Aug. 9, 1932. M. N. KOHLER 1,870,737

LAPEL PROTECTOR

Filed Feb. 15, 1932

Fig. 1.

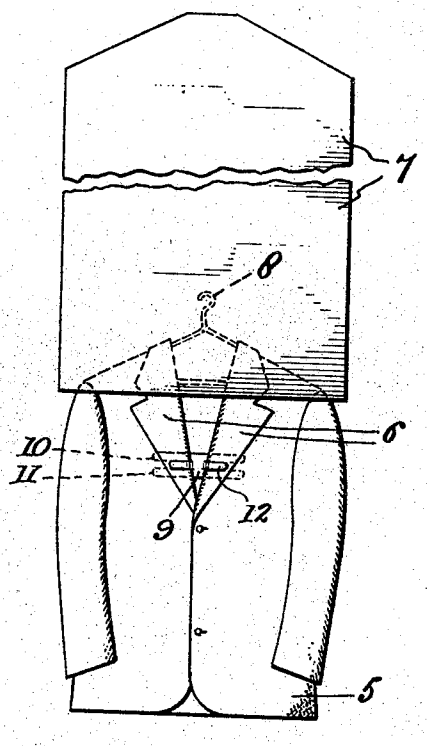


Fig. 2.

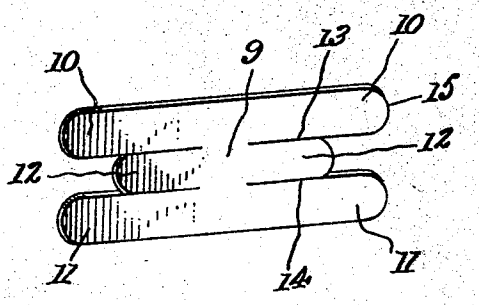


Fig. 3.

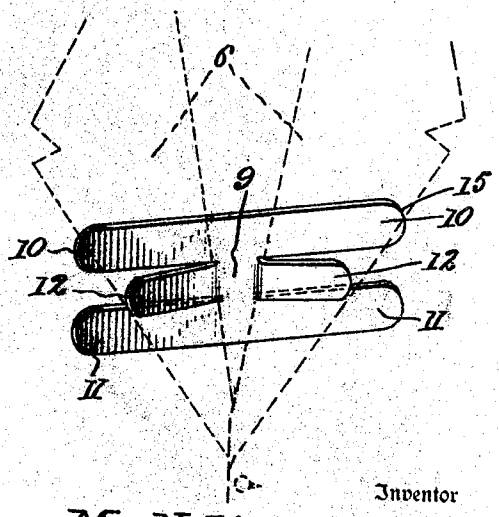
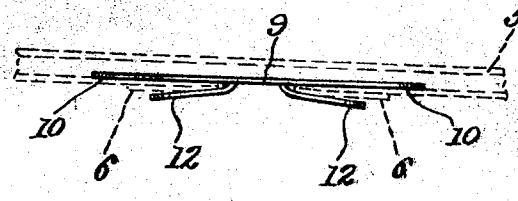


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LAPEL PROTECTOR

Application filed February 15, 1932. Serial No. 593,158.

The present invention relates to improvements in lapel protectors and more particularly relates to a device which pressing and cleaning establishments may apply to the lapels of a coat after the same has been pressed for the purpose of retaining the neat and pressed appearance of the lapels during the period of transit to the customer's home.

In order to deliver a spotlessly clean and pressed suit, particularly the coat of the suit after it is ironed or pressed by the maintenance plant, it is necessary to slip the customary suit bag over the coat and/or suit. In placing this bag over the garment the left and right lapels of the coat (usually ironed perfectly) are crushed by the use of the bag from the time it is applied over the garment at the laundry or cleaning establishment; and invariably these lapels are forced out of line by the pressure of the bag. This causes dissatisfaction to the patron because of the apparent uneven appearance of the right and left lapels.

It is therefore an important object of the invention to provide an improved lapel protector which will maintain and preserve the lapels not only in correct position but in the same smooth and neat appearance as they have when received directly from the ironer and to avoid any disheveled or mussed condition or appearance in the lapels of the garment.

It is a further object of the invention to secure the above advantages in an extremely simple and economical device, which could afford under present economical conditions to be used by laundries and cleaning establishments without increasing the cost of garment pressing and cleaning.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention will be more fully described hereinafter, and will be more particularly pointed out in the claim appended hereto.

In the drawing, wherein like symbols refer to like or corresponding parts throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a front elevation showing a bag and a garment with the improved device in place upon the lapels of the latter.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the improved lapel protector taken on an enlarged scale.

Figure 3 shows the same in its condition of use as applied to the lapels indicated in outlines, and

Figure 4 is a top edge view of the improved protector with the coat indicated in dotted lines.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 5 represents a man's coat or similar garment having the lapels 6; and 7 represents a bag which is at the present time customarily employed by laundries to slip downwardly over the garment after the same has been pressed and cleaned and which protects the garment from dust and from becoming soiled and mussed during the time of its delivery to the customer's house. The hanger 8 which supports the suit or coat extends up through an opening in the top of the bag 7 so that the entire unit may be supported by the hanger 8.

In accordance with the present invention, I provide a protector for holding the lapels 6 in a flat condition against mussing or collapse. This device is preferably made from a body 9 of a material such as cardboard, sheet metal or the like possessing certain inherent resiliency whereby the tongues which are fashioned from the sheet body will be enabled to grip the lapels, hold the device in position and hold the lapels in proper relation.

The body 9 has extending therefrom in laterally opposite directions three or more tongues. The end tongues 10 and 11 are preferably longer than the intermediate tongue 12 and the tongues, while being joined with the body 9, and some or all of them having hinging movement with respect to the body 9, are separated by incisions 13 and 14 from one another along longitudinal lines. This is for the purpose of permitting alternate tongues to be bent in one or the other direction out of the plane of the sheet body member 9 or out of the plane which adjacent tongues occupy. For instance, as indicated in Figure 3, the intermediate tongues 12 only are bent forwardly out of the plane

of the sheet body member 9; the longer end tongues 10 and 11 being left in the plane of said sheet body member 9. The alternate tongues are ordinarily bent in opposite directions in order that they may engage the lapels upon relatively opposite sides. For instance, as shown the two longer tongues 10 and 11 at each side of the device underlie the lapels 6, while the intermediate shorter tongues 12 are engaged with the outer faces of the lapels. The ends of the lapels are rounded as indicated at 15 in order to facilitate the engagement of the tongues with the lapels and to avoid the catching of the fabric of the garment in any corner or sharp portions.

When the device is applied as indicated in Figures 1 and 3 promptly after the pressing of the garment, the lapels will be maintained apart and against collapsing and they will be kept in a flat condition and generally will resist any forces, such as the bag or other pressure which tend to dishevel and muss that portion of the garment. The device has a tendency to cause the lapels and the rest of the garment to maintain a correctly shaped condition as received from the presser to the end that, when delivered to the customer, the garment may be more attractive and will tend to hold its press longer.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and design of the above specifically described embodiment of this invention without departing from the spirit thereof, such changes and modifications being restricted only by the scope of the following claim.

What is claimed is:

A lapel protector, comprising a body member formed of sheet cardboard material possessing a certain inherent resiliency, three or more tongues projecting in opposite horizontal directions from the body member and being connected to the body member at the inner ends thereof but separated from one another along their adjacent longitudinal edges, the two end tongues at each side being longer and separated by an intermediate shorter tongue, said tongues having outer rounded edges, the intermediate tongues adapted to be bent forwardly out of the plane of the longer end tongues to enable the end tongues at each side to underlie the lapels of a coat while the intermediate shorter tongues engage upon the outer faces of the lapels.

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