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MEANS FOR PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF PAIRS
OF SOCKS AND THE LIKE DURING LAUNDERING
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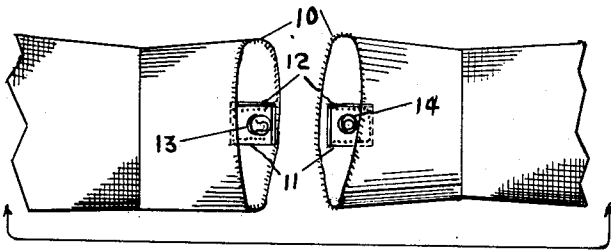


Fig-1

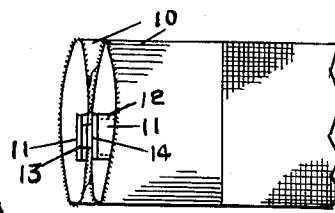


Fig-2

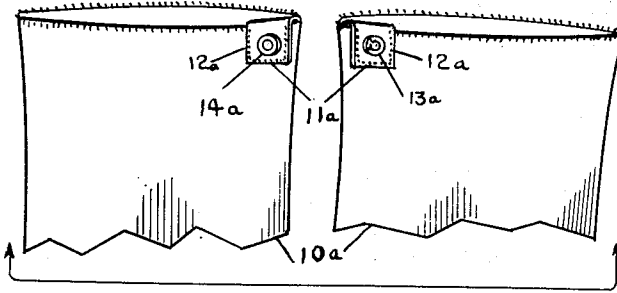


Fig-3

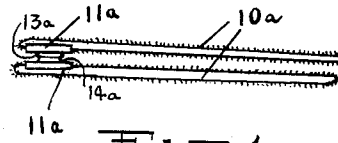


Fig-4

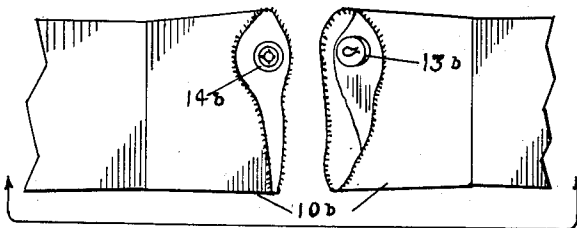


Fig-5

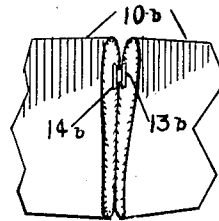


Fig-6

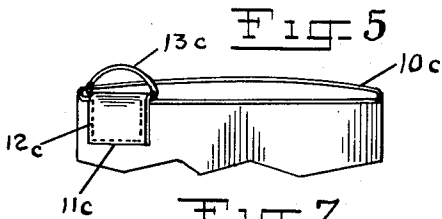


Fig-7

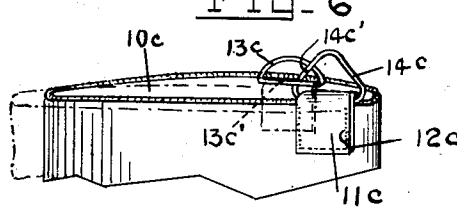


Fig-8

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MEANS FOR PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF PAIRS OF SOCKS AND THE LIKE DURING LAUNDERING

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2-239)

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The present invention relates to a method and means for keeping pairs of socks and other articles together during laundering so as to avoid loss of sock mates, mis-matching of sock pairs or the intermingling of several pairs of socks or other articles.

It is well known that, after the laundering of a plurality of pairs of socks or other articles composed of left and right mates, there is considerable difficulty and delay in connection with sorting and matching operations and, while this is true of home laundering, it is true on a much greater scale in commercial laundries where larger batches of clothing are washed or laundered as a single batch. The result is that many times it is difficult or tedious to re-match the pairs of socks or the like, particularly when they differ only relatively slightly in color or material. Frequently, also, one sock is lost, thus destroying the value and utility of the pair of socks. While the present invention is designed to overcome the foregoing and other difficulties in a simple and inexpensive manner with especial reference to socks, it will be understood that the invention applies to other articles of clothing, such as stockings, gloves, etc.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a simple, inexpensive and readily applied method and means for preventing separation and loss of socks and the like during laundering and for eliminating the necessity for re-matching and re-assembling the pairs of socks or the like after laundering.

A further object of the invention resides in providing each pair of socks or the like with interfitting or interconnecting fasteners of simple, unobjectionable form which do not interfere with the normal use of the socks and which do not detract from their appearance.

Other and still further objects and advantages will be understood and appreciated by those skilled in this art or will be apparent or pointed out hereinafter.

In the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 shows portions of a pair of socks provided with interconnecting fastener elements in accordance with the present invention, the pair of socks being shown in disassembled position;

Fig. 2 shows the socks of Fig. 1 connected and assembled ready for the laundering procedure;

Fig. 3 illustrates a portion of a pair of socks provided with a modified form of interconnected fastening elements;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of Fig. 3 showing the detached socks of Fig. 3 in assembled interconnected position;

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Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 1 of a further modified form of the invention;

Fig. 6 shows a portion of the pair of disassembled socks of Fig. 5 in assembled interconnected position; and

Figs. 7 and 8 are similar views of a still further modified form of the invention.

Referring, first, to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the numeral 10 designates adjacent top portions of a pair of socks. As will be noted, each such sock is provided near its top or open end with a small piece of tape 11 which is stitched as shown at 12 or otherwise secured to the sock material. This tape is of any suitable or convenient material, such as cotton or linen cloth, and is readily available on the market in strip or tape form. Each such piece of tape 11 is preferably doubled for increased strength and life but may be used in a single thickness. Each such tape 11 is also provided, as shown, with one of the interfitting or interconnecting elements 13, 14 of a snap fastener or other inexpensive form of interfitting or interconnecting fastening elements. As shown in Fig. 1, the male fastener element is designated as 13 and the female as 14. In Fig. 2 the socks are shown in their interconnected or fastened condition as distinguished from the separated condition of Fig. 1.

It will be understood that a pair of socks provided with the present invention is, after being taken off of the wearer and prior to being laundered, fastened together by its interconnecting fastening elements. In this interconnected condition the pair of socks is laundered at home or sent out with other articles to a commercial laundry and in either case is laundered while in the separably attached condition along with other pairs of socks and/or other articles of clothing, and the nature of the fastening elements is such as to keep the socks securely in connected condition during laundering and handling. Thus, when laundering is completed, the pair of socks is still attached and it is unnecessary to hunt for matching socks and the likelihood of the loss of one sock of a pair is eliminated. Where a plurality of pairs of socks are laundered which are of similar color or material or some of which are relatively new and some of which are relatively worn, it is easy to keep the correct pairs together at all times and to avoid mis-matching, the trouble of matching and the loss of one of a pair of socks. The nature of the fastening elements is such, however, that, should it be desired or necessary for any ancillary purpose to separate the socks temporarily, they can be readily separated and then re-attached.

In Figs. 3 and 4 I have illustrated a modified form of the invention in which the socks 10a are provided at their upper edges with a tape 11a which, instead of being a small rectangle or section of tape secured to one side of the upper end of each sock, is, in effect, a U-shaped piece of tape extending over the upper edge of each such sock and thereby providing a substantially strengthened base for the fastener. The stitching 12a goes through both portions of each piece of tape 11a which covers and protects the upper edge of the sock. The stitching also passes through the sock itself, thereby providing an exceptionally useful mounting means for the interconnecting fastening element portions 13a and 14a. The male element is designated by the numeral 13a and the female element by the numeral 14a, Fig. 3 showing the socks and the fastener elements separated and Fig. 4 showing them in interconnected position viewed in plan from above. This particular form of the invention has been found to be extremely satisfactory and of long life.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the male and female fastener elements 13b and 14b, respectively, are secured directly to the socks 10b near the upper edges of such socks and do not require the use of tape, the fastener elements being of that well-known type which have a locking or clamping ring on the opposite side of the material which holds the fastener elements in place directly on the sock material. This form of the invention is of particular utility in connection with socks made of finer or stronger material or where tapes are not available or desired to be placed upon the socks. Thus, the form of the invention shown in Fig. 3 is nearly invisible since the fastener elements and/or clamping rings may be enameled or otherwise colored so as to match the socks or to be of some coloration of relatively low visibility. Fig. 5 shows a pair of socks provided with such a modified form of the invention and Fig. 6 shows such socks in detachably fastened or interconnected position as contrasted with the separated positions of the socks of Fig. 5.

It will be understood and appreciated that other types of interconnecting or intermating fastening elements may be employed without departing from the invention and Figs. 7 and 8 show such a variant. In Fig. 7, the sock 10c is provided with a tape 11c of the type of that (11a) of Fig. 3—i. e., wherein the tape material extends over the edge of the sock material and down on the other side thereof. Such tapes are stitched in position as shown at 12c. However, in contrast to the manner of applying the tape referred to above in connection with Fig. 3, the tape of Fig. 7 is of slightly greater extent than would otherwise be required in order to provide a small passageway between the top of the sock and the arcuate portion of the tape which passes over the top edge of the sock. Into this passageway is inserted the base of the D-shaped metal or plastic loop 13c, the base portion of which will be seen in Fig. 8 and which is preferably split, as indicated at 13c', so that the loop can be mechanically spread to apply it or to remove it. It is understood, however, that loop 13c need not be split since it can be placed in position and the tape passed thereover and then stitched in position. Loop 13c corresponds to the fastener elements 13, 13a and 13b of the previously described embodiments of the invention. The triangular metal or plastic loop 14c, which corresponds in nature

and function to fastener elements 14, 14a and 14b of the previously described embodiments of the invention, is similarly secured in position on the other mate 10c of the pair of socks. Loop 14c is provided with a split so that the loop 13c may be inserted into and removed from the central opening of loop 14c, which is made in the general manner of a key-ring. Thus, the socks of Figs. 7 and 8 are interconnected by securing together the loops 13c and 14c and disassembly is readily accomplished by forcing loop 13c out through the slit 14c'.

It will, consequently, be apparent that various fastening instrumentalities of an interfitting or interconnecting nature may be used in carrying my present invention into effect and that the benefits of the invention are not necessarily dependent upon the precise form of the fastening instrumentality per se and, therefore, various fastening instrumentalities may be used so long as they are suitable and do not have any adverse effect upon the sock material. Thus, when a pair of socks is fastened together and subjected to laundering along with other pairs of socks and/or other articles of clothing, the pair of socks is retained in assembled condition during the laundering and handling operations and, therefore, there is no hunting for sock mates after the laundering and there is no loss of a sock with consequent destruction of the utility of the pair of socks. Where socks are of nearly the same color or some pairs of socks are relatively new, there is further eliminated the disadvantage of mis-matching the socks. The pairs of socks so interconnected resist even rough handling and the use of laundering machinery and the various fastening and loop elements may be made small enough so that they are unobjectionable in all respects.

Thus, the practice of my invention has eliminated a common and frequent source of loss and inconvenience but it is to be understood that other and still further embodiments of the invention may be made use of without departing from the invention as defined by the appended claim.

I claim:

A pair of matching socks each open at its top, a tab at a side of the top of each sock consisting of a fabric strip doubled to provide a U-shaped formation and disposed in straddling relation to the upper edge of the sock with inner and outer portions of the tab disposed against inner and outer surfaces of the sock, stitches passing through the sock and marginal portions of the inner and outer portions of the tab, and companion snap fastener members secured against the outer portions of each of the tabs carried by the socks, said fastener members being detachably engageable with each other and serving to detachably hold the socks together.

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