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(54) **ATTACHED COLLAR GUARD**

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(57)

ABSTRACT

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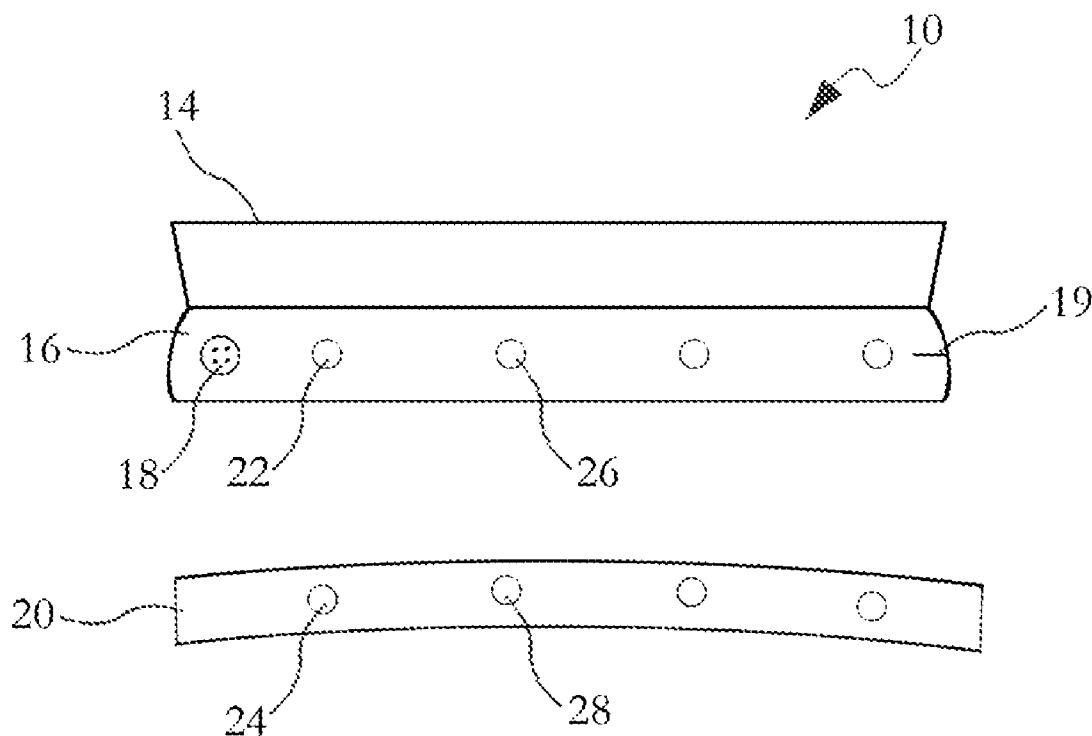
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An attached collar guard positioned against an inner surface of a collared garment comprising an absorbing liner attached against the inner surface of a neck portion of a collar, where the liner is detachable; and at least two fasteners to attach the absorbing liner to the collar, where the fasteners are flat to rest flush against a wearer's neck. The collar guard protects the shirt collar from sweat and moisture thereby preventing staining on the shirt.



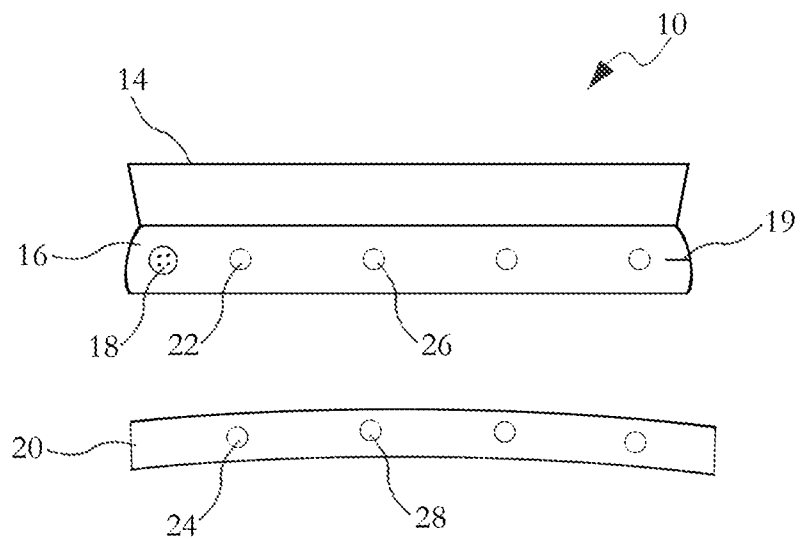


FIG. 1

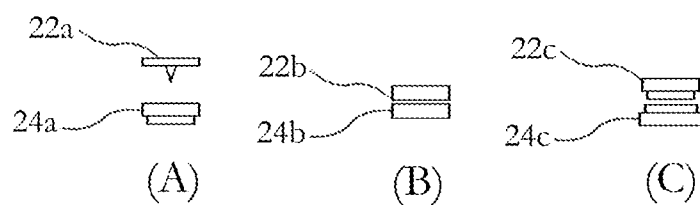


FIG. 2

ATTACHED COLLAR GUARD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a device that is positioned within the collar of a shirt to absorb moisture and protect the garment from staining

[0003] 2. Description of Related Art

[0004] For a variety of reasons, collared shirts have always been a staple in any wardrobe. Whether in a professional environment where a collared shirt is needed on a daily basis, or for the fashionable look of a high-collared dress, collared garments are worn equally by both men and women. A problem commonly observed and experienced with wearing these specific garments is that sweat stains appear quickly sometimes ruining the shirt prematurely. The neck is a sweat prone area of the body so clothing resting against or near the neck is often stained very easily. Sweat from the head may collect on the collar essentially creating a sweat band on the neck portion of the shirt.

[0005] The stains are typically yellowish making the shirt appear dirty even after washing. After repeated washes the area appears dingy and shabby making the shirt inappropriate for formal wear. Spoiled collars often lead to the wearer having to invest considerable amounts of money for professional dry cleaning to preserve the shirt, or they must throw away their stained garment; ultimately spending a considerable amount of money for cleaning or replacement.

[0006] Therefore, it would be beneficial in the art to provide a shirt with a protective layer to prevent the accumulation of sweat around the collar. It would also be desirable in the art to provide a protective layer on a shirt that may be removable, to allow the user to wash the material separately from the rest of the garment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the prior art, the general purpose of the present invention is to provide an attached collar guard positioned against an inner surface of a collared shirt or garment, configured to include all of the advantages of the prior art, and to overcome the drawbacks inherent therein.

[0008] Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide an attached collar guard attached with flat fasteners against the inner portion of a collared garment.

[0009] Another object of the present invention is to provide an attached collar guard that is removable and machine washable.

[0010] To achieve the above objects, in an aspect of the present invention, an attached collar guard is described comprising an absorbing liner attached against the inner surface of a neck portion of a collar, where the liner is detachable; and at least two fasteners to attach the absorbing liner to the collar, where the fasteners are flat to rest flush against a wearer's neck. The collar guard protects the shirt collar from sweat and moisture thereby preventing staining on the shirt.

[0011] These together with other aspects of the present invention, along with the various features of novelty that characterize the present invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed hereto and form a part of this present invention. For a better understanding of the present invention, its operating advantages, and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accom-

panying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The advantages and features of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like elements are identified with like symbols, and in which:

[0013] FIG. 1 depicts a perspective view of an attached collar guard in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

[0014] FIG. 2 depicts an enlarged view of a set of fasteners for an attached collar guard in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] Like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the description of several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The present invention relates to a device that is positioned within the collar of a shirt to absorb moisture and protect the garment from staining. The present invention provides an attached collar guard to serve as a barrier between the shirt and the wearer. The attached collar guard is fastened within the collar of a collared garment, like a shirt, dress, jacket or the like. The guard includes a liner made from an absorbent material. The liner is attached to the collar with a plurality of fasteners to securely yet comfortably position the liner against the wearer's neck. With the attached collar guard the user is afforded a simple solution to the reoccurring problem of sweat stains on shirt collars.

[0017] Turning now descriptively to the drawings, referring to FIG. 1, a perspective view of an attached collar guard **10** is shown in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The attached collar guard **10** is positioned within a collar **12** of a shirt. The attached collar guard **10** may be incorporated into an already existing shirt or may be available preassembled on a new shirt. The collar **12** is composed of a neck portion **16** and a flap **14**. The neck portion **16** includes a button **18** at one end and a button hole **19** at the opposing end. During use the flap **14** is flipped up to expose the exterior surface of the neck portion **16**. Against the interior surface of the neck portion **16** an absorbing liner **20** is positioned to protect the collar **12** from moisture and staining. The absorbing liner **20** may be made from a cotton, wool, or a synthetic material to easily wick the excess sweat and moisture away from the collar **12**. The absorbing liner **20** is detachable from the neck portion **16** to enable a user to remove it for machine washing at their convenience and for application to other collared shirts.

[0018] A plurality of fasteners **22**, **24** secure the absorbing liner **20** to the collar **12**. The fasteners **22**, **24** thread through a plurality of holes **26**, **28** within both the neck portion **16** and the absorbing liner **20** to securely yet comfortably attach the absorbing liner **20** to the collar **12**. The fasteners **22**, **24** are flat to ensure that they do not poke the delicate skin of the wearer's neck. At least two fasteners **22**, **24** are attached along the collar **12**, but preferably four are attached, two at each end and two in the middle. The fasteners **22**, **24** are positioned so that a first portion **22** is positioned against the exterior surface of the neck portion **16** which a second portion **24** is positioned against the absorbing liner **20** thereby holding the absorbing liner against the inner surface of the neck portion **16**.

[0019] Referring now to FIG. 2 a side view of a plurality of fasteners **22**, **24** are illustrated. FIG. 2(A) shows a push pin type fastener with a sharp end **22a** and a flat receiving end **24a** to clip the liner **20** against the collar **12**. FIG. 2(B) illustrates a snap type fastener where the first end **22a** snaps against the second end **24b** for attachment. FIG. 2(C) illustrates a magnetic fastener **22c**, **24c** where the charges of the magnets **22c**, **24c** attract to each other to fasten the absorbing liner **20** against the collar **12**. With the magnetic fasteners **22c**, **24c** no holes are required in the neck portion **16** or the absorbing liner **20**, thereby preserving the collar fabric from cutting. The attached collar guard **10** protects the shirt collar **12** from becoming soiled by sweat and sticky grime, thus preventing the formation of sweat stains and rings. By protecting the collars dry cleaning costs are significantly reduced while the life span of the shirt is increased.

[0020] The foregoing descriptions of specific embodiments of the present invention have been presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed, and obviously many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. The exemplary embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical application, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention and various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. An attached collar guard positioned against an inner surface of a collared garment comprising:

- a. an absorbing liner attached against the inner surface of a neck portion of a collar, where the liner is detachable; and
 - b. at least two fasteners to attach the absorbing liner to the collar, where the fasteners are flat to rest flush against a wearer's neck.
2. The attached collar guard according to claim 1, where the fasteners are positioned with a first portion on an exterior surface of the neck portion of the collar and a second portion against the absorbing liner, therefore securing the absorbing liner against an interior surface of the neck portion.
 3. The attached collar guard according to claim 1, where the fasteners are magnetic.
 4. The attached collar guard according to claim 1, where the absorbing liner and the neck portion of the collar include a plurality of holes through which the fasteners are threaded to attach the detachable absorbing liner to the collar.
 5. The attached collar guard according to claim 4, where the fasteners are push-pins.
 6. The attached collar guard according to claim 4, where the fasteners are snaps.
 7. The attached collar guard according to claim 1, where the absorbing liner is made from a machine washable material.
 8. The attached collar guard according to claim 1, where four fasteners are positioned along the collar, where one fastener is at each end and two fasteners are in a middle of the absorbing liner.

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