Feb. 23, 1926. 1,574,312

L. S. SMITH

METHOD OF FINISHING SHIRTS

Filed March 13, 1922

Fig. 1.

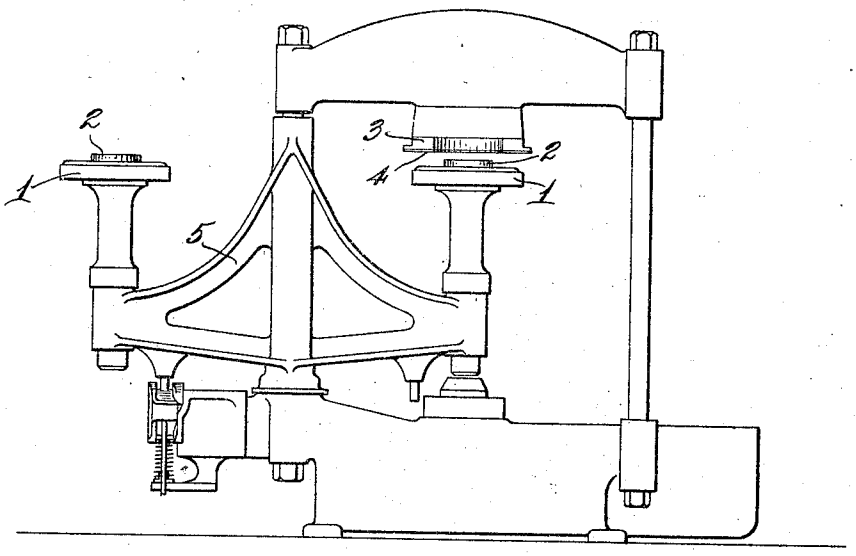


Fig. 2.

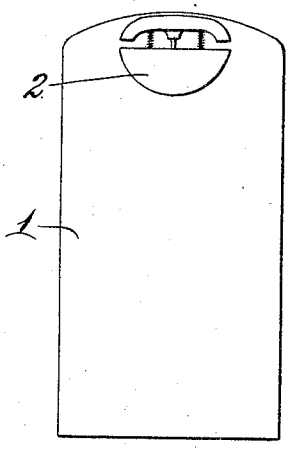
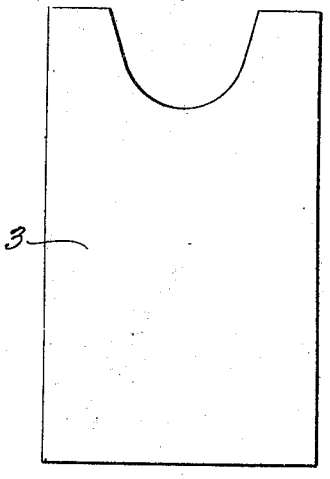


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONARD S. SMITH, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE AMERICAN LAUNDRY MACHINERY COMPANY, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, A CORPORATION OF OHIO.

METHOD OF FINISHING SHIRTS.

Application filed March 13, 1922. Serial No. 543,360.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONARD S. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at 933 Avondale Ave., Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Finishing Shirts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a method of finishing shirts.

The object of the invention is to provide an improved method of finishing or ironing stiff bosom shirts in such a manner as to impart a high polish, glaze or finish thereto, without any liability of distortion of the material, and which method is of such character that it may be performed with the use of pressing machines ordinarily not adapted for the production of a finish of this character.

Further objects of the invention are in part obvious and in part will appear more in detail hereinafter.

The invention comprises the several method steps hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, which represent apparatus suitable for use in the practice of the method, Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a bosom pressing machine; Fig. 2 is a plan view of the ironing board; and Fig. 3 is an inverted plan view of the pressing head.

The present method relates to the finishing or ironing of stiff bosom shirts in a manner to impart a high gloss or finished surface thereto, a type of finish which has not heretofore been satisfactorily obtained upon ordinary shirt pressing machines in which the shirt, dressed upon an ironing board with its neckband surrounding a neckband former, is subjected over practically its entire area to the pressing action of a heated polished metal head, which is merely brought into pressing contact with the shirt bosom, is allowed to remain in contact to cook and harden the starch granules and is then withdrawn from contact. A polished or highly glossed finish has always heretofore required either the use of a hand finishing iron which is used to perform the entire ironing operation by traversing it back and forth across the shirt bosom, or, the shirt has been subjected to the ironing effect of a heated polished ironing head which has been moved laterally relatively to the shirt bosom and while in contact therewith, to produce a polished finish. Prior shirt pressing machines have been unsatisfactory for the purpose because they produce a dull finish and are ineffective where a high polish or gloss is required.

According to the present method a high polish or gloss is secured upon a bosom by dressing a shirt upon a padded board with its neckband surrounding a neckband former and with its bosom smoothed and straightened and its tails stretched, as is usual, and subjecting the bosom to the pressing effects of a heated smooth surfaced metal head, the area of which is sufficient to practically cover the entire bosom. Contact is maintained for only a limited period and the head is withdrawn from pressing contact before sufficient time has elapsed to fully and thoroughly cook or expand and set the starch granules. In other words, the bosom is under-pressed rather than over-pressed. However, this pressing effect is produced with the bosom properly starched and arranged in smooth, flat unwrinkled form and is carried to a point sufficient to set and slightly stiffen the bosom, yet leaving it in a mellow or relatively soft condition so that further treatment of the starch granules is necessary to complete the ironing effect.

Next, while the shirt is still in stretched and properly ironed condition upon the same ironing board and before it has an opportunity to thoroughly dry, the bosom is slightly moistened in any suitable manner, such as by rapidly passing over its surface a suitable moistening device, such as a damp cloth or sponge, or by bringing a damp sheet or cloth into contact with the entire bosom area. Such a sheet or cloth may be moistened with a water spray or by steam or any other agent. The bosom may be moistened by direct application thereto of a spray of either steam or moisture. A high polish or gloss is then produced upon the shirt by rapidly passing over its mellow and partially set but moist bosom a heated hand finishing iron.

The result of the method is to enable shirts to be rapidly ironed with a high polish in ordinary bosom pressing machines which have heretofore been ineffective for producing a polish or finish. The bosom ironing machine has always been more effective in setting an established or prearranged form for the bosom, an effect which is also secured by the present method,

and a high polish is imparted to the bosom by hand finishing. The method is also a departure from complete hand ironing of stiff bosom shirts, in which the iron is applied to and traversed over the moist shirt bosom and progressively sets the form and then irons first one part of the bosom and then another, so that by such method distortion or stretching of an untouched portion of the shirt bosom may occur and indeed is likely to occur by applying the finishing iron thereto after some other portion of the bosom has been subjected to the effect of the finishing iron.

Any suitable apparatus may be employed for carrying out the invention, the drawings showing for this purpose a conventional form of shirt press including a padded ironing board 1 on which the shirt is dressed with its neckband surrounding the expansible neckband former 2. With said board cooperates an upper heated ironing member or head 3 having a smooth lower-ironing surface 4 which is applied to the shirt bosom by relative vertical motion between the head and board. Usually the board rises into contact with the head, as shown, although downward motion of the head may be used if desired. Also, in the present machine the board is mounted upon a swinging turret or frame 5 carrying two duplicate boards, one of which is in registering relation with the head, while the other is at one side of the machine in position where it is exposed for removing and applying shirts. In this machine the shirt is pressed by contact with the head and the turret is rotated to bring the board to exposed position where the bosom is finished by application thereto of a suitable heated hand finishing iron, as will be readily understood. This finishing process is performed while another shirt on the second board is being pressed. The operator then removes the finished shirt, dresses a new one upon the board, swings the turret to register the board with the press head and proceeds with hand finishing of the second shirt and so on.

What I claim is:

The method of finishing stiff bosom shirts, consisting in dressing the shirt upon a padded ironing board, subjecting the shirt bosom simultaneously over its entire area to the pressing effect of a heated smooth surfaced head, maintaining pressing contact for a period sufficient to set the form of the bosom but without complete expansion of the starch granules, and then while the shirt is still in position on said board and without changing its established set moistening the bosom and subjecting it to the effect of a hand finishing iron for producing a high polish or gloss thereon.

In testimony whereof I hereby affix my signature.

LEONARD S. SMITH.