

July 8, 1958

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2,841,848

FASTENER

Filed May 10, 1954

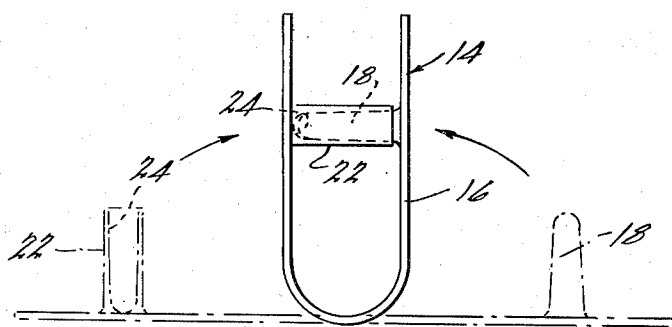
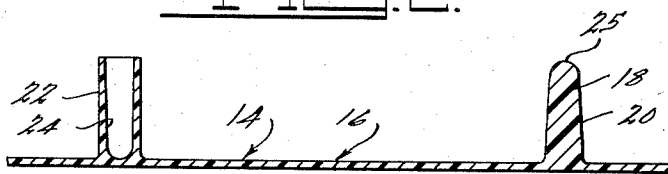
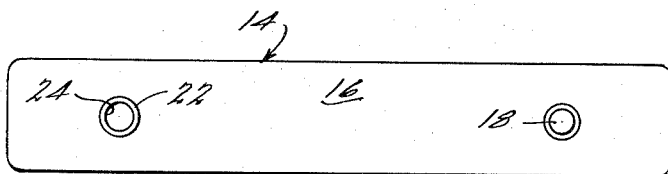
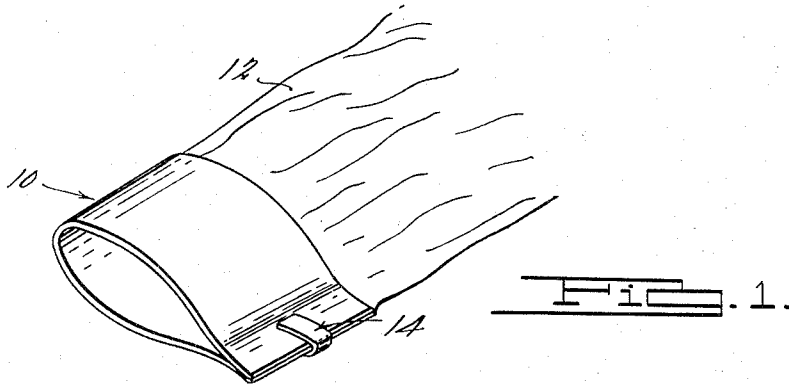


FIG. 4.

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1

2,841,848

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Application May 10, 1954, Serial No. 428,634

3 Claims. (Cl. 24—41)

This invention relates to fasteners and, more particularly, to an improved cuff link particularly adapted for use in fastening French-type cuffs.

An object of the invention is to overcome disadvantages in prior fasteners of the indicated character and to provide an improved cuff link which may be applied to French-type cuffs by shirt manufacturers or the like to fasten such cuffs for shipping and storage and which may also be utilized by the purchaser of a shirt to fasten such cuffs when he desires to wear the shirt.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved cuff link which may be molded as a unitary structure and which incorporates improved means that effectively maintains the cuff link in the fastening position.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved cuff link that may be easily and quickly applied to, and removed from, French-type cuffs with a minimum of time and effort on the part of the user.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved cuff link that is pleasing in appearance, economical to manufacture, durable, efficient and reliable in operation.

The above as well as other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, the appended claims, and the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cuff link constructed in accordance with the present invention, showing the same applied to a French-type cuff on a fragmentarily illustrated sleeve;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged top plan view of the cuff link illustrated in Fig. 1, showing the same in the open position;

Fig. 3 is a sectional side elevational view of the cuff link illustrated in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the cuff link illustrated in Fig. 3, showing the same in the closed position.

Referring to the drawing, and more particularly to Fig. 1, a cuff, generally designated 10, is shown secured to a sleeve 12 of a man's shirt. The particular cuff illustrated is known as a French-type cuff, although it will be understood that the present invention is applicable to other uses. Cuffs of the type illustrated are conventionally provided with aligned apertures in the side portions thereof, and as shown in Fig. 1, are worn with the side portions disposed in back-to-back relationship, as distinguished from overlapping relationship.

The cuff link of the present invention may be molded as a unitary structure and may be applied to the cuff 10 to secure the side portions thereof in back-to-back relationship. The cuff link, generally designated 14, is comprised of an elongate, initially flat, flexible base 16 which is preferably formed of a plastic material such as elastomeric vinyl, polyethylene or other similar material. While in the preferred construction illustrated, the surfaces of the base 16 are shown as being relatively smooth, it will be understood that such surfaces may be configured or altered in shape to suit the wishes of the designer.

2

At a position near, but spaced from, one end of the base 16, a tang 18 is provided which is preferably formed integrally with the base 16 and which is preferably formed of the same material as the base. The tang 18 projects out of the plane of the base, with the longitudinal axis of the tang extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the base 16 when the base is in a substantially flat position, as shown in Fig. 3. In the preferred construction illustrated, the tang 18 is shaped generally in the form of a cone with the side surfaces 20 thereof converging toward the outer end of the tang. It will be understood, however, that the tang 18, in cross section, may be polygonal, as for example, the tang 18 may be shaped in the form of a pyramid.

At a position near, but spaced from, the opposite end of base 16, a sleeve 22 is provided which is also preferably formed integrally with the base and which is preferably formed of the same material as the base 16 and the tang 18. The sleeve 22 projects out of the plane of the base on the same side of the base as the tang 18, the longitudinal axis of the sleeve 22 extending in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tang 18 when the base 16 is in a substantially flat position, as shown in Fig. 3. The sleeve 22 defines a tapered recess 24 which is open at the outer end and which is adapted to receive and closely fit the tang 18 when the base 16 is return bent in the general shape of a U, as shown in Fig. 4. In order to facilitate insertion of the tang 18 in the recess 24, the outer end of the tang is rounded, as at 25. The cuff link 14 may be molded as a unitary structure thereby reducing manufacturing costs to a minimum and obviating the necessity of assembling the components thereof.

In applying the cuff link of the present invention to a French-type cuff, the side portions of the cuff are initially positioned in back-to-back relationship as shown in Fig. 1. The sleeve 22 is then fitted through the aligned apertures conventionally provided in the side portions of the cuff after which the base 16 is return bent in the general form of a U so as to extend around the adjacent edges of such side portions, and the tang 18 is pressed into the recess 24 defined by the sleeve 22. As previously mentioned, the base 16, the tang 18, and the sleeve 22 are preferably formed of elastomeric vinyl, polyethylene, or a similar material. Such materials, while dry to the touch, have adhesive characteristics when two pieces of the same material are pressed together, and the adhesion, together with the friction of the fit between the tang 18 and the sleeve 22, serves to maintain the sleeve 22 and the tang 18 in interfitted relationship. The cuff link may be removed from the cuff by applying sufficient pressure to the opposite end portions of the base 16 to overcome the adhesion and the friction between the tang 18 and the sleeve 22 and spread the opposite end portions of the base apart.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a one piece fastener, an elongate flexible plastic base portion, a plastic tang portion integrally joined to said base portion at a position near but spaced from one end thereof, the side walls of said tang portion converging toward the free end thereof in the form of a frustum, a plastic sleeve portion integrally joined to said base portion at a position near but spaced from the opposite end thereof, said tang portion and said sleeve portion projecting out of the plane of said base portion with the axes of said sleeve portion and said tang portion in substantially parallel relationship when said base portion is in a substantially flat position, said sleeve portion

3

defining a tapered recess adapted to receive and snugly fit said tang portion when said base portion is return bent whereby the opposite end sections of said base portions extend in spaced substantially parallel relationship, said fastener being formed of a plastic material having adhesive characteristics when two pieces of the same material are pressed together, the adhesive characteristics of said material together with the friction of the fit between said tang portion and said sleeve portion serving to maintain said tang portion and said sleeve portion in interfitted relationship.

2. A one piece cuff link comprising an elongate flexible base portion, a tang portion integrally joined to said base portion and projecting out of the plane thereof in the form of a frustum, a sleeve portion integrally joined to said base portion in spaced relationship to said tang portion and projecting out of the plane of said base portion, said sleeve portion and said tang portion being formed of a plastic material having adhesive characteristics when two pieces of the same material are pressed together, said sleeve portion being adapted to receive and closely fit said tang portion when said base portion is return bent whereby the opposite end sections of said base portion extend in spaced substantially parallel relationship, the adhesive characteristics of said material together with the friction of the fit between said tang portion and said sleeve portion serving to maintain said tang portion and said sleeve portion in interfitted relationship.

3. A one piece cuff link comprising an elongate initially flat flexible base portion, a tapered tang portion integrally

4

joined to one end section of said base portion and projecting out of the plane thereof in the form of a frustum, a sleeve portion integrally joined to the opposite end section of said base portion in spaced relationship to said tang portion and projecting out of the plane of said base portion, said cuff link being formed of a plastic material having adhesive characteristics when two pieces of the same material are pressed together, said sleeve portion defining a tapered recess adapted to receive and retain said tang portion when said base portion is return bent whereby the opposite end sections of said base portion extend in spaced substantially parallel relationship, the adhesive characteristics of said material together with the friction of the fit between said tang portion and said sleeve portion serving to maintain said tang portion and said sleeve portion in interfitted relationship.

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