July 8, 1924. 1,501,001

E. LANE

MARKER

Filed Dec. 19, 1923

Fig. 1.

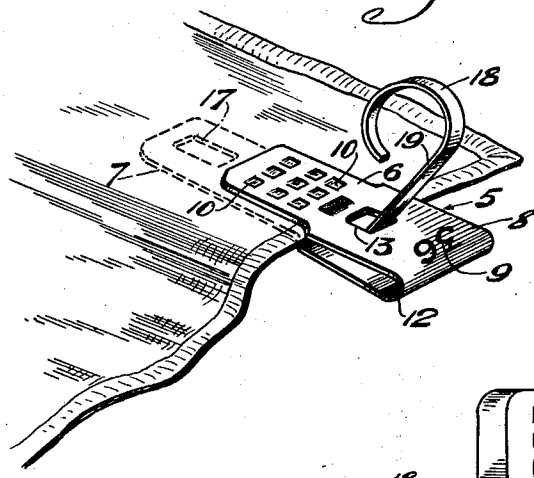


Fig. 5.

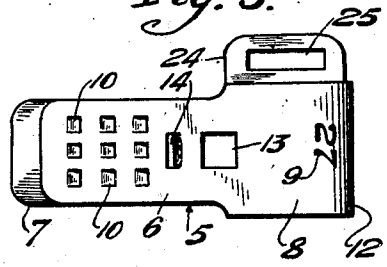


Fig. 2.

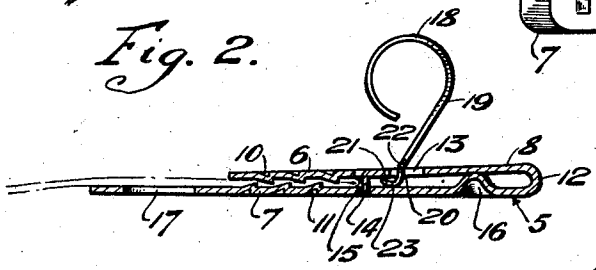


Fig. 4.

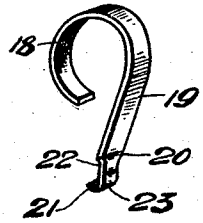
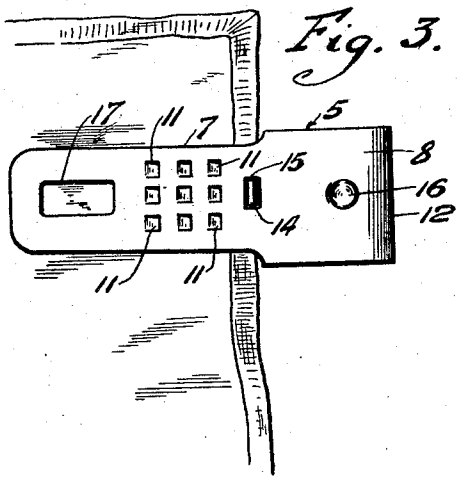


Fig. 3.



Inventor

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By James L. Norris

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Patented July 8, 1924. 1,501,001

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN LANE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO CAROLYN LAUNDRY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

MARKER.

Application filed December 19, 1923. Serial No. 681,686.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN LANE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Markers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to markers for identifying individual pieces or articles and groups of the latter of the same ownership prior and subsequent to launder and dry cleaning operations.

The invention particularly relates to a development of an improvement of the marker structure disclosed by my co-pending application executed and filed of even date therewith. The primary object of the present improvement is to provide a marker of the class specified having means for detachably engaging a portion of an article or piece to be cleaned with positiveness and reliability and without injury to the said article or piece during launder or cleaning operations, and to utilize a separate device or implement which is easily applicable to the thumb or finger of the hand of the operative or assorter and adapted to be held in such position as to render it quickly effective in opening the parts of the marker to disengage the piece or article therefrom and without in the least interfering with the free use of the thumb or finger end to which said device or implement may be applied. A further object of the invention is to construct a marker of the class specified in such manner that it will be convenient in use, readily attachable to and detachable from a portion of an article or piece to identify the latter, and to resist all tendency to accidental disengagement of the marker from the article or piece during launder or cleaning operations, and also to protect the portion of the article or piece engaged thereby when opening the marker to release the article or piece. A still further object of the invention is to provide a marker of the class specified embodying means for positively engaging a piece or article to be laundered or dry cleaned and releasable by means separate from the marker, but which may be held in operative position in connection with the hand of the operator or assorter and thereby avoid the delay incident to picking up a device that could not be practicably held intact with the hand, and also to avoid loss or misplacement of such opening implement or device.

With these and other objects and advantages in view the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts which will be more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a marker, embodying the features of the present invention, shown attached to a portion of an article, and also illustrating an opening implement in operative position and the manner of holding the same.

Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal vertical section of the marker with the opening implement in place therein.

Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the marker shown applied.

Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the preferred form of opening implement.

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a marker showing a modification in the construction.

The numeral 5 designates a doubled strip of suitable non-corrosive metal, such as brass or phosphor-bronze, bent in such manner as to provide two jaws 6 and 7 which have an overlapping normally closed relation, a head 8 being formed in rear of the jaws and wider than the latter, the one member of the head having an identifying number or character 9. The jaw 6 is shorter than the jaw 7 and both of these jaws respectively have opposed indentations 10 and 11 which are alternately arranged so that the inward maximum projections thereof will alternate, or the maximum projections of the indentations of one jaw will be opposed or between the maximum projections of the remaining jaw. The maximum projections of the indentations 10 and 11 are all directed towards the head 8 and provide a series of transversely extending biting means for reliably holding a portion of an article or piece to be cleaned or laundered therebetween. As shown by Fig. 2, for instance, the shorter jaw 6 and the member of the head 8 with which it is continuous are inclined inwardly towards the remaining jaw 7 and the opposite member of the head from the bend 12, in the member of the head from which the shorter jaw 6 extends a slot or opening 13 is formed. In advance of this slot or opening the same head member has an inwardly projecting

guard lip or flange 14, which is preferably cut therefrom and has its free end movably and normally in engagement with a slot 15 in the opposite head member. The head member from which the jaw 7 continues is formed with an indentation 16 between the location of the slot 13 and the bend 12 for the purpose of maintaining the opposite members of the head in predetermined spaced relation and to prevent crushing of the same under pressure stress that may be imposed thereon. The longer jaw 7 serves as a guide for convenience in applying the marker to a portion of an article or piece to be laundered or dry cleaned, and said longer jaw in advance of the free end of the shorter jaw 6 is formed with a slot 17 whereby it may be applied to a hook or hanger or other suspending device while the piece or article is attached thereto.

One preferred form of device or implement for opening the normally closed jaws 6 and 7 is shown in the accompanying drawing, but it will be understood that any implement that will operate to open the jaws may be adopted. The device or implement as shown is formed with a thumb or finger loop or eye member 18 bent over a flat shank 19 which is straight for a greater portion of its length and in part provides a portion of the wall or defining means for the eye 18 and whereby the implement may be held on the thumb or finger of the hand of the operator or assorter without liability of the same turning away from a position desired to be maintained for ready application and practical operation in relation to the marker. The free end of the flat shank 19 is bent rearward as at 20 and then continued into a terminal angular foot 21, the free extremity of this shank being decreased in width as at 22 to adapt the same to be readily inserted in and removed from the slot 13 and also to give the implement freedom of action in performing the function for which it has been devised.

The operation of the improved marker and the opening device or implement is very simple. The implement is applied to the thumb of the hand of the operator or assorter in the position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, with the angular foot 21 held free for insertion in the slot 13. To apply a marker to a portion of an article or piece to be laundered or dry cleaned, the foot 21 is inserted in the slot 13 and the implement pushed forward until it assumes the position shown by Fig. 2, or comes into engagement with the guard lip or flange 14 when the operator presses inwardly on the implement and the foot 21 acting in conjunction with the bend 23 provided in the formation of the foot and acting as a fulcrum, forces the jaw 6 apart from the jaw 7 to separate the indentations 10 and 11 to such an extent as to permit the ready insertion of a portion of a piece or article between the jaws or a quick withdrawal of the said portion from the jaws. By the use of the implement specified it will be understood that a number of the markers may be quickly applied to articles or pieces or detached from the latter. The portion of the article or piece engaged by the jaws is limited in its rearward movement or cannot pass rearwardly between the members of the head 8 in view of the obstruction provided by the guard lip or flange 14, and the latter also prevents the foot 21 from moving forwardly between the jaws, and engaging the portion of the article or piece that may be held between said jaws, and as a consequence, the article or piece so held is prevented from being injured or torn by the implement. The opposite members of the head 8 are in such spaced relation that when the reduced end 22 of the shank 19 of the implement is introduced in the slot 13 the bend 23 will bear against the closed portion of the member of the head opposite that having the slot 13 therein, and a turning movement of the reduced end of the implement will be effected to turn the free end of the foot 21 against that part of the member of the head immediately in advance of the front wall of the slot 13. The slot 13 is of such dimensions as to permit the reduced extremity 22 of the shank 19 of the implement and the terminal foot 21 to be readily inserted therein and also into the space between the opposing members of the head 8, and also be withdrawn from the said space and through the slot without the least liability of becoming twisted or jammed. The metal of which the marker is formed will be sufficiently resilient to maintain the jaws 6 and 7 normally closed and this resiliency will be readily overcome in an easy manner through the use of the implement as above explained.

After launder or cleaning operations, the articles or pieces are frequently suspended on suitable hanger devices or a rack, and the slot 17 provides for this operation, the marker being overturned so that the piece or article attached thereto will fall over the member 8 of the head bearing the identifying number or character 9 and when the operator or assorter subsequently uses the implement to open the jaws and release the marker from the article or piece, the marker has to be turned in such position as to bring the identifying mark of character into view of the operator and in assorting articles or pieces of the same group or ownership, this necessary exposure of the identifying numbers or characters, which will be similar on all the articles or pieces of the same group or ownership, will enable the operator to separate or set apart all the pieces or articles of the same group and a

check will thus be provided against possible mistake by the operator in the event that a marker having a different number or character and attached to a piece of another group becomes associated with the articles or pieces bearing the unlike numbers or characters.

The improved marker as hereinbefore defined for the purpose of illustrating one practical form thereof may be modified in proportions, dimensions and general details and as hereinbefore indicated, the operating device or implement may also be changed in form without departing from the nature or spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims.

In the modified form of the marker as shown by Fig. 5 the metal strip used in forming the marker is primarily the same as in the preceding structure except that the jaw 7 is very much shorter and is minus the slot 17, one of the members of the head 8 being laterally extended, as at 24, and formed with a slot 25 for hanging or suspending the marker. This modified structure of the marker materially reduces the length of the same and is much lighter than the form of the marker first described. By having the slot 17 shown in one instance in the projecting extremity of the jaw 7 and in Figure 5 in the lateral extension of the head, it is intended to indicate that the said slot may be applied to any part of the marker. By having the extension of one member of the head provided with a slot, as shown by Figure 5, the operative or assorter may handle the markers with the articles or pieces attached thereto with greater rapidity in view of the fact that it is unnecessary to turn over the marker and the articles or piece attached thereto and moreover it is possible for the operative to expeditiously release the jaws and identify the article or piece with certainty as the identifying character will be facing the operative at the time when the marker is suspended and also when it is removed from its suspending means.

What is claimed as new is:—

1. A reusable marker of the class specified having an intermediately bent body with identifying means on one member thereof, the members of the body having a clear space between them, a pair of resilient normally closed flat jaws with inwardly projecting opposing interacting indentations at a distance rearwardly from the front ends of the jaws and also located inwardly from the side edges of the jaws, and an implement insertable through one body member into the clear space between both body members and in rear of the indentations for opening the jaws.

2. A reusable marker of the class specified formed of a single piece of flat spring metal bent to provide opposite body members with a clear space between them, one member having identifying means thereon, a pair of normally closed flat converging jaws, the jaws extending from and continuous with said members, the one member having an opening therein, and an implement insertable through the opening of one member and between both members and engageable with the opposite imperforate member in rear of the converging jaws for opening the latter.

3. A reusable marker of the class specified consisting of a doubled flat strip of spring sheet metal to provide a pair of flat holding jaws extending from the connecting bend therefor, the jaws being continuous with rear body members having a clear space between them, the jaws also having inwardly projecting opposed retention means, and means movably insertable through a portion of the body and operable between the members of the body for opening the jaws.

4. A marker of the class specified consisting of a single piece of doubled spring sheet metal having opposed body members with identifying means on one member, a pair of normally closed flat jaws continuing from the body members, a clear space between the members and one of the members formed with a slot in rear of the jaws, the jaws having inwardly projecting opposed retention means in advance of the said slot and in rear of the free ends of the jaws, and an implement removably insertable through the said slot into the clear space between the members of the body for opening the jaws.

5. A marker of the class specified comprising a doubled body with a clear space between the parts of the same, the body carrying an identifying means and also a slot through one part thereof, the remaining part of the body opposite the said slot being imperforate, the body having flat jaws extending from the said parts and normally closed, and converging from the parts of the body, the jaws in advance of the slot in the body being provided with reversely arranged inwardly projecting opposed indentations, and an implement removably insertable in the said slot to engage the parts of the body in rear of the jaws and indentations for opening the jaws.

6. A marker of the class specified consisting of a single piece of doubled flat spring metal and comprising a head with opposing flat members, one of the members having identifying means and a slot therethrough, the opposite member of the head being imperforate, both members also formed with normally closed flat jaws extending therefrom and provided with retention means, and an implement for opening the jaws removably insertable in the slot of one of the members and operable between the members for springing the jaws apart.

7. A reusable marker of the class speci-

fied consisting of a doubled strip of flat spring metal having a rear body with opposing flat members with a clear space between them, one of the members having identifying means and one of the members having a slot therein and the opposite member imperforate, both members also having jaws continued therefrom and normally closed, the one jaw being longer than the other and both jaws having inwardly extending opposing projections, and an implement insertable through the slot of one member and having a fulcrum bearing on the imperforate portion of the opposite member and operable to spring the jaws apart, the slot in the one member being in rear of the projections of the jaws.

8. A marker of the class specified comprising an extremity having opposed members with normally closed jaws extending therefrom, one of the members having a slot therethrough and an inwardly projecting guard in advance of the slot, and a jaw opening implement removably insertable in the slot between portions of the jaws.

9. A marker of the class specified comprising a head composed of opposite spaced members with normally closed jaws extending from the latter and provided with retention means, the one member having a slot therein and an inwardly projecting guard in advance of the slot and between the latter and the retention means, and a jaw opening implement removably insertable in the slot between the members.

10. A marker of the class specified comprising a bent strip having a head composed of opposite spaced members and normally closed jaws extending from the members, the jaws having retention means and one member of the head provided with a slot and an inwardly projecting guard in advance of the slot, and a jaw opening implement having an angular extremity with a terminal angular foot removably insertable in said slot between the members in rear of the guard.

11. A marker of the class specified comprising a head composed of opposite members with a clear space between them and normally closed jaws extending from the members and having opposed retention means between the said member and the front terminals of the jaws, and an implement arranged to be continually held on the hand of an operator and provided with an extremity removably insertable through one of the members into said clear space to engage the opposing member for opening the jaws.

12. A marker of the class specified comprising a head composed of opposite members extending from a rear connecting bend and having normally closed jaws convergingly continuing from the said members, the jaws being formed with interacting retention means wholly in advance of the said members and between the latter and the front terminals of the jaws, the members having a clear space formed between them and one member provided with an opening therethrough and the opposite member imperforate, and a jaw-opening implement having an end insertable through the opening of one member and into the clear space between both members for fulcruming engagement with the imperforate member to pry the jaws open.

13. A marker of the class specified comprising a pair of normally closed flat resilient jaws with similar interacting retention means, one of said jaws also having an identifying character, the one jaw being longer than the other to serve as a guide means and formed with a slot in advance of the remaining jaw to provide for hanging the marker and article held thereby, and means for opening the jaws.

14. A marker of the class specified comprising a head composed of opposite members with an intervening space and normally closed jaws extending from the head and provided with interacting retention means, the head having an identifying character and one member thereof provided with a slot and an inwardly projecting guard flange in advance of the slot, the free end of the guard flange being movable in and relatively to a slot formed in the opposing member, and an implement having a terminal insertable through the slot of one head member and between both members for bracing engagement against one of the members for opening the jaws.

15. A marker of the class specified comprising a pair of normally closed jaws with inwardly projecting interacting retention means at a distance from the front terminals of said jaws, and a head from which the jaws project composed of opposite members having a clear space between them, one of the members having a slot therein and the opposite member provided with an indentation projecting between the members to prevent the latter from being crushed, and an implement removably insertable in the slot of one member to engage the opposite member for opening the jaws.

16. A marker of the class specified comprising a bent strip of material formed with a head carrying an identifying means and a pair of normally closed jaws with interacting retention means, the one jaw being longer than the other and formed with a slot, the portion of the head also having a slot therethrough and an inwardly projecting guard in advance of the slot and between the latter and the retention means.

the head also provided with an indentation to prevent crushing thereof, and an implement having an extremity for removable insertion through the slot of the head in rear of the guard for opening the jaws.

17. A removable marker of the class specified formed of a single piece of material doubled on itself and having body members with a clear space therebetween, jaws continuing from the body members and provided with interacting impenetrating holding means, a guard means in rear of said holding means between the jaws and the body members, and releasing means for opening the jaws, the releasing means being prevented by the guard means from moving into engagement with the said holding means.

18. A marker of the class specified having normally closed spring jaws provided with interacting impenetrating opposed holding means at a distance rearwardly from the free ends of the jaws, a rigid part of the marker being formed with a slot therethrough for hanging the marker and the article or piece attached thereto, and releasing means insertable between the jaws for opening the jaws.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

EDWIN LANE.