

CLOTHING HANGER

The present invention relates to a clothing hanger formed of a synthetic plastics material characterized by the cross sectional configuration of the body of the hanger.

5 It is known from Australian Patent specification 544211 to provide a moulded plastics clothing hanger with arms with a cross sectional configuration having a substantially central neutral axis, at least two webs displaced laterally on either side of the neutral axis, at
10 least one connecting web, and two flanges extending from the displaced webs towards and through the neutral axis. This known design is arranged to take advantage of the structural engineering principle that corrugated structures are strongest when the largest amount of
15 material is furthest away from the neutral axis.

The present invention has surprisingly found that by forming a moulded plastics clothing hanger with an off-centre neutral axis and with at least two, spaced apart, webs positioned on that neutral axis and one web
20 displaced from it a stronger garment hanger can in fact be produced using slightly less plastics material than the abovementioned prior art garment hanger. Importantly it has also been found that the hanger according to the present invention requires a slightly shorter cycle time
25 in injection moulding machines than the prior art garment hangers. Garment hangers of the type to which the present invention relates are produced in extremely large numbers and even small savings in materials and cycle time can be of considerable economic significance.

30 The present invention consists in a clothing hanger formed of a synthetic plastics material, comprising a body portion adapted to support articles of clothing and a hook portion by which the hanger may be suspended, characterized in that the body portion comprises a pair of
35 arms each of which has a cross-sectional configuration

having a non-central vertical neutral axis, at least two, spaced apart, first webs positioned on the neutral axis, a second web displaced to one side of the neutral axis intermediate the webs positioned on the neutral axis, connecting webs connecting the second web with each of the first webs extending from each end of the second web toward and through the neutral axis, and flanges extending transversely of the first webs on both sides of the neutral axis.

10 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the flanges extend substantially parallel to the connecting webs. In a further preferred embodiment the hook portion of the hanger is provided with a tally which extends from the hook such that coding means can be
15 attached to the hook. Optionally the body portion is provided with a bar which runs between the ends of the body portion.

If desired any one or more of the first or second webs may be provided with an additional stiffening rib or
20 ribs. In one preferred embodiment of the invention the second web is provided with a stiffening rib or ribs extending towards and through the neutral axis. In another preferred embodiment each of the first webs is provided with stiffening ribs extending transversely of
25 thereof on both sides of the neutral axis, such stiffening ribs being additional to the flanges on the first webs.

In order that the nature of the present invention may be better understood preferred forms thereof are hereinafter described with reference to the accompanying
30 drawings in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form of the clothing hanger of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view through A-A of Fig. 1;

35 Fig. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view through

B-B of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of another preferred form of the clothing hanger of the present invention; and

5 Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross sectional view through C-C of Fig. 4.

Fig. 1 shows a clothing hanger of the present invention comprising a hook portion 10 and a body portion 11 comprising a pair of arms 11a and 11b. A bar 13 extends between the ends of the arms 11a and 11b of the body portion 11.

As is shown in Fig. 3 the cross-sectional configuration of the body portion 11 of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1 comprises first webs 15 16 and 17 positioned on the neutral axis and a second web 18 displaced from the neutral axis. Webs 16 and 17 are connected to the second web 18 by connecting webs 19 and 20 which extend from the ends of second web 18 through the neutral axis and across the width 20 of the cross-section. Also provided are flanges 21 and 22 which extend perpendicularly to webs 16 and 17, respectively through the neutral axis and across the width of the body portion 11, thereby providing a flat surface on the uppermost and lowermost surfaces of the 25 body portion 11.

As is shown in Fig. 2, toward the central region of the body portion 11 the cross-sectional configuration further comprises additional webs 23 and 24 positioned on the neutral axis and stiffening ribs 30 25 and 26 extending perpendicular to webs 23 and 24, respectively, through the neutral axis and across the width of the body portion 11.

Fig. 4 shows a clothing hanger according to the present invention in which the body 11 comprises a pair of arms 11a and 11b which are ^{not} joined by a bar 13. 35

As is seen in Fig. 5 the cross sectional configuration of the body 11 of the hanger of Fig. 4 differs from that of Fig. 1 in that stiffening ribs 27 are provided on the second web 18 rather than on the first webs 16 and 17. According to this embodiment of the invention the cross sectional configuration of the body portion 11 comprises first webs 16 and 17 positioned on the neutral axis and a second web 18 displaced from the neutral axis. Webs 16 and 17 are connected to the second web 18 by connecting webs 19 and 20 which extend from the ends of the second web 18 through the neutral axis and across the width of the cross section. Also provided is an annular flange 27 which extends perpendicularly to web 18 through the neutral axis and across the width of the body portion 11, thereby increasing the rigidity of the web 18. Extending from the hook portion 10 is a tally 12 adapted to receive a coding tag such as might indicate the size, price, colour or style of the garment on the hanger.

CLAIMS

1. A clothing hanger formed of a synthetic plastics material, comprising a body portion adopted to support articles of clothing and a hook portion by which the hanger may be suspended, characterized in that the body portion comprises a pair of arms each of which has a cross-sectional configuration having a non-central vertical neutral axis, at least two, spaced apart, first webs positioned on the neutral axis, a second web displaced to one side of the neutral axis intermediate the webs positioned on the neutral axis, connecting webs connecting the second web with each of the first webs extending from each end of the second web toward and through the neutral axis, and flanges extending transversely of the first webs on both sides of the neutral axis.
2. A clothing hanger as claimed in claim 1 in which the first and second webs lie in parallel planes.
3. A clothing hanger as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the connecting webs and the flanges extend substantially perpendicularly to the first webs.
4. A clothing hanger as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in which one or more of the first and second webs is provided with an additional stiffening rib or ribs.
5. A clothing hanger as claimed in claim 4 in which at least one stiffening rib extends towards and through the neutral axis.
6. A clothing hanger as claimed in claim 4 in which the first webs are provided with stiffening ribs extending on each side of the neutral axis.
7. A clothing hanger as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in which the hook portion of the hanger is provided with a tally which extends from the hook such that coding means can be attached to the hook.



8. A clothing hanger as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7 in which the free ends of the arms of the body of the hanger are interconnected by a bar.

9. A clothing hanger substantially as
5 hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 or Figs. 4 and 5.

