United States Patent

[11] 3,633,294

[72] Inventor **Warren L. Burmeister**
922 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, Ill. 60091

[21] Appl. No. **696,333**
[22] Filed **Jan. 8, 1968**
[45] Patented **Jan. 11, 1972**

[54] **CLEANING REMINDER**
4 Claims, 2 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **40/2 R, 35/49**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A44c 3/00**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 40/2, 125 F, 135; 35/49

[56] **References Cited**
UNITED STATES PATENTS

586,386	7/1897	Little	35/49
735,749	8/1903	Glidden	35/49
1,059,860	4/1913	Geer	40/125 F
1,523,064	1/1925	Gans	35/50
2,495,200	1/1950	Sands	35/50
3,395,470	8/1968	Voice	40/2

Primary Examiner—Robert W. Michell
Assistant Examiner—Wenceslao J. Contreras
Attorney—Gradolph, Love, Rogers & Van Sciver

ABSTRACT: A patch of paper or cloth adapted to be attached to a fabric material, one portion of the face thereof having a soil receptive surface and another portion of the face thereof having a soil resistant surface.

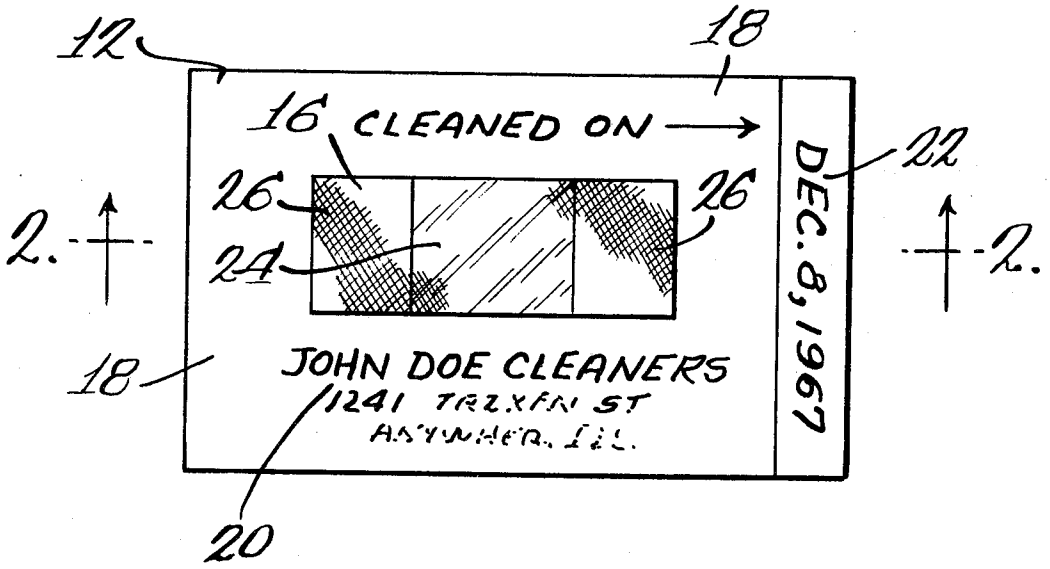


Fig. 1.

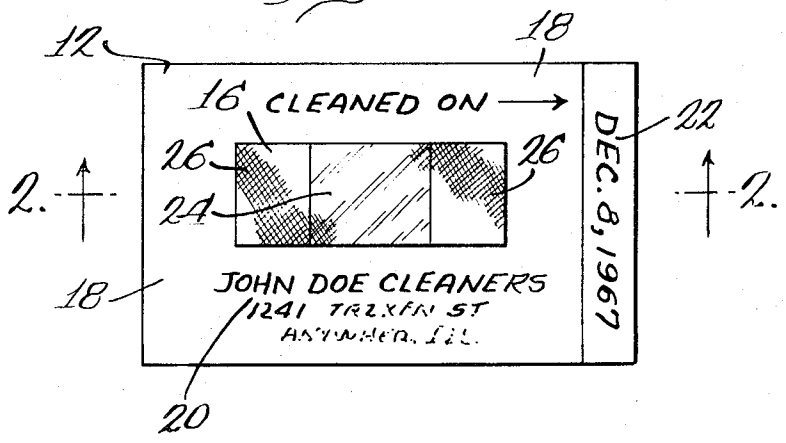
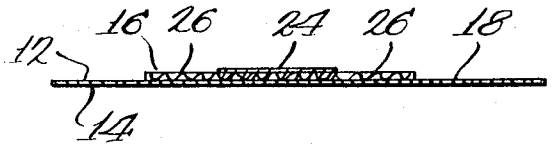


Fig. 2.



Inventor:
Warren L. Burmeister
By
Gradolph, Love, Rogers & VanSciver
Attys

CLEANING REMINDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With the advent of the new fabrics which hold a press permanently or semipermanently, men's dark suits can often become quite dirty before there is any noticeable need for dry cleaning. In earlier days, of course, suits and trousers lost their press sufficiently quickly so that a trip to the cleaners every four or five wearings was more or less routine. Dirty suits, even through not visibly so, can soil upholstered furniture and other articles of apparel such as shirts and the like. Accordingly, there would be value to a device which could be affixed to a dark suit and would give an indication as to the amount of actual soil in the suit, and thus notify the owner as to when the suit is due for a cleaning. Incidental but substantial benefits, of course, would be felt by the cleaners who might expect a greatly augmented volume of business from the use of this invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention, as started, is directed to an indicator for the amount of soil which may be present in the fabric. To this end, a backing material which may be of cloth or paper is equipped with means such as adhesive, pins, clips, etc., for securing the backing to the fabric under surveillance. The face of the backing will have a soil-receptive area desirably in immediate juxtaposition with a soil-repellent or resistant area. The soil-receptive area may be natural cloth, unsized rough paper, flocking, tacky coatings, etc. The soil-repellent or resistant area may be a coating on the paper or cloth of sizing, lacquer, a plastic impregnant, or a sheet of smooth plastic overlying the backing. In any case, it should have a smooth surface. Both of these surfaces will have the same color and that color should be desirably white or, certainly, light. As soil accumulates on the soil-receptive area, the line of distinction or the contrast between the areas will become more and more distinct and thus provide a visual indication as to the amount of soil present in the fabric. Although this invention was discussed above in terms of men'dark suits, it will be appreciated that it is applicable to any fabric including all clothing, draperies, upholstery materials, bedspreads, etc. Likewise the device may be adapted for permanent or temporary attachment to the fabric.

In an indicator to be permanently attached, the soil-receptive surface should be cleanable along with the fabric so as to restore the indicator to its clean condition. Generally, however, it is preferred that the indicator be replaced by the laundry or dry cleaner upon each cleaning.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a cleaning tag incorporating the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a section taken along the line 2—2 of FIg. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The illustrated embodiment of this invention consists of a rectangle of light cloth **12** having a heat or pressure sensitive adhesive **14** on the backside thereof by which the rectangle is secured to a garment. The indicator strip **16** is desirably considerably smaller than the rectangle so as to leave margins **18** thereabout on which the name of the cleaner may be placed as at **20** and, desirably, the date of last cleaning as at **22**.

The indicator strip **16** is a white sheet of fabric adhesively secured to the base rectangle **12** and incorporates a heavily sized central portion **24** which is smooth and glossy and essentially soil resistant and unsized end portions **26** which are soil receptive.

The cleaner's tag may be applied to men's trousers, for instance, by securing it to the inside of the waistband as by ironing or pressure. The tag may be secured to a man's jacket by attaching it to the lining in the vicinity of the inside breast pocket. It may be secured to such fabrics as draperies by placing it on the back side of the draperies adjacent an inconspicuous corner. It may be secured to upholstered furniture by attaching it to the underside of the article. In any of such positions it will obtain an exposure to soiling which is proportional, at least, to the exposure of the more visible area of the fabric. At any rate, even if the patch soils considerably more slowly than the fabric, it at least will show that the fabric is positively soiled when it might not otherwise be apparent from the appearance of the fabric itself.

It will be understood that the essential elements of this invention lie in an inexpensive patch of a white or a light color, a portion of the surface of which is soil resistant and the other portion the surface of which is soil receptive, and within this general concept many variations of practice are feasible. As indicated generally above, the device may be suited for permanent or temporary attachment to clothing. If it is to be permanent, the preferred structure would consist of a cloth backing with heat-sensitive adhesive for attachment to the fabric to be protected. The adhesive should, of course, be resistant to cleaning fluid. The glossy soil resistant area should have a durable surface not likely to be damaged by cleaning fluid or by pressing. The soil receptive area should be one which is capable of being cleaned to restore it to its initial white or light condition when the garment or fabric itself is cleaned.

On the other hand, where it is intended that the indicator be replaced upon each successive cleaning, the adhesive attachment should be somewhat less durable and may be pressure sensitive. A synthetic latex adhesive suggests itself in such applications in that the adhesive will be soluble in cleaning fluid and thus the tag will be lost in the cleaning process if it is not manually removed beforehand. A replaceable indicator of this character offers certain advantages in that the dating of the last cleaning can be carried by the garment, and the soil-receptive and resistant areas need not meet the requirements of reusability. Thus, a paper backing may be employed, and there need not be a separate strip for the indicator. If a backing of unsized cloth or white paper of rough and absorbent texture is employed, a spot of sizing can be printed on that same sheet so that the size area constitutes the soil-resistant patch and the remainder of the sheet constitutes the soil-receptive patch.

It is evident that although dry-cleaning establishments greatly prefer indicators providing sufficient room on the face thereof to record their identity, this consideration is not essential to the practice of the invention, and the patch or strip **16** along, as illustrated in the figures, could be applied to the fabric in any of the fashions indicated.

It will thus be appreciated that the structural variations possible in the practice of this invention are extensive. The tag can be applied to the fabric by heat- or pressure-sensitive adhesives or by staples or pins. The tag may be separate from the indicating patch or may in itself constitute the indicating patch. The tag may consist of paper, cloth, or indeed any inexpensive flexible material. The indicator patch may consist of any of these materials or a separate plastic tab. The smooth, soil-resistant portion of the indicator may consist of a filled or coated porous material but should have a smooth slick surface. The soil-receptive area may consist of an unfilled or uncoated portion of the same surface, but should be relatively rough. The two surfaces might also be provided from a plastic sheet one portion of which is smooth and the other of which is rough. A flocked coating for the rough portion suggests itself. In view of these extensive variations, it is therefore desired that this invention be regarded as being limited only as set forth in the following claims.

I claim:

1. A soil indicating patch of a pliant material in the nature of paper and cloth adapted to be attached to the surface of a fabric to indicate the soiling thereof having a rough soil-receptive area and a smooth soil-resistant area on that side thereof other than the side of attachment of substantially the same light color when clean, said areas being sufficiently near each

other to permit ready visual comparison, and means for securing said side of attachment to a fabric.

2. The combination as set forth in claim 1 wherein said securing means comprises an adhesive on the back of said patch.

3. A method for determining the soiling of a fabric which comprises attaching to said fabric a sheet of material having a soil-collecting area and a soil-resistant area on the outside surface thereof, and areas having substantially the same light color, and comparing said areas for contrast periodically.

4. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein said soil-collecting area is smooth and said soil-resistant area is rough.

* * * * *