Aug. 27, 1968 L. FRIED ET AL 3,398,438

NAPKIN

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Fig. 1.

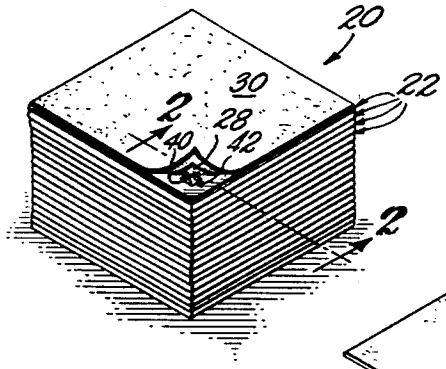


Fig. 2.

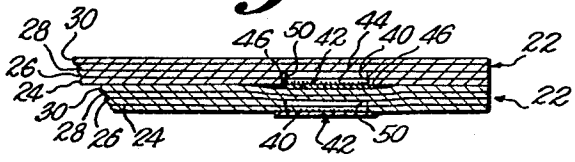


Fig. 3.

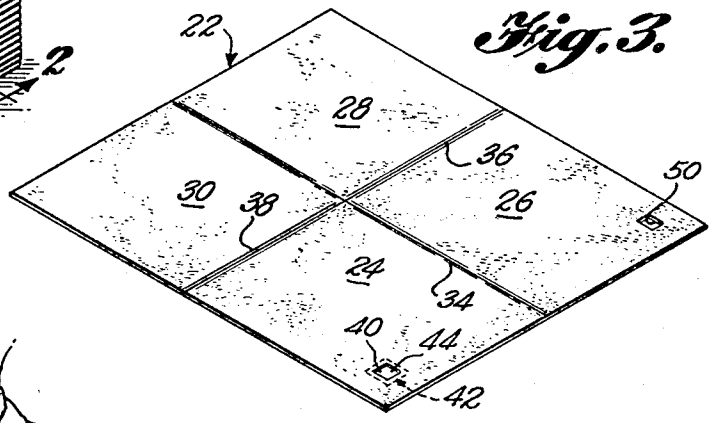


Fig. 4.

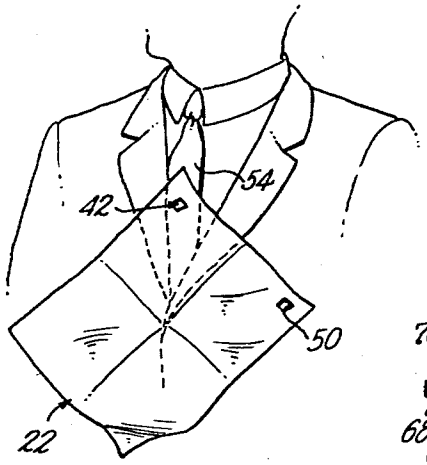


Fig. 5.

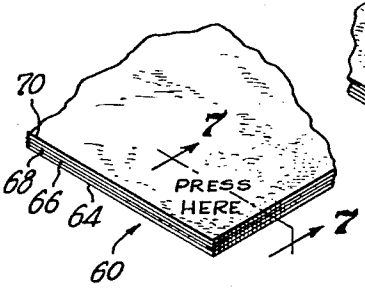
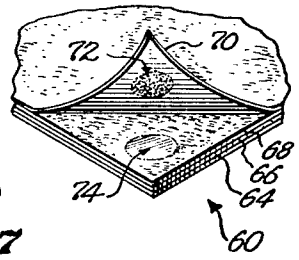


Fig. 6.



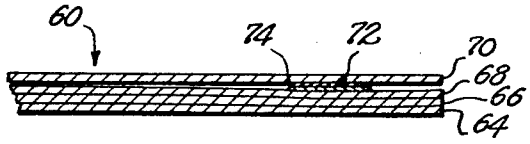


Fig. 7.

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Fig. 8.

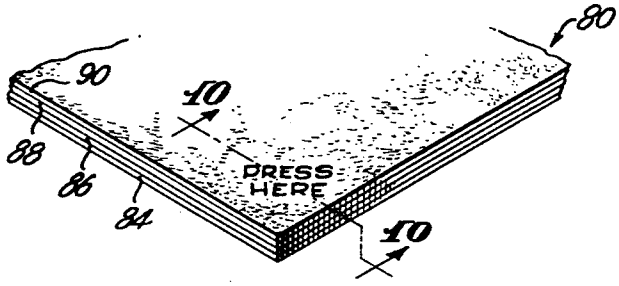


Fig. 9.

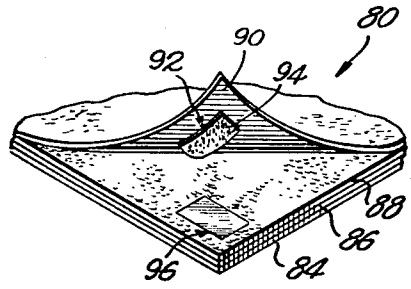


Fig. 10.

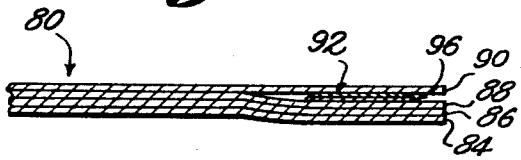
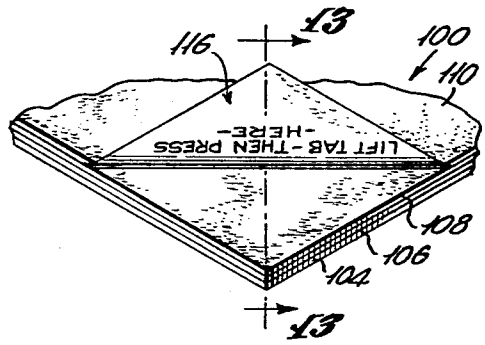


Fig. 11.



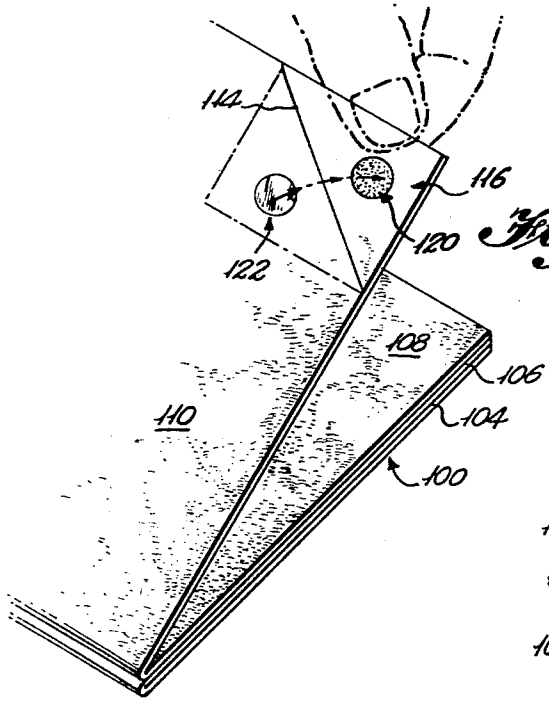
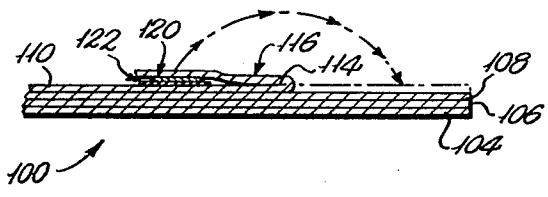


Fig. 12

Fig. 13.



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NAPKIN

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Filed Apr. 15, 1966, Ser. No. 542,860
2 Claims. (Cl. 24—7)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to paper napkins or the like having adhesive means thereon for securing the napkin to the clothing of a person while eating. Means is provided for preventing the adhesive portion from adhering to other portions of the napkin when in folded position, and when the napkin is unfolded the adhesive means is automatically exposed for adherence to the desired object.

The present invention relates to a new and novel napkin, and more particularly to a napkin including means for adhesively attaching the napkin to the clothing of a person while eating to hold the napkin in place.

The present invention may be employed either with conventional fabric napkins or paper napkins and the like, and it is especially adapted for use with the conventional type paper napkin which is of rather flimsy construction and wherein it is essential that no portion of the napkin be accidentally adhered to the adhesive means of the napkin since in parting such adhesively secured portions, the napkin would be likely to be torn.

It is well know that it is a long-standing problem to retain paper napkins and the like in place while eating. These napkins have a tendency to slip off onto the floor, and a particular purpose of the present invention is to provide means for positively holding the napkin in place while in use.

In order to hold the napkin in use, the present invention provides adhesive means in the form of a pressure-sensitive surface which is adapted to be pressed against any portion of a person's clothing for holding the napkin in place.

Another important consideration in providing means for attaching the napkin in place is that the napkin also be readily removable. This is accomplished in the present invention since the pressure-sensitive adhesive substance is of such a nature that it can readily be manually removed, and furthermore the adhesive means is such that it will not leave any telltale mark on the person's clothing, nor is it of such a nature that it will tend to tear, mar or otherwise damage the clothing.

As mentioned above, it is also extremely important to provide a means for positively preventing various portions of the napkin from adhering to the adhesive means, and the present invention includes means for ensuring that no portion of the napkin will accidentally adhere to the adhesive means especially when the napkins are in stacked folded position.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new and novel napkin including means for positively holding the napkin in place and preventing it from slipping out of the desired operative position.

Another object is the provision of a napkin which is readily removable after it has been attached in operative position.

Still another object is to provide a napkin which can be readily removed from a person's clothing after attachment thereto without tearing, marring or otherwise damaging the clothing.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a napkin including adhesive means for securing it in operative position and including means for preventing portions of the napkin from accidentally adhering to the adhesive means.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a new and improved napkin which is quite simple and inexpensive in construction, and yet which at the same time is quite efficient and reliable in use.

Other objects and many attendant advantages of the invention will become more apparent when considered in connection with the specification and accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of a stack of napkins in folded position according to a first modification of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view taken substantially along line **2—2** of FIG. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 3 is a top perspective view illustrating one of the napkins as shown in FIG. 1 in its unfolded position;

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating the unfolded napkin of FIG. 3 as mounted in operative position;

FIG. 5 is a top perspective view of one corner of a folded napkin of a second form of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a view of the napkin shown in FIG. 5 with the uppermost layer thereof bent upwardly;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view taken substantially along line **7—7** of FIG. 5 looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 8 is a top perspective view of a corner of a folded napkin according to a further modification of the invention;

FIG. 9 is a view similar to FIG. 8 illustrating the corner of the uppermost layer of the napkin bent in an upward direction;

FIG. 10 is a sectional view substantially along line **10—10** of FIG. 8 looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 11 is a top perspective view of the corner of a folded napkin according to a further modification of the invention;

FIG. 12 is a view of the napkin shown in FIG. 11 illustrating the top layer of the napkin moved upwardly and with the tab at the corner thereof folded outwardly substantially into the plane of the adjacent portion of the napkin; and

FIG. 13 is a sectional view taken substantially along line **13—13** of FIG. 11 looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, a first form of the invention is illustrated in FIGS. 1–3 inclusive. In FIG. 1, a stack of folded napkins is illustrated as conventionally packaged. This stack of folded napkins includes a plurality of individual napkins **22** of substantially identical construction, one of such napkins being shown in FIG. 3 in its unfolded condition. Each napkin includes four substantially square portions **24, 26, 28** and **30** which are defined by a first fold line **34** and second fold lines **36** and **38**. In folding the napkin shown in FIG. 3, the portions **26** and **28** are first folded along fold line **34** so as to be in overlying relationship to portions **24** and **30**, whereupon portions **28** and **30** are then folded along the fold lines **36** and **38** respectively so as to be in overlying relationship to the portions **24** and **26**.

Portion **24** of the napkin is provided with a hole **40**, this hole being shown square, but it being understood that it may be of any suitable configuration. This hole is preferably positioned adjacent the associated outer corner of portion **24** of the body means of the napkin.

A member **42** is provided, this member **42** having a

pressure-sensitive adhesive surface **44** on one side thereof, the opposite side of member **44** being of a non-adhesive nature. Member **42** may be of any suitable substance, and this member may be similar to well-known pressure-sensitive tapes now on the market which have an adhesive surface on one side thereof and a non-adhesive surface on the other side thereof.

Member **42** may also be of a generally square configuration and of a larger dimension than hole **40** so that it may be pressed into the operative position shown in FIG. 3 so that the marginal portions **46** of the member **42** will be adhesively secured to the underside of the napkin about the hole **40**. This marginal portion **46** may be seen most clearly in FIG. 2. It will be apparent that with this arrangement, the member **42** is supported in the operative position over the hole **40** and with the pressure-sensitive surface **44** thereof exposed at the opposite or upper side of the napkin as seen in FIG. 3.

As seen in FIG. 3, portion **26** of the napkin is provided with a hole **50** formed therethrough, this hole being of a dimension similar to hole **40**, and possibly slightly larger to ensure that there is clearance with the adhesive substance on the pressure-sensitive surface of member **42**.

The napkin **22** is illustrated in the folded position thereof in FIG. 2, and it will be noted as seen in this figure that the various portions **24**, **26**, **28** and **30** are all disposed in adjacent relationship, and the hole **50** formed in portion **26** is disposed in overlying aligned relationship with hole **40** provided in portion **24** of the napkin. It is apparent that with this arrangement, portion **26** of the napkin will be spaced from the adhesive surface of member **42** as will the adjacent portion **28** of the napkin, and obviously portion **30** of the napkin cannot engage the pressure-sensitive surface. Accordingly, each of the various portions **26**, **28** and **30** is prevented from engaging the pressure-sensitive surface of member **42** as exposed through hole **40**. On the other hand, the opposite side of member **42** is non-adhesive, and cannot adhere to the uppermost portion **30** of the underlying napkin.

It is accordingly clear as seen in FIG. 2 that with the arrangement shown, no portion of an individual napkin will adhere to the pressure-sensitive surface provided on the adhesive means thereof, nor will any adjacent napkin adhere to such surface. This permits the various napkins to be readily removed from the stack and then unfolded into the position shown in FIG. 3 whereupon the napkin can be placed in the operative position shown in FIG. 4 wherein it will be understood that the exposed pressure-sensitive surface of the adhesive means is pressed against a portion of the clothing of a user. As illustrated, the adhesive means is shown as being attached to the tie **54** of a user, although it is clear that it can as well be attached to any suitable portion of a person's clothing.

Referring now to FIGS. 5–7, a modified form of the invention is illustrated wherein one corner of a folded napkin is indicated generally by reference numeral **60**. This napkin includes four portions **64**, **66**, **68** and **70** which correspond respectively to the portions **24**, **26**, **28** and **30** of the previously described modification.

In this latter form of the invention, portion **70** is provided with an area on the surface of one side thereof of a pressure-sensitive adhesive substance, this area being indicated by reference numeral **72**. This adhesive substance may be applied to the surface of portion **70** in any suitable manner as by being sprayed on or daubed on with a suitable means or the like. It will be noted that this adhesive substance is applied to portion **70** adjacent the outer surface thereof.

The portion **68** is provided at area **74** with an anti-adhesive substance to which the pressure-sensitive adhesive surface is incapable of being adhered. Suitable substances may comprise soap, wax, silicone substances and the like. The area **74** as seen particularly in FIG. 7 may be slightly larger than the area **72** so as to ensure that the pressure-sensitive surface will not contact the material of portion **68** of the napkin.

It will be noted that in the folded relationship of the napkin, areas **72** and **74** are substantially aligned with one another as seen in FIG. 7, it being understood that these two areas are disposed on the same side of the napkin prior to folding thereof.

Referring now to FIGS. 8–10 inclusive, a further modified form of the invention is illustrated wherein the napkin is indicated generally by reference numeral **80**. This napkin similar to those previously described also includes four portions **84**, **86**, **88** and **90** which are folded to be in the overlying relationship to one another as illustrated, these portions corresponding to portions **24**, **26**, **28** and **30** of the napkin illustrated in FIG. 3.

Portion **90** has a member **92** secured to one side thereof adjacent the outer corner thereof. This member **92** may be of a commercially available type of pressure-sensitive tape having pressure-sensitive surfaces on opposite sides thereof. As illustrated, the member **92** is adhesively secured to portion **90** by the pressure-sensitive adhesive on one side thereof while the pressure-sensitive surface **94** at the opposite side of member **92** is exposed.

Portion **88** of the napkin includes an area **96** having an anti-adhesive substance similar to that previously described disposed thereon. This area **96** as seen particularly in FIG. 10 is substantially aligned with member **92** and may be of slightly larger area to ensure that the exposed pressure-sensitive surface of member **92** does not contact the adjacent portion **88** of the napkin.

It is apparent that in this modification as well as that shown in FIGS. 5–7, no portions of the napkin will accidentally adhere to the adhesive means, and that by unfolding the napkin, the pressure-sensitive surface of the adhesive means is exposed for attachment to a portion of a person's clothing.

Referring now to FIGS. 11–13 inclusive, a still further modified form of the invention is illustrated wherein the napkin is indicated generally by reference numeral **100** and includes portions **104**, **106**, **108** and **110** which correspond to the portions **24**, **26**, **28** and **30** respectively of the napkin illustrated in FIG. 3.

As seen most clearly in FIGS. 12 and 13, portion **110** is provided with a fold line **114** which defines a tab **116** which is folded back as illustrated in FIG. 13 so as to be normally in a generally parallel relationship with the adjacent part of portion **110**.

Tab **116** is provided on the undersurface thereof with an area **120** having a pressure-sensitive adhesive substance thereon, this substance being applied in any suitable manner.

An adjacent part of the portion **110** of the napkin is provided with an area **122** having an anti-adhesive substance thereon similar to that previously described, this area **122** being substantially aligned with area **120** and being preferably slightly larger than area **120** to ensure that the adhesive substance in area **120** does not come into contact with a part of portion **110** adjacent to the area **122**.

It should also be understood that the positions of areas **120** and **122** may be reversed or in other words, the area having a pressure-sensitive adhesive substance thereon may be provided on portion **110** of the napkin while the area having the anti-adhesive substance thereon may be provided on the undersurface of the tab, these areas being aligned with one another in either case.

The tab may be provided with a printed legend as shown in FIG. 11 stating "Lift Tab—Then Press Here." Accordingly when it is desired to utilize this form of the invention, tab **116** will be grasped at the corner thereof and then moved in the direction of the arrows shown in FIGS. 12 and 13 into the phantom line position shown in FIG. 13 so that it is disposed substantially in the same plane as the remainder of portion **110**. In this position, the napkin may then be readily unfolded and attached to an article of clothing or the like.

It is apparent that in this form of the invention, there is no chance that an undesired part of the napkin will accidentally engage and become adhered to the adhesive means, and further that a plurality of napkins may be stacked upon one another without causing any undesired interengagement of the adhesive means of the various napkins with an adjacent napkin.

A particular advantage of this form of the invention is that the tab provides a means for readily locating the corner of the napkin which is provided with the adhesive means, and it further has a commercial advantage in that the adhesive means as well as the adhering-preventing means are both applied in one corner of the napkin thereby simplifying the manufacture thereof.

It is apparent from the foregoing that there is provided according to the present invention a new and novel napkin including means for positively holding the napkin in place and preventing it from slipping out of the desired operative position. The napkin may be readily removed from its operative position without tearing, marring or otherwise damaging a person's clothing. The various forms of the napkin each include means for preventing portions of the napkin from adhering to the adhesive means thereof, and further provide an arrangement wherein the various napkins may be readily stacked upon one another and removed from such stack. The napkin according to the present invention is quite simple and inexpensive in construction, and yet at the same time is quite efficient and reliable in use.

As this invention may be embodied in several forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, the present embodiment is therefore illustrative and not restrictive, and since the scope of the invention is defined by the appended claims, all changes that fall within the metes and bounds of the claims or that form their functional as well as conjointly cooperative

equivalents are therefore intended to be embraced by those claims.

We claim:

1. A napkin comprising body means formed of flexible material, adhesive means supported by said body means and defining a pressure-sensitive surface for attachment to the clothing of a user, and adhering preventing means for preventing said adhesive means from adhering to another portion of the napkin when the napkin is in folded condition with said other portion disposed adjacent said adhesive means, said body means having a first hole formed therethrough, said adhesive means including a pressure-sensitive surface secured to one side of said napkin and disposed over said first hole and exposed at the opposite side of said napkin, said napkin also including a second hole formed therethrough, said second hole being substantially aligned with said first hole when the napkin is in its folded position so that the portion of the napkin immediately around said second hole will not be adhered to said adhesive means in the folded position of the napkin.

2. A napkin as defined in claim **1** wherein in the folded position of the napkin, the portion of the napkin having said second hole formed therethrough is disposed adjacent said opposite side of the napkin.

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