Sept. 12, 1939. F. RONCI 2,172,989

TASSEL

Filed Dec. 18, 1937 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

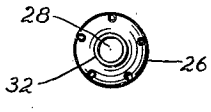


Fig. 2

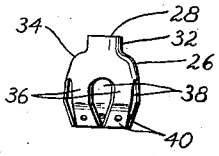


Fig. 3

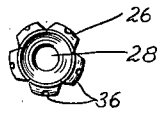


Fig. 4

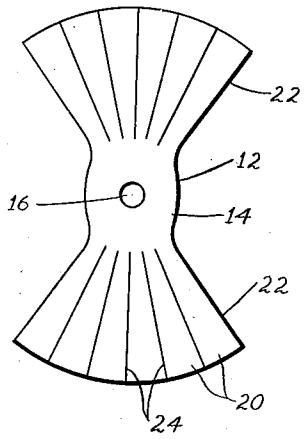


Fig. 1

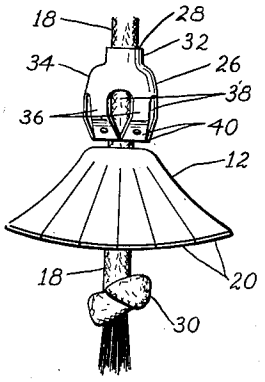


Fig. 5

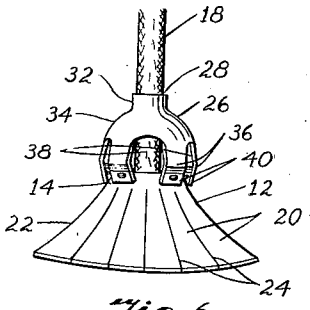


Fig. 6

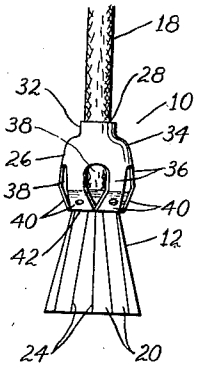


Fig. 7

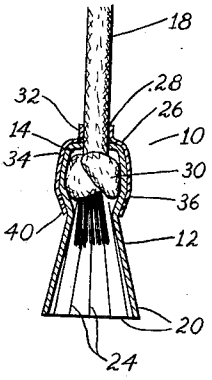


Fig. 8

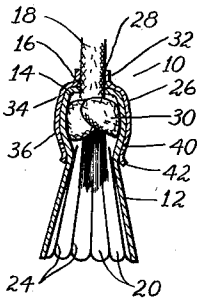


Fig. 9

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Filed Dec. 18, 1937 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

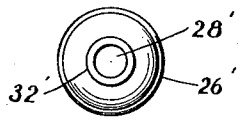


Fig. 11

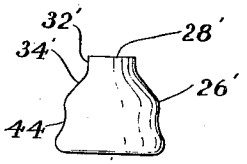


Fig. 12

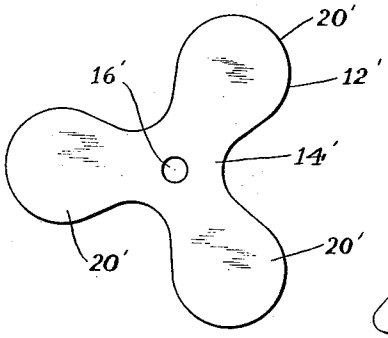


Fig. 10

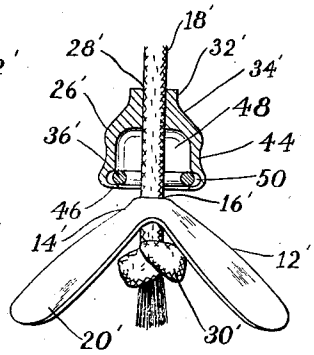


Fig. 14

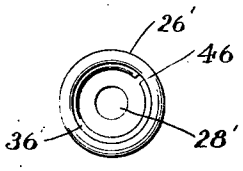


Fig. 13

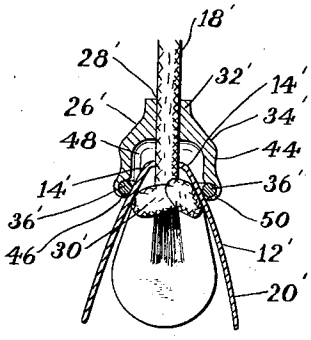


Fig. 15

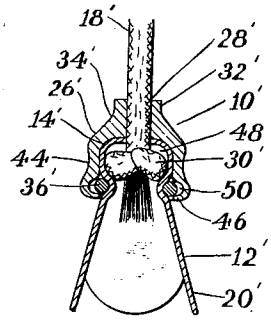


Fig. 16

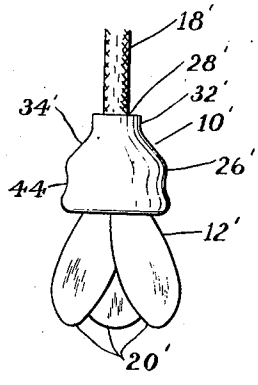


Fig. 17

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TASSEL

Fernando Ronci, Providence, R. I.

Application December 18, 1937, Serial No. 180,566

11 Claims. (Cl. 2—278)

My invention relates to improvements in tassels for use with shoe laces and like cord articles.

An object of my invention is to provide an improved simplified structure employing a knot tied in the end of said shoe lace to function in association with other means to provide a tassel.

A further object of my invention is to provide a novel type of tuft member blank cut from leather or other flexible material, which may be readily shaped into a tassel.

A further object of my invention is to provide a single member preferably constructed of stamped metal which may be readily drawn from a flat blank having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article which, after the flexible member is strung on said cord article over said knot, may be readily slid over said knot to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within to make up a tassel.

A further object of my invention is to provide such a fastening member or means as described in the previous paragraph with resiliently circumferentially expansible and contractible female separable fastener means on the lower end thereof to resiliently circumferentially expand while sliding over the knot during assembly and resiliently contract below said knot after passage thereover to bind the tuft member strand portions over said knot to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft portions within said fastening member to make up a tassel.

A further object of my invention due to the novel structure of the fastening member or means I employ is to provide a device which may be readily assembled by the shoe manufacturer by hand or otherwise thereby permitting the shoe manufacturer to cut his own leather flexible member and assemble the tassel by hand in his own factory.

Further objects of my invention are to provide a tassel constructed of relatively cheap one piece units the fastening members or means of which may be economically manufactured in quantity and sold as a unit prior to assembly.

A further object of my invention is to provide an integral fastening means or member which may be manufactured by the metal stamper and sold for assembly purposes to the shoe or cord manufacturer for the insertion of the shoe lace or other cord article and leather tassel forming member therein.

A further object of my invention is to provide such a device capable of holding any differently cut or shaped tassel member therein, formed either of straight strands or of curved strands to form a tulip or other fancy shaped tassel.

This and such other objects of my invention as may hereinafter appear will be best understood from a description of the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a plan view of my improved type of tuft member blank which may be readily cut from leather or other flexible material.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a metal fastening member constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the member shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a reverse plan view of the fastening member shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 5 is a disassembled side elevation with my improved tuft member and fastening member strung on the end of a cord article in which a knot is tied.

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 after the fastening member of my invention has been pushed downwardly, preferably by hand, to cause the tuft member to surround the knot and showing the improved spring fingers of my fastening member expanding during passage over said knot.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of my improved tassel in completely assembled position after the lower ends of the spring fingers have passed underneath said knot and completely bent the tassel forming strands of the tassel member in downwardly projecting tassel forming formation.

Fig. 8 is a vertical sectional view of the complete tassel shown in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a vertical sectional view similar to Fig. 8 of a modification of my invention in which the lower tips of the spring fingers flare outwardly to assist the passage of the spring fingers around the knot during assembly as shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of an alternative type of tuft member blank which may be readily cut from leather or other flexible material.

Fig. 11 is a plan view of an alternative type of metal fastening means constructed in accordance with my invention.

Fig. 12 is a side elevation of the means shown in Fig. 11.

Fig. 13 is a reverse plan view of the fastening means shown in Fig. 11.

Fig. 14 is a disassembled side elevation with the alternative type of my improved tuft member shown in Fig. 10 and alternative type of fastening means shown in Figs. 11 to 13 strung on the end of a cord article in which a knot is tied, the

fastening means being shown in vertical section.

Fig. 15 is a view similar to Fig. 14 after the improved type of fastening means shown therein has been pushed downwardly preferably by hand to cause the tuft member to surround the knot showing the improved spring ring of the type of fastening means shown in Figs. 11 to 13 in expanded position during passage over said knot, also showing the tuft member in section.

Fig. 16 is a view similar to Fig. 15 of the alternative type of tassel forming member and fastening means shown therein in completely assembled position to form an alternative embodiment of my improved tassel after the circumferentially expansible spring ring has passed underneath said knot and completely bent the tassel forming strands of the tassel member in downwardly projecting tassel forming formation.

Fig. 17 is a side elevation of the assembled embodiment shown in Fig. 16.

In the drawings, wherein like characters of reference generally indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates a tassel constructed in accordance with my invention. Said tassel includes a tuft member 12 constructed of flexible material such as leather having a center portion 14 having a hole 16 therein for stringing on said cord article 18, and integral individual tuft forming strand portions 20 projecting radially outwardly from said center portion 14. If desired, the strand portions 20 may be spaced circumferentially but I have discovered that considerable economy in the amount of leather or other material required can be effected if the tuft member is cut in substantially the form shown, namely, with the center portion 14 thereof having the slitted portions 22 projecting radially outwardly therefrom preferably at diametrically opposite sides thereof, slitted as at 24 and of sufficient circumferential length to provide between said slits 24 a plurality of individual adjacent tuft forming strand portions 20 integral with said center portion. The tuft member blank may be readily cut from leather or other flexible material by the shoe manufacturer on order just prior to assembly, if desired.

In addition to providing a novel type of tuft member as described, I provide a single unitary fastening member 26 having a central hole 28 therein for stringing on said cord article and shape to bend the radial tuft forming strands 20 downwardly in tuft formation over a knot 30 tied in the cord article 18 preferably near the end thereof and grip and retain said cord knot 30 and surrounding tuft member portions 14 and 20 within to make up the tassel.

In my preferred embodiment the fastening member 26 is constructed of cage like shape and may be provided with a neck portion 32 having a hole 28 therein for stringing on said cord article, an integral substantially frustro-hemispherical portion 34 below said neck portion for containing the center portion 14 of said tuft member, and spring fingers 36 preferably spaced as shown at 38 projecting downwardly from said frustro-hemispherical portion 34 in general tubular formation to bend said radial tuft forming strands 20 downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member, said spring fingers 36 preferably having the lower resilient ends 40 thereof bent radially inwardly and preferably so that the edges thereof abut when in an assembled position as shown in Figs. 4 and 7 grip and retain said cord knot 30 and surrounding tuft member portions within said member 26.

As stated, the fastening member 26 may be readily drawn from a flat blank of metal and may be cheaply manufactured in quantity and sold as a disassembled unit to the shoe manufacturer. The shoe manufacturer may then cut his own tuft member 12 in the shape shown or otherwise and may readily assemble the tassel on the cord article in the manner shown in Figs. 5–7.

The cord article 18 is first threaded through the hole 28 in the fastening member 26 and the central hole 16 in the tuft member 12 and a knot 30 is then tied in the cord article 18 as shown in Fig. 5. The fastening member 26 is then pushed downwardly preferably by hand on the cord article 18 causing the tuft forming strand portions 20 to separate and to bend downwardly in tuft formation as shown in Fig. 6. As the spring fingers 36 pass the knot 30, as shown in Fig. 6, it is obvious that they are radialy flexed outwardly over the knot 30 and when they have passed the knot as shown in Figs. 7 and 8 the lower resilient ends thereof bent inwardly as at 40 will lie underneath said knot 30, the member 26 thus gripping and retaining said cord knot 30 and surrounding tuft member portions within said fastening member.

If desired the tassel may be readily disassembled by pushing up on the fastening member, the fingers 36 again spreading while they pass the knot 30, the knot 30 may be then untied, the tassel disassembled and the fastening member 26 used over again any desired number of times.

While the device as shown in Figs. 7–8 functions on most types of leather, if fine leather such as suede leather be employed having a frangible surface, in order that the radially bent lower ends 40 may not tear said surface, the tips thereof may terminate outwardly as at 42 as shown in Fig. 9 to slide over said knot 30 during assembly without tearing the leather surface.

I have shown in Figs. 11–17 an alternative embodiment 10′ of a tassel constructed in accordance with my invention employing an alternative type of tuft member 12′ and an alternative type of fastening means 26′.

In place of employing a tassel member 12 having the straight individually slitted tuft forming strand portions 20 projecting radially outwardly from said center portion 14, it is obvious that said strand forming portions 20′ may be formed of any desired shape, such as the curved tulip forming shape shown in Fig. 10 employing the three strands 20′ with curved sides, although it is apparent that any desired number of strands of any desired curved or straight configuration may be employed projecting radially outwardly from the center portion 14′.

In place of the single unitary fastening member 26 shown in Figs. 2–9, alternative types of fastening means may be employed having a hole 28′ therein for stringing on said cord article and resilient means 36′ on the lower end thereof to grip and retain the cord knot 30 and surrounding tuft member strand portions 20′ and center portion 14′ within to make up the tassel. Said fastening means 26′ may be provided with a neck portion 32′ having a hole 28′ therein for stringing on said cord article (although if desired the neck portion 32′ may be omitted), an integral downwardly and outwardly flaring portion 34′ below said neck portion for containing the center portion of said tuft member and a substantially cy-

lindrical portion 44 projecting downwardly therefrom to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member 26'. Thus the fastening member is of generally cylindrical or tubular shape with the central hole 28' therein, being enlarged in the lower end thereof into the enlarged lower bore portion 48 for retaining the knot 30' and center portion 14' of the tassel therein and provided with an annular internal groove 50 therein at the lower end thereof providing below it and formed of its lower wall the cup 46 for containing the split ring 36' therein. It is obvious that the split ring 36' may resiliently circumferentially expand and contract within the groove 50 expanding from the position shown in Fig. 14, to that shown in Fig. 15 to permit the passage of the knot 30' and center tassel forming portion 14' within the enlarged bore 48 and again contracting when said knot and center portion are inserted within the bore 48 circumferentially and radially inwardly of the annular cup 46 to a position to underlie said knot 30' and center tuft member portion 14' as shown in Fig. 16 to positively retain the knot 30' and center portion 14' within said enlarged bore 48 of said fastening member 26'.

It is apparent that in either embodiment of my invention shown, I have employed circumferentially resiliently expansible and contractible female separable fastener means 36' whether such means comprises the spring fingers 36, as shown in Figs. 2–9, or the split ring 36' expansible and contractible within the groove 50 retained in position by the lower edge thereof forming the cup 46 from falling out when in disassembled position.

It is also apparent that the fastening means 26' may be readily drawn or stamped in quantity and that the split ring 36' may be readily inserted within during or after the manufacturing operation.

While the tuft member 12 is preferably constructed of leather, it may be constructed of any other suitable flexible material, such as treated or untreated textile material, etc.

The embodiment of my invention shown in Figs. 11–17 is assembled in similar fashion to and as fully hitherto described, for the embodiment of my invention shown in Figs. 1–9.

It is apparent that I have provided a novel type of tassel comprising novel types of component parts in which the fastening member comprises a single unitary member and in which the parts thereof may be readily assembled by shoe manufacturers if desired with the other advantages explained above.

It is understood that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiments shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and a cage like fastening member having a neck portion having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article, an integral substantially frustro hemi-spherical portion below said neck portion for containing the center portion of said tuft member and spaced spring fingers projecting downwardly therefrom to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member having the lower resilient ends thereof bent radially inwardly to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within said fastening member.

2. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and means having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article, having means projecting downwardly therefrom to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member having spaced lower resilient ends bent radially inwardly to form an opening in the lower end thereof of less diameter than that of said knot to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within.

3. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and means having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article to bend said tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation around said knot to grip and retain said cord knot, said means having means projecting inwardly therefrom forming an opening in the lower end thereof of less diameter than that of said knot surrounding tuft member portions within.

4. A cage like fastening member for use in forming tassels on shoe laces and like cord articles having knots at the ends thereof, said member having a neck portion having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article, an integral substantially frustro hemi-spherical portion below said neck portion and spaced spring fingers projecting downwardly therefrom having the lower resilient ends thereof bent radially inwardly to form an opening in the lower end thereof of less diameter than said cord knot to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within.

5. Means for use in forming tassels on shoe laces and like cord articles having knots at the ends thereof, said means having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article, and spaced means projecting downwardly therefrom having the lower resilient ends thereof bent radially inwardly to form an opening in the lower end thereof of less diameter than said cord knot to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within.

6. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and means having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article, said means having means projecting downwardly therefrom

to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member, said last mentioned means having resilient means in the lower end thereof to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within.

7. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and means having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article, said means having means projecting downwardly therefrom to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member, said last mentioned means having circumferentially expansible and contractible female separable fastener means on the lower end thereof to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within.

8. Means for use in forming tassels on shoe laces and like cord articles having knots at the ends thereof, said means having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article, and means projecting downwardly therefrom having circumferentially expansible and contractible resilient female separable fastener means on the lower end thereof projecting inwardly from the lower end thereof to underlie and to grip and retain a cord knot and surrounding tassel member portions within.

9. Means for use in forming tassels on shoe laces and like cord articles having knots at the ends thereof, said means having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article, and means projecting downwardly therefrom having circumferentially expansible and contractible resilient means projecting inwardly from the lower end thereof to underlie and to grip and retain a cord knot and surrounding tassel member portions within.

10. A tassel for use with shoe laces and like cord articles comprising, in combination, a tuft member of flexible material having a center portion having a hole therein for stringing on said cord article and integral individual tuft forming strand portions projecting radially outwardly from said center portion, a knot in said cord article and means comprising an upper portion for containing the center portion of said tuft member having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article and a substantially cylindrical portion projecting downwardly therefrom to bend said radial tuft forming strands downwardly in tuft formation substantially normal to the upper end of said fastening member, said last mentioned means having an annular internal cup forming groove on the inner surface thereof adjacent the lower end thereof and a circumferentially expansible and contractible split ring contained within said groove to grip and retain said cord knot and surrounding tuft member portions within said fastening member.

11. Means for use in forming tassels on shoe laces and like cord articles, comprising an upper portion having a central hole therein for stringing on said cord article and a substantially cylindrical portion projecting downwardly therefrom having an annular internal cup forming groove on the inner surface thereof adjacent the lower end thereof and a circumferentially expansible and contractible split ring contained within said groove.

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