

Feb. 12, 1952

J. V. SCHAFER

2,585,690

ADJUSTABLE ATTACHMENT FOR SHIRT COLLARS

Filed April 29, 1950

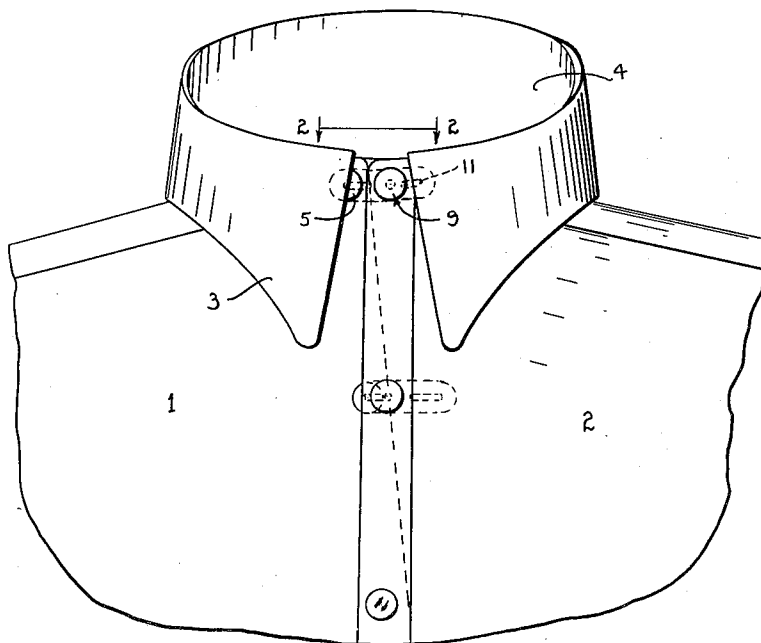


Fig.-1

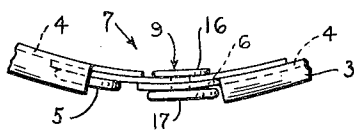


Fig.-2

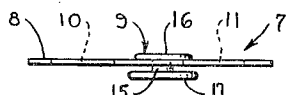


Fig.-3

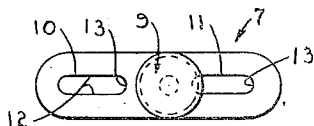


Fig.-4

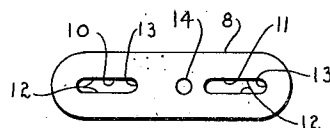


Fig.-5

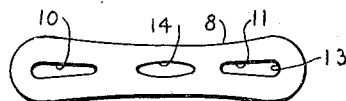


Fig.-6

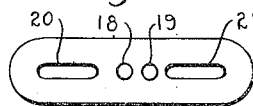


Fig.-7

INVENTOR.
JOHN V. SCHAFER

BY

Charles S. Penfold
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,585,690

ADJUSTABLE ATTACHMENT FOR SHIRT COLLARS

John V. Schafer, Bronson, Mich.

Application April 29, 1950, Serial No. 159,086

8 Claims. (Cl. 2-141)

1

2

This invention relates generally to an attachment for wearing apparel and more particularly is directed to an attachment adapted for use with the collar of a shirt.

Practically every person has experienced the uncomfortable feeling and uneasiness that results from wearing a shirt of which the collar is relatively tight on the neck. Ofttimes the choking effect produced by a tight collar on a dress shirt is such that the shirt can no longer be used with satisfaction. It is, of course, recognized that a tight collar is ordinarily due to shrinkage and/or growth of an individual.

One of the principal objects of the subject invention is to provide an attachment or expander that can be readily applied to a tight collar to expand or increase its size and thereby prolong the useful life of the shirt.

More specifically, the invention contemplates the utilization of an attachment constructed of resilient material and which is so designed and constructed that it offers just sufficient resilience to automatically compensate for variable dimensions in the neck bands of collars and shirts and maintain all portions thereof in proper conforming relationship with the neck of a wearer without imparting a binding effect.

Another object of the invention is to provide an attachment which is light in weight, economical to manufacture and when properly applied to a collar will be substantially concealed from view.

A significant object of the invention is to provide an attachment comprised of a flat elongated resilient body and a fastener such as a button detachably connected to the body.

An additional object of the invention is to provide an attachment in which the extremities of the elongated resilient body are provided with corresponding slots, either of which may be used to receive a button integral with the collar and wherein an intermediate portion of the body is provided with a hole or aperture for receiving the stem of a detachable collar button.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a novel detachable collar button constructed of plastic or the equivalent and having substantially corresponding enlarged round ends secured in parallel relation by a cylindrical stem. More particularly in this respect, the detachable collar button is preferably of such character that it may be reversibly connected to the resilient body of the attachment and thereby promote the range of adaptability of the attachment to a shirt collar. Moreover, the ends of the detachable button are preferably relatively thin and of such a size that

they serve to stabilize the body of the attachment as well as those portions of the collar which carry the attachment.

Another object of the invention is to provide a unique method of assembling a button of the character just referred to with the body of the attachment, which method consists in stretching the body to enlarge the hole, inserting either end of the button through the hole, and then allowing the body to return to its normal shape so that the stem of the button will be received in the hole and the enlarged ends of the button will be arranged on opposite sides of the body.

A further object of the invention is to provide an attachment of the character above referred to in which the hole or aperture in the intermediate portion of the body is located at one side of the center of its length and the inner end of one slot is located closer to the hole than the inner end of the other slot. When a detachable collar button is received in the aperture in the body of an attachment of this description, the attachment can be applied to a tight shirt collar in any one of a number of positions and thereby promote its range of adaptability of use with collars of various sizes. The arrangement is preferably such that when the attachment is in use, one extremity of its body will overlie the inner surface of a portion of the neck band and engage the neck of the wearer to assist in imparting stability to the collar in general at its front. The attachment automatically compensates for variable dimensional factors in collar construction.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a modified attachment in which the body is provided with a plurality of holes or apertures between slots for the purpose of providing greater adaptability of application of the attachment.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become evident after the description herein after set forth is considered in conjunction with the drawing annexed hereto.

In the drawing, wherein like parts or elements are identified by the same numerals:

Figure 1 is a front view of a dress shirt showing one type of an attachment embodying the invention applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a top view of the assembly illustrated in Figure 1 looking in the direction of the arrows 2-2;

Figure 3 is an edge view of the attachment; Figure 4 is a side elevational view of the attachment illustrated in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a side elevational view showing the

3

body of the attachment, the detachable button being omitted;

Figure 6 is a view showing the body of the attachment stretched to a position whereby to permit entry of either end of the detachable button through the hole or aperture located between the slots provided in said body; and

Figure 7 is a side elevational view similar to Figure 5 showing a modified body of an attachment provided with a plurality of holes intermediate a pair of slots.

Referring first to Figures 1 through 6 of the drawing, numerals 1 and 2 represent the front panel portions or sections of a conventional dress shirt and 3 is a collar having a neck band 4. The neck band 4 is provided with a conventional button 5 permanently secured at one end thereof and a button hole 6 at its other end.

The attachment generally designated 7 is constructed of a desirable stretchable or resilient material such as rubber, and includes, among other things, an elongated flat relatively thin body 8 and a detachable collar button 9. More specifically, the body is preferably of a uniform thickness and width with its extremities rounded as illustrated. The body is provided with a pair of corresponding slots 10 and 11, either of which will receive the button 5 permanently secured to the shirt. These slots are aligned and located on the longitudinal medial line of the body with the outer ends of the slots disposed equal distances from the ends of the body. Each slot is generally rectangular in shape and is defined by a pair of longitudinal marginal edges 12 and arcuate end edges 13.

The body 8 is also provided with a round hole or aperture 14 of a relatively small diameter for receiving the cylindrical stem 15 of the detachable collar button 9. This hole is located in the body between and in alignment with the slots 10 and 11. More specifically, it is disposed at one side of the midpoint of the body closer to the inner end of one slot than the inner end of the other slot, as clearly exemplified in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawing, the purpose of which will be explained more in detail subsequently.

The detachable collar button is of a one-piece construction and made of a suitable plastic material. This button includes a pair of enlarged round ends 16 and 17 which are secured in relatively close parallel relationship by the cylindrical stem 15. The ends 16 and 17 may be of the same diameter and thickness but for convenience in securing the button to the body and in applying the attachment the diameter of the end 16 is preferably made slightly smaller. The space between the ends 16 and 17 is substantially equal to or slightly greater than the combined thicknesses of the body 8 and the extremity 6 of the neck band.

The unique method of assembling the button 9 with the body 8 consists in manually grasping the extremities of the body of resilient material and stretching it more or less as exemplified in Figure 6 to elongate the hole 14, forcibly inserting the end 16 of the button through the hole and then allowing the body to return to its original shape so that the stem will be received in the hole and the ends of the button will be arranged on opposite sides of the body as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The arrangement is such that either end of the button may be inserted into the hole from either side of the body. This

4

setup facilitates rapid assembly of the components comprising the attachment.

The procedure in applying the attachment to the neck band of a collar or a shirt is comparatively simple. It is preferably accomplished by merely inserting the button 5 on the band into the slot 10 in the body of the attachment and then inserting the end 17 of the detachable button 9 on the body forwardly through the button hole or slot 6 in the neck band so that the various components will assume the overlapping relationship as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawing.

When applied in this manner the body 8 of the attachment will automatically conform to the neck of the wearer. Attention is directed to the fact that one extremity of the body 8, or more specifically, that portion to the right of the button 9 as viewed in Figure 1, is adapted to engage the neck of the wearer and thereby assist in frictionally holding the attachment in place. It will also be noted that the thickness of the end 16 of the button 9 substantially corresponds to the thickness of the neck band. Moreover, that the diameter of the stem 15 and the diameters of the ends 16 and 17 of the button 9 are such that when the attachment is secured in place as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the attachment and portions of the neck band will be held or maintained in proper relative relationship to prevent binding, pinching or buckling. The attachment may stretch to some extent in use but any force created by stretching does not produce any material effect on the neck of the wearer.

Although the attachment is preferably applied as described above, it is, of course, recognized that it may be applied to a neck band in a different way. For example, the enlarged end 17 of the detachable button 9 may be projected outwardly through the button hole slot 6 in the neck band and the button 5 on the neck band may then be inserted through the slot 10 of the body 8 of the attachment.

As pointed out above, the attachment may be applied to a shirt in more than one operative position. As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, the attachment is shown in a position to obtain the maximum benefit of the distance between the slot 10 and the hole 14 in the body 8. If the collar is inclined to be too loose when the attachment is in this position, it may be turned and applied so that the detachable button 9 is received in the button hole 6 of the neck band and the button 5 is received in the slot 11. This reversal will reduce in some measure the size of the collar or neck band because the longitudinal distance between the aperture 14 and the button hole or slot 11 is slightly less than the distance between the aperture 14 and the button hole or slot 10.

In practically all cases the use of one attachment will be sufficient but if necessary, a second attachment may be readily applied to the shirt as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 7 of the drawing exemplifies a modified attachment in which a pair of apertures 18 and 19 are arranged between a pair of button holes or slots 20 and 21. It will be noted that the apertures 18 and 19 are located on opposite sides of the mid-point of the body with the hole 18 disposed a greater distance from the slot 20 than hole 19 is with respect to slot 21. With this unique arrangement it will be evident that the attachment can be applied to a collar in four different ways to increase and vary its size. This feature and the fact that the body may stretch provides an

attachment that has an exceedingly wide range of adaptability.

Having thus described my invention, it is obvious that various modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of the invention, and, therefore, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact forms, constructions, arrangements, and combinations of the parts herein shown and described.

I claim:

1. An attachment for the neck band of a shirt comprising an elongated body having a button hole at each end thereof for selectively receiving a button on the neck band, and a button secured to the body between the holes and adapted to be received in a button hole in the neck band.

2. An attachment for the neck band of a shirt comprising an elongated body having a slot adjacent each end thereof for selectively receiving a button on the neck band, an opening in said body arranged between and unequally spaced from said slots, and a button detachably secured in said opening.

3. An attachment for expanding a shirt collar consisting of a resilient body having a pair of apertures therein and a pair of separate button holes provided in the body between the apertures, said apertures being arranged so that one is closer to one hole than the other is to the other hole, and a button having a projection secured in one hole and capable of being removed and then received in the other hole.

4. An attachment for a shirt collar consisting of a flat elongated resilient rubber body having a button hole and a pair of apertures therein with one of the apertures located closer to the hole than the other, and a button having a projection removably received in one aperture and capable of being removably received in the other aperture.

5. An attachment for a shirt collar consisting of a flat elongated resilient rubber body having a pair of separate button holes and a pair of separate apertures located between the holes, and a button having a projection removably received in one of the apertures and capable of being removably received in the other aperture.

6. An expander for a shirt collar consisting of an elongated flat resilient body having an aperture therein intermediate its extremities, a button

received in the aperture, and a button hole provided in each extremity of the body.

7. A shirt having a collar, a button hole at one end of the collar and a button at its other end spaced from the hole, an elongated member, a button carried by an intermediate portion of the member and received in the button hole of the collar, a first slot provided in one extremity of the member establishing connection with the button on the collar, and a second slot provided in the other extremity of the member, the arrangement being such that the member can be turned so that the button on the collar can be received in either slot.

8. A conventional shirt collar having an inner portion provided with a button at its outer side and an outer portion provided with a hole for normally receiving said button, a detachable connector comprising an elongated body interposed between and in conforming relationship with the inner and outer portions of the collar, and fastening means secured to the body substantially midway its length and received in the hole of the outer portion of the collar, said body also being provided with a hole adjacent one extremity receiving the button on the inner portion of the collar for connecting the said portions together with the other extremity of the body extending inwardly for an appreciable distance in overlapping engagement with the inner surface of the outer portion of the collar.

JOHN V. SCHAFER.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
288,293	Allen	Nov. 13, 1883
290,953	West	Dec. 25, 1883
702,925	Coon	June 24, 1902
744,594	Muth	Nov. 17, 1903
1,421,690	Howard	July 4, 1922
1,741,027	King	Dec. 24, 1929
1,982,527	Manckin	Nov. 27, 1934

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
25,661	Great Britain	Feb. 15, 1906