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(71) Applicant: **GIMI S.p.A.**
35043 Monselice PD (IT)

(72) Inventor: **Miola, Adriano**
35024 Bovolenta PD (IT)

(74) Representative: **Modiano, Micaela Nadia et al**
Dr. Modiano & Associati SpA
Via Meravigli 16
20123 Milano (IT)

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(54) **Clothes drying rack**

(57) A clothes drying rack (10), comprising a structure with a quadrangular frame (11) that is constituted by a pair of first longitudinal members (12) and a pair of first cross-members (13), between which first rod-like components (14) are arranged which form, together with the quadrangular frame structure (11), a main grid (15) for hanging clothes; supporting legs (19) are pivoted to the longitudinal members (12) by means of blocks (17) for supporting the pivot (18); the main grid (15) is reversibly extendable by means of at least one associated extractable grid (20), which comprises a U-shaped structure constituted by a second cross-member (21), from which second lateral longitudinal members (22) extend, second

rod-like components (23) being provided parallel to the second longitudinal members (22); the second longitudinal members (22) and the second rod-like components (23) are telescopically extractable respectively from the first longitudinal members (12) and from the first rod-like components (14). On the outside of each free end of the second longitudinal members (22), inside the corresponding first longitudinal member (12), there is a wider portion (24) that is designed for extraction-preventing abutment against a pivot (18) for pivoting the legs (19), which is supported by the respective block (17) so as to intersect the end portion of the first longitudinal member (12), protruding into it through a corresponding opening (25) on the first longitudinal member (12).

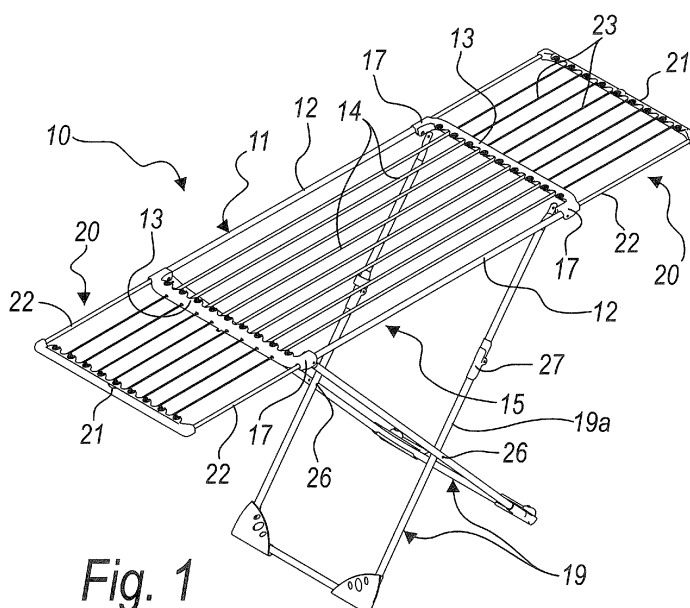


Fig. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a clothes drying rack.

[0002] The aim of the present invention is to provide a clothes drying rack whose main grid for hanging clothes to dry can be extended in full safety.

[0003] Within this aim, an object of the present invention is to provide a clothes drying rack that is structurally simple and cheap to manufacture, like similar clothes drying racks of the known type.

[0004] Another object of the present invention is to provide a clothes drying rack whose extendibility in full safety is provided by means of solutions that are simple both to provide and to use.

[0005] Another object of the present invention is to provide a clothes drying rack that can be handled easily even by a user who does not have particular prior teachings.

[0006] Another object of the present invention is to provide a clothes drying rack that can be manufactured with known systems and technologies.

[0007] This aim and these and other objects, which will become better apparent hereinafter, are achieved by a clothes drying rack, characterized in that it comprises a structure with a quadrangular frame that is constituted by a pair of first longitudinal members and a pair of first cross-members, between which first rod-like components are arranged which form, together with said quadrangular frame structure, a main grid for hanging clothes, supporting legs being pivoted to said longitudinal members by means of pivot supporting blocks, said main grid being reversibly extendable in the longitudinal direction of said first rod-like components by means of at least one associated extractable grid, which comprises a U-shaped structure constituted by a second cross-member, from which second lateral longitudinal members extend, second rod-like components being provided parallel to said second longitudinal members, said second longitudinal members and said second rod-like components being telescopically extractable respectively from said first longitudinal members and from said first rod-like components, on the outside of each free end of said second longitudinal members, and arranged inside the corresponding first longitudinal member, there being a wider portion that is designed for extraction-preventing abutment against a leg pivoting pivot, which is supported by the respective block so as to intersect the end portion of the first longitudinal member, protruding into it through a corresponding opening on said first longitudinal member.

[0008] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become better apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred but not exclusive embodiment thereof, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clothes drying rack according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a top view of a portion of a clothes drying

rack according to the invention;

Figure 3 is a side view of a detail, taken along the sectional line III-III of Figure 2.

[0009] With reference to the figures, a clothes drying rack according to the invention is generally designated by the reference numeral 10.

[0010] The clothes drying rack 10 comprises a quadrangular frame structure 11, which in turn is constituted by a pair of first longitudinal members 12 and a pair of first cross-members 13.

[0011] First rod-like components 14 are arranged between the first cross-members 13 and parallel to the first longitudinal members, and form, together with the quadrangular frame structure 11, a main grid 15 for hanging clothes.

[0012] Supporting legs 19 are pivoted to the longitudinal members 12 by way of blocks 17 for supporting a pivot 18.

[0013] The main grid 15 can be extended reversibly in the longitudinal direction of the rod-like components 14 by way of two associated extractable grids 20.

[0014] Each one of the extractable grids 20 comprises a U-shaped structure, which is constituted by a second cross-member 21 from which second lateral longitudinal members 22 extend, second rod-like components 23 being provided parallel to the second lateral longitudinal members 22.

[0015] The second longitudinal members 22 and the second rod-like components 23 can be extracted telescopically and reversibly respectively from the first longitudinal members 12 and from the first rod-like components 14.

[0016] On the outside of each free end of the second longitudinal members 22, inside the corresponding first longitudinal member 12, there is a wider portion 24, which is designed for extraction-preventing abutment against a pivot 18 for pivoting the legs 19, as shown in Figure 3.

[0017] The pivot 18 is supported by the respective block 17 so as to intersect the end portion of the first longitudinal member 12, protruding into it through a corresponding opening 25 on the first longitudinal member 12.

[0018] The wider portion 24 is constituted by a sleeve, which is keyed to the end of the second longitudinal member 22.

[0019] Each one of the first cross-members 13 is made of plastic material, and two opposite blocks 17 for supporting one pivot 18 protrude from it monolithically.

[0020] The supporting legs 19 are of the type that can be folded in a scissor-like fashion.

[0021] The supporting legs 19 are constituted by two separate U-shaped legs, each of which is pivoted, by the ends of the U-shape, to the blocks 17 arranged at the ends of the two longitudinal members 12.

[0022] The horizontal portions of the U-shaped legs 19 act as a supporting base.

[0023] A first leg 19a has, above a hinge point 26 for

pivoting to the second U-shaped leg, on both arms of the U-shape, respective joints 27 to allow 180° folding of the first leg 19a, in order to allow a flattened configuration on the quadrangular frame structure 11 to be assumed.

[0024] In practice it has been found that the invention thus described achieves the proposed aim and objects.

[0025] In particular, the present invention provides a clothes drying rack whose main grid for hanging clothes to be dried can be extended in full safety, by way of the sleeves on the free ends of the second longitudinal members 22 and of the pivots 18 that form corresponding extraction-preventing abutments for such sleeves and therefore for the extractable grids 20; therefore, a user who pulled the extractable grids with excessive force cannot, even inadvertently, cause their separation from the main grid 15.

[0026] Therefore, the present invention provides a clothes drying rack whose extendibility in full safety is provided by means of solutions that are simple to provide and to use.

[0027] Moreover, the present invention provides a clothes drying rack that is structurally simple and cheap to provide, like similar clothes drying racks of the known type.

[0028] Moreover, the invention provides a clothes drying rack that can be handled easily even by a user who does not have particular prior teachings.

[0029] Moreover, the present invention provides a clothes drying rack that can be manufactured with known systems and technologies.

[0030] The invention thus conceived is susceptible of numerous modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the appended claims.

[0031] In practice, the materials used, so long as they are compatible with the specific use, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to requirements and to the state of the art.

[0032] The disclosures in Italian Utility Model Application No. PD2008U000001 from which this application claims priority are incorporated herein by reference.

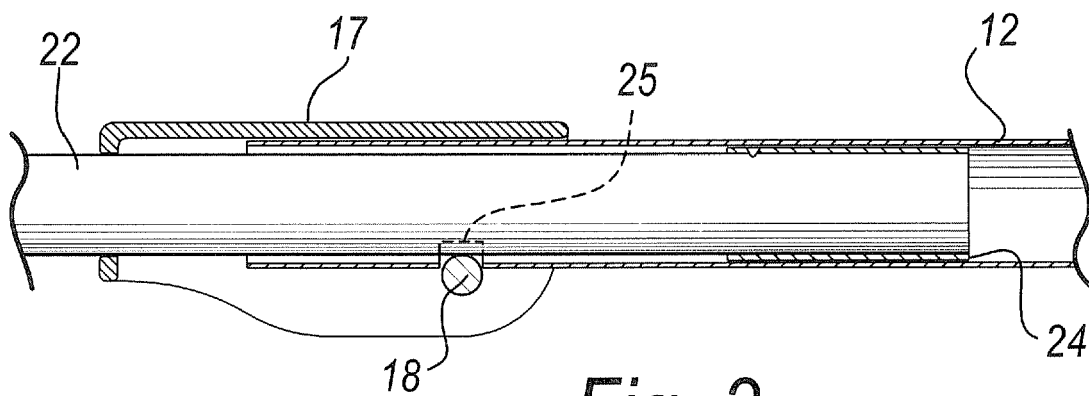
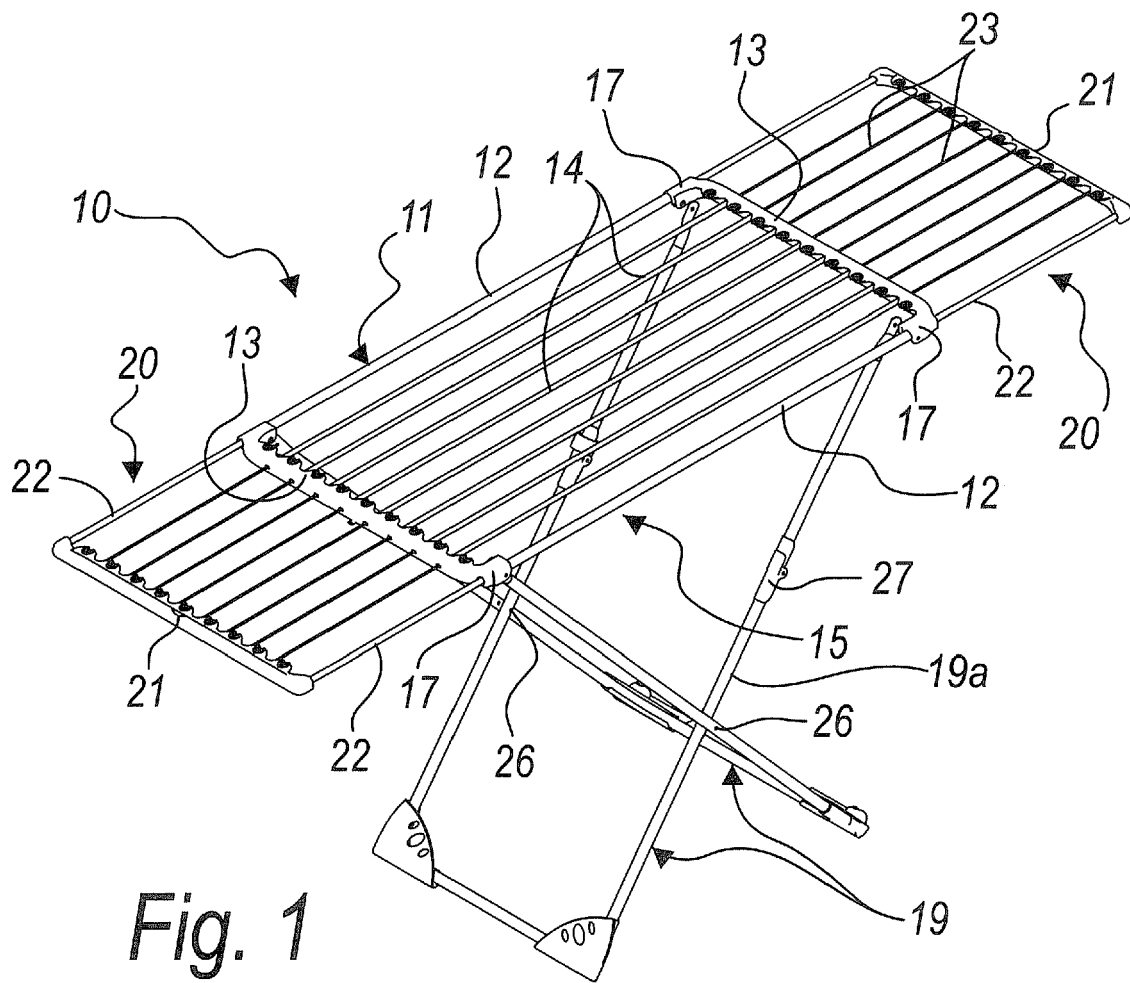
[0033] Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

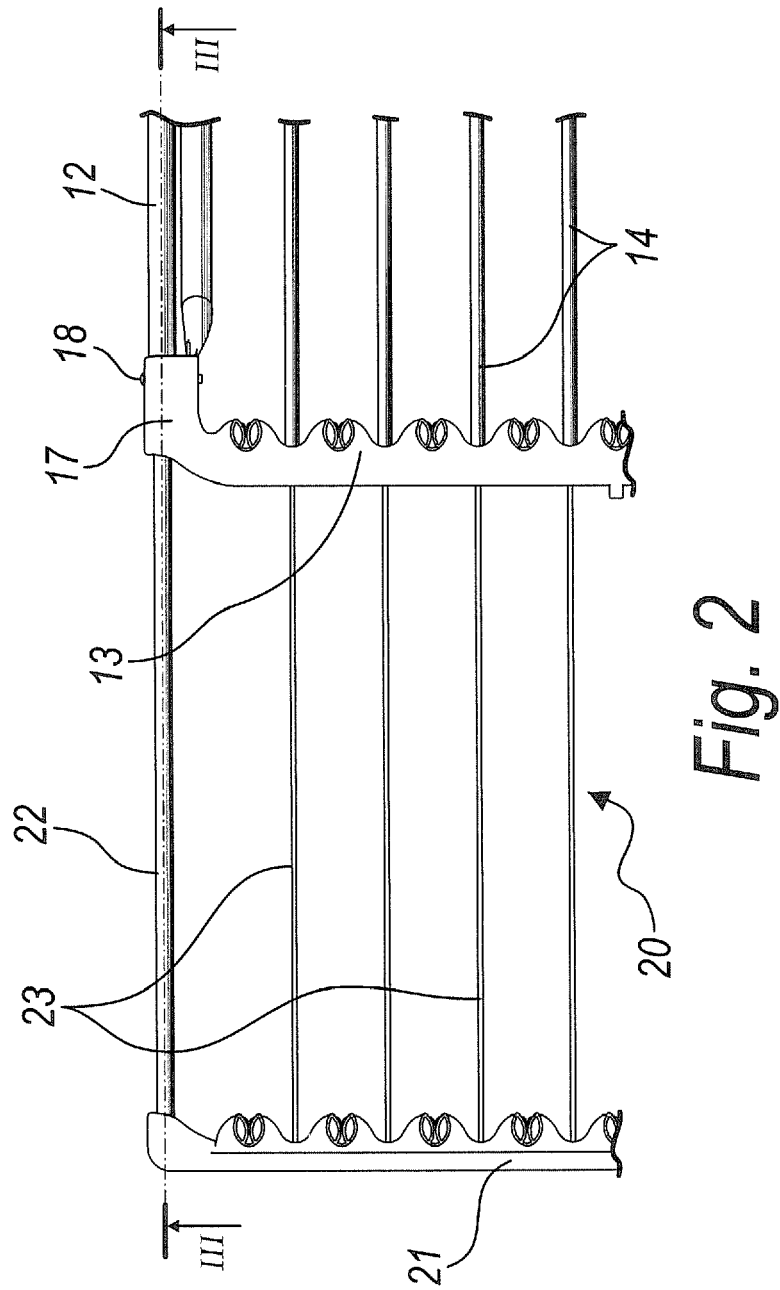
Claims

1. A clothes drying rack (10), **characterized in that** it comprises a structure with a quadrangular frame (11) that is constituted by a pair of first longitudinal members (12) and a pair of first cross-members (13), between which first rod-like components (14) are arranged which form, together with said quadrangular frame structure (11), a main grid (15) for hanging

clothes, supporting legs (19) being pivoted to said longitudinal members (12) by means of blocks (17) for supporting the pivot (18), said main grid (15) being reversibly extendable in the longitudinal direction of said first rod-like components (14) by means of at least one associated extractable grid (20), which comprises a U-shaped structure constituted by a second cross-member (21), from which second lateral longitudinal members (22) extend, second rod-like components (23) being provided parallel to said second longitudinal members (22), said second longitudinal members (22) and said second rod-like components (23) being telescopically extractable respectively from said first longitudinal members (12) and from said first rod-like components (14), on the outside of each free end of said second longitudinal members (22), and arranged inside the corresponding first longitudinal member (12), there being a wider portion (24) that is designed for extraction-preventing abutment against a leg pivoting pivot (18), which is supported by the respective block (17) so as to intersect the end portion of the first longitudinal member (12), protruding into it through a corresponding opening (25) on said first longitudinal member (12).

2. The clothes drying rack according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said wider portion (24) is constituted by a sleeve that is keyed to the end of the second longitudinal member (22).
3. The clothes drying rack according to the preceding claims, **characterized in that** each one of said first cross-members (13) is made of plastic material, and two opposite blocks (17) for supporting a pivot (18) extend monolithically therefrom.
4. The clothes drying rack according to the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it comprises two of said at least one extractable grids (20).
5. The clothes drying rack according to the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said supporting legs (19) are of the type that can fold in a scissor-like fashion.
6. The clothes drying rack according to the preceding claim, **characterized in that** said supporting legs (19) are constituted by two separate U-shaped legs, each of which is pivoted by the ends of the U-shape to the blocks (17) arranged at the ends of said two longitudinal members (12), the horizontal portions of said legs (19) acting as a supporting base, a first leg (19a) having, above the hinge point (26) with the second U-shaped leg, on both arms of the U-shape, respective joints (27) to allow 180° folding of said first leg (19a), in order to allow the assumption of a flattened shape on said quadrangular frame structure (11).







EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 17 1857

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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A	DE 101 61 319 A1 (GIMI SRL [IT]) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) * paragraph [0019] - paragraph [0022] *	1-6	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			D06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 April 2009	Examiner Hannam, Martin
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 08 17 1857

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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06-04-2009

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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