The present invention relates to buttons and the like which have a design, character or other ornamentation on their top, and aims to provide certain improvements therein.

Heretofore it has been impossible to feed buttons having a design or ornamentation on their top, in automatic button feed mechanisms so as to definitely locate or position the design at the button-attaching station whereby to insure attaching the button to a garment or other article with the design in desired position. To do this, of course, is highly desirable, since it will thereby be possible for the design on the buttons, which may be the manufacturer's trade mark, to be shown in correct position on the garments. Such proper positioning will not only enhance the appearance of the garments, but will also enable others, in viewing the garment, to read the trade mark on the buttons at a glance, thereby adding advertising value of benefit to the manufacturer.

In a co-pending application of Edmund D. Janes, Serial No. 58,950 filed December 12, 1935, there is disclosed a tack button having a design, ornamentation or trade mark on its top adapted for use in button-feeding and attaching machines, said button having means thereon which bears a definite relation to the design and adapted for cooperative action with means on the button-feeding mechanism for orienting the design so that it will always have a definite position when it reaches the button-attaching station. The particular form of the invention disclosed in said Janes application shows a tack button or the like of the top shell type, the top shell having an integral tab or lip which bears a definite relation to the design thereon extending over the back of the button for registering the design with a button-attaching means. The tab or lip which is formed of the metal of the shell is relatively thin, and upon being bent down over the back of the button provides but a limited thickness of metal for cooperative engagement with the means on the button-feeding mechanism for registering the design.

The present invention constitutes an improvement on the integral tab type of the shell button disclosed in the Janes application and has for its primary object the provision of means for increasing the effectiveness of the tab in establishing registry of the design in a button-feeding mechanism. This object I accomplish by forming in the back of the button an arcuate track or groove over which the tab engages and in which track or groove a pointer or other means on a button-registering mechanism will ride until it encounters the tab bridging the track, thus making the action of the mechanism more positive. The invention will be better understood from the detailed description which follows, when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a tack button embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the button shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a section taken substantially along the plane of the line 2—2 of Fig. 2.

The drawing shows my invention as applied to a conventional form of tack button, which comprises a cap or shell 10 of generally circular configuration having an inturned marginal lip 11 engaging over a complemenal upturned marginal lip 12 on a flange 13 extending outwardly from a cylindrical hub 14, the bottom of which has an inturned flange 15 defining an axial opening. The parts 12 to 15 may be said to constitute the body portion of the button. Mounted within the button between the cap 10 and the flange 13 is an anvil plate 16, and disposed between said anvil plate and the inturned flange 15 is a filler element 17 having an axial opening therethrough in alignment with the opening through the flange 15 for receiving the pin of a tack or staple in the course of attaching the button to a garment or other article. The cap or shell 10 on its top is provided with an ornamental design 18, herein shown as consisting of the word or trade mark "Scovill", the name of the assignee of this invention, disposed across the button in a straight line. Obviously the design may consist of any word, character, emblem or ornamentation, as desired. The tack button thus far described is merely by way of illustration and the invention is not limited thereto but has general application to any type of tack button, top shell button or other analogous device, as will presently appear.

According to my invention the cap or shell 10 is formed with an integral lip or tab 19 which bears a definite relation to the design 18 on the top of the shell, and as herein shown said tab extends along the horizontal diameter of the cap or shell in alignment with the design 18 and has lateral edges 20 extending parallel to said diameter. The tab 19 maintains its definite relation to the design on the top after the assembly of the cap upon the body, as shown in Fig. 2, in the course of which assembly the tab 19 is bent back over the flange 18 of the body portion.
The tab \( \text{i} \) being integral with the top shell \( \text{g} \) which is formed of relatively thin sheet metal, provides a protrusion at the back of the flange \( \text{f} \) which is intended, when the button is fed down

5 the usual track or slideway of a button-feeding mechanism for cooperative engagement with a pointer or other means, to definitely orient the design for presentation to the button-attaching or setting station. In view of the relative thin-

10 ness of the tab, the engagement thereof with the pointer or other means of the button-feeding machines is not as positive as it should be for efficient operation. To promote such efficiency and

15 insure a more positive registry for the design I

form in the flange \( \text{f} \) an annular groove or track \( \text{z} \) which is bridged by the tab \( \text{i} \) when it is bent back over the flange \( \text{f} \), as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. It will thus be appreciated that a pointer or

20 other means on the button-registering mechanism engaging in the groove or track \( \text{z} \) of the button will encounter a definite stop upon reaching the tab \( \text{i} \) and thereby operate to definitely orient the button for registry at the button-at-

25 taching station. The button provided with a track such as \( \text{z} \) makes it possible to flatten down the tab so that it hugs very closely to the back of the button whereas it will not interfere with the use of the button after it has been attached

30 to a garment or other article.

Although I have shown and described my invention as applied to a tack button of the top shell type, it is to be understood that the concept embodied therein is also applicable to snap fastener elements and other devices which are subject to analogous problems in assembling, hence I do not wish to be limited to the present disclosure except in so far as the same falls within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A button or the like, comprising a top and a body having a flange underlying the top, said top having a design thereon, said flange having an arcuate track thereon and means overlying said track and bearing a definite relation to the design for registering the design with a button-

11 attaching mechanism.

2. A button or the like, comprising a top and a body having a flange underlying the top, said top having a design thereon, said flange having an arcuate groove thereon and means bridging said groove and bearing a definite relation to the design for registering the design with a button-

21 attaching mechanism.

3. A button or the like, comprising a top and a body having a flange underlying the top, said top having a design thereon, said flange having an annular groove therein and an element integral with the top bearing a definite relation to the design overlying said groove for registering the design with a button-attaching mechanism.

4. A button or the like, comprising a top shell and a body over which the shell is mounted, said top shell having a design thereon, said body hav-

25 ing an annular groove therein underlying the top, and a tab integral with the top shell bearing a definite relation to the design thereon overlying the groove in the body for registering the de-

30 sign with a button-attaching mechanism.

5. A button or the like, comprising a top shell, a body over which the shell is mounted, said top having a design thereon, and an integral tab bearing a definite relation to the design, said tab overlying the body for registering the design with a button-attaching mechanism and means on said body for increasing the effectiveness of the tab in establishing registry of the design.

ROYAL HUCKINS.