April 17, 1956 M. A. TEAGUE 2,742,207

SHIRT BAND AND COLLAR SUPPORT

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FIG. 1

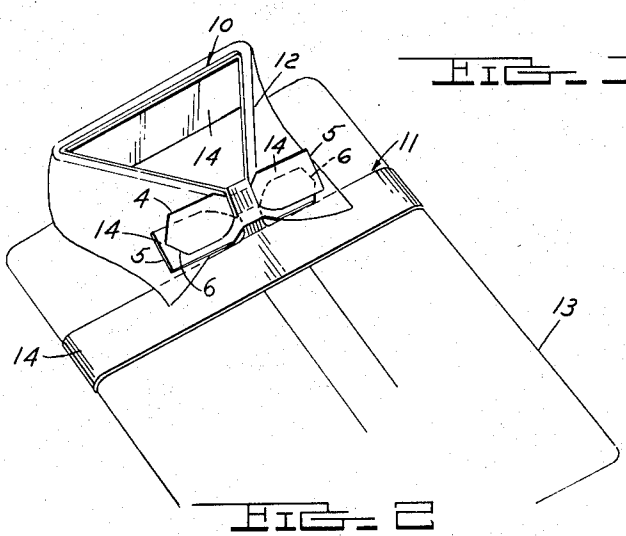


FIG. 2

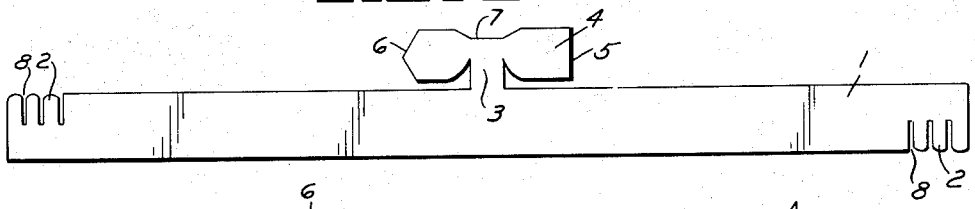


FIG. 3

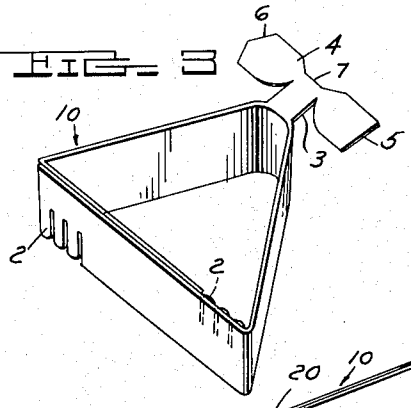


FIG. 4

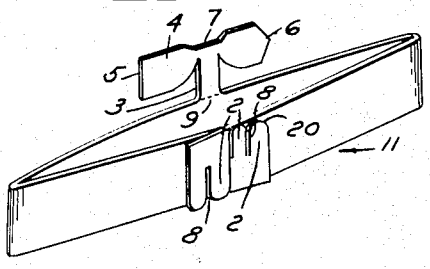
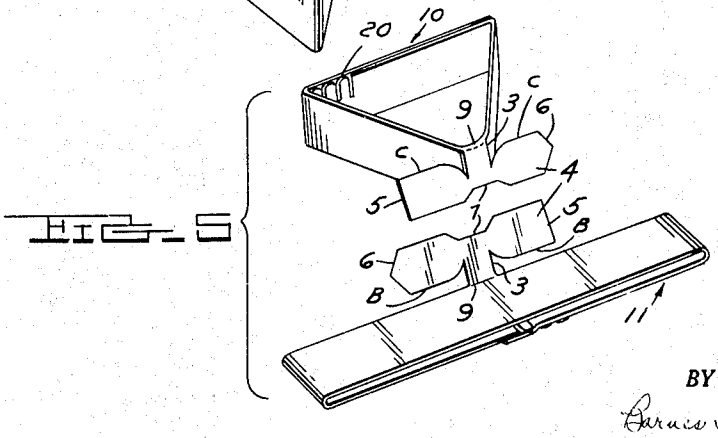


FIG. 5



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FIG. 6

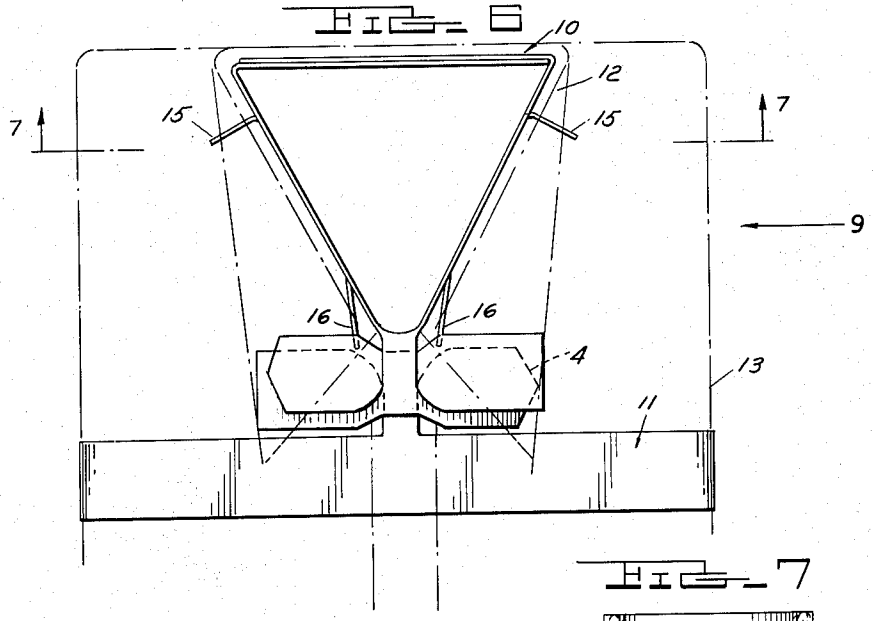


FIG. 7

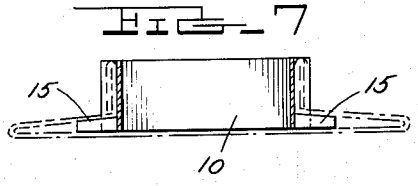


FIG. 8

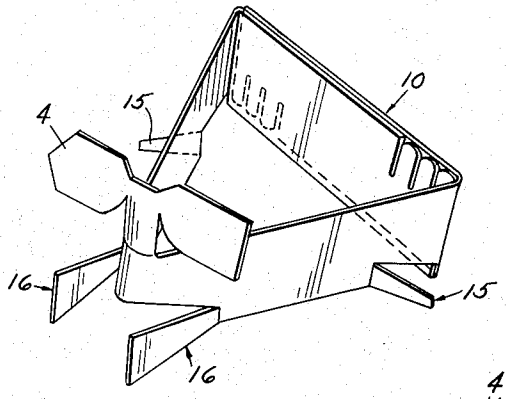
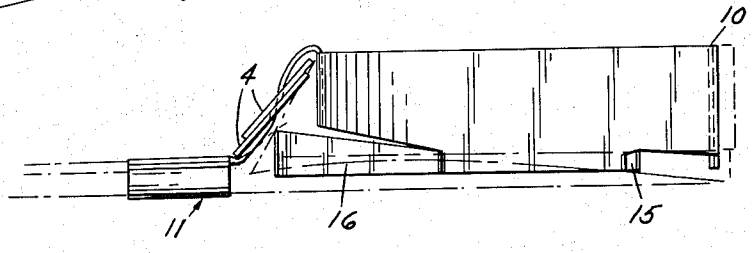


FIG. 9



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SHIRT BAND AND COLLAR SUPPORT

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Application December 9, 1952, Serial No. 324,917

4 Claims. (Cl. 223—83)

This invention relates to a shirt band and collar support of the type adapted for preventing a freshly laundered shirt from becoming wrinkled prior to use.

It is general practice to fold a freshly laundered shirt in such a way that the collar and the front portion of the shirt will remain uncreased and unwrinkled until used even though in the meantime it may be handled several times and stacked in a drawer with other shirts. It is a primary purpose of this invention to provide a shirt band and collar support for securing a shirt in such folded condition and for providing the necessary support for the collar, which will be as attractive as possible and as inexpensive of manufacture and as simple of application as possible. Several forms of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the shirt band and collar support in use on a folded shirt.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation showing in unfolded condition a member which may be used as either the shirt band or the collar support.

Fig. 3 shows the member of Fig. 2 folded to serve as the collar support.

Fig. 4 shows the member of Fig. 2 folded to serve as the shirt band and showing the end portions thereof interlocked.

Fig. 5 shows the members of Figs. 3 and 4 in spaced relation but in the approximate relative position for use.

Fig. 6 is substantially in plan showing a modified construction of the invention applied to a shirt shown in dotted lines.

Fig. 7 is a vertical section taken on line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing the member of modified construction folded as a collar support.

Fig. 9 is an elevation taken on line 9—9 of Fig. 6.

The invention comprises a band or strip-like member 1 made of paper or cardboard or similar foldable material. Near each end of the member 1 are a number of lugs 2 separated by slot-like openings 8, the openings on the opposite ends of the member extending laterally inward from opposite sides thereof. Substantially at the middle of the member 1 and extending from one side thereof is a tab 3 having end portions extended longitudinally of the member 1 to simulate a portion of a butterfly shaped bow tie as indicated at 4. The tie portion 4 has one end or wing 5 shaped squarely to represent one of the bows and the other end or wing 6 tapered to represent one of the ends of the tie with the intermediate portion 7 ensmalled to represent the knot. In use member 1 is adapted to be bent and folded to the approximate triangular shape shown in Fig. 3 to form the collar support 10. Another member 1 is adapted to be fashioned into the shape as shown in Fig. 4 with the end portions locked together in overlapping relation by interengagement of the lugs 2 to form the shirt band 11. It should be noted that the collar support 10 and the shirt band 11 are made from substantially identical members 1.

In use, the collar support 10 shown in Fig. 3 is inserted inside of the collar 12 of a laundered shirt 13 as shown in Fig. 1. The tie portion 4 and tab 3 are folded downwardly to the position shown in Fig. 5, the fold being at the juncture 9 between the tab 3 and the member 1 proper. The shirt band 11 is fastened around the shirt 13 in the position shown in Fig. 1. The tie portion 4 of band 11 is folded upwardly as shown in Fig. 5, the fold being at the juncture 9 between the tab and the member 1 proper. Then by manually manipulating the tie portion 4 the upper edges *c* of the tie portion 4 of the collar support 10 are inserted under the lower edges *b* of the tie portion 4 of the shirt band 11 so that the tab 3 of collar support 10 overlies tab 3 of band 11 and the wing portions 5 and 6 of band 11 overlie the wing portions 5 and 6 of the collar support 10. The collar support 10 and the shirt band 11 are thus locked together in a manner tending to hold each in place, and they will remain so locked until the tie portions 4 are manually disengaged. It should be noted that the collar support 10 may be shaped to fit a large variety of different types and sizes of collars and that the shirt band 11 may be adjusted to fit a large variety and sizes of shirts by selective engagement of the lugs 2 and openings 8. In the latter connection it should be understood that while the member 1 shown in Fig. 2 has but three lugs and openings on each end, this invention contemplates the use of as many as is necessary to provide the desired range of adjustment. Also, the lugs 2 and slots or openings 8 may be of various shapes and sizes; for example, the ends of the lugs may be rounded as at 20 to facilitate interengagement thereof.

When the collar support and the shirt band are locked together as described, one tie portion 4 overlies the other tie portion substantially as shown in Fig. 1 with their respective ends 5 and 6 reversed to each other in the manner of an actual bow tie, thereby providing a very attractive three dimensional simulated bow tie.

In addition to being made from members 1 which are identically constructed, the collar support 10 and the shirt band 11 may be made from members 1 which are colored on the same side and on one side only; if then the colored side is folded inwardly in the collar support and folded outwardly in the shirt band, all obverse surfaces 14 as shown in Fig. 1 will be colored. This makes it possible to obtain a two-color effect without the necessity of using more than one color on any given member 1. Thus this invention provides a collar support and shirt band of utmost simplicity in manufacture and use and therefore of utmost economy, which is unusually effective for its purpose, and which presents a very attractive appearance.

In the modification of the invention shown in Fig. 6 through Fig. 9, the member 1 which is to form the collar support 10 is cut or scored to form the fingers 15 and fingers 16 which in use are folded laterally outward from the lower edges of the collar support to provide increased support for the collar. The fingers 15 are relatively small, are preferably identical in size and shape, and are preferably tapered in shape so that they are narrowest at their free ends. In use the fingers 15 extend outwardly at an abrupt angle from opposite sides of the triangle formed by the collar support and are situated near the base of that triangle. The fingers 16 are relatively large, are preferably identical, are preferably tapered in shape so that they are widest at their free ends. In use fingers 16 extend outwardly at an oblique angle from opposite sides of the said triangle and are disposed near the apex of the triangle, that is, the angle lying subjacent the tie portion 4. The fingers 15 and 16 are disposed preferably symmetrically on the sides of the triangle. When the collar support 10 is inserted into the collar 12 the fingers 15 extend laterally under and support the lower edges of the collar near the back of the collar and the fingers 16

similarly extend under and support the lower edges of the collar near the front of the collar. The front part of the collar **12** is shallower than the back part so that the fingers **16** must be higher than the fingers **15** in order to provide equal support for various parts of the collar.

I claim:

1. The method of retaining the body portion and collar of a shirt in neatly folded condition which comprises, arranging a flexible but self supporting band having a projecting tab thereon around the inside of the collar for supporting the collar in a generally upright position, encircling the body portion of the folded shirt at a location generally adjacent the collar with a separate flexible band having a projecting tab thereon for holding the body portion in folded condition, and securing the two bands in place by bending the tabs thereon to a position generally overlying the front portion of the collar and interengaging the tabs in locked relation.

2. A shirt band and collar support comprising a band element formed of a flexible but self-supporting material such as cardboard, said element being adapted to be selectively arranged as a shirt encircling band member on a folded shirt and as a collar support member around the inside of a shirt collar to support the same in a generally upright position, said element having a single integral tab projecting laterally from one longitudinal edge thereof at a location substantially midway between the ends thereof, the free end of said tab having integral wing portions cooperating therewith to simulate the wing portions and central knot of a bow tie, the edges of said wing portions cooperating with adjacent edges of said tab to form notch means, said wing portions being relatively closely spaced from said longitudinal edge of said element such that when said element is fashioned selectively into one of said members as described, said tab is disposed adjacent the front of said collar with said notch means being detachably interlockable with a tab on a band element applied to a folded shirt as the other of said members, said band element being fashioned with a pair of fingers along the other longitudinal edge thereof, said fingers being disposed generally opposite to said tab and being foldable to a position substantially inclined to the plane of said band, whereby when said one member is fashioned into a collar support said fingers may be folded

to a position extending beneath the front portion of the collar.

3. A shirt band and collar support comprising, a band formed of a flexible but self-supporting material such as cardboard, said band having a width generally corresponding to the height of a conventional shirt collar, said band being adapted to be selectively applied to a folded shirt as a shirt encircling band and as an upright supporting liner within the shirt collar, said band having a foldable tab, said tab extending laterally of said band so that the tabs on a pair of bands applied to a shirt as described may be positioned adjacent the front of the shirt collar, said tab extending from said band a distance generally corresponding to the height of a conventional shirt collar so that the tab on a band applied as a collar support can be folded downwardly to overlie the collar front and said tab on a shirt encircling band, said tab including means arranged and constructed to detachably interlock with an overlying tab.

4. A shirt band and collar support comprising, a band formed of a flexible but self-supporting material such as cardboard, said band being adapted to be selectively applied to a folded shirt as a shirt encircling band and as an upright supporting liner within the shirt collar, said band having a foldable tab, said tab extending laterally of said band so that the tabs on a pair of bands applied to a shirt as described may be positioned adjacent the front of the shirt collar, said tab and band having a combined width generally corresponding to two times the height of a conventional shirt collar so that a tab on a band applied as a collar support can be folded downwardly to overlie the collar front and said tab on a shirt encircling band, said tab including means arranged and constructed to detachably interlock with an overlying tab.

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