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METHOD OF ORNAMENTING FABRIC
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FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

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This invention relates to a method of ornamenting fabric and more especially to the production of tufted goods.

One of the main objects of this invention is to provide a simplified tufted tape and method of attaching the same to a fabric, so that anyone will be able to make their own tufted articles. As disclosed in the drawing, precut lengths of spaced tufts are sewed to a tearable tape, made of paper or the like, which in turn is preferably wound into rolls and sold to the customer. The tape will prevent the tufts from getting out of line through rotary twisting motion and will prevent the normal strands of yarn from getting fluffed before being attached to a ground fabric by the customer.

The customer removes that portion of the tape along one side of the sewed line and then superimposes the remaining portion of the tape and attached tufts upon a marked ground fabric to which the tufts are attached along the marked line. By removing a portion of the tape, the outline of the mark or design on the ground fabric is made visible. After the tape has been removed, it prevents the tufts from separating or from becoming detached from the fabric.

Some of the objects of the invention having been stated, other objects will appear as the description proceeds, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is an isometric view of a roll of tufted tape ready for use by the customer;
Figure 2 is an isometric view illustrating a plurality of tufts secured to a tape;
Figure 3 is an isometric view similar to Figure 2 but showing a portion of the tape disposed along one side of the tuft seam line being removed preparatory to attaching the tufts to a ground fabric;
Figure 4 is an isometric view of a ground fabric showing a mark or ornamentation placed thereon for guidance when sewing a tufted tape such as shown in Figure 3 thereon;
Figure 5 is an isometric view showing the combination of a ground fabric and a tufted tape such as shown in Figure 3 secured thereon;
Figure 6 is an isometric view similar to Figure 5 but showing all portions of the tape removed theretrom;
Figure 7 is a sectional detail view showing a tuft and its associated base fabric after the tufts have been fluffed and finished.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, and especially to Figure 1, the numeral 10 broadly designates a roll of tufted tape as the same appears when it is sold to a customer. This roll comprises a tape 11 having suitable transversely disposed spaced lengths of yarn 12 secured thereon by any suitable means such as the line of stitches 14. This line of stitches may be located in any suitable position, but it is usually preferable that the stitches be disposed transversely and substantially midway the ends of the tufts 12. The tape can have the tufts placed thereon by any suitable means, but a preferable way of making the tape is by using a machine such as shown in Patent No. 2,234,286 of December 17, 1940. This machine has means for feeding bunches of yarn to the needle of a sewing machine whereby the line of stitches secures the tufts to a base fabric. When the line of stitches 14 is provided in the tufts and the tape, a simultaneous perforation of the tape is effected, thereby providing a division line so that one side of the tape may be removed without disturbing the position of the remaining side. It is necessary that the tape 11 be made of some suitable tearable material such as paper or the like.

As heretofore stated, one of the advantages of providing the tape 11 in association with the spaced lengths of material 12 is to hold these lengths in position prior to and while they are being attached to a ground fabric, and also in preventing these tufts from becoming prematurely fluffed.

Before using the spaced tufts as shown in Figures 1 and 2, it is usually necessary for the customer to remove a portion of the tape, such as 11a or 11b from one side of the line of stitches 14. In Figure 3 the portion 11a is shown partially removed thereby leaving 11b and the line of stitches 14 in position. Upon the complete removal of the portion 11a for example, the portion 11b and the attached tufts 12 are then superimposed upon a ground fabric 16, said fabric having a suitable mark or ornamentation 17 inscribed thereon for guidance in attaching the tufts to the fabric. In the making of tufted articles, these articles have heretofore ordinarily been made by what is known as the tufting machine, in which the yarn is carried through the fabric by a needle and a looper and cutter forms loops and cuts the same on the lower side of the fabric. It has also been customary to form a design over the face of the base fabric by means of
stencilling or other suitable markings, whereby both simple and complicated patterns are formed and then the operator causes the needle to traverse this line of markings to produce the desired tufts on the base fabric. In the drawing there is only shown a single line of tufts and this is a straight line, but it is evident that these lines will appear over the major portion of the base fabric in some instances and will be curved to form various types of designs. When the portion 11b of the tape is placed upon the fabric 15, the line of stitches 14 is caused to substantially coincide with the mark 11, after which a second row of stitches 18 is used for securing the tufts to the fabric along this mark (Figure 5). Then the remaining portion 11b of tape 11 is removed to cause the fabric to appear as shown in Figure 6. The fabric and attached tufts are then treated so as to fluff the tufts and to cause each individual tuft 12a to appear substantially as shown in Figure 7. As a rule, the mark or ornamentation 11 comprises some suitable fugitive dye or marking material which will readily disappear when washing the fabric. Although a preferable way to remove the paper or other material 11b is by manually removing the same, it is evident that it can be left in position, because when the base fabric with the attached tuft is laundered this paper strip or other material will naturally disappear and disintegrate. In fact, if desired, the strip 11a need not be removed before sewing but both strips 11a and 11b can be left for removal during the laundering operation, as the only advantage in removing strip 11a prior to sewing the tufts to the base fabric is to cause the central portion of the tufts to be attached to the base fabric at the point of marking.

By providing this removable tape formed from divisible sections 11a and 11b, the mark or ornamentation 17 will be clearly visible during the second stitching operation as shown in Figure 5. During the second stitching operation, the remaining portion 11b of the tape will serve to hold the tufts in alinement. There is an additional advantage in providing this new method, i.e., having each tuft penetrated twice by a line of stitches. The first line of stitches 14 penetrates the tufts 12 to hold them in spaced relation to each other and upon the tape 11; whereas the second line of stitches 18 penetrates the tufts to hold the same to the ground fabric 16. This double line of stitches will hold the individual strands in the tufts in position and prevent their separation from the base fabric.

In Figures 5 and 6 of the drawing, the second line of stitches 18 is shown slightly in an offset relation to the first line of stitches 14. This offsetting of the second line is solely for the purpose of illustrating the invention. In actual practice however, one line of stitches will be superimposed upon each other to thereby cause both lines of stitches to be located midway the ends of the individual tufts.

It is therefore seen that this invention provides a simple method whereby tufted articles such as bedspreads, curtains, draperies, dress material and many other fabrics can be produced from this tape by means of an ordinary sewing machine by the average housewife and in which the finished product will have the same appearance as if made on a tufting machine either of the looper and cutter type, or of the tufting machine type disclosed in Patent No. 2,224,556.

In the drawing and specification, there has been set forth a preferred embodiment of the invention, and although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the claim.

I claim:

That method of ornamenting a marked fabric which comprises sewing a plurality of transversely disposed lengths of yarn to a tearable tape of material, removing all of said material from one side of the sewn line, superimposing the remaining tape and attached lengths upon the fabric to cause the sewn line to coincide with the fabric mark, and then securing the lengths to the fabric along said mark.