteristic features stipulated in the dependent claims.

This leads to a regrouping under different subjects as listed below, each subject now falling under its own distinct inventive concept, solving its own distinct underlying problem, being a technically distinct and independent feature.

There are now 6 inventions claimed in the present set of claims:

Group 1:

Claims 1 and 2-5, 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, parts thereof being elastically liftable for the insertion of sleeveless jackets.

Group 2:

Claims 1 and 6-8, 15-22, 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, comprising removable means for the trousers-carrying bar.

Group 3:

Claims 1 and 9-14, 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, comprising immovable means for holding up pressure reducing valves.



#### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Group 4:

Claims 1, 23 and 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, comprising means for holding annular seals.

Group 5:

Claims 1, 24 and 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, comprising means for closing the hook member.

Group 6:

Claims 1, 25 and 26, directed to a dress-hanger with transversely enlarged jacket bearing members, comprising safety strings for the trousers-carrying bar.