April 1, 1952 H. NIERHAUS 2,590,883

METAL TAG

Filed Feb. 23, 1949

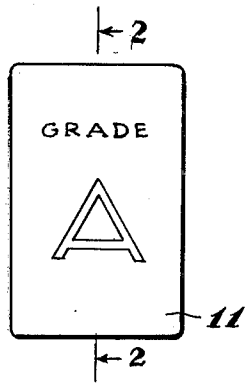


Fig. 1

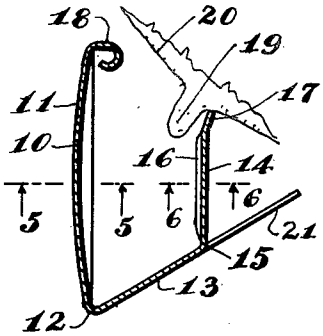


Fig. 2

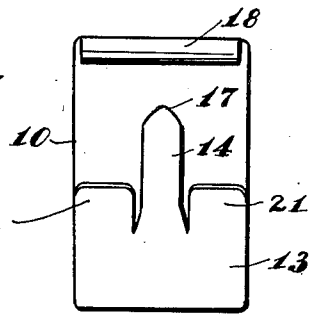


Fig. 3

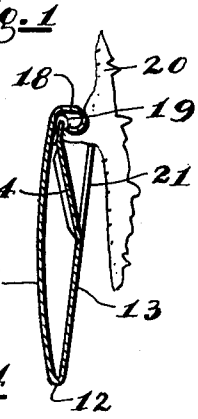


Fig. 4

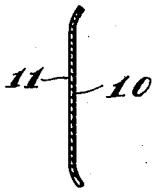


Fig. 5

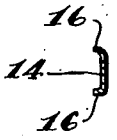


Fig. 6

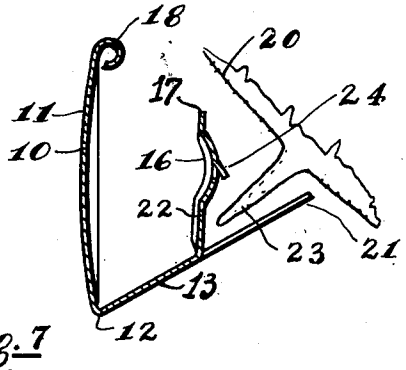


Fig. 7

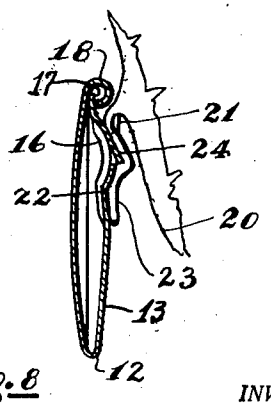


Fig. 8

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Patented Apr. 1, 1952

2,590,883

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,590,883

METAL TAG

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Application February 23, 1949, Serial No. 77,969

9 Claims. (Cl. 40—3)

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The invention relates to tags and more particularly to tags for attachment to skin-like or soft foldable material, to be used as breast tags for chickens or the like or as price tickets for sheer fabrics or other materials that should not be pierced by staples or pins.

The object of the invention is to provide a tag that can be attached with a minimum of effort, and without damaging the merchandise or article to which the tag is secured.

Another object of the invention is to provide novel means of attachment where the skin or other material of the article to be tagged is pinched between foldable surfaces which interlock in the closed position.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel tag which may be attached in different manners so that its field of application and utility are increased.

The invention also aims at an improved article of manufacture that is easy to handle and has a neat appearance, as well as being economical to manufacture.

While the novel tag is not intended to be tamperproof, it is nevertheless the aim that the tag when attached is secure so that it does not fall off in handling of the article, and that it can only be removed in the manner intended.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawing submitted for the purpose of illustration and not to define the scope of the invention, reference being had for that purpose to the subjoined claims. In the drawing, where similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the improved tag;

Fig. 2, a sectional elevation taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3, a back elevation of the tag;

Fig. 4, a sectional elevation of the tag shown attached to the breast of a chicken;

Fig. 5, a section taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6, a section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 7, a sectional elevation similar to Fig. 2 but showing a slight modification; and

Fig. 8, a sectional elevation of the closed and attached tag of the modified construction.

Before explaining the present invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practised or carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not limitation.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1–6 the tag has a slightly curved body portion 10 on

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the face 11 of which may be printed the quality, price, or identification of the article or merchandise to which the tag is to be attached. The entire tag is stamped from a single piece of sheet metal partly folded at 12 and comprising the above-mentioned body portion 10 and a flap 13, the central portion of which is bent out of the plane of said flap to form a tongue 14 foldable at 15 and being reinforced by suitable rib 16 to prevent bending of the tongue at any point except where it joins flap 13. This tongue forms an obtuse angle with the lower portion of flap 13 to act in the manner of a toggle when the tag is folded together, whereby tip 17 of the tongue is interlocked with a curved lip 18 at the upper end of body portion 10. The sides of body portion 10 are bent slightly back as illustrated in Fig. 5 to present a smooth, slightly curved face free from sharp corners or edges. Closing of the tag is performed by folding flap 13 upon body portion 10, the material being ductile enough to retain its bent shape after closing. For use as a breast tag for chickens or the like, tip 17 of tongue 14 must be sufficiently sharp or pointed so that when pushed against the skin of a chicken it digs in to produce a welt or fold 19, which numeral 20 indicates the breast of a chicken or other similar article. For this purpose, the tag is held between forefinger and thumb and squeezed together to bend at point 12. After the tip of the tongue and welt 19 contact the inside surface of the body portion 10, the toggle action starts where upon further closing of the tag the distance between point 12 and tip 17 becomes lengthened so that the latter becomes locked under lip 18 with the skin of the chicken pinched between, as illustrated in Fig. 4. Thus the closed position of flap 13 is secured not only through the newly bent section at 12, but also through tongue 16 retaining its new shape at 15 and being interlocked with lip 18. The extremities 21 of flap 13 may be considered as finger rests and as separately extending levers to provide a better leverage when moving the flap to closed condition of the tag and thus to reduce the force required for this manual operation.

In the modification illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8 the construction is substantially the same as described except that the tongue 22 has a bend or central curved portion adapted to fit through the space between the two flap extensions 21. The object of this construction is to adapt the tag to be used in the manner illustrated where a fold of skin 23 is placed or held between tongue 22 and tabs 21 so that when the tag is closed the skin is pinched between tongue 22 and tabs 21. In order to make the fastening more secure, a barb 24 is provided which prevents extraction of the skin when the tag is closed. As illustrated in Fig. 8, in the folded or attached position, the tip of tongue 22 interlocks with lip 18 in the

same manner as explained in the description of Fig. 4, the only difference being that in this variation the skin is not wrapped around tip 17 but is held between tongue 22 and tabs 21. Ribs 16 cause the tongue to be narrower so that in the closed position there is sufficient clearance between the inner edge of each tab and the adjacent rib 16 to accommodate the skin or fabric wedged between.

The removal of the tag by the consumer is effected by inserting a convenient instrument (per example a kitchen knife) between the body portion or face wall and flap 13 to pry the two surfaces apart, it being undesirable to tear or otherwise injure the skin.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A metal tag adapted to be attached to a thin foldable material, comprising a body portion having a face for carrying print or markings, a flap foldable upon the back surface of said body portion, a tongue extending from said flap to form an obtuse angle therewith so that the distance between the tip of said tongue and the base of said flap is shortened, interlocking means on said body portion located to engage with the tip of said tongue upon folding of said flap against said body portion to pinch part of said thin foldable material between said tongue and said locking means, and an extension on said flap to decrease the force required to fold said tag.

2. A tag manufactured of a single piece of sheet metal strap bent to form a body portion and a flap portion in opposed relation with each other, a curled lip on said body portion and facing said flap portion to serve as locking means therefor, a tongue struck out of the plane of said flap portion in a direction to be nearer said body portion and to form an obtuse angle with the base plane of said flap portion so that the tip of said tongue is in interlocking relationship with said lip in the closed position, and reinforcing means in said tongue to provide longitudinal rigidity, said flap portion extending a substantial distance beyond the apex of the obtuse angle formed by the lower portion of said flap and said tongue to decrease the force required to close said tag.

3. A tag manufactured of a single piece of sheet metal strap bent to form a face portion and a flap portion in opposed relation with each other, a curled lip at the free end of said face portion to serve as locking means, a tongue struck out of the plane of said flap portion towards the back of said face portion, said tongue being located in such a position that when said flap is closed in the assembly operation, the base of said tongue is close to the middle of the back of said face portion and the tip of said tongue is engaged and interlocked with said curled lip, said flap portion extending beyond the base of said tongue to facilitate closing of said tag in the attaching operation, and longitudinal reinforcing ribs in said tongue.

4. The construction as claimed in claim 4, and a bend in the middle portion of said tongue, said bend being like a bulge directed outwardly in respect to said tag and towards the opening in said flap portion produced when said tongue was struck out.

5. The construction as claimed in claim 4, where said reinforcing ribs are produced by bending the side edges over so that said tongue is narrower than the slot which was produced in said flap portion when said tongue was struck out,

said slot being open at the outer end to facilitate the insertion of a fold or thin part of an article between said tongue and the outer extremities of said flap portion to secure said fold or thin part upon manual closure of said tag.

6. The construction as claimed in claim 5, and a bend in said tongue, the bulge of said bend being directed towards said slot.

7. All patentable features and elements of the invention herein described, disclosed and/or shown in the accompanying drawing, either singly or in combination, and any particle of such features and elements thereof not embraced in any of the preceding claims.

8. A metal tag adapted to be attached to a thin foldable material, comprising a body portion having a face for carrying print or markings, a flap foldable upon the back surface of said body portion, said flap being folded in manufacture to such an extent as to leave a sufficient opening between said body portion and said flap to facilitate the insertion of said thin foldable material, a tongue struck out of the plane of said flap and extending centrally and angularly outward in a direction where its tip is nearer said body portion than the remainder of said flap, the remainder of said flap including two outer extremities forming separate levers for the engagement of the fingers of the hand of an operator, and locking means on said body portion located for interlocking relationship with said tip of said tongue when said flap is moved by pressing said outer extremities toward said locking means.

9. A metal tag comprising a body portion having two ends, one end of said body portion being provided with a flap integral with said body portion, the other end of said body portion being provided with a curled lip extending toward the rear face of said body portion and facing said flap, said flap including three separate extensions, central extension and outer extensions, respectively, said central extension being bendable with respect to the remainder of said flap, said central extension being bent out of the plane with respect to that of said outer extensions and being engageable by means of its tip with said curled lip in folded and closed position of said tag, whereby said central extension is bent back toward the plane of said flap without becoming coplanar with said outer extensions and the remainder of said flap, said outer extensions forming levers and finger rests to swing said central extension into engagement of its tip with said curled lip.

HENRY NIERHAUS.

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