June 14, 1960 J. H. RICHA ET AL 2,940,646

COAT FORM RETAINER

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Fig. 1.

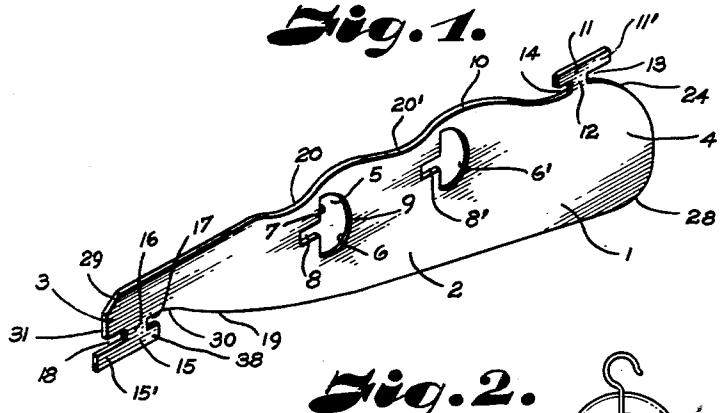


Fig. 2.

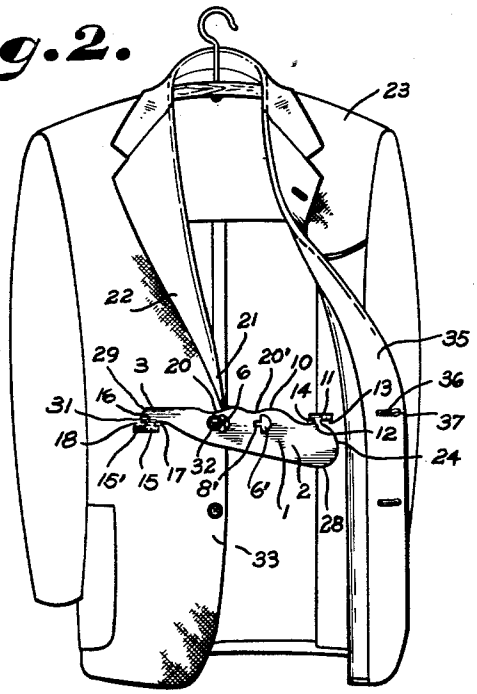
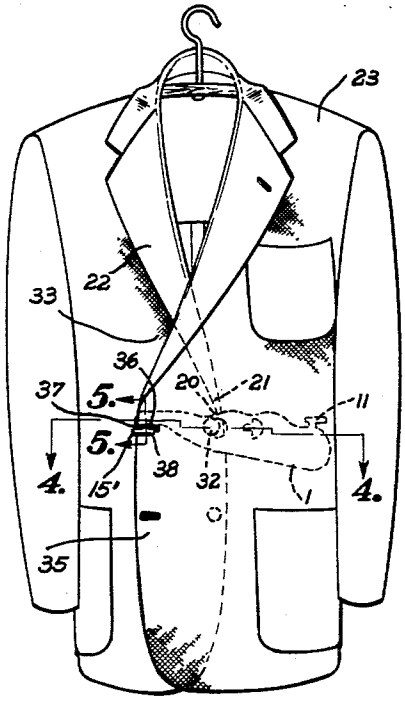


Fig. 3.



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Fig. 4.

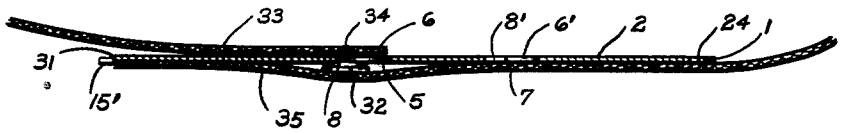


Fig. 5.

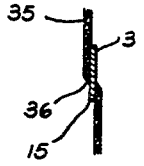


Fig. 6.

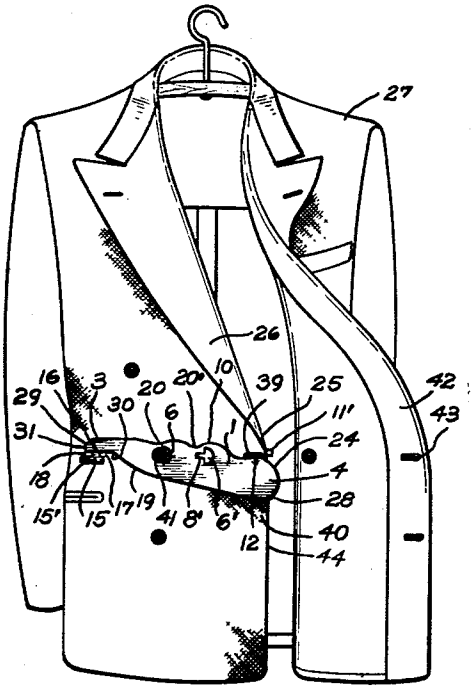
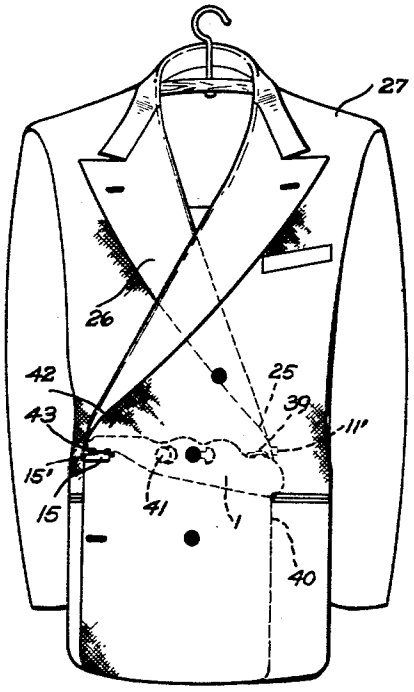


Fig. 7.



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COAT FORM RETAINER

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3 Claims. (Cl. 223—71)

This invention relates to a coat form retainer and more particularly to a device for holding a hanging garment in a desired manner for securing adjacent overlapping portions of these garments in such a manner that when the garment is hanging sagging will be prevented.

Our invention is particularly adaptable for use in cleaning establishments where garments and the like are placed on hangers after cleaning and pressing, in department stores, men's clothing stores and like places to hold the garments in shape.

The principal object of the present invention is, therefore, to prevent distortion in the lapels of coats and the like whereby such lapels will be prevented from rolling down a greater distance than is desired by the pressing.

Other objects of the invention are to provide means for retaining the front portions or overlapping breast portions of the garment in position one over the other when the garment is suspended on a hanger to prevent sagging and deformation; to provide a coupling member for the front portions of the garment by connecting a button on one front portion to the device and having a portion of the device engaging in the button hole of the other breast portion to retain the latter breast portion over the first breast portion; to provide a device of this character which may be suitable for either double breasted or single breasted garments; to provide a device of this character which may be made from relatively stiff paper, cardboard, plastic, metal or the like which will be quickly and easily applied to the garment and removed therefrom by the user of the garment after it has been delivered to the user; to provide a device of this character which may be used by the owner of the garment for hanging or storing the garment in a closet in the home to retain the garment in shape; to provide a garment form retainer of this character which may be applied to the garment in a cleaning establishment and which will not interfere in placing the same in a paper wrapper surrounding the garment as is the usual practice and still retain the garment in proper shape within the container and which will hold the garment in that condition during delivery thereof to the user or owner; to provide the body of the device with a tab for engagement in the button hole of one breast of a double breasted garment and receive the button on that breast portion and a tab for engagement in the button hole of the other breast portion to retain the breast portions in overlapping position, whereby the tabs and button holes in the device are in longitudinal alignment to align with the buttons and button holes in the garment; to provide the body of the garment form with a cut-out portion in the upper longitudinal edge thereof to accommodate for the roll in the lapel of the single breasted or double breasted garment, and to provide a device of this character simple and economical to manufacture.

In accomplishing these and other objects of the present invention, we have provided improved details of structure, the preferred forms of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of our garment form retainer.

Fig. 2 is a front view of the garment with one breast portion partially open to show the attachment of the form retainer to the button of a single breasted garment.

Fig. 3 is a front view of a double breasted garment showing the form retainer in dotted lines attached thereto with one tab extending through the button hole of the outer breast portion.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view through the device taken on a line 4—4, Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken on a line 5—5, Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a front view of a double breasted garment with one breast portion open to show attachment of the form retainer to the button hole and button of the other breast portion.

Fig. 7 is a front view of a double breasted garment with the garment form retainer in dotted lines and the tab extending through the button hole on the outer breast portion.

Referring more in detail to the drawings:

1 designates a garment form retainer embodying the features of our invention comprising, a longitudinal body 2 made from a single sheet of relatively flat, stiff paper, cardboard, or the like, having a reduced end 3 and a base end 4. The form retainer is of substantially flat construction and at slightly toward the tapered or reduced end there is a cut-out portion 5 forming an opening or button hole 6 which extends transversely of the elongated body and in the straight side 7 thereof is an elongated slot 8 for a purpose later described. The cut-out portion is substantially semi-circular on the outer or right hand side as indicated at 9 (Fig. 1) to provide for easy access of the buttons therein.

We also provide a second opening or button hole 6' of substantially the same size and shape as the button hole 6 having a slot 8' extending in the same direction and in alignment with slot 8 of the first button hole for a purpose later described.

The upper edge 10 of the body 2 is provided near the base end 4 with an elongated tab or tongue 11 connected to the base by a neck 12 forming slots 13 and 14 on each side thereof. The outer end of the tongue 11 is elongated as indicated at 11'. The opposite or reduced end of the body 2 is provided with a like tab or tongue 15 consisting of an elongated body having a neck 16 connected to the body 2 and providing slots or notches 17 and 18 between the elongated tab 15 and the body 2 of the form. The outer end of the tongue 15 is also elongated as indicated at 15' for a purpose later described. The tab 15 extends in the opposite direction to the tab 11 and is connected to the lower edge 19 of the body near the end 3 thereof and the upper edge 10 is provided substantially above the button holes 6 and 6' with cut-out portions or recesses 20 and 20' to accommodate for the roll 21 in the inner lapel 22 of a garment 23 shown as a single breasted garment in Figs. 2 and 3 so that the body will not overlie the lapel 22. The base end 4 is also rounded as indicated at 24 substantially beginning at the cut-out portion or slot 13 to provide for easy access of the tab 11 in the button hole as later described, and to accommodate for the roll 25 in the lapel 26 of a garment 27 shown as a double breasted garment in Figs. 6 and 7, so that the body will not overlie the lapel 26. The upper edge 10 of the body 2 adjoining the slot 14 is also cut away or recessed for easy access of the tab 11 in a button hole. The lower portion of the base end 4 is also rounded as at 28 and the reduced end 3 has its upper and forward edge cut away as at 29 so no sharp corners can catch on the garment. Adjoining the slot 17 of tab 15 is a further cut-out portion 30 and the for-

ward end of tab 15 is slightly extended outwardly from the extreme end 31 of the body of the device to provide for easy access of the tab 15 in a button hole as later described.

It will be noted that the slot portions of the tabs 11 and 15 are in substantial longitudinal alignment across the body member and such slot portions are also in substantial alignment with the slots 8 and 8' in the button holes 6 and 6'. This is for the purpose of holding the double breasted garment in alignment also as will later be described.

In application of the device to a single breasted garment as illustrated in Fig. 2, the button 32 on breast portion 33 is inserted through the button hole 6 and the thread 34 (Fig. 4) which holds the button on the garment is engaged within the slot 8 intersecting the button hole 6. The breast portion 35 is then pulled over the device and over the breast portion 33 and the tab 15 inserted through the button hole 36 on the breast portion 35 so that the connecting portion 16 engages against the edge 37 of the button hole and the end 38 of the tab 15 will extend over the garment surrounding the button hole and the elongated end 15' of the tab 15 will hold the edge of the garment flat, as best illustrated in Fig. 3, and to prevent accidental displacement of the tab from the button hole. This particular form of tab is easily inserted in the button hole by merely sliding the elongated end of the tab therethrough as the length of the tab from the notch 18 to the inner end of the tab can be shorter than the length of the button hole because the enlarged head will prevent displacement thereof as above described. The base portion of the body of the device merely extends horizontally across the inside of the breast portion 35 as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 3 to give assistance in retaining the garment in proper shape. The button hole 6' is provided to accommodate garments of different size. For instance if the breast portion of the garment is large the button 32 may be inserted in the hole 6'. In other words a plurality of button holes may be provided to adapt the retainer to garments of different size.

In application of the form to the double breasted coat 27 as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the tab 11 is inserted through the button hole 39 on the breast portion 40. The button 41 on breast portion 40 is engaged in the button hole 6 and the breast portion 42 of the coat 27 is extended over the breast portion 40 and over the form retainer and the tab 15 inserted through the button hole 43 on the breast portion 42 in the same manner as described in connection with a single breasted coat so that the form retainer will lie behind the breast portion 42 as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 7. In this application of the retainer the extension 11' extends underneath the edge 44 of the breast portion 40 to retain the edge in flat position.

It will be apparent from the above description that our device may be made from various forms of material and may be cut from a single sheet of such material, thus saving labor and material in constructing the device and expense thereof.

It will be further obvious that the tabs for insertion of the button holes of both forms of coat are easily insertable and hold the garment in the desired form without distortion as the tabs are at all times in alignment with the body 2 of the device. There is no swinging or distortion of any part of the form retainer in application to the garment and is therefore readily usable repeatedly in application to the garment either in a cleaning establishment or by the user or owner of the garment in the home while the garment is stored in a closet to retain the shape thereof when not in use.

It will further be obvious that the form retainer may be used in a double breasted garment by merely inserting the tab 11 in the button hole 39 and the tab 15 through the button hole 43 to hold the breast portions in place without insertion of the button 41 in the button hole 6 or 6'. It is preferable, however, to use the button and button holes as above described.

It will be understood from the foregoing that we have illustrated the one form of garment form retainer suitable for our purpose but we do not wish to limit it to the specific forms shown as other forms may be utilized without departing from the spirit of our invention.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A form retainer for a garment of double breasted type comprising, an elongated substantially flat body of a single sheet of relatively stiff material for insertion between the overlapping front portions of the garment, said body having upper and lower edges and having the end portion reduced in width, means spaced from said end portion for coupling said body with a button on the underlying front portion of the garment, a tongue extending from the lower edge of said reduced end portion for engaging in the button hole of the overlying front portion of said garment, and a tongue extending upwardly from the upper edge near the other end of said body for engaging in the button hole of the underlying portion of said front portion of the garment, the spacing of the last named tongue relative to the coupling means corresponding to the spacing between the button and button hole of the underlying portion of the garment, said tongues being connected to the body by neck portions and providing slots between the body and tongues and said tongues having an elongated portion on the ends extending lengthwise of the body and said coupling means being in substantial alignment with the slotted portions of said tongues.

2. A form retainer for a garment of double breasted type comprising, an elongated substantially flat body of a single sheet of relatively stiff material for insertion between the overlapping front portions of the garment provided with lapels, said body having upper and lower edges and having an end portion reduced in width, means spaced from said end portion for coupling said body with a button on the underlying front portion of the garment, a tongue extending from the lower edge of said reduced end portion for engaging in the button hole of the overlying front portion of said garment, and a tongue extending upwardly from the upper edge near the other end of said body for engaging in the button hole of the underlying portion of said front portion of the garment, the spacing of the last named tongue relative to the coupling means coresponding to the spacing between the button and button hole of the underlying portion of the garment, said tongues being connected to the body by neck portions and said tongues having an elongated portion extending lengthwise of the body and having a slot between the tongues and body, said coupling means being in alignment with the said slots, the upper edge of the body having a cut-away portion above said coupling means to accommodate the lapel on the underlying portion of the garment, said coupling means including an opening in said body through which the button extends, said opening having one straight side and a curve portion forming substantially a half circle, said straight side being intersected by a slot extending toward said reduced end portion and in longitudinal alignment with said slots between the said tongues and said body.

3. In a form retainer for a garment having overlapping front portions with outer and inner lapels having rolled portions a button on one of the overlapping portions and a button hole on the other overlapping portion, an elongated substantially flat body made from a single sheet of relatively stiff material having one end portion reduced in width and having upper and lower edges, an integral tongue coplaner with said body and extending from the lower edge of said reduced end portion, said tongue having an elongated portion extending lengthwise of the body and being secured on one longitudinal edge to said body by a neck portion, said edge of the elongated portion of

the tongue being spaced from said body and extending outwardly from the end of the body and in longitudinal alignment therewith, and providing a slot for engaging the buttonhole on the other of said overlapping portions to retain the said tongue therethrough, and means on said body spaced from said end portion for coupling said body with said garment to hold said garment portions in overlapping relation, said means including an opening in said body through which the button extends, said opening being intersected by a slot extending toward said reduced end portion and in longitudinal alignment with the slot formed by said tongue and adapted for receiving the thread connecting the button to the garment and for retaining the button in position through said opening, said

upper edge of the body having a concave curved recess above said opening for accommodating said rolled portion of said inner lapel so that said body will not overlie said lapel.

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