April 16, 1940. E. BACON 2,197,173

SHIRT ENVELOPE

Filed Oct. 5, 1938

Fig. 1.

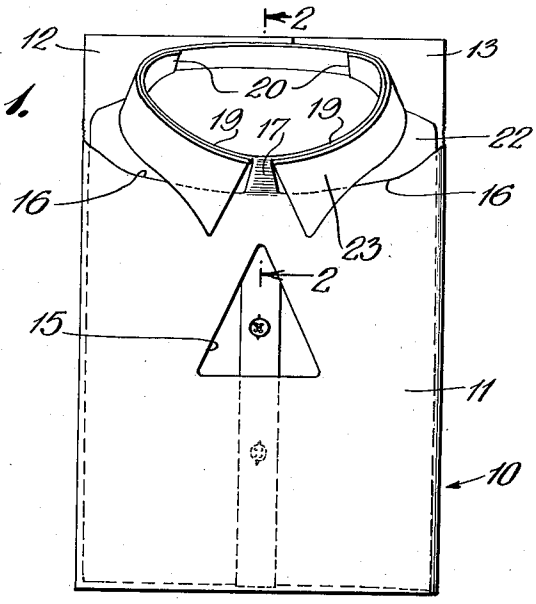
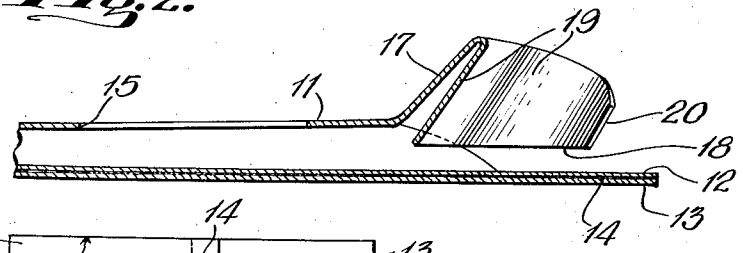


Fig. 2.



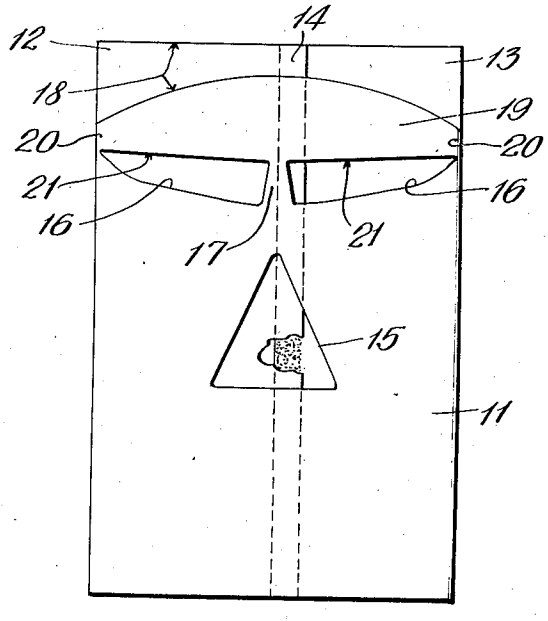


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR
EDGAR BACON
BY
Howard E. Thompson
ATTORNEY

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SHIRT ENVELOPE

Edgar Bacon, Fall River, Mass., assignor of one-half to Aime Giroux, Fall River, Mass.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 229—87)

This invention relates to devices for packing and preserving laundered shirts, and particularly shirts having collars attached thereto, to prevent wrinkling and soiling of the same as well as to provide means for positively supporting collars of the shirts to prevent damage thereto in packing and other handling of the shirts prior to use; and the object of the invention is to provide a device of the character described in the form of an envelope made from a single sheet of light cardboard or other suitable material, one side wall of the envelope being cut out at one end thereof to provide a wing-like tongue adapted to be arranged within the collar of the shirt forming a curved support to fit the inner contour of the collar; a further object being to provide a tongue on an envelope of the class described, said tongue being so fashioned as to form when folded back on itself and curved at the end portions thereof a rigid surface fitting within and extending above the upwardly extending collar of the shirt to support and protect the same; a further object being to provide means for readily rupturing the envelope thereby facilitating removal of the shirt when desired; and with these and other objects in view, the invention consists in a device of the class and for the purpose specified which is simple and economical in construction, efficient in use, and which is constructed as hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of one of my envelopes arranged upon a shirt, and indicating the method of its use.

Fig. 2 is a partial section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and on an enlarged scale with the shirt detached; and,

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the envelope in the normal position thereof with part of the construction broken away.

It is customary in the laundering of shirts to starch the collars thereof to press or iron the same to form a relatively stiff, smoothly curved collar, extending outwardly or in an upright position from the remainder of the shirt. When a collar is so fashioned, it is important to provide means for supporting at least a portion of the collar to prevent wrinkling or other injury of the collar by pressure against the outwardly extending edge thereof when the shirts are packed, carried, or otherwise handled prior to use by the wearer. My invention relates to an envelope having a collar supporting means as an integral part thereof, foldable with respect to the remainder of the envelope to form said collar support.

For the purpose of illustrating one method of carrying my invention into effect, I have shown in the accompanying drawing, an envelope 10 which is formed from a single elongated strip of suitable material, preferably thin cardboard. This strip may be printed, lithographed, or otherwise characterized on one surface thereof to produce an attractive appearance. The strip is folded to form a central portion 11, which forms the front of the envelope; and the side members 12 and 13 are overlapped and glued or otherwise secured together as seen at 14 to form the back of the envelope.

That part of the sheet from which the central front portion 11 of the envelope is formed is die cut to form a triangular aperture 15 above which are two apertures 16 separated by a central web or post 17. The upper portion of the front 11 is cut away as seen at 18 to leave above the apertures 16 a collar engaging portion 19 which is normally attached at its ends 20 to the members 12, 13, forming the back of the envelope.

It will be noted that the apertures 16 extend to the creased side edges of the envelope and are so formed as to provide a substantially straight lower edge 21 for the collar engaging part 19. The web or post 17 joins the part 19 with the central front portion 11.

In the use of the envelope, the ends 20 of the collar engaging part 19 are first severed from the parts 12, 13; and the shirt 22 to be wrapped is inserted into the envelope through the apertured end thereof in the manner illustrated in Fig. 1, and when in proper position, the part 19 is folded over and arranged within the inner surface of the collar 23 of the shirt in a forwardly inclined position as is illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The upper edge of the collar engaging portion 19 is curved as clearly seen in Fig. 3 so that when the portion 19 is arranged in operative position, said curved edge will lay substantially in a plane surface, as will be apparent in Fig. 2 of the drawing. It will be understood that the post 17 is arranged between the lapels or turned down portion of the collar. The ends 20 extend around and are curved inwardly at the sides of the collar as is indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawing. In this way, the collar is supported in an upright position maintaining a neat appearance thereof

and preserving the same against creasing or wrinkling, it being understood that the pointed ends of the front turned down portion of the collar 23 are disposed outwardly of the front 11 of the envelope as indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawing, but may be arranged within the front 11 if desired.

The aperture 15 provides a finger grip facilitating the opening of the envelope in the insertion of a shirt and in the removal of a shirt from the envelope. All that is essential is to raise the collar supporting and reinforcing part 19 out of the neck opening and then draw the shirt outwardly from the cut out or apertured end of the envelope.

It will be understood that the particular contour of the collar engaging portion 19 may be made to suit the particular needs and to support the collar and shoulder portions of the shirt in a predetermined manner. I am likewise not limited to the particular contour of the web or post 17, the important feature of the web being that it serves to positively position the shirt with respect to the envelope and to prevent accidental displacement therefrom. At the same time it will be apparent that when it is desired to remove the shirt from the envelope, the collar engaging portion 19 may, if desired, be readily severed from the web 17 to facilitate such removal.

It will be noted that my envelope is extremely economical in construction, and that as originally formed, it is readily packed and shipped without damage, and without any waste of space. At the same time, when assembled into operative position, it forms a collar support especially suited for protecting a shirt collar.

It will be understood that by providing the normally attached ends 20 to the member or part 19, the handling of the envelope is facilitated and the danger of detachment of the part 19 is eliminated. At the same time, the short or narrow ends 20 are quickly severed from the parts 12, 13, in the operation of placing the reinforcing collar supporting part 19 in position. It will appear that the part 19 may be said to form a substantially T-shaped member when considered in conjunction with the supporting web or post 17.

It will also be apparent that the top opening 13 provides for the quick and easy placement of the shirt in the envelope in that the lower portion of the folded shirt is first placed upon the exposed upper end of the back wall and then slid through the envelope. In some laundries, forms are used for supporting the shirt and in such cases the envelope will be slid over the shirt and form in one operation.

It will also be apparent that the stem of the T-shaped collar engaging part is foldable with respect to the front wall as well as with respect to the crosshead of said T-shaped part to maintain said part in its upright position. This construction forms a strong bracing member which will resist downward or crushing strains upon the shirt which would otherwise tend to crush or flatten the collar. The curved upper edge of the front wall at the base of the stem or post partially conforms with the contour of the collar of the shirt so that the shirt will fit more snugly in the envelope. It will be understood that the envelope is designed primarily for use in connection with shirts having the semi-stiff or stiff collars. However, the same can also be used in the soft collared shirts in order to maintain the collar in a neater appearance and also to prevent creasing at the side edges of the collar.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A protecting envelope for shirts having attached turned down collars, said envelope comprising an elongated tubular body having front and back walls, the upper portion of the front wall being cut out to form a collar engaging and supporting part with an attached foldable web, said web joining the central portion of said part with said front wall, said part being of a length equal to the width of the front wall and having ends normally but detachably joining the back wall, longitudinal edges of said part contracting from the wide central portion to said ends, said part when detached from the back wall being foldable on said web within the neck band of the shirt arranged in said envelope, and said edges of said part being arranged one parallel and adjacent the back wall and the other substantially conforming with the upper edge of the front and sides of the shirt collar.

2. A protecting envelope for shirts having attached turned down collars, said envelope comprising an elongated tubular body having front and back walls, the upper portion of the front wall being cut out to form a collar engaging and supporting part with an attached foldable web, said web joining the central portion of said part with said front wall, said part being of a length equal to the width of the front wall and having ends normally but detachably joining the back wall, longitudinal edges of said part contracting from the wide central portion to said ends, said part when detached from the back wall being foldable on said web within the neck band of the shirt arranged in said envelope, said edges of said part being arranged one parallel and adjacent the back wall and the other substantially conforming with the upper edge of the front and sides of the shirt collar, the central portion of said part and said web being arranged in a rearwardly inclined position when in use, the last mentioned edge of said part being substantially straight, and the first mentioned edge being convexly curved.

EDGAR BACON.