A further object of the present invention is to provide a display device of the foregoing type, which is adjustable so that it can be attached to any type of hanger in a manner so that it is securely anchored to the hanger whereby it is prevented from becoming dislodged from the hanger, irrespective of the manner in which the hanger is used.

A still further important object of the present invention is to provide a very inexpensive, simple, sturdy and compact haberdashery hanger and haberdashery display device, which is provided with self-contained means for firmly and securely holding ties, handkerchiefs and other accessories, either in association with a conventional coat hanger on which a jacket or the like is hung or by itself. These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part herewith, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front elevational view of one form of the present invention, showing the same in structural and functional association with a hanger on which a jacket is hung or draped and illustrating the preferred environmental use and utility of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of the device of FIGURE 1, showing the same in structural association with the coat hanger and illustrating a means for attaching the device to the coat hanger;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the display device of FIGURES 1 and 2;

FIGURES 4 and 5 are front and end elevational views, respectively, of a modified form of device in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURES 6 and 7 are front and end elevational views, respectively, of a further modified form of the present invention, and

FIGURE 8 is a front elevational view of a still further modified form of the present invention. Referring now more particularly to the accompanying drawings, and initially to FIGURES 4–9, the present invention comprises a haberdashery display hanger device 10, which, in its preferred environmental use, is adapted to be structurally associated with a conventional coat hanger 12.

For exemplary purposes, the coat hanger 12 is illustrated as being the type that is generally utilized for supporting a man's jacket 14. The coat hanger 12 is of the so-called “wooden” type and is generally composed of a body portion 16, having a central section 18 from which a neck portion 20 upstands, with the neck portion supporting a hook 23 by virtue of which the hanger can be suspended from a clothes rod, hook or other fixture.

The display device 10 is preferably but not limited to being formed in one piece and includes a body portion 22, and a centrally disposed neck portion 24, which terminates in a hook or loop attaching portion 26.

The device 10 may be stamped or otherwise formed from a flat sheet of material, or combination of materials which are of a sturdy and durable nature but which possess an inherent flexibility. Preferred materials are well-known plastic materials or the like.

The display device 10, as aforementioned, includes a body portion 22, which is provided with means for retaining, in a secure and firm manner, without fear of accidental dislodgment, various articles of haberdashery or similar items, such as four-in-hand neckties, bow ties, preformed four-in-hand and bow ties, cuff links, handkerchiefs, scarfs, also jewelry articles and the like.

Thus, the body portion 22 is formed with self-contained
means for retaining such articles, though it is envisioned that detachable clamping means could be structurally associated with the body portion 22. However, in its simplest form, the body means itself is formed with means which functions to retain, in a firm and secure manner, the various items.

The body portion 22 has an upper edge 28, from the center of which the neck portion 24 projects, in an upstanding fashion. The neck portion 24 has outwardly flared or sloping side edges which merge smoothly with the sections of the top edge 23 on opposite sides of the neck portion, the sections of the top edge being formed so as to complement and preferably not be disposed above the upper supporting edge of the body portion 16 of the hanger.

The neck portion is connected to the attachment means 26 by means of an integral juncture portion 30, which can be bendable, due to the inherent qualities of the material or which may be pre-bent or which may be formed with score lines or the like, making the bending easier than attachment means of a different material or form can be attached in a number of ways, at any desired angle in the general area of juncture portion 30 or neck portion 24 or to body portion 22.

In its initial form, the entire display device can be flat with the attachment means 26 lying in the same plane as the neck portion 24 and body portion 22, as indicated by dotted lines in FIGURE 3.

In its structural association with a hanger, such as the hanger 12, the attachment means 26 is preferably bent so as to be offset at an angle from the planar neck and body portions. The angle may be a right angle, as shown in FIGURE 2, or any particular angular relationship with various factors governing the particular angular relationship. Some governing factors are that the attachment means engage the hook 23 and that the attachment means engage the hook in such a fashion that the body portion 22 is spaced, as shown in FIGURE 2, so that the body portion 22 will have a proper suspended position or fall from the neck portion 20 of the hanger and will be in proper orientation with respect to the exposed central section 18 of the body portion of the hanger and with the neck portion 20 of the hanger and will not interfere with the proper draping of the jacket or similar garment on the hanger.

The attachment means 26, as shown in FIGURE 3, comprises an integral hook 32 formed on the end of the neck portion 24 and connected thereto by the bendable or firm juncture portion 30. The hook 32 terminates generally in an upwardly curved inner edge 34, which can be struck on the same radius as the curvature of the closed portion of the hook, with the outer end 36 being straight (or curved) and being slightly spaced from the confronting straight (or curved) side edge 38. The gap or space 40, which is thus created, is very slight but is of sufficient dimension to permit the hook to pass, possibly with slight pressure, over the shank portion 38a of the hanger hook. The shank portion 38a is then located within the opening 42 defined by the hook and is quite obvious that the display device cannot become accidentally dislodged from the hook 23 and will be firmly and securely attached to the hanger 12 by virtue of the hook and also due to the angular offset relationship of the hook, which constitutes the integral attachment means, whereby the body portion will be disposed in a position over the center section 18 of the body portion 16. Thus, the body portion 22, as shown in FIGURE 1, will lie within the exposed area between the lapels L of the jacket 14.

The body portion 22 is provided with opposing side edges 44 and 46. Opening through each side edge and disposed in the same plane are slots 48 and 50, which constitute the method of inserting neckties, handkerchiefs, scarfs or the like to the body portion. Each of the slots is formed in an identical fashion and, with respect to the slot 48, the same has an outer curved upper edge portion 48a and which slopes downwardly and inwardly and has an inner terminating end or curved edge 52. The point 54 of the upper edge is the lowest point and defines and becomes the gripping member, which cooperates with the straight bottom wall or edge 56 of the slot. The bottom edge is formed at its outer end with a lip 58, that confronts the edge 48a and serves as a retaining stop or incidental lateral movement of an article, such as a tie or handkerchief, outwardly beyond the side edges of the body portion. The inner end of the lower edge of wall 56 has a concave edge 59, so that the concave edge 60 and edge 52 are on a radius and constitute the inner end of the slot defined by the edges 52 and 54 so as to permit a limited degree of relative flexible movement in opposite directions of upper point 54 and lower edge 56, creating another method of inserting or releasing ties and the like from the body portion 22.

Diagonal slots 62 are formed in the body portion and are in communication with the slot 48 and open through the lower edge 56, the slots being arranged diagonally and extending downwardly and outwardly and being adapted to serve as a gripping or holding means for holding cuff links or the like and are also serving as holders for the clips on pre-formed bow ties.

The body portion 22 has a lower end portion 64, which is formed at the side edges 44 and 46 and, intermediate the side edges, with slots 66 that are of similar design and purpose as slots 48 and 50. As in the case of the slots 48 and 50, the slots 66 have downwardly bowed or arculate upper edges 67 which becomes the pressure point or gripping member in cooperation with the straight lower confronting edges 66a. The lower edges have outer hook ends or lips 66c, which act or serve the same purpose as lip 58.

Substantially elliptical shaped apertures 68 are formed in the body portion, below the upper edge 28 and to each side of the neck portion 24 and similar apertures 69 are formed in the lower end portion 64 and can be staggered or offset in relation, vertical-wise, with respect to the slot 66, the purpose being that articles, such as preformed four-in-hand ties (see ties 62 in FIGURE 2), cuff links, clips and the like, inserted in the apertures are exposed because of the spacing of the apertures with respect to the viewable front face of the body portion. A circular aperture 70 is formed in the body portion, substantially at the center thereof, to hold clips or cut in such a way, which may be of different configuration and not easily held by the elliptical shaped apertures 69 or diagonal slots 65. In this respect, it must be mentioned that the specific shape of the apertures is not of paramount importance though, depending upon the modified forms of the invention, the spacing and relative relationship thereof to each other and with respect to the front of the face of the body portion may be considered of importance with regard to the viewability of articles secured in the apertures or having portions, such as the clips of bow ties, anchored in the apertures.

It can be seen that the body 22 is formed by virtue of the specific slots and apertures and the relative arrangement and placement thereof, with self-contained gripping or clamping or holding means whereby neckties, scarfs, bow ties and the like accessories, usable in conjunction with the jacket 14, may be attached to the body portion and whereby cuff links or like articles of jewelry which would also be worn at the same time that the jacket 14 was worn can be attached to the body portion in a manner so that the same are clearly visible, as illustrated in FIGURE 1.

Thus, the primary aim of the present invention is satisfied in respect that the display device 10 retains the various haberdashery items in positions so that one viewing the front of the jacket 14 can make a judicious selection of a tie, handkerchief and particular cuff link set or other jewelry that the person desired to wear, on any given occasion, when the jacket 14 is worn.
In FIGURES 4 and 5, a modified form of display device generally designated by the numeral 10a, is shown, which includes a body portion 22a, an integral neck portion 24a, which is coplanar with the body portion and an attachment portion 72, which is integral with the upper end of the neck portion 24a and is in the form of an annular ring having a central aperture 74 which is adapted to be moved over the hook of a hanger. The collar 72, which forms the attachment means 12a, is offset relatively and upwardly, in an obverse or any other desired angle, from the coplanar, flat neck and body portions 24a and 22a, the angle being selected by the determinative practice of the proper positioning of the body portion over the front section of a hanger. The body portion 22a has slots 76 with self-contained clamping means 76a and 76b in FIGURE 3, for holding ties, handkerchiefs and scarfs and is also formed with a series of especially arranged, shaped and oriented apertures 76a or 76b for holding cuff links, clips of bow ties or the like portion 80 of a clip-on, preformed tie 82, as shown in FIGURE 2. The display device 10b, which is illustrated in FIGURES 6 and 7, is similar to the display device 10a except that the body portion 22b is formed with a longer end portion 85 which is formed with a slots 87, that are placed in slightly fashion to the slots 65 of the body portion 22 of FIGURE 3. However, instead of the upper edge 82a of the slots 82 having a downwardly sweeping radius or curvature, which constitutes a clamping means in conjunction with the confronting straight edge of the slot, as in the instance of the edges 66a and 66b of the slots 66, the upper edge 82a of the slots 82 is formed centrally with a depending lug 84. The lug opposes a notch 86 formed in the bottom edge 82b and serves, in structural and functional association therewith, as a pressure or clamping means for gripping primarily the upper tongue portion 80 of a clip-on, preformed tie 82 (as shown in FIGURE 2), a necktie, handkerchief, scarf or the like. This style slot is adaptable for use on all other modified models.

The body portion 22b is formed with a series of apertures 80, which are of but not limited to elliptical and circular formation and are spaced in staggered arrangement for the same reasons as the spacement and arrangement of the apertures in the body portion 22 of the display device 10, as shown in FIGURE 3.

In FIGURE 8, a further form 10c is illustrated and such form is similar to the form shown in FIGURES 4 and 6 but formed of the attachment means 12a, which is in the form of an annular collar, in the instance of the device of FIGURES 4 and 6, the attachment means 12c of FIGURE 8 is identical to the attachment means 26 of FIGURE 3 in that it consists of an open loop 90, having an entrance slot 92 for the lateral passage of the shank portion of a hanger hook into the loop. The body portion 22c has openings or slots 94 formed with retaining pressure or clamping points 94a and 94b and with apertures 95, which are similar to the slots 76 and pressure or holding points 76a, 76b and apertures 78 respectively of the device 10a of FIGURE 4, though the particular spacing of the apertures 95 is somewhat various especially with respect to the annular aperture 98 and one of the elliptical apertures 100.

However, as aforestated, with respect to the particular configuration of each of the apertures and the relative arrangement and spacing thereof in the body portions of any of the illustrated display devices, such would be dictated not by any factor of structural criticality but more by reason of a spaced arrangement whereby articles, which would be attached to the body portions by virtue of the apertures, would be spaced apart for expositional purposes.

It can thus be seen, with respect to any of the illustrated display devices, that means is provided which, though usable in and of itself and, in such respect, being attachable by virtue of the attachment means to a fixture, is especially designed for attachment to a hanger and for use in association with a jacket, as illustrated in FIGURE 1.

With the present invention employed in the manner disclosed, the owner or user thereof will have a relatively simple and inexpensive but yet durable hanger that permits articles stored thereon to be easily assembled and removed therefrom but with such articles being securely held in place and with the hanger itself being easily and securely attached to the neck of the parent garment hanger. With the parent garment hanger holding a jacket or suitcoat, the hanger of the present invention will be securely retained in place since it virtually is impossible for the present invention to fall off or away from its parent garment hanger for that matter in a similar support to which the hanger of the present invention may be connected or attached. This hanger also permits the user to easily view without the necessity of the user physically raising or moving to the side any particular tie, ties or accessories in order to view a maximum number of patterns or styles of the remaining ties and accessories supported on the invention. The valet hanger will firmly and securely hold ties and accessories mounted thereon and prevent them from falling off even though the hanger or the parent garment hanger to which the hanger of the present invention is attached is handled roughly or carried in a rough manner such as being carried over the shoulder, across the arm or the like.

When the valet hanger is associated with the parent hanger having a coat or jacket thereon, the main body of the valet hanger will fall in a position approximately between the lapels of the suit or jacket thus offering the user thereof a better view or idea of how any one or all of the ties or accessories held by the hanger will appear, blend, or clash with the jacket or suit.

By employing the valet hanger of the invention described previously, a person or user may store and display many different types and styles of ties and related accessories and thereafter permit the user the opportunity of attaching the valet hanger to a garment hanger holding a particular suit or jacket whereby the user conveniently can select any one of the preselected assortment of patterns and styles of ties and accessories appropriate for such jacket or suit which may change the general appearance of the particular suit or jacket and at the same time expand the versatility of the wardrobe of the user. For user's who are in a rush or who have difficulty in selecting a proper tie from the many ties he may have hanging in a closet or if the user is color blind or notoriously has poor taste in a selection of tie patterns and styles, the present invention when properly attached to the parent garment hanger holding the appropriate suit or jacket will retain the ties and accessories which are considered proper for a particular suit so that one of the appropriate ties or accessories can be quickly selected and employed.

The invention can be comprised of but not limited to a rather flat and relatively thin sheet of plastic or other suitable material that can receive or have attached thereto advertising material or other printed indicia to be placed on the face or back thereof. The device may be constructed of plastic material, metal such as aluminum or other material or combination of materials which are capable of limited flexing or being joined together at a diagonal position, if so desired, to form the desired attaching loop, collar or hook required or best suitable, for various types of garments, with the attachment to various types of display racks and the like. In some instances and with some materials, the attaching loop or hooks may be substantially rigid but the area at which it is attached to the body portion can be made flexible in nature. Either a right or left clip or clasp on the back of a preformed bow tie can easily be placed on the body portion or neck extending upwardly therefrom when the
bow tie is in the open position and after the bow tie is snapped shut or closed, it will be fixed onto the neck gament in a position relative to the suit coat or jacket in which the bow tie is normally worn.

Preferably, all of the openings and the inner ends of the slot are rounded, curved or constructed on a radius to minimize any tendency of splitting or breakage when under stress or strain and the rounded surfaces also tend to minimize sharp corners that may promote catching or tearing of material. The pressure or grip exerted on the tie may be easily released, if need be by applying slight pressure (with the user's fingers) in opposite directions, the body of the upper part of the slot (holding the tie) from the lower part of the slot. This enables ties which are quite thick to be inserted fully into the slot by moving the portion of the body defining the lower and upper edge of the slot forwardly or rearwardly in opposite directions simultaneously. If ties having relatively thin material are to be inserted in the slots, they may be doubled to provide adequate thickness for secure gripping directly under the pressure points or partially under same, as the case may be.

It is to be understood that the various cuts, openings, receptacles, etc. which the invention includes, and its shape and form are not limited in size, etc. and can be made to be rewired and organized in other manners and forms coming equally within the scope of the appended claims and that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangement, organization or number of openings, etc. as herein shown and described.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed is as new as is as follows:

1. In combination, a garment hanger having an upstanding supporting hook, a depending shank, and garment supporting portions extending outwardly in opposite directions from said shank adapted to be disposed in the slots or other openings of a jacket or coat, a personal valet hanger including a main body panel having laterally extending portions generally paralleling the garment supporting portions of the garment hanger, an upwardly extending attachment portion along the upper edge of the main body panel, said attaching portion being in the form of a shank, terminating in connecting means engaged with the depending shank of the garment hanger, said main body panel including at least one generally horizontally disposed slot extending inwardly from the edge thereof for receiving a tie, said slot having top and bottom edges, portions of said edges being spaced closer together than other portions for gripping a tie to retain the tie between the lapels of a coat or the like on a garment hanger.

2. The combination defined in claim 1 wherein said attaching portion includes a flexible area to enable the main body panel to be oriented substantially vertically immediately adjacent the front surface of the garment hanger with the connecting means disposed in angular relation thereto in supporting engagement with the shank of the garment hanger.

3. The combination as defined in claim 1 wherein said connecting means includes a closed annular loop with the shank of the garment hanger thereby moving over the end of the hook of the garment hanger.

4. The combination as defined in claim 1 wherein said connecting means includes a hook-shaped construction having an upwardly curved free end portion terminating in a closed spaced relation to the hook shank of the attaching portion and forming between said free end portion and said narrow shank a narrow opening, said free end portion adapted to render it more difficult to disconnect the attaching portion from the shank of the garment hanger by requiring the narrow opening to be aligned with the shank of the garment hanger to disconnect the valet hanger from the garment hanger.

5. The combination as defined in claim 1 wherein said main body panel includes a plurality of openings formed therein for receiving cuff links and other accessories for supporting said close between the lapels and collar portion of a garment supported on the garment hanger, the outer end of said slot having a curved edge to enable lateral flexing of the top and bottom edges of the slot without rupture of the body panel, the outer end of said slot having a convexly curved top edge and a substantially straight lower edge terminating in an upwardly offset lip to retain a tie on the substantially straight bottom edge of the slot.

6. The combination as defined in claim 5 wherein the main body panel is provided with a plurality of such slots, said slots being disposed in substantially horizontal alignment along the bottom edge of the main body panel and comprising at least two of said slots communicating with the remote edges of the main body panel and a central slot terminating generally in the central portion of the bottom edge of the main body panel, said main body panel having an upwardly extending recess in the bottom edge thereof forming an entrance area for the centrally disposed slot.

7. The combination as defined in claim 6 wherein said attaching portion includes a flexible area to enable the main body panel to be oriented substantially vertically immediately adjacent the front surface of the garment hanger and being constructed of substantially rigid material having a degree of flexibility, the bottom edge of said panel being substantially straight, a pair of oppositely opening substantially horizontal and aligned slots extending inwardly from the side edges of the panel adjacent the bottom edge thereof, a centrally disposed generally horizontal slot aligned with the other two slots, the bottom edge of said panel having a recess formed therein between one of said pair of slots and said central slot, an entrance area for the centrally disposed slot, each of said slots having top and bottom edges, the portion of the panel defining the bottom edge being laterally flexible to enable insertion and removal of ties into the slot, certain portions of the top and bottom edges of the slots being closer together than other portions thereof for gripping the tie positioned in the slot, the bottom edge of each of said slots having a substantially straight edge, the outer end of the bottom edge of each of said slots terminating in an upwardly extending lip, serving as a retainer for a tie placed in the slot, the inner end of each slot having a curved edge to enable lateral flexing of the lower edge of the slot in relation to the top edge thereof to prevent rupture of the panel inwardly of the inner end of the slot, said panel having a plurality of openings therefor for receiving cuff links and the like for supporting the same adjacent the lapels and collar portion of a garment supported thereon with the connecting means disposed in connecting engagement with the shank of the garment hanger by lateral bending of the connecting means for positioning on the shank of the garment hanger above the outwardly extending garment supporting portions thereof.

8. A valet hanger for ties, cuff links and the like comprising a thin body panel of generally rectangular configuration and provided with rounded edges and being constructed of substantially rigid material having a degree of flexibility, the bottom edge of said panel being substantially straight, a pair of oppositely opening substantially horizontal and aligned slots extending inwardly from the side edges of the panel adjacent the bottom edge thereof, a centrally disposed generally horizontal slot aligned with the other two slots, the bottom edge of said panel having a recess formed therein between one of said pair of slots and said central slot, an entrance area for the centrally disposed slot, each of said slots having top and bottom edges, the portion of the panel defining the bottom edge being laterally flexible to enable insertion and removal of ties into the slot, certain portions of the top and bottom edges of the slots being closer together than other portions thereof for gripping the tie positioned in the slot, the bottom edge of each of said slots having a substantially straight edge, the outer end of the bottom edge of each of said slots terminating in an upwardly extending lip, serving as a retainer for a tie placed in the slot, the inner end of each slot having a curved edge to enable lateral flexing of the lower edge of the slot in relation to the top edge thereof to prevent rupture of the panel inwardly of the inner end of the slot, said panel having a plurality of openings therefor for receiving cuff links and the like for supporting the same adjacent the lapels and collar portion of a garment supported thereon with the connecting means disposed in connecting engagement with the shank of the supporting hook on a garment hanger, the connecting means and shank including a juncture portion of flexible nature enabling the connecting means to be engaged with the shank of the garment hanger or the valet hanger.
9. The structure as defined in claim 8 wherein said connecting means is in the form of loop means having a central open area for reception of the shank of a garment hanger hook.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Inventor</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,378,180</td>
<td>9/1918</td>
<td>Lowellin</td>
<td>223—85 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,248,558</td>
<td>7/1941</td>
<td>Keeler</td>
<td>223—91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,294,527</td>
<td>9/1942</td>
<td>Weiss</td>
<td>211—89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,548,483</td>
<td>4/1951</td>
<td>Leiterman</td>
<td>223—93 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,612,274</td>
<td>9/1952</td>
<td>Earl</td>
<td>211—89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,081,881</td>
<td>3/1963</td>
<td>Seeger</td>
<td>211—113 X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,307,753</td>
<td>3/1967</td>
<td>Levine et al.</td>
<td>223—95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOREIGN PATENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>69,547</td>
<td>7/1949</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JORDAN FRANKLIN, Primary Examiner.

G. H. KRIZMANICH, Assistant Examiner.