June 27, 1933. F. W. LAENCHER 1,916,002

PRICE TAG

Filed Nov. 18, 1932

Fig. 1.

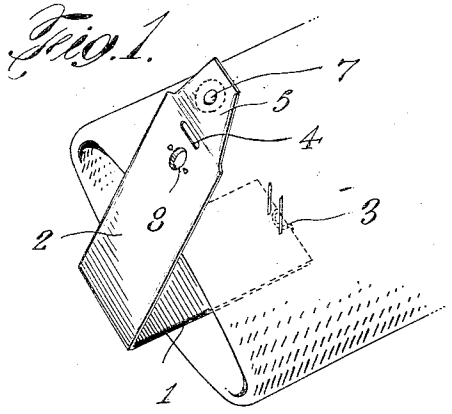


Fig. 2.

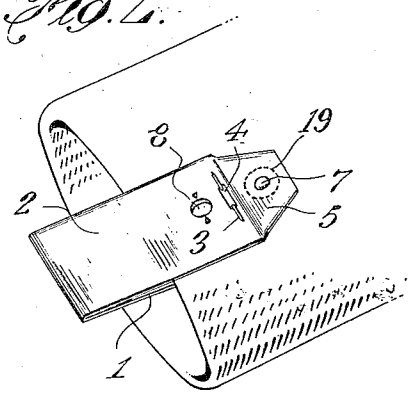


Fig. 3.

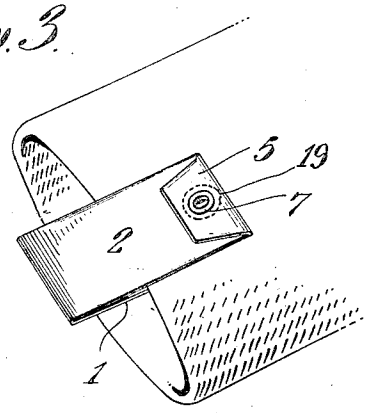


Fig. 4.

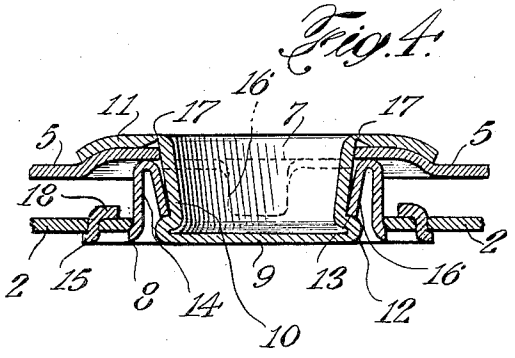
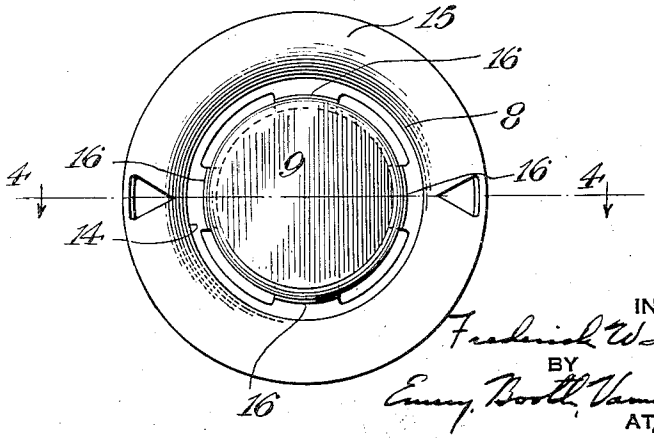


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PRICE TAG

Application filed November 18, 1932. Serial No. 643,148.

This invention relates to price tags of the type intended to be secured to articles of merchandise in such manner that they cannot be removed therefrom without detection.

It is an object of the invention to provide a price tag of this type which shall provide improved safeguards against removal, and which shall be more easily and economically applied to articles of merchandise than tags of this type now in use.

Other objects of the invention will appear hereinafter.

A preferred embodiment of the invention selected for purposes of illustration is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the first step in the attachment of such tag to an article of merchandise.

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the second step of the attachment.

Figure 3 is a similar view illustrating the final step of attachment.

Figure 4 is an enlarged section of the locking seal, taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 5.

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the seal.

Referring to the drawing, the tag comprises two connected flaps 1 and 2 adapted to receive between them the article to be marked. The flap 1 is provided with a fastening device preferably located near its edge, as for example, the attaching staple 3. The flap 2 is provided with a slot 4 through which the ends of the staple may pass, so that the said staple ends may be turned down upon the slotted flap as illustrated in Figure 2, in order to hold the article securely between the flaps.

In order to prevent tampering with the tag as thus secured to the article, a covering flap 5 is connected to the flap 2, and the said covering flap and the flap 2 are provided with apertures in which are inserted the two parts of a lock seal device, which, as hereinafter described, can be readily snapped into place, but once closed, cannot be reopened without detection.

A preferred form of lock seal device is illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, the seal comprising the two mating members 7 and 8. The said members are preferably made of sheet metal and may be of any desired shape, but are preferably round, as illustrated, for convenience in manufacture and in operation. The member 7 is substantially cup-shaped having a bottom disk 9, tubular side walls 10, and a lip or flange 11 extending laterally from the upper edge of the side walls. Between the disk 9 and the side walls 10 is formed a bead or flange 12, providing a shoulder 13 for purposes hereinafter set forth.

The member 8 is somewhat similar in shape, having tubular side walls 14 terminating in a lip or flange 15, but instead of a bottom disk, the metal is cut and bent back as illustrated in Figure 4 to form a plurality of resilient prongs 16, which, when the members 7 and 8 are forced into engagement as illustrated, engage the bead 13, thus locking the members together permanently.

In the manufacture of the tags, the members 7 and 8 are inserted in the apertures of the flaps 2 and 5, and when the tag is made of relatively stiff material, as for example, light cardboard, the friction of the material against the tubular side walls 10 and 14, respectively, is sufficient to retain the members in place. Furthermore, in the case of the member 7, the bead 12 serves to hold the member in place. If desired, however, the members may be positively retained by the provision of small nibs 18.

In some instances, it may be desirable to provide means permitting easy removal of the tag by an authorized person, and such means may comprise the line of perforations 19 surrounding the seal and providing a line of weakness which permits the tag to tear easily if the flap is pulled upwardly.

In applying the members to the tag, the member 7 is preferably applied to the covering flap, and the member 8 is attached to the flap 2 where it is less accessible to tampering. Furthermore the flange 11 of the member 7 is preferably provided with a weakened portion 17 which is easily broken in the event that it is attempted to pry the members apart.

When it is desired to lock the seal, the two members are forced into engagement in

the manner illustrated, the tubular portion 10 of the member 7 being inserted in the tubular portion 14 of the member 8 in telescoped relation, the prongs 16 snapping into place behind the bead 12 so as to prevent separation thereafter. Due to the fact that the member 7 is imperforate, it is impossible to tamper with the prongs from that side, and since the space between the tubular portion 10 and the member 8 is very small, it is difficult to tamper with the prongs from the other side. Moreover, as previously explained, this side is substantially enclosed and is not accessible to tampering in any event.

Tickets or tags of this general type are known in the art and are used in commerce, one form of such tag being disclosed in United States Patent No. 1,054,927 and another in Patent No. 1,680,459. In all such tags known to applicant heretofore, ordinary metal eyelets have been used to secure the flaps together, and it has been necessary to use a tool to flange the eyelet. Furthermore, because of the use of such eyelets, and because of the necessity of using a tool, the eyelet had to be passed through all three flaps of the tag, and furthermore the eyelet had to be placed beyond the edge of the article of merchandise in order that the tool could be used effectively without danger of damaging the article. Furthermore, the eyelets used with such tags in the past are in common use and are easily available for substitution for a removed eyelet.

The above-described tag avoids all of these objections, for it requires no tool to apply it, and since it requires no tool, it may be attached to an article or garment in any convenient location, irrespective of the position of the seal. Furthermore, the seal is much more difficult to remove than the eyelet, and even if removed, duplicate seals will not be readily available for substitution. Due to the provision of the weakened flange portion 17, any attempt to pry the members apart will break the flange and destroy the seal.

It will be understood that the invention may be variously modified and embodied within the scope of the subjoined claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A price tag comprising two connected flaps adapted to receive between them the material to be marked, one of said flaps being provided with an aperture, and the other of said flaps being provided with a fastening device adapted to pass through the material and through said aperture and to be turned down upon said apertured flap, a covering flap connected to said apertured flap and adapted to be folded back on said apertured flap to cover the part of said fastening device passing through said aperture, and a lock seal comprising two interengaging members, one member being mounted on said apertured flap and the other member being mounted on said covering flap, said members when engaged and locked being adapted to secure said covering flap to said apertured flap in order to prevent tampering with said fastening device.

2. A price tag comprising two connected flaps adapted to receive between them the material to be marked, one of said flaps being provided with an aperture, and the other of said flaps being provided with a fastening device adapted to pass through the material and through said aperture and to be turned down upon said apertured flap, a covering flap connected to said apertured flap and adapted to be folded back on said apertured flap to cover the part of said fastening device passing through said aperture, and a lock seal comprising two interengaging members, one member being mounted on said apertured flap and the other member being mounted on said covering flap, said members when engaged and locked being adapted to secure said covering flap to said apertured flap in order to prevent tampering with said fastening device, said covering flap having a weakened portion surrounding said seal along which said flap may be torn to remove the tag.

3. A price tag for an article comprising a folded body portion having a fastening device comprising prongs secured to one folded portion and passing through the article and the other folded portion, a flap covering said prongs to prevent access to the same when fastened, and a lock seal device having one interengaging member mounted on said covering flap and another interengaging member mounted on said folded portion through which said prongs are passed, said members when engaged and locked being adapted to secure said covering flap to said folded portion through which said prongs are passed.

4. A price tag for an article comprising a folded body portion having a fastening device comprising prongs secured to one folded portion and passing through the article and the other folded portion, a flap covering said prongs to prevent access to the same when fastened, and a lock seal device having one interengaging member mounted on said covering flap and another interengaging member mounted on said folded portion through which said prongs are passed, said members when engaged and locked being adapted to secure said covering flap to said folded portion through which said prongs are passed, said covering flap having a weakened portion surrounding said seal along which said flap may be torn to remove the tag.

5. A price tag comprising three sections including two end sections and one middle section separated by two lines of fold, a fastening device secured to one of said end sections and adapted to be fastened through said middle section, said other end section being

folded to cover that part of the fastening device which passes through said middle section, said middle section being provided with one part of a lock seal and said other end section being provided with another part of a lock seal, said parts being so located that when engaged and locked said other end section will cover and protect said fastening device against tampering.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification this sixteenth day of November 1932.

FREDERICK W. LAENCHER.