Jan. 5, 1932. E. W. WILSON 1,840,146

SHIRT ENVELOPE

Filed Feb. 13, 1931

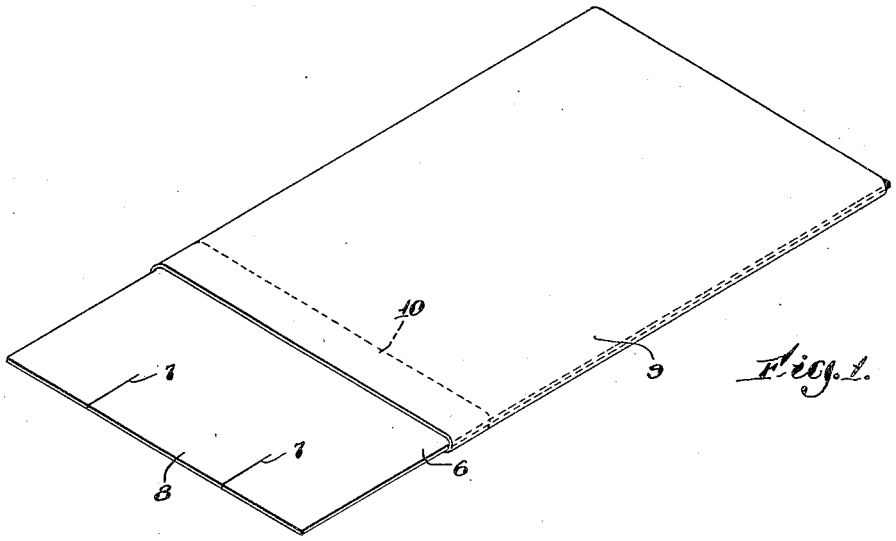



Fig. 1.

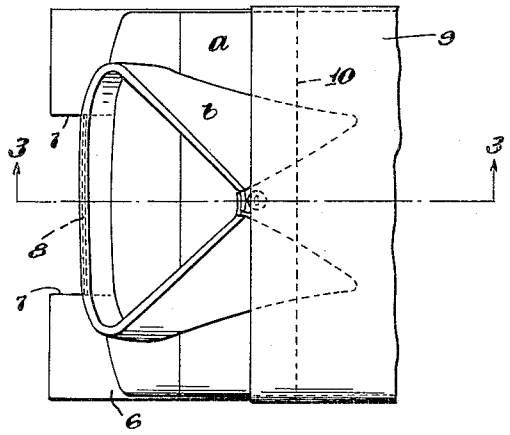
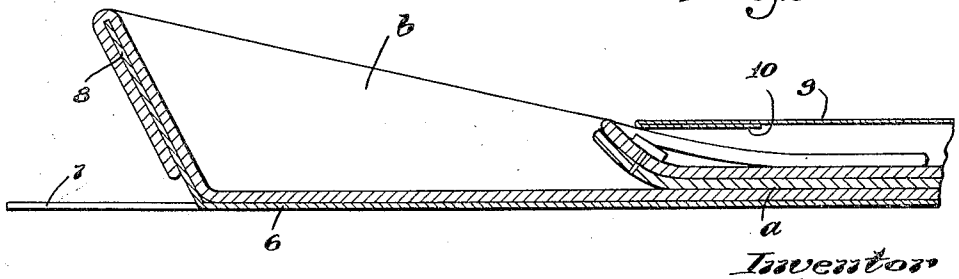



Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SHIRT ENVELOPE

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This invention relates to holders or envelopes for shirts or similar articles or goods that are left in stock or exposed for sale, or to contain such articles when returned to customers from laundries, especially the latter purpose.

A kind of envelope largely employed for holding shirts consists of a cardboard back member and a flexible front member of thin paper, the latter being of less length than the back member so that the collar portion and some of the folded shoulder portions of a shirt that is enclosed in the envelope will be supported by an end area of the back member and also exposed to view beyond what may be referred to as the upper edge of the thin front member. This type of envelope is especially useful for containing shirts having attached collars because, so long as such shirts do not slip too far into the envelopes, the attached collars are exposed to view and are not pressed down by the tension of the front members so as to become mis-shapen. But when such a package is assembled, unless it is very carefully handled the shirt is apt to slip so far into the envelope that its collar reaches a position under the upper edge portion of the front member and becomes somewhat crushed down from the somewhat upright condition that it should possess in order to have a proper appearance.

The object of my invention is to provide envelopes or containers of the type referred to, and which are so constructed that slipping of shirts contained therein will be so prevented that the shirt collars will not be concealed or become pressed out of shape.

With said object in view, the invention consists in the structure of the envelopes substantially as hereinafter described and claimed.

Of the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of my improved envelopes or holders.

Figure 2 is a plan view of that portion of a holder which includes my invention, and illustrating a portion of a shirt enclosed in the holder.

Figure 3 represents a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2, on a larger scale.

Similar reference characters indicate similar parts or features in all of the views.

The holder or envelope comprises a cardboard back member 6 having slits 7 in one end, which slits may be of greater or lesser length inwardly than illustrated, and may be farther apart or closer together. The purpose of said slits is to provide a tongue 8 which is pliable in the sense that it can be turned or bent out of the plane of the rest of the back member.

The front member 9 of the envelope, preferably having a reinforced edge portion 10, has its side edges connected with the margins of the back member in any suitable or preferred manner. Usually such connection is effected by folding the side margins of the thin front member 9 over the side edges of the back member and adhesively securing said portions together at the back, but with sufficient looseness of connection to permit a garment such as a shirt to be inserted between the front and back members without unduly straining the thin front member.

Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings illustrate the members 6 and 9 as being thicker than actually employed, this being done in the interest of clearness of illustration.

When a shirt having an attached collar, such as illustrated at *a* and *b* respectively, is slipped into the holder, the pliable tongue 8 is turned up so that it will enter between the outer and inner folds of the rear portion of the collar *b* of the shirt, as illustrated by Figures 2 and 3. This effects such interlocking or interengagement of the holder and its enclosed shirt, that the shirt can not slip too far into the holder, but will be retained where its collar, or most of the collar, is exposed above the upper edge of the front member 9. It also prevents the shirt from shifting laterally to any material degree. And a very important function also, of the pliable tongue, is that said tongue, due to the shape of the attached collar itself, is automatically caused to be flexed upwardly as indicated by comparing Figures 2 and 3, so as to support the rear portion of the collar in presentable shape or condition, tending to maintain it against being crushed or unduly

compressed. The result with a laundered shirt is to cause it to have the appearance of a new shirt.

This effect is due to the fact that the length of the tongue, between the slits 7, is such as to support the major rear portion of the collar member of the shirt.

The corner portions of the back member 6, at opposite sides of the tongue 8, need not extend as far as illustrated; but the form shown is preferred in order to provide ample backing for the usual shoulder portions of a folded shirt.

The said corner portions having flat extensions not only provide ample backing for the shoulder portions of a folded shirt, as just described, but also, when a shirt and the holder are assembled as illustrated in Figure 2 and placed in a box, said corner extensions project far enough to act as stops contacting with an end wall of the box to prevent the collar of the shirt from contacting with such end wall.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A garment holder comprising a thin front member and a relatively stiff back member, an end portion of the back member having slits extending inwardly from its free edge to provide a pliable tongue between them to support the rear portion of the collar member of a garment in the holder and leaving flat corner extensions, the legth of said tongue between the slits being such as to support the major rear portion of said collar member.

2. The combination with a folded shirt having a collar member, of a holder therefor, said holder comprising a thin front member and a relatively stiff back member, an end portion of said back member having slits extending inwardly from its free edge and providing a pliable tongue between them, said tongue being interengaged with the rear portion of the collar member of the shirt and having a length to support the major portion of said rear collar portion, the said back member of the holder having flat corner portions extending beyond the collar member of the shirt.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

EDWARD W. WILSON.