

(No Model.)

S. C. WILCOX.
BUTTON OR BADGE.

No. 409,132.

Patented Aug. 13, 1889.

Fig. 1.

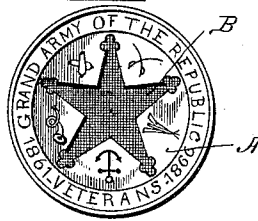


Fig. 2.

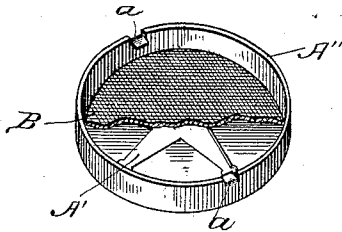
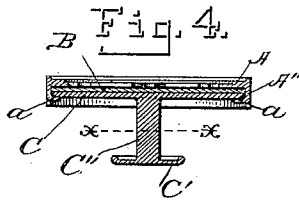
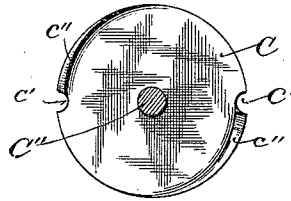


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

H. S. Bohner.
Clara Smith

Inventor

Stephen C. Wilcox
By his Attorneys
Niles & Greene

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STEPHEN C. WILCOX, OF DUBUQUE, IOWA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ALONZO V. RICHARDS.

BUTTON OR BADGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 409,132, dated August 13, 1889.

Application filed August 18, 1887. Renewed July 9, 1889. Serial No. 316,994. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STEPHEN C. WILCOX, a resident of Dubuque, in the county of Dubuque and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Badges; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in buttons or badges, such as are worn by members of various organizations—such, for instance, as the Grand Army of the Republic. The invention is fully described and explained in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of a completed badge having the improved construction described herein. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the inner or lower face of the cap forming part of the button, together with a part of the layer of colored material lying within the cap, this layer being partly removed in order to show the cap more clearly. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan of the base-plate of the button, the shank attached to the base-plate being cut by a transverse plane passing through the line xx , Fig. 4; and Fig. 4 is a central section of the completed button.

In the views, A is a plain or ornamented cap provided with a rim A^2 and formed with an opening A' , which may have any desired form, but is preferably of such shape as to distinguish the organization by whose members the badge is used. When the button is used as a Grand Army badge, I prefer that this opening in the cap shall have such shape as to represent the badge of any given army corps, and where the badge is used by the members of any other organization this opening may have such other form as to distinguish between various branches of the organization.

In the rim A^2 are formed two or more opposite lips a , which are bent downward and inward for the purpose of attaching a base-plate C, provided with a central shank C^2 , on which is formed a disk C' , by means of which the entire button may be attached to the clothing of the wearer. In the edge of the base-plate C are formed notches c' , corre-

sponding in number and position to the lips a , and the base-plate may evidently be connected with the cap A by dropping the base-plate into the cap in such a position that the notches c' pass over the lips a , and then rotating the base-plate until the notches no longer register with the lips, when the plate is held securely in position until by relative rotation the notches and lips again register; but the device is of little value unless means be provided for preventing accidental relative rotation. This is done without adding to the number of parts or materially to the expense of construction by forming on the margin of the base-plate the spiral surfaces c'' , extending in corresponding directions, respectively, from the notches c' , the margin being made thinnest next the notch and gradually increasing in thickness as the distance from the notch increases. Now if the parts be properly formed, evidently rotation of the base-plate with reference to the cap will cause it to be wedged with great force beneath the lips a , and accidental rotation will be prevented. At the same time the thinness of the margin near each notch greatly facilitates its passing beneath the lips. Between the base-plate and the inner surface of the cap is interposed a layer B of cloth, enameled metal, glass, or other suitable material having any desired color, but preferably such as will be distinctive of some branch or division of the organization to which the wearer of the badge belongs.

When the button is used by members of the Grand Army, the color of the layer B is preferably such as to indicate the arm of the service to which the wearer belonged when in the army, and it is evident that if the form of the opening A' and the color of the layer B are both made distinctive, in the manner hereinbefore set forth, the badge will indicate not only that its wearer is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, but will also show at a glance the army corps to which he belonged when in the service, and also the particular arm of the service in which he served.

I have shown in the drawings a button having its surface ornamented in a manner ap-

100

appropriate for its use as a Grand Army badge; but this ornamentation evidently forms no part of the invention.

5 It is evident that instead of interposing between the base-plate C and the inner surface of the cap A a separate layer of colored material the surface of the base-plate may itself be colored, and the effect produced will be the same as if the separate layer were used.
10 The only objection to this construction is that where various colors may be used by different members of the same organization it would be necessary to make the base-plates of various colors, which is perhaps somewhat more
15 expensive than to make the base-plates uniform and to provide separate layers of different-colored material, in the manner illustrated in the drawings.

I am aware that separable buttons have
20 heretofore been made in various forms more or less nearly resembling the construction

shown and described, and I therefore claim only such novelty as is set forth in the following claim:

The combination of the cap A, formed with 25 the opening A' and provided with the rim A'', having inwardly-bent lips a, the base-plate C, formed with notches adapted to pass over said lips and having its margin gradually increased in thickness from said notches in one 30 direction, and a layer of colored material B lying between the base-plate and the inner face of the cap, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this 35 specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

STEPHEN C. WILCOX.

Witnesses:

J. R. LINDSAY,
LOUIS G. HURD.