June 19, 1956 J. R. LEWIS 2,750,857

SALES TAG MARKING MEANS

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Fig. 1.

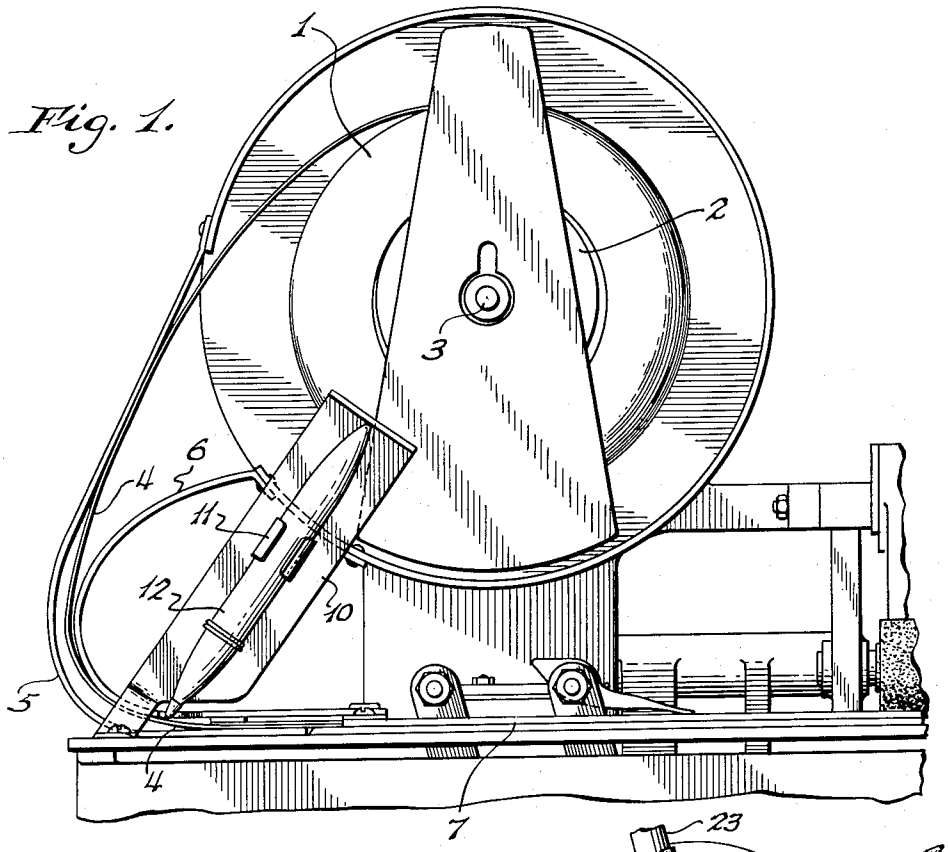
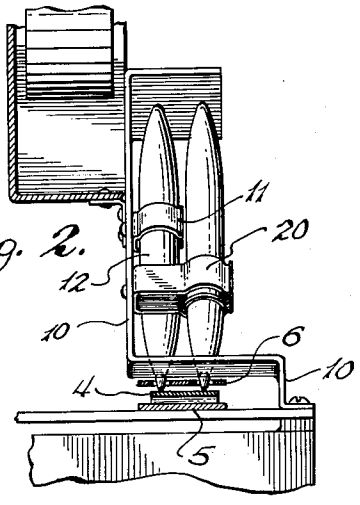


Fig. 2.



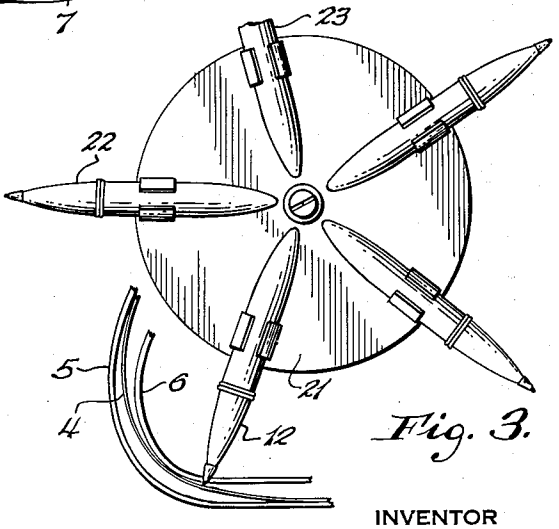


Fig. 3.

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SALES TAG MARKING MEANS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 93—88)

This invention relates to means for marking and coding sales tags such as used in the retail sale of garments and wearing apparel.

In the retail garment sales field, all garments are tagged with small tickets containing various information. The most important information is the size of the garment and the price. Other information, such as stock numbers, style numbers, inventory control account numbers and the like, are also printed on the tags.

At the present time, these tags are printed and attached to the garments with straight pins by machines such as shown in Patent Numbers 2,023,045, 2,083,150 and 2,042,888. The tickets or tags are inserted in the machine in the form of large rolls and are printed and attached by the machine in a garment held by the operator.

One of the disadvantages of the printed tags is that the most important information both to buyer and seller, namely, the size information is not properly emphasized. It is just a small printed number on a ticket that may contain twenty or more other numbers. Consequently, it is difficult for both the buyer and salesman to locate the proper size and many a sale was lost forever either because the proper size cannot be located or because the stock of a certain size has run out before the salesman can notice and replace it. During a special sale event, this frequently happens and it is standard practice in the stores for the sales manager or section head to make a quick inventory periodically during the day when a sale event is in progress. In order to facilitate finding the correct size for the purposes of spot checking the sizes on hand, it is important that the tickets be distinctively marked as to size.

One way to solve this problem is to use tickets or tags of different colors for the different sizes but this is impractical, since the rolls on the ticketing machine would have to be replaced too often, which slows down the ticketing operation. Also, the number of rolls and tags required to be kept on hand would be prohibitive if ten or more different colors of tags were required. This will be better appreciated when it is realized that a large retail establishment which may have many departments or different stores may now keep several million tickets on hand. If eight or ten different colors of tags were required, it would require eight or ten times the number of rolls of tickets to be kept on hand.

The present invention provides means for achieving the desired results without the necessity of maintaining any large inventory of tickets. In the present invention, easily replaceable means are provided and connected to the tag printing and fastening machines for placing a color coating strip along the tags of a certain size. More specifically, the present invention involves an improvement to conventional tagging machines comprising a mounting means for one or more lettering pens of different colors. The pen or pens are mounted so that they bear against the strip of tickets and mark the tickets with a continuous strip of a single color or one or more combination of colors just before the tickets are printed.

The mounting means are adjustable and provide easy replacement of the pens when a different color is required.

In a typical operation ten or twelve sizes may be marked including a dozen garments of each size. The proper color pen is inserted for the first size and when the first dozen garments have been tagged, another pen of a different color for the next size is inserted. Alternatively, lettering pencils of the type having a multiplicity of colored leads may be used. If the number of sizes is large, two or more pens may be mounted side by side to provide a dual color coating which will greatly extend the number of sizes for a given number of colors.

Accordingly, a principal object of the invention is to provide means for distinctively coding the size on retail sales tags.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for color coding size information on sales tickets.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for distinctively color coding tickets of the type which are fed to a ticket fastening machine in the form of a strip of tickets.

These and other objects of the invention will be apparent from the following specification and drawings which show a view of an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1 shows an embodiment of the invention,

Figures 2 and 3 show modifications of the embodiment of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawing Figure 1, a roll **1** of tickets is mounted on a spool **2** which is rotatably mounted on a shaft **3**. The strip of tickets **4** is fed through a pair of guide rails **5** and **6** and fed down to the horizontal surface **7** upon which they are normally printed and fastened to the garments as shown in the aforementioned Patents 2,023,045, 2,083,150 and 2,042,888.

The present invention provides means for color coding the tickets before they are printed. More specifically, the color coding means comprises a bracket **10** to which is attached a clip **11** which is adapted to hold a color marking pen **12**. The inner guide rail **6** may be slotted or partially cut away to permit the point of the pen **12** to bear on the strip of tickets. Only one pen is shown in the embodiment. However, additional clips may be provided so that two or more pens may provide parallel lines on the strip of different color as shown in Figure 2. Of course, the second clip **20** would have to be displaced across the strip a certain distance so that the second pen would draw a line displaced from the first line.

Alternatively as in Figure 3, a pen mounting means could be in the form of a turret **21** with several different color pens **22**, **23**, etc. mounted therein at different positions so that the color could be changed by merely rotating the turret without actually moving the pens. Various other alternative means of mounting the pen or marking device may be envisioned without departing from the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. An adapter for tagging machines of the type having a roll of tags, means for printing said tags and means for fastening said tags; comprising means for distinctively marking said tags comprising color coding means connected to said machine adapted to mark said tags with a distinctive color, said color coding means comprising a lettering pen adjustably and detachably connected to said machine adjacent a strip of tags from said roll whereby the color may be quickly and easily changed by changing the pen without the necessity of changing the roll of tags.

2. Means for color coding tags comprising a roll of tags in ribbon form, means for rotatably mounting said roll, a pair of guide members connected and adapted to guide said ribbon of tags, a lettering pen adapted to

extend through a cutout portion of said upper guide, said pen being adjustably and detachably mounted whereby the color may be easily changed.

3. Apparatus as in claim 2 having a pair of color coding pens.

4. Apparatus as in claim 2 having a turret with a plurality of color coding pens.

5. An adapter for tagging machines of the type having a roll of tags, means for printing said tags and means for fastening said tags; comprising means for distinctively marking said tags comprising color coding means connected to said machine adapted to mark said tags with a distinctive color, said color coding means comprising a turret having lettering pens mounted thereon, said turret being adjustably and detachably connected to said machine adjacent a strip of tags from said roll whereby the color may be quickly and easily changed by changing said pens without the necessity of changing the roll of tags.

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