Sept. 21, 1971 W. C. JOHNSON, JR 3,606,613

GARMENT FASTENER

Filed Sept. 19, 1969

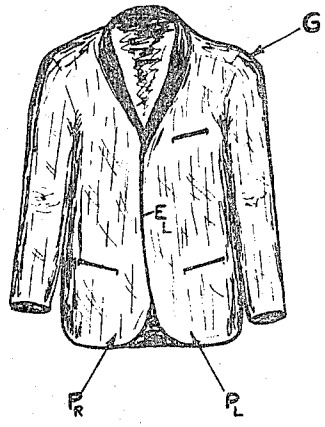


FIG. 1

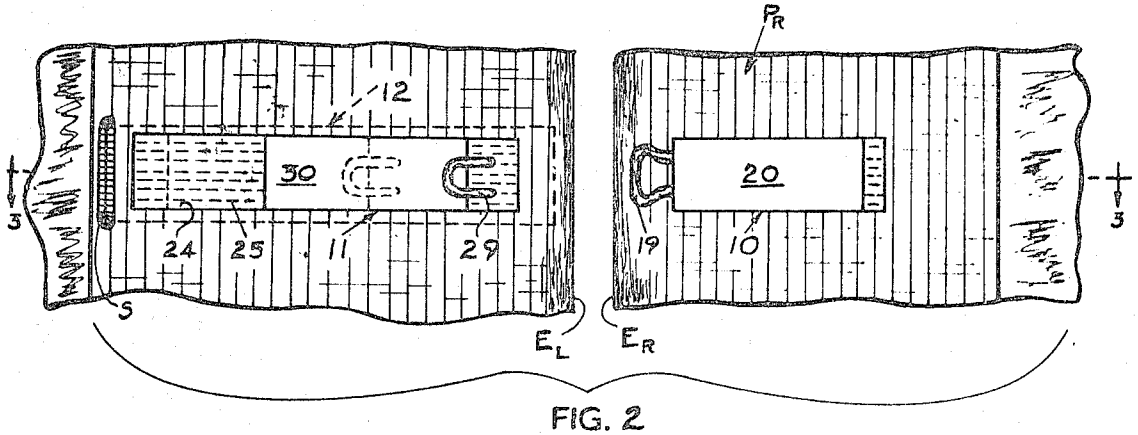


FIG. 2

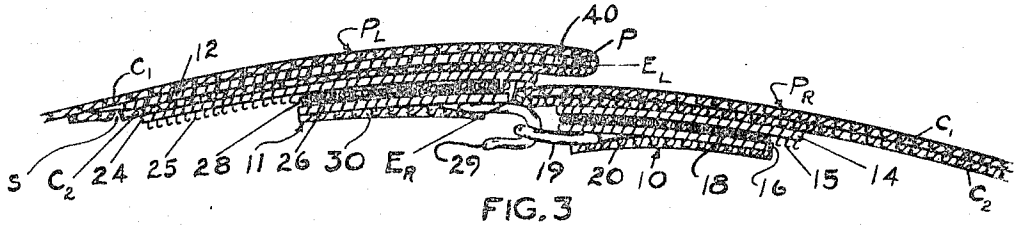


FIG. 3

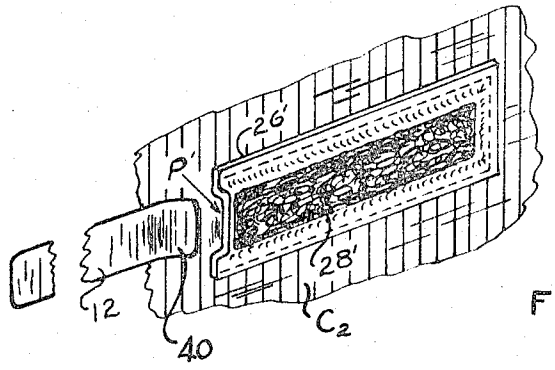


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
WILLIAM C. JOHNSON, JR
By: Newton, Hopkins & Ormsby
ATTORNEYS

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GARMENT FASTENER

William C. Johnson, Jr., 308, LaPrado Circle, Birmingham, Ala. 35209

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U.S. Cl. 2—96 3 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device for fastening garments having overlapping panels including a first releasable fastening element having a loop thereon attached to the inside of one of the panels and a complementary second fastening element adjustably attached to the inside of the other panel and having a hook portion thereon. The hook portion on the second element is selectively engageable with the loop on the first element to fasten the panels together. The adjustability of the second element permits the amount of overlap of the panels to be selectively varied. The first and second elements are attached to the panels of the garment through a gripping material commonly known as Velcro and a stiffener is provided to maintain the shape of the overlapping panel.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Garments with overlapping panels have been attached together for many years using buttons, hooks, snaps, or zippers. Such fasteners are usually visible from the outside of the garment and generally have an undesirable appearance. Moreover, when such garments are laundered or dry cleaned, the fastening devices frequently tended to rust, resulting in staining the clothes and becoming highly unsightly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These and other problems and disadvantages associated with the prior art are overcome by the invention disclosed herein in that a fastening device for garments having overlapping panels is provided which is not visible from the exterior of the garment and which can be selectively and easily removed from the garment during laundering and dry cleaning so that the fastening device will not rust or otherwise deteriorate. Moreover, since the fastening devices may be selectively removed from the garment, they can be removed while the garment is being pressed so that the unsightly depressions formed when garments are pressed using prior art fastening devices can be eliminated.

The invention comprises generally a first releasable fastening element carried by the inside of one of the panels of the garment and having a loop thereon and a second fastening element adjustably and releasably attached to the inside of the other panel of the garment which has a hook complementary to the loop on the first element so that the panels of the garment may be fastened together. The first and second elements are attached to the inside of the garment panels with gripping material commonly known as Velcro so that they can be easily and quickly removed from the inside of the garment panels or the second element may be removed and positioned along the gripping material so that the amount of overlap of the panel can be selectively adjusted. As the overlapping panel of the garment is extended further over the outside of the underlying panel when the second element is moved back from the edge thereof, the extending edge of the panel, being flexible, tends to droop. This is eliminated by a stiffener which is inserted behind the gripping material or within the overlapping panel of the coat extends from the rearmost position of the second

element out to the edge of the overlapping panel so as to reinforce it and prevent deformation thereof once the second element is moved away from the edge thereof.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will be more clearly understood upon consideration of the following detailed description and in the accompanying drawings wherein like characters of reference designate corresponding parts throughout and in which:

FIG. 1 is a view of a garment embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial view showing the invention in FIG. 1 from the inside thereof looking outwardly;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 in FIG. 2, but with the garment in an overlapping condition; and,

FIG. 4 is a partial view of the inside of the overlapping panel of the garment with the stiffener exploded therefrom and showing a second embodiment thereof.

These figures and the following detailed description disclose specific embodiments of the invention, however, the inventive concept is not limited thereto since it may be embodied in other forms.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENT

Referring more particularly to the figures, it will be seen that the invention comprises generally a first fastening element **10** releasably attached to the inside of the underlying panel P_R of a garment G and a complementary adjustable fastening element **11** attached to the inside of the overlapping panel P_L of the garment G. The garment G is shown as a man's suit coat, however, it is to be understood that the invention illustrated may be used with any garment having overlapping panels. A stiffener **12** is provided adjacent each complementary fastening element **11** to maintain the overlapping panel P_L in its proper position.

Each panel P_L and P_R is provided with a double thickness of cloth C_1 and C_2 adjacent the overlapping edges thereof. This construction is conventional and is usually constructed using similar types of material for layers C_1 and C_2.

The fixed element **10** includes a releasable fastening assembly commonly known as Velcro. The velcro comprises a first component which is made up of a fabric backing **14** carrying a plurality of hook elements **15** and a second complementary component made up of a fabric backing **16** carrying a loosely felted fibrous material **18** thereon. The backing **14** is sewn to the inside layer of cloth C_2 of panel P_R adjacent its outer edge E_R so that the hook elements **15** face the interior of the garment G. The length of the backing **16** is the same as the length of backing **14** and and has a connecting element **19**, here shown a metal loop, and a fabric strip **20** sewn to that side of the backing **16** opposite the material **18**. When the material **18** is pressed against the hook elements **15**, the hook elements **15** will enter and engage the fibrous material **18** to hold the components together until forcibly pulled apart. Therefore, it will be seen that the assembly of the element **19**, backing **14** and strip **20** may be selectively removed or attached to the inside of panel P_R simply by pressing same onto the hook elements **15**. It is to be understood that the loosely felted fibrous material **18** can be sewn to the inside of P_R by sewing the fabric backing **16** thereof to the inside of the panel rather than backing **14**.

The adjustable element **11** also includes a releasable fastening assembly commonly known as Velcro, with the first component thereof made up of a fabric backing **24** carrying a plurality of hook elements **25** and a second complementary component made up of a fabric backing **26** carrying a loosely felted fibrous material **28** thereon.

The backing **24** is sewn to the inside layer of cloth C_2 of panel P_L adjacent its outer edge E_L so that the hook elements **25** thereof face the interior of the garment G. The length of the backing **26** is considerably longer than the length of backing **24** and has a connecting element **29**, here shown as a metal hook, with a fabric strip **30** sewn to that side of the backing **26** opposite the material **28**. When the material **28** is pressed against the hook elements **25**, the hook elements **25** will enter and engage the fibrous material **28** to hold the components together until forcily pulled apart. Since the length of the backing **26** is considerably longer than the backing **24**, it will be seen that the position of the connecting element **29** can be selectively adjusted along the length of the backing **26** so as to selectively position the adjustable element **11** further away from the outer edge E_L of the panel P_L.

It is to be further understood that the components of the Velcro may be selectively reversed so that the loosely felted fibrous material **18** or **28** is attached to the panel R_R or P_L and that the hook elements **15** or **25** are attached to the connecting element **19** or **29**. When the connecting element **29** is hooked into the connecting element **19**, it will be seen from FIGS. 1 and 3 that the panels P_L and P_R are connected together with the panel P_L overlapping the panel P_R as shown in FIG. 3.

The reinforcing strip or stiffener **12** is an elongate resilient member as seen in FIGS. 2–4 having a curved portion **40** at one end thereof. The stiffener **12** is selectively received as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 in a pocket P between the cloth layers C_1 and C_2 of the panel P_L of the garment through the slit S therein. The strip **12** is shown in position directly behind the adjustable element **11** and extends out to adjacent the outer edge E_L of the panel P_L to control the position thereof and prevent the panel P_L from curving outwardly. It will be noted that the curved portion **40** thereof faces inwardly with respect to the garments G so as to curve the outer edge E_L of the panel P_L inwardly toward the panel P_R.

It will be noted that a pocket P' may be defined between the backing **26'** carrying the fibrous material **28'** in that embodiment shown in FIG. 4, and the inside layer of cloth C_2 with the function thereof being the same as with the pocket P shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. In that embodiment shown in FIG. 4, the Velcro has been reversed.

I claim:

1. In combination, a garment having an overlapping panel and an underlying panel, each of said panels being folded back to provide a double thickness of fabric adjacent the overlapping edges thereof, a first component comprising a fabric backing secured to the inner side of one of said panels adjacent the overlapping edge thereof, a second complementary component comprising a fabric backing and carrying a connecting element, one of said components carrying a plurality of hook elements and the other comprising a material adapted to cooperate with said hook elements to form a fastening means, whereby the two elements may be secured together in adjusted positions, a third component secured to the inner side of the other of said panels adjacent its overlapping edge, a fourth complementary component, each of said third and fourth components comprising a fabric backing, one of said backings including a plurality of hooks and the other said backing including a material adapted to cooperate with said hooks to provide adjustable fastener, a second connecting element carried by said fourth component, adapted to cooperate with said first-mentioned connecting element to hold the overlapping panel edges together in a position determined by the adjusted positions of said first and second, and third and fourth components respectively, a pocket underlying said first component and extending to a point adjacent the overlapping edge of the panel to which said component is attached, and a stiffener received in said pocket.

2. The combination of claim **1** wherein said stiffener is a flat elongated resilient member and the pocket which receives it is formed in the overlying panel member, and wherein said stiffener has an inwardly curving portion adjacent the overlying edge of said panel whereby said edge is caused to curve inwardly toward the other panel.

3. The combination of claim **2** wherein one of said connecting elements is a hook and the other is a loop.

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BERNARD A. GELAK, Primary Examiner

U.S. Cl. X.R.

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