Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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This invention relates to a template for use in placing military ribbons upon a uniform.

Regulations of the armed services recite precisely how ribbons of military decorations, honors, and service are to be placed on the uniforms of members of the services, and it is a matter of pride to the holders of such decorations that where the exact spacing of one bar of ribbons relative to the next bar, or of a bar of ribbons relative to some defined seam of the uniform, is exactly defined, they should wear their ribbons as prescribed. A number of templates have been developed for placing the ribbons on uniforms but hitherto such templates have usually been placed inside the uniform while the pins of the ribbons or ribbon bars have been thrust through the uniform cloth from the outside, necessitating much fumbling to secure even approximate placement of the ribbons and often resulting in placement not according to the regulations. A template formed with completely enclosed guides for the pins could not be used on the outside of the uniform, as it would be pinned in place and could not be removed.

It is an object of my invention to provide a template which may be placed on the outside of the uniform and which may be removed when the ribbons have been pinned to the uniform.

A further object of my invention is to provide a template which will place bars of ribbons not only with respect to each other but with respect to points on the uniform itself.

Another object of my invention is to provide a template which is adjustable to accommodate ribbon bars of various lengths and which will place bars of one, two, or three or more ribbons with precision.

Still another object of my invention is to provide a template which is simple in construction and easy and quick in use.

In the accompanying drawing, illustrative of a presently preferred embodiment of my invention, Fig. 1 is an elevational view of my improved template, with ribbon bars imposed thereon and shown broken away, the device being illustrated in connection with a uniform breast-pocket shown in broken lines;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view, slightly enlarged, on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal cross-sectional view, also enlarged on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary enlarged perspective view showing means for varying the horizontal spread of the template, for the accommodation of ribbon bars of different sizes.

Having reference now to the details of the drawing, my improved template 5 comprises two members 6 and 7 which are provided with interlocking upper arms 8 and 8a and lower arms 9 and 9a by which the members are slidably connected so that the members may selectively be moved toward and away from each other to receive ribbon bars of lesser or greater length. The upper arms 8 and 8a are each provided with clinch tabs 10 and 10a which are clinched around the other of the arms, thus providing two spaced bearing points to maintain the relative parallelism of the members 6 and 7 when they are moved relatively, and the lower arms may similarly be provided with clinch tabs 11 and 11a, each set of tabs being clinched around the other of the arms, to give greater rigidity to the parallel and aligned structure.

The members 6 and 7 may be made of any suitable stiff sheet material, such as metal, plastic, or even cardboard, and are alike in shape. Their likeness permits them to be stamped economically from sheet material, one member being then turned over or with reference to the other member when they are joined together. The members lie virtually in the same plane, except for the overlapping of their interlocked arms 8, 8a, 9, and 9a, and the template may be used with either flat side next to the uniform, and with either the upper arms 8 and 8a (so called because so illustrated) uppermost or the lower arms 9 and 9a uppermost, according to the type of ribbon bar which it is desired to install.

The interior margins 12 and 12a of the members 6 and 7, which are held in spaced opposition when the members are joined together, are indented to receive between them ribbon-bars of various lengths. One indentation, shown at the top of Fig. 1, may for instance be slightly less than the length of an standard ribbon, as shown at 13; the opposite indentation 13a is of the same length, and the two indentations in opposition permit a ribbon bar 14 of two ribbons to just overlap them. Slots 15 and 15a are provided in the overlapped portions communicating with the margins of the indentations 13 and 13a respectively to receive the pins 16 and to hold the fastening screw-buttons 17 of the ribbon bar 14. The spacing between the pins 16, which is a predetermined distance, determines the spacing of the closed ends of the slots 15 and 15a. Similarly the next indentations 18 and 18a may be slightly less in depth than the length of one and one-half ribbons; such opposed indentations will permit a ribbon bar of three ribbons to just overlap them, and in their overlapped portions they are provided with slots 19 and 19a, for the same purposes as slots 15 and 15a. Several of such opposed indentations 18 and 18a are shown in Fig. 1, to allow for the installation of several rows of ribbons. At the bottom of Fig. 1 are shown portions of the margins 12 and 12a in the nature of projections 20 and 20a, rather than indentations, as they project beyond the slot 21 which permits sliding movement of the clinch tabs 11 and 11a. The projections 20 and 20a are provided with pin-receiving slots 22 and 22a and, as shown are spaced to receive a single ribbon.

The setting of the members 6 and 7 above described allows for several rows of three ribbons, topped by either one or two ribbons. If the person wearing the ribbons has sufficient decorations, they may be worn in rows of four ribbons. In the setting for a maximum of a bar 24 of three ribbons, the interlocked arms 8, 8a, 9, and 9a overlap so as to place the clinch tabs 10 and 10a, 11 and 11a, slightly more than the length of one ribbon apart. When the members 6 and 7 are drawn apart to permit installation of four-ribbon bars, the clinch tabs on the interlocking arms approach each other, but do not meet, allowing for further spreading of the members to disengage the template from under the ribbons. It is only necessary to spread the members 6 and 7 a very short distance so that the margins of the various indentations and projections clear the edge margins of the ribbon bars and the slots 15, 19, 22 disengage the bar pins 16, to remove the template.

Regulations prescribe that the lower row of ribbons shall be a precise distance above the seam marking the
top of the left breast pocket of the uniform, and the rows of ribbons shall be a precise distance apart. Accordingly
the members 6 and 7 are marked with markings 25 and 26 aligned respectively with the lower edge of the slot 21 and the upper edge of the slot 27 in which the
clinch tabs 11 and 10 travel. These markings may be
aligned with the seam line 28 of a pocket 29 shown
in broken line in Fig. 1. If for example, the marking 25
is aligned with the seam line, a ribbon bar held in the
slots 22 and 22a will be exactly placed. Similarly, be-
tween each of the intervening indentations, there are two
markings 30 and 31. One or the other of these mark-
ings will be the lower one, according to which end of
the template is uppermost in use at the moment. When
a ribbon bar of three or four ribbons is to be placed
just above the pocket seam, the lower of the appropriate
markings is aligned with the pocket seam. In Fig. 1,
a lower marking 30 is shown aligned with the seam 28,
placing the ribbon bar 24 at the regulation spacing from
the pocket.

It will be seen that my improved template in every
respect for the proper placement of military ribbons upon
a uniform, allow for a selection of the number of ribbons
to be placed in any bar, and is very easily removed when
the ribbons are in place. Modifications in details of ar-
range ment of the template will occur to those skilled in
the art, and I do not wish my invention to be limited
to the exact showing herein describe and illustrated,
but rather to be held commensurate to the scope and spirit
of the appended claims.

I claim.

1. A template for placing military ribbons on uniforms
comprising two members of sheet material having each
an upper arm and a lower arm and adapted to lie sub-
stantially in one plane when joined by said arms, means
for slidably interlocking like arms of said members to
permit said members to be moved toward and away from
each other while otherwise retaining their relative posi-
tions, said members having opposed interior margins said
merging of one member being spaced from said margins
of the other of said members, said margins having slots
communicating with said margins at their one ends and
closed at their other ends and arranged in opposed pairs
adapted to receive fastening means of ribbon bars, said
closed ends of said pairs of slots being spaced apart at
selected relative distances, said distances being variable
with the spacing of said members, to permit the recep-
tion in said slots of fastening means of ribbon bars of
various lengths.

2. A template according to claim 1, in which said op-
posed interior margins are variously indented so as to
underlie only the end portions of the ribbon bars of vari-
ous lengths which they receive, whereby movement apart
of said members releases said template from the ribbon
bars.

3. A template according to claim 1, in which said mem-
bers have markings normal to said margins and adapted
to be aligned with other markings on a uniform, for place-
ment of said template in selective predetermined relation-
ship to said other markings.

4. A template according to claim 1, in which respective
pairs of said slots are spaced to receive ribbon bars of
one, two, and three standard lengths of individual ribbons
when said members are closely spaced, and said members
are movable to increased spacing in which respective pairs
of said slots receive ribbon bars of two, three, and four
ribbon lengths.

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