

# **A DEVICE FOR HANGING LAUNDRY AND THE LIKE**

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention relates to a device for hanging laundry articles and the like.

## **BACKGROUND**

Numerous devices for hanging laundry articles are known from the prior art.

In the existing methods of hanging laundry articles in a typical housing apartment in many countries, the users are forced to lean out of the window to engage the bamboo pole holding the laundry articles into the pipe sockets which are located outside the windows. A steel support can also be located outside the window to support the other end of the bamboo stick. Such a method is awkward and can be hazardous, if the laundry articles are heavy or if the user does not have the strength to carry the bamboo pole holding the laundry articles.

The present invention has as its principal object the elimination of this hazard by providing a device for hanging laundry articles which permits easy, comfortable and safe loading and unloading of laundry articles. This invention is also easy to operate as laundry articles can be loaded at waist height from inside the user's apartment and then moved outwardly into contact with the ambient air to dry the laundry. It is also easy to install and can be produced inexpensively.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for hanging laundry articles, the device comprising a first panel and a second panel, the first panel and the second panel being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel and the second panel being connected by a first pair of upper connecting members and a second pair of lower connecting members, the first pair of upper connecting members being joined by at least one supporting members, each supporting member for supporting the laundry articles to be hung thereon, wherein the device is movable between a sheltered environment where the user hangs the laundry articles and an unsheltered environment where the laundry articles are exposed to the environment.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for hanging laundry articles, the device comprising a first panel and a second panel, the first panel and the second panel being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel and the second panel being connected by a first pair of upper connecting members and a second pair of lower connecting members, the first panel and the second panel being joined by at least one supporting members, the supporting members being located near the top of the device, each supporting member for supporting the laundry articles to be hung thereon, wherein the device is movable between a sheltered environment where the user hangs the laundry articles and an unsheltered environment where the laundry articles are exposed to the environment.

Preferably, each of the first panel and second panel acts as cover members.

Preferably, the first panel and the second panel are formed in a substantially rectangular configuration.

Preferably, the first panel and the second panel may be made of aluminum.

Preferably, the first panel and the second panel may be made of steel.

Preferably, the first panel and the second panel may be made of plastic.

Preferably, the second panel further comprises openings.

Preferably, the device further comprises a handle for pushing and pulling the device.

Preferably, the supporting member may be in the form of a metal rod.

Preferably, the device includes rolling means for moving the device.

Preferably, the device includes sliding means for moving the device.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The invention will be described in further detail hereinafter with reference to illustrative preferred embodiments shown in the accompanying figures in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 shows a top view of the device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows a front view of the device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a back view of the device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 shows a side view partly in cross section of the device according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In the drawings, parts that are identical or that have an identical function are identified by like reference numerals.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

As shown in Figures 1 to 5, in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the device 100 comprises a first panel 101a and a second panel 101b, the first panel 101a and the second panel 101b being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel 101a and the second panel 101b being connected by two pairs of connecting members 110, the first pair of upper connecting members 110a and a second pair of lower connecting members 110b. The first pair of upper connecting members 110a is joined by at least one supporting member 102, which may in the form of a metal rod. Each supporting member 102 supports the laundry articles to be hung thereon.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the device 100 comprises a first panel 101a and a second panel 101b, the first panel 101a and the second panel 101b being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel 101a and the second panel 101b being

connected by a first pair of upper connecting members 110a and a second pair of lower connecting members 110b. The first panel 101a and the second panel 101b are being joined by at least one supporting member 102, which may be in the form of a metal rod. The supporting members 102 are located near the top of the device. Each supporting member 102 supports the laundry articles to be hung thereon.

First panel 101a and the second panel 101b act as cover members 103a and 103b respectively. The first panel 101a and second panel 101b are formed in a substantially rectangular configuration. It will be appreciated that the first panel 101a and the second panel 101b may be made of aluminum, steel, plastic or any other suitable materials. The second panel 101b may further comprises louvres or openings 111 to enhance air ventilation.

In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the device 100 is slideably mounted below the window 104 of a building wall 109. In particular, the hanging device 100 is slideably mounted such that it is moveable between a sheltered environment in the apartment and an unsheltered environment outside the apartment. The rolling means, such as rollers 108, roll on tracks or channels 105, assist the sliding movement of the device 100 when in use. Other sliding means is also possible to move the device 100. It is appreciated that the device 100 may be mounted at different heights in the apartment depending on the preference and needs of the user. For instance, in a studio apartment designed for the elderly, the device 100 is preferably slideably mounted at the bottom of the building wall so as to make the device 100 more convenient and user friendly to the elderly.

The device 100 works in the following manner. When in use, the user would pull the device 100 by the handle 107, inwardly to the sheltered environment and hang the laundry articles onto the rods 102. Laundry articles such as garments may be comfortably and safely pinned on the metal rods 102. Thereafter, the user would push the device 100 by the handle 107, outwardly to the unsheltered environment where the laundry articles are exposed to the environment, such as the sun and wind, so that the laundry articles can be dried.

After drying the laundry articles, the user would pull the device 100 by the handle 107, inwardly to the sheltered environment and remove the laundry articles from the metal rods

102, and then push outwardly again to their external location. In this manner, a neat interior can be kept. For safety measure, an external support frame 106 may be constructed to prevent any falling of the device 100 in case of accidental detachment of the device 100 from the building wall 109. The external support frame 106 is securely connected to the building and corresponds to the size of the device 100.

The foregoing description and examples have been set forth merely to illustrate the invention and are not intended to be limiting. Since modifications of the described embodiments incorporating the spirit and substance of the invention may occur to persons skilled in the art, the invention should be construed broadly to include all variations falling within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

**Claims:**

1. A device for hanging laundry articles, the device comprising:
  - a first panel and a second panel, the first panel and the second panel being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel and the second panel being connected by a first pair of upper connecting members and a second pair of lower connecting members,
  - the first pair of upper connecting members being joined by at least one supporting members,
  - each supporting member for supporting the laundry articles to be hung thereon,
  - wherein the device is movable between a sheltered environment where the user hangs the laundry articles and an unsheltered environment where the laundry articles are exposed to the environment.
2. A device for hanging laundry articles, the device comprising:
  - a first panel and a second panel, the first panel and the second panel being positioned parallel to each other, the first panel and the second panel being connected by a first pair of upper connecting members and a second pair of lower connecting members,
  - the first panel and the second panel being joined by at least one supporting members, the supporting members being located near the top of the device,
  - each supporting member for supporting the laundry articles to be hung thereon,
  - wherein the device is movable between a sheltered environment where the user hangs the laundry articles and an unsheltered environment where the laundry articles are exposed to the environment.
3. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the first panel and second panel acts as cover members.
4. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first panel and the second panel are formed in a substantially rectangular configuration.

5. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first panel and the second panel may be made of aluminum.
6. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first panel and the second panel may be made of steel.
7. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first panel and the second panel may be made of plastic.
8. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second panel further comprises openings.
9. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a handle for pushing and pulling the device.
10. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the supporting member may be in the form of a metal rod.
11. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, including rolling means for moving the device.
12. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, including sliding means for moving the device.