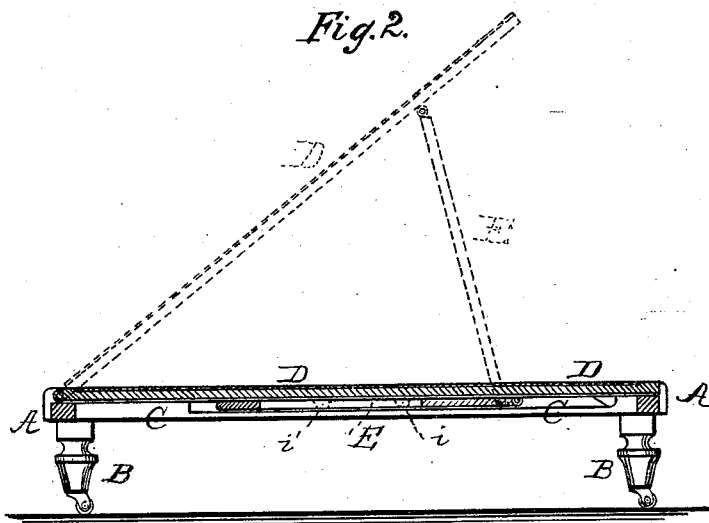
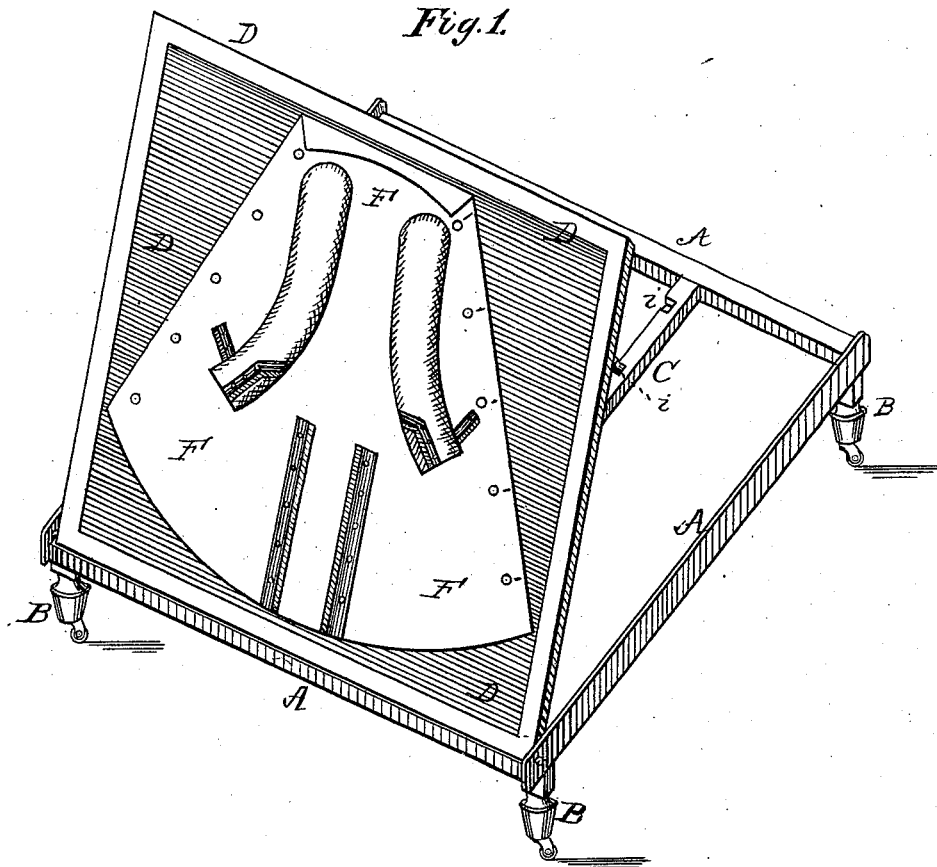


P. H. O'HARA.
Stand for Showing Cloaks.

No. 209,917.

Patented Nov. 12, 1878.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PATRICK H. O'HARA, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN STANDS FOR SHOWING CLOAKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **209,917**, dated November 12, 1878; application filed September 21, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PATRICK HENRY O'HARA, of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Stand for Showing Cloaks, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Previous to my invention it has been customary, in establishments where ladies' cloaks and analogous articles are sold, to show such goods either by spreading them out upon the floor and piling them thereupon, (from which they have to be taken and replaced in the cases,) or displaying each article in turn upon the person of a lady hired for such purpose.

The latter mode is, of course, more desirable so far as an attractive showing of the goods is concerned, because the person on whom the article is put can not only show it just as it will appear when worn by any purchaser, but can show it in different positions relatively to the light of the room, the eye of the observer, &c. But this mode of showing such goods is so much more expensive than that first mentioned that the more general practice is that first described. To this mode of exhibiting the articles to the customer there are, however, some serious objections to overcome, which are the main objects of my present invention.

When the cloaks or other analogous articles are spread out on the floor they frequently appear to disadvantage, on account of the manner in which the light happens to strike them, and sometimes, also, because of the wrong positions in which the observer may stand; and, besides being always in an unnatural position, they accumulate in piles on the floor, and different parts of the room have to be used in showing a large assortment. In this mode of showing the goods is also this objection, viz: that, no matter how inconvenient it may be, the articles should always be gathered up and replaced, because, even if properly covered over for protection during the night, there is danger in leaving them on the floor, since any leakage of water in the house that would wet the floor would also wet the goods.

I propose to provide a simple and economic means of displaying such goods to the buyer, which, while it will possess nearly all the advantages of showing the article on the person, will not engender any of the expense of this most desirable method.

My invention consists of a cloak-exhibiting stand composed of a low platform mounted upon castor-legs and having a cloth-covered adjustable top, whereby a cloak or other similar article may be arranged so as to be looked down upon at different angles and shifted about into different lights, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

To enable any one skilled in the art to make and use my new device for showing cloaks and analogous articles, I will proceed to describe the construction and operation of one of them as made and used by me now with great satisfaction and advantage, referring by letters to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the apparatus or contrivance with a ladies' cloak displayed thereupon; and Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same, with the adjustable top in a horizontal position, though shown also by dotted lines in the same position in which it appears at Fig. 1.

In the several figures the same part will be found designated by the same letter of reference.

A is a horizontal frame, by preference about square in contour, and supported by four (more or less) legs, B, which are provided with furniture-casters, in order that the structure or contrivance may be most easily rolled about from place to place on the floor.

The square frame A is provided with cross-pieces C, framed in, and has hinged to its front piece a plane top or table-surface, D, made preferably of wood covered with cloth, somewhat after the fashion of the top of a library or card-table. This table-like top portion serves to constitute the surface on which the cloak or other analogous article to be shown is to be spread out, as illustrated at F, Fig. 1 of the drawing, and it has hinged to its under surface a holder-frame, E, (see Fig. 2,) the lower end of which has legs adapted to engage with ratchet-like depressions *i* in

the cross-pieces C of the frame, in such a manner that, by setting these lugs in engagement with different ones of said depressions, the top piece D may be set and held at different angles to the horizontal frame A, (or at different degrees of obliquity,) as occasion or circumstances may require.

When the top D is closed down or in its horizontal position, the holder-frame E folds down also into a horizontal position, as seen at Fig. 2.

The height of the frame above the floor (or its casted feet, should, of course, be such that the observer may look down upon the goods displayed—say from ten to eighteen inches, as the judgment of the constructor and use may indicate.

In the use of a contrivance such as shown and described the article to be shown is spread out on the table-like surface D, when the frame may be shoved round to any desired place in the room for inspection of the goods. One after another of the articles may, of course, be placed on, one on top of another, to show different styles, &c., and, when deemed expedient to get a different light on the goods and present them in different aspects to the eye of the observer, the adjustable top D may be set and held at various degrees of inclination, either with one or many articles upon it.

Among other advantages, one great one in the use of such a contrivance is that, after a cloak or pile of goods may have been displayed on it at a certain locality, another lot may be immediately shown at the same spot by rolling out of the way the loaded frame and using another similar but empty one.

The show-room may be provided with several such show-frames, which may thus be used with great convenience and advantage.

When any number of such cases or show-frames shall have been covered with cloaks they may be rolled to any part of the room, and, if it be not convenient to replace the goods on their former receptacles, they may be covered over on the frames, and be left thereon without risk of damage from any water that might flood the floor of the room. This, also, is an advantage in the use of such a contrivance.

The size, proportions, and shape of the apparatus, as well as its details of construction, may, of course, be varied to some extent without departing from the gist of my invention, and the structure may be made and used with more or less advantage without the feature of the adjustability of the top D, though when made with this feature the thing combines more advantages and conveniences in use.

Having so fully explained the construction and operation of my new contrivance for the display of cloaks and other analogous goods in the sales-room that any skilled person can make and use the same, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A cloak-exhibiting stand consisting of a low platform mounted upon caster-legs, adapting it to be shifted from place to place, and having a cloth-covered adjustable top, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of September, 1878.

P. H. O'HARA. [L. S.]

In presence of—

J. N. McINTIRE,
JACOB FELBEL.