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(54) **CLOTHESHORSE WITH RODS ATTACHED TO BOTH ENDS WITH OPENING FOR THE INSERTION AND THE SUPPORT OF THE LAUNDRY TO BE DRIED**

(57) Clotheshorse (1) comprising a frame (3) consisting of at least two parallel opposed sides (11, 12), between which a plurality of rods (10) are arranged, fixed thereto with their ends, in which at least one of said rods

(10) has an opening (13) near one of its ends, apt to allow insertion on the rod of garments provided with at least one opening, said opening (13) being closed by a tubular element (20) sliding on the rod (10).

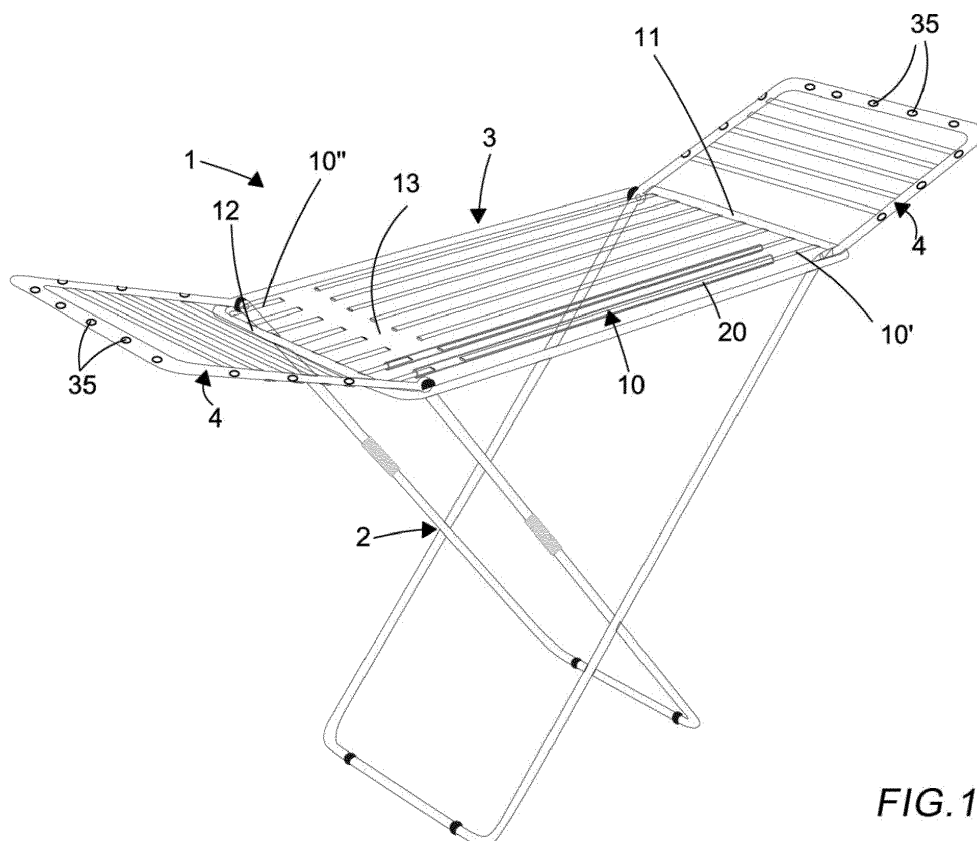


FIG. 1

Description

[0001] The object of the present invention is a clotheshorse or clothes rack (the two terms will be used without distinction in this description) for holding the laundry to be dried. More particularly the invention relates to a clotheshorse comprising a support frame and rods apt to support the laundry, attached to both ends.

[0002] As is known, there is a wide variety of clotheshorses and the more widespread ones are made up of rods or cords attached at their ends on which the clothes to be dried are placed and blocked by means of pegs, to avoid the accidental falling thereof, for example in the case of gusts of wind.

[0003] This system of blocking of the laundry entails a considerable outlay of time for the position of each single garment, as well as bulk for the arrangement of the numerous pegs necessary.

[0004] Clotheshorses have been proposed which avoid the use of pegs, using crossed cords apt to block the clothes between them. However, this system is somewhat complex and requires special attention by users which involves more time in hanging out laundry. Moreover, the crossed cords leave marks on the garments once dried.

[0005] Other types of clotheshorses, different from the one whereto the invention relates, provide for example rods arranged cantilevered, on which garments having at least one opening can optionally be inserted, starting from the free end.

However, these clotheshorses, normally having a central support, with the rods arranged in a sunburst fashion, are not very stable and have likewise the disadvantage that the garments can fall, coming out of the free end of the rods mounted cantilevered.

[0006] GB 921113 A describes a folding clotheshorse comprising a frame with at least two parallel opposing sides, between which a plurality of rods are placed, restrained thereto with their ends. However, such a clotheshorse does not allow garments to be hung out safely, that is avoiding the risk that the latter fall, without the aid of pegs.

[0007] There is therefore the need for a versatile clotheshorse which allows most laundry to be hung simply and rapidly, without the aid of pegs and with the certainty that the hung-out laundry does not fall, even in the presence of gusts of wind.

[0008] The object of the invention is that of meeting this need, eliminating the disadvantages of the known clotheshorses previously illustrated.

[0009] More particularly an object of the invention is that of providing such a clotheshorse which allows fast hanging out, without the aid of pegs, of garments with at least one opening such as costumes, briefs, goggles, vests, slippers, bags, trousers with loops, short-sleeved t-shirts, etc.

[0010] Another object of the invention is that of providing such a clotheshorse which, as well as hanging out

laundry fast, also allows it to be taken in fast after drying.

[0011] Yet another object of the invention is that of providing such a clotheshorse which is simple and economical to manufacture.

[0012] These and other objects are achieved by the clotheshorse according to the invention which has the features of the appended independent claim 1.

[0013] Advantageous embodiments of the invention are stated in the dependent claims.

[0014] Substantially, the clotheshorse according to the invention comprises a frame consisting of at least two parallel opposed sides, between which are arranged a plurality of rods, fixed thereto with their ends, in which at least one of said rods has an opening near one of its ends, apt to allow insertion on the rod of garments provided with at least one opening, said opening of the rod being closed by a tubular element sliding on the rod.

[0015] Further features of the invention will be made clearer by the following detailed description, referred to one of its embodiments purely by way of a non-limiting example, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clotheshorse according to a preferred embodiment of the invention; Figures 2 and 2a show a portion of a rod of the clotheshorse of Figure 1 in two different configurations;

Figures 3 and 3a are sections taken, respectively, along lines III-III and IIIa-IIIa of Figures 2 and 2a; Figure 4 is a perspective view of the clotheshorse of Figure 1 in condition of use;

Figure 5 shows an enlargement of a portion of a rod of the clotheshorse of Figure 1 according to a different embodiment;

Figure 6 shows a different rod configuration.

[0016] Figure 1 shows a clotheshorse of a fairly classic type, denoted overall by reference numeral 1, comprising a foldable structure 2 supporting a central rectangular frame 3 and two side frames 4 collapsible thereon.

[0017] Frames 3 and 4 are provided with a plurality of sticks or rods restrained with the respective ends to two opposite sides of the abovementioned frames, intended to support the clothes to be dried.

[0018] Naturally that which is illustrated is only an example of clotheshorse, the teachings of the invention being able to be applied to any type of clotheshorse wherein the rods for supporting the clothes are restrained at both ends.

[0019] In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the innovative features of the invention are illustrated with reference to the central frame 3, without prejudice to the fact that they are applicable also to side frames 4.

[0020] More particularly the rods 10 of the frame 3, restrained between two opposite sides 11, 12 of the frame, have an interruption 13 in proximity of one of their ends.

[0021] In Figure 1 all the rods 10 of the frame 3 are shown interrupted, but it is evident that only some of them could be so.

[0022] On the longer portion of rod 10' a tubular element 20 is inserted which covers it for its entire length, and can slide thereon, in order to cover the interruption 13 and go to engage with the other portion 10" of the rod 10.

[0023] In the preferred embodiment of Figure 1, the rods 10 have an oval section and the sliding tubular element 20 a rectangular section, as can be seen more clearly in Figures 2, 2a and 3, 3a.

[0024] In the accompanying drawings the oval section of the rods 10 has the larger axis placed horizontally.

[0025] The smaller side of the rectangular section of the tubular element 20 is slightly smaller than the larger dimension of the rod 10, such as to interfere with it, locking firmly in position, as shown in Figure 3, when it has to close the interruption or opening 13 between the portions of rod 10', 10".

[0026] Optionally on the rod 10, that is on the portions of rod 10', 10", a longitudinal groove 15 can be provided which goes to engage with a corresponding rib 21 provided inside at least one smaller side of the tubular element 20, to further strengthen the locking.

[0027] By rotating the tubular element 20 through 90°, the latter is arranged loosely on the rod 10 (Figure 3a), being able to slide freely on it until covering the portion of rod 10' and freeing the opening 13, as shown in Figure 1.

[0028] Through the opening 13 it is possible to insert easily and rapidly clothes having in turn an opening, such as costumes, briefs, vests, boxer shorts, etc., making the tubular element 20 slide over, which is then made to slide on the portion of rod 10" to close the corresponding opening 13 and rotated through 90° in order to be returned into the position of Figure 3, remaining locked in position.

[0029] With the clotheshorse according to the invention, the withdrawal of the clothes once dried also takes place in an extremely fast manner, it being possible to pick up in a single stroke all the clothes positioned on the rod, making them fall through the opening 13 with a movement of the hand from the start of the rod as far as its free end.

[0030] Figure 4 is a schematic view showing the clotheshorse of Figure 1 in condition of use, with clothes, such as costumes or briefs, denoted generically by reference numeral 30, inserted on the rods 10.

[0031] Figure 4 shows also other clothes 31, placed on respective hangers 32, whose hooks 33 are inserted in corresponding holes 35 provided on side frames 4 of the clotheshorse 1, thus increasing the versatility of the clotheshorse.

[0032] Obviously, as mentioned previously, the rods of the side frames 4 can also be interrupted in order to be used in the same way as the rods 10 of the central frame.

[0033] Naturally if there is no need to insert clothes on

the rods 10 of the central frame 3 or on the rods of the side frames 4 of the clotheshorse 1, the latter can be used also as classic clotheshorse, resting on the rods any type of garment or laundry and fixing it optionally with pegs.

[0034] As mentioned previously, the clotheshorse 1 can be of any type, provided it has two opposite sides 11, 12, in any way supported, between which the ends of the rods 10 are restrained, determining a continuity in condition of use.

[0035] The clotheshorse 1 can be formed in any material, such as metal, hard plastic, wood, etc., normally in a mixed material, metal and plastic.

[0036] The rods 10 are conveniently formed in rigid plastic, while the covering tubular element 20 is also in plastic material, preferably softer in order to be able to yield slightly following a rotation and lock on the inside core 10.

[0037] Figure 5 shows a slightly different embodiment of the rod as a whole, wherein the tubular element 20 has a section corresponding to that of the internal rod 10, which in this case could be also with circular section, and is in a much softer material, such as for example rubber, in order to be able to be extracted from the opening 13 of the rod, bending elastically, and reinserted on the section of the rod 10" in the same way.

[0038] Figure 6 shows an embodiment variant of the "openable" rod not covered by the claims, made in a telescopic manner, with an inner rod or core, also denoted by reference numeral 10, and an external tubular element 20, restrained respectively to the two sides 12, 11 of the frame.

[0039] More particularly the external tubular element 20 is attached to the side 11 of the frame, while the inner core 10, which can slide axially in the tubular element 20, is restrained removably to the other side 12 of the frame.

[0040] The restraint of the sliding rod 10 to the side 12 of the frame can take place by means of screwing, and for this purpose the outer end 18 of the rod 10 has a threading. More conveniently, the restraint to the side 12 of the frame of the rod 10 can take place by means of a fast coupling.

[0041] According to yet another variant, not according to the invention, the rod 10 could be in a single part with an end hinged to one side of the frame and the other resting on the other side, and optionally locked thereto.

[0042] The latter embodiment would require however the user to keep the rod raised in order to insert therein the clothes, which could be impractical.

[0043] Naturally the invention is not limited to the particular embodiments described previously and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, but numerous detail changes may be made thereto, within the reach of the person skilled in the art, without thereby departing from the scope of the same invention, as defined in the appended claims.

Claims

1. Clotheshorse (1) comprising a frame (3; 4) consisting of at least two parallel opposed sides (11, 12), between which are arranged a plurality of rods (10), fixed thereto with their ends, **characterised in that** at least one of said rods (10) has an opening (13) near one of its ends, apt to allow insertion on the rod of garments provided with at least one opening, said opening (13) being closed by a tubular element (20) sliding on the rod (10). 5 10
2. Clotheshorse (1) according to claim 1, wherein said opening (13) divides the rod (10) into two sections (10') and (10''), the first one having a length greater than the second one, said tubular element (20) having a length substantially equal to or smaller than the length of said first section (10') and being able to slide thereon in order to engage at least partially said second section (10'') and close the opening (13). 15 20
3. Clotheshorse according to claim 1, wherein said rod (10', 10'') has an oval section and said tubular element (20) has a rectangular section, with the smaller dimension slightly smaller than the larger dimension of the oval such that in one position said tubular element interferes with the inner rod (10', 10'') while remaining firmly locked on it, and in another position rotated through 90° it houses in a loose way the inner rod (10', 10''), with the possibility of sliding thereon. 25 30
4. Clotheshorse according to claim 3, wherein said rectangular section tubular element (20) has internally at at least one shorter side thereof a longitudinal rib (21) apt to engage with a corresponding longitudinal groove (15) provided on the rod (10', 10'') in said locking position. 35
5. Clotheshorse according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said tubular element (20) has a section corresponding to that of the rod (10) and is made of soft bendable material, such as rubber. 40
6. Clotheshorse according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising side frames (4) foldable on said frame (3) and having holes (35) for attaching hangers (32) suitable for supporting garments (31). 45

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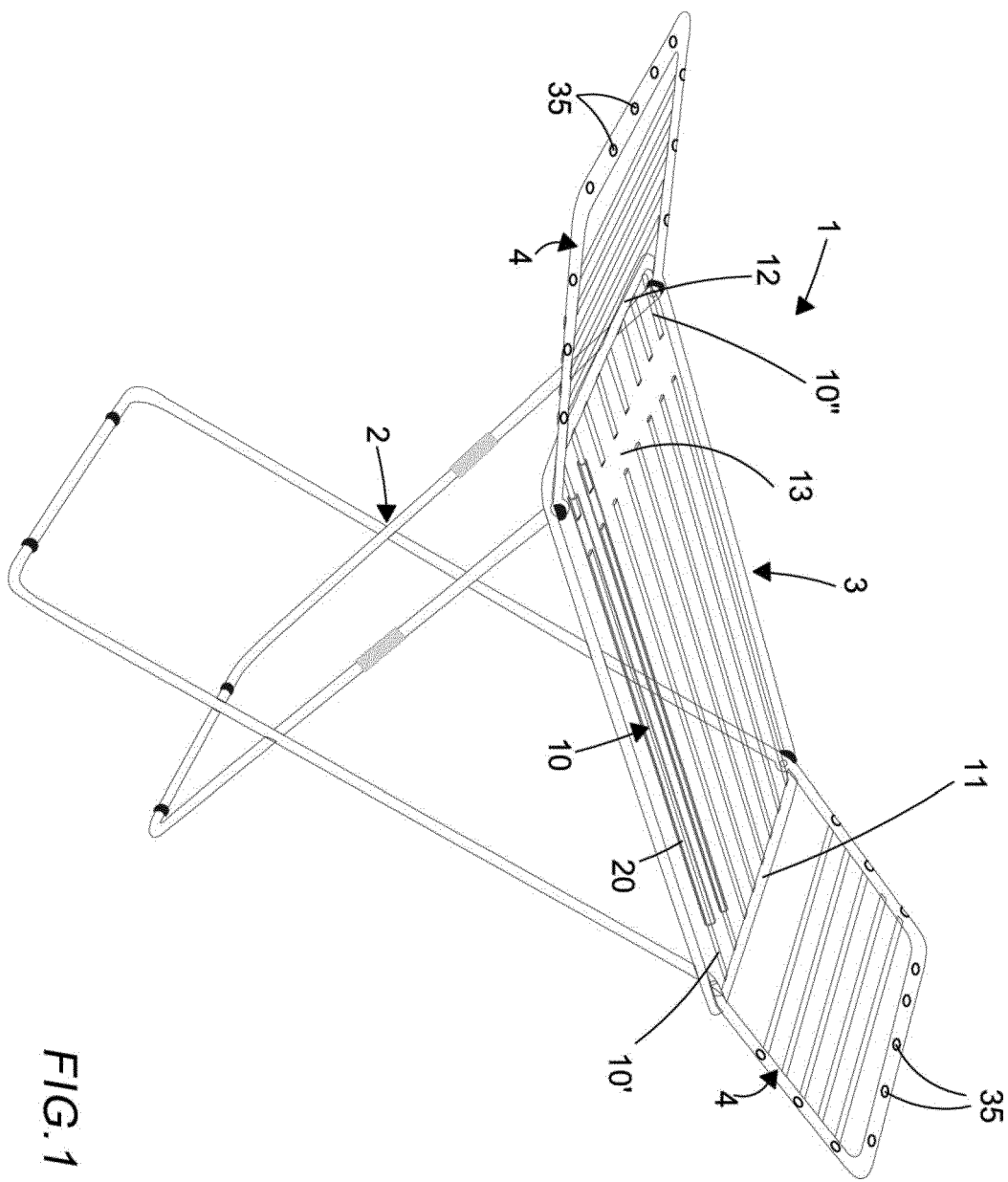
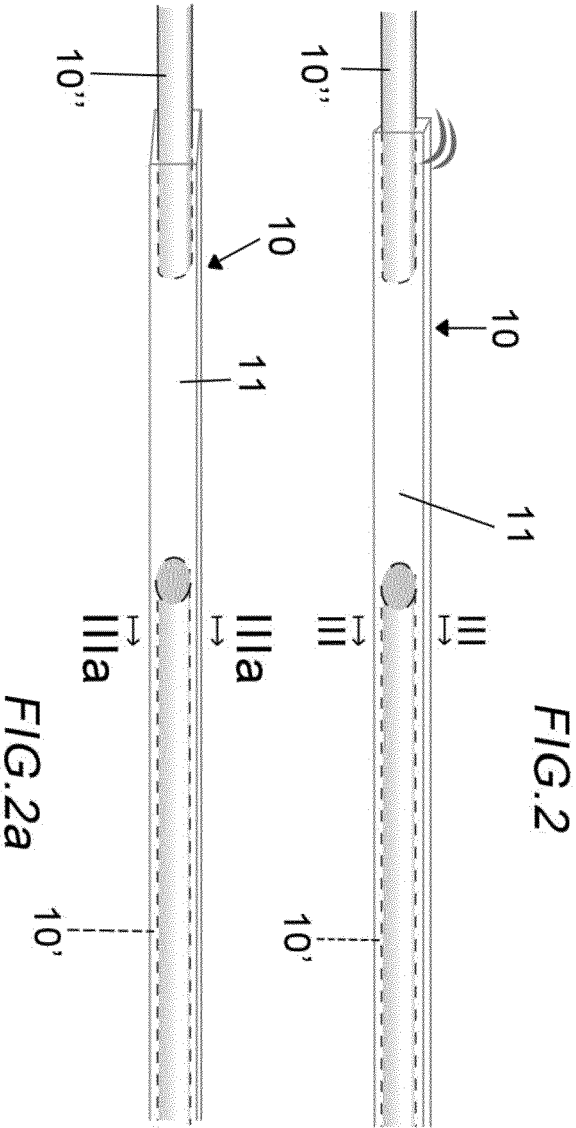
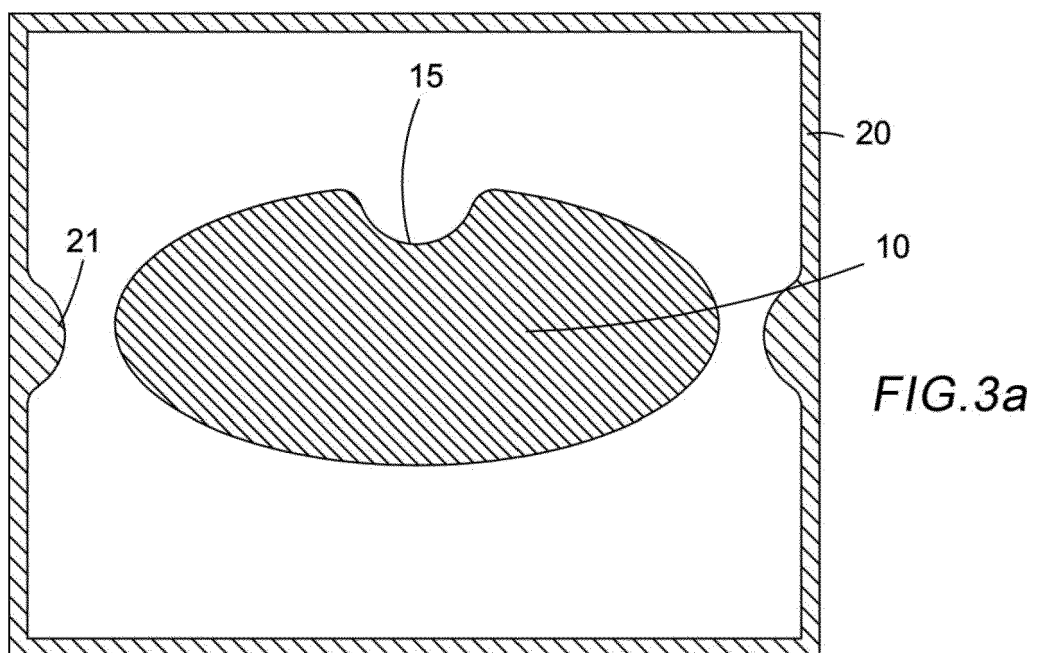
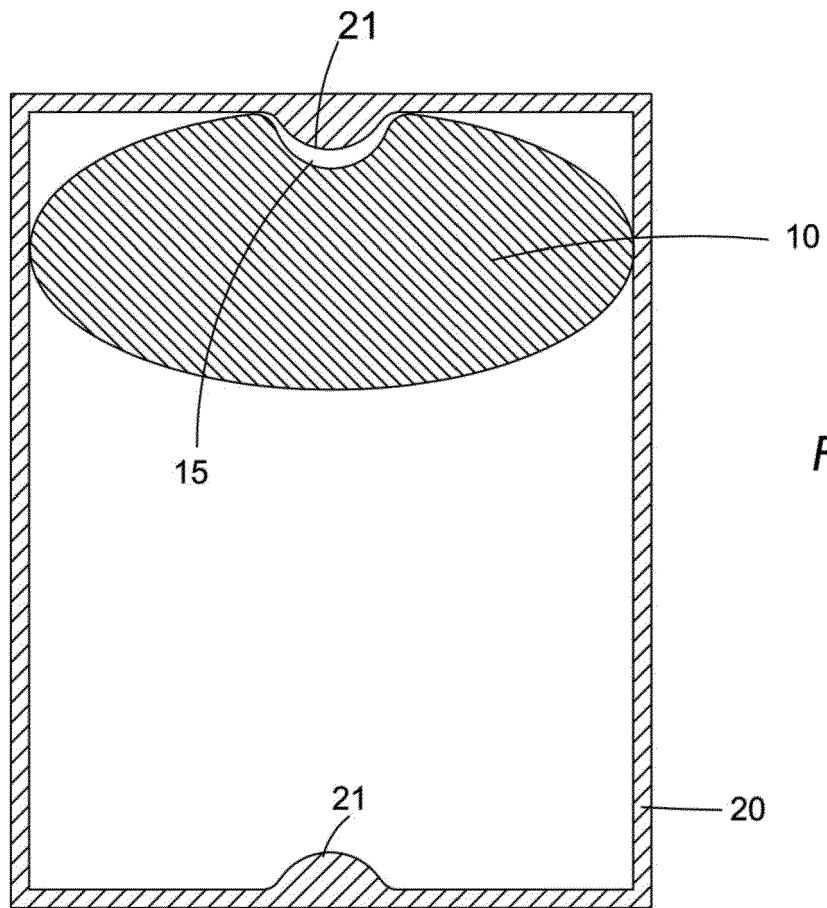
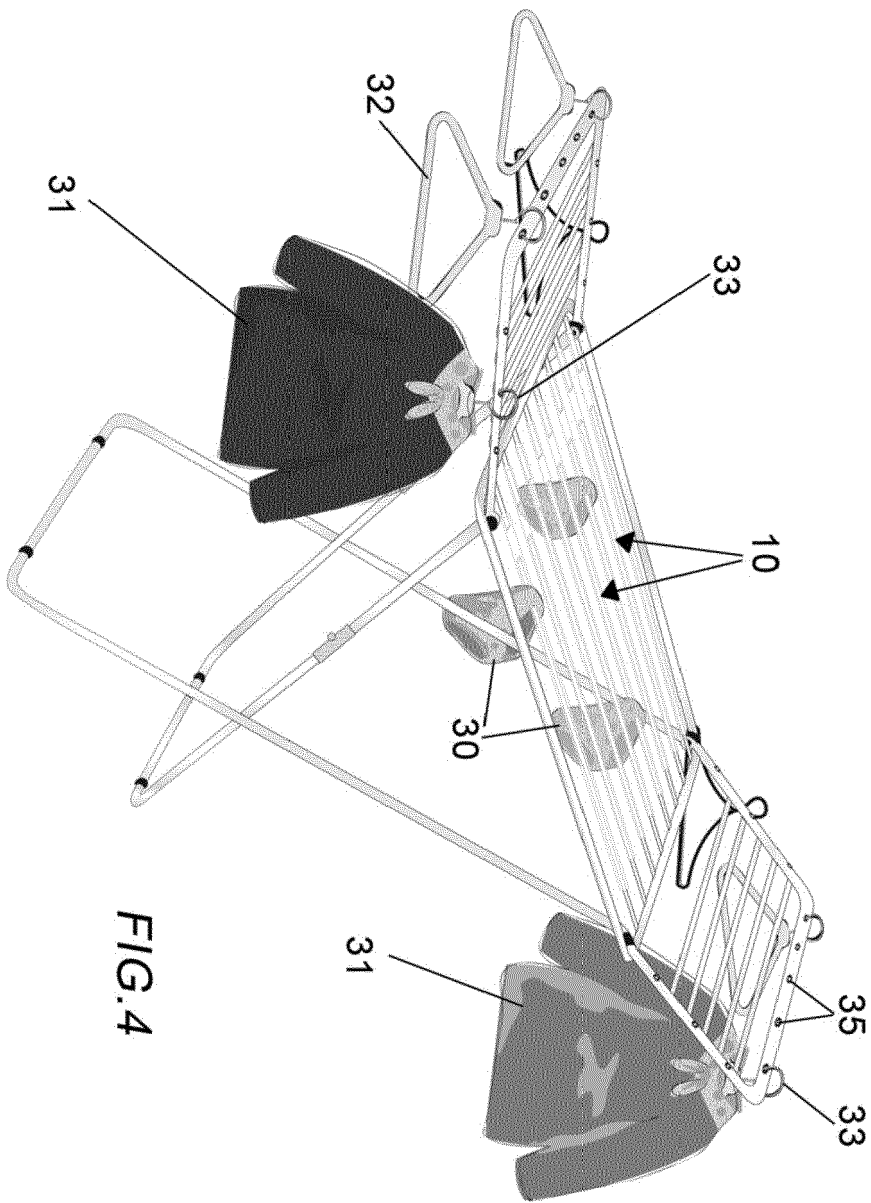


FIG. 1







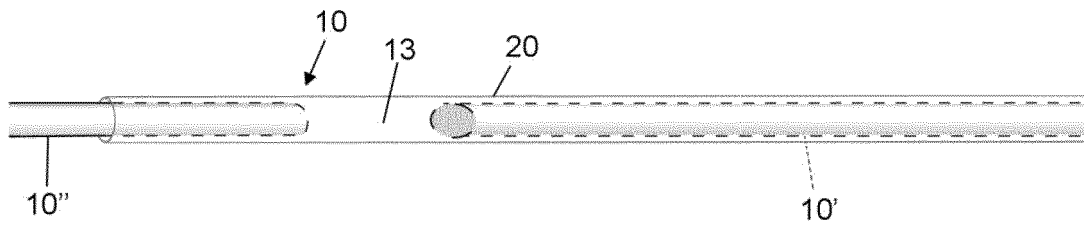


FIG.5

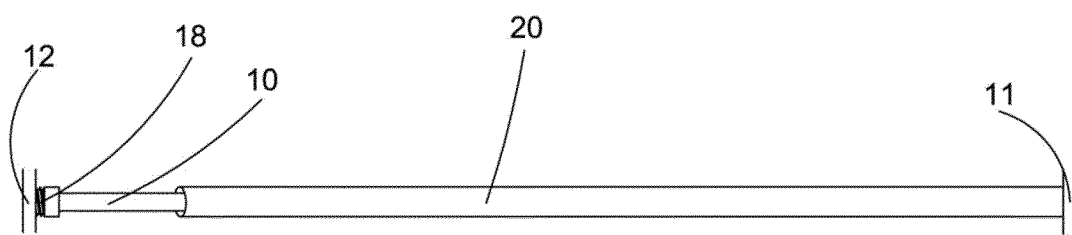


FIG.6



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number
 EP 18 20 2037

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 February 2019	Examiner Weidner, Maximilian
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06-02-2019

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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