Feb. 12, 1952 J. V. SCHAFER 2,585,689

CONNECTOR FOR APPAREL

Filed April 18, 1949

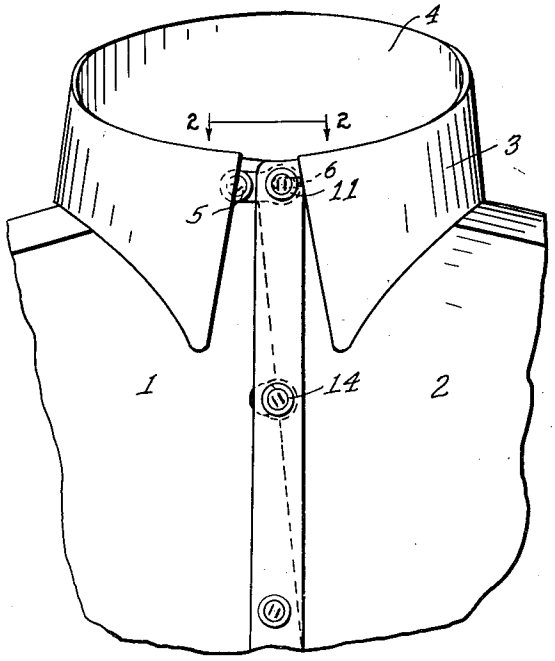


FIG.-1

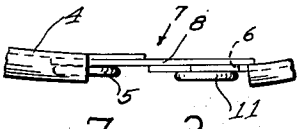


FIG.-2

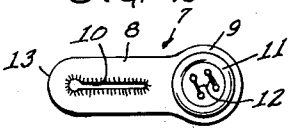


FIG.-3

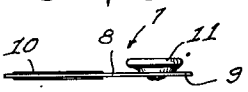


FIG.-4

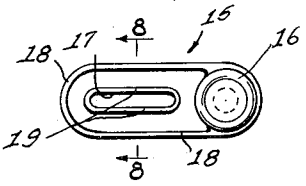




FIG.-7 FIG.-8

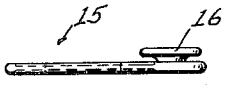


FIG.-9

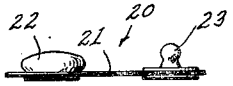


FIG.-10

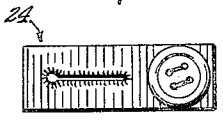


FIG.-11

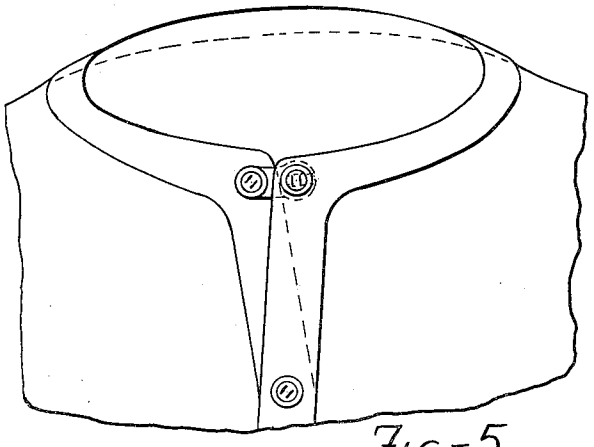


FIG.-5

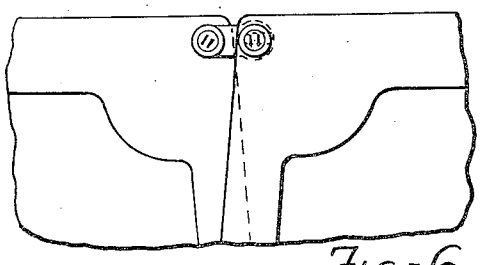


FIG.-6

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Patented Feb. 12, 1952

2,585,689

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,585,689

CONNECTOR FOR APPAREL

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Application April 18, 1949, Serial No. 88,337

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—141)

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This invention relates generally to connecting means and more particularly is directed to a connector or fastener which is adapted to detachably connect together portions or sections of wearing apparel.

The neck bands of dress and sport shirts and blouses and the neck bands of certain types of underwear and the waist band of shorts, including other apparel, due to various factors, such as shrinkage, become smaller or restricted in size thereby rendering the garment uncomfortable and perhaps unfit for the use intended.

The primary objective of the subject invention is to provide means for overcoming the above disadvantages.

More particularly an object of the invention is to provide an improved connector which is simple in design and construction yet exceptionally efficient and durable in use.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a connector which can be easily and quickly detachably assembled with parts or panel portions of a garment to be secured or brought together.

An additional significant object of the invention is to provide a connector which is unique in character in that it is substantially normally concealed from view when properly applied to a garment.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel connector which is readily stretchable or resilient so that it will automatically accommodate itself to variable conditions in use.

A still further object of the invention is to provide at least one type of connector which is of non-metallic construction, light in weight, easily cleanable, and which can be economically manufactured on a production basis.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become evident after the description hereinafter set forth is considered in conjunction with the drawings annexed hereto.

In the drawings wherein like parts or elements are identified by the same numerals:

Figure 1 exemplifies the front view of a dress shirt showing one type of connector, embodying the invention, applied thereto;

Figure 2 is a top view of the assembly illustrated in Figure 1, looking in the direction of the arrows 2—2;

Figures 3 and 4 are top and side views of the connector illustrated in Figures 1 and 2;

Figure 5 is a front view of the upper neck band area of an undergarment showing a connector, embodying the invention, applied thereto;

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Figure 6 is a front view of the upper waist band area of an undergarment showing a connector, embodying the invention, applied thereto;

Figure 7 is a top view of a different form of connector embodying the invention;

Figure 8 is a transverse sectional view taken substantially on the line 8—8 of Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a side view of the connector illustrated in Figures 7 and 8;

Figure 10 is a side view of a still different form of connector embodying the invention; and

Figure 11 illustrates an additional type of connector embodying the invention.

After a shirt has been washed or cleaned several times it will ordinarily shrink to some extent causing the collar to become tight fitting, uncomfortable and unsightly. Occasionally, the shrinkage is so great that it is impossible to even button the collar. Increased weight or growth of an individual will also cause a collar to constrict the neck.

The present invention enables an individual to enlarge or expand the collar of a shirt, as well as certain other apparel and thereby overcome the above disadvantages.

With these thoughts in mind, reference is first made to Figures 1 through 4 of the drawing, wherein numerals 1 and 2 represent the front panel portions or sections of a conventional dress shirt, 3 a collar, and 4 a neck band provided with a button 5 at one extremity thereof and a buttonhole or slot 6 at its opposite extremity.

A connector, generally designated 7, preferably constructed of some desirable non-stretchable material, such as cloth or canvas is employed to enlarge the collar 3. This connector is elongated, substantially flat, and includes a tail portion 8, generally rectangular in shape, and a substantially round head portion 9. The tail portion is provided with a centrally disposed longitudinally extending buttonhole or slot 10 and the head portion is provided with a button 11, preferably of rubber, attached thereto by thread 12 or other suitable means. The end of the tail portion opposite the head portion may be rounded as indicated at 13.

To apply the connector 7 it is merely necessary to insert the button 5 on the neck band of the shirt into the slot 10 of the connector and the button 11 of the connector into the slot 6 in the neck band, whereupon the assembly will appear as exemplified in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawing. With this arrangement, the connector, except for the button 11, is substantially concealed from view. When a tie is properly secured in

place, the connector will of course be entirely concealed, so that no one, other than the wearer, will be in a position to detect that such a connector is in use.

If found desirable, connectors may be made in different colors, widths, and lengths. For example, a connector of a shorter length than connector 7, carrying a button 14 as illustrated in Figure 1, may be employed to compensate for dimensional factors, and cause the front panels of the shirt to lay substantially flat.

A connector 15 of a different form is illustrated in Figures 7, 8 and 9 of the drawing. This connector is preferably made of moulded rubber or some desirable resilient plastic material. It is generally rectangular in shape with its ends rounded as depicted. One extremity of the connector is provided with a button 16 and its opposite extremity with a buttonhole or slot 17. The marginal edges of the body are preferably provided with beaded portions 18 and the marginal edges defining the slot 17 with similar beaded portions 19 whereby to impart strength and at least some rigidity or stability to the connector. These beaded portions also assist in holding or locking the connector to the fittings on the apparel to be connected. This one piece stretchable connector has the distinct advantage of being more or less automatically adjustable to accommodate itself, within practicable limits, to various sizes of neck or waists. The state or condition of resiliency is preferably such that the ends of a neck or waist band will be satisfactorily held together without causing the wearer to feel uncomfortable.

A different connector generally designated 20, embodying the invention, is exemplified in Figure 10 of the drawing. This connector preferably includes a fabric body 21 having a female fitting or socket 22 at one end and a male or plug 23 at its other end. This particular type of connector may readily lend itself for application to men's shorts or pajama trunks, of which the flaps or overlapping front portions thereof are provided with male and female fittings substantially corresponding to those on the connector for connection therewith.

Figure 11 of the drawing illustrates a connector 24 which substantially corresponds to connector 7, except that it is constructed of a rubberized fabric or elastic material.

In view of the foregoing description it will be obvious that the various connectors may be made in different colors, sizes, and stretchable or non-stretchable depending on the use or application desired. It will also be manifest that the connectors are adapted for disposition or arrangement between overlapping panels, sections or portions of a garment for concealment.

While the above description has been given in detail, it has been without intention of limiting the invention since the inventive principles involved are capable of assuming other physical embodiments without departing from the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A moulded one-piece connector, adapted for use with a conventional shirt collar having an inner portion provided with fastening means at its outer side and an outer portion provided with an aperture for normally receiving said fastening means, consisting of an elongated yieldable flat member adapted for disposition between and in conforming relationship with the inner and outer portions, and said connector having an opening for receiving the fastening means on the inner portion and also having fastening means moulded on the member and spaced from the opening for reception in the aperture in the outer portion in a manner whereby the connector will increase the normal size of the collar and automatically conform circularly to the neck of a wearer.

2. A conventional shirt collar having an inner portion provided with a fastener at its outer side and an overlapping outer portion provided with a hole for normally receiving said fastener, a detachable connector comprising an elongated yieldable body interposed between and in conforming relationship with the inner and outer portions of the collar, and said connector being provided with a hole receiving the fastener on the inner portion of the collar and also with fastening means received in the hole of the outer portion of the collar for connecting the said portions together in a manner whereby the connector may readily conform to the neck of a wearer.

3. The connector defined in claim 1 in which marginal edges of the flat member are reenforced.

4. A conventional shirt collar having an inner portion provided with a fastener at its outer side and an overlapping outer portion provided with a hole for normally receiving said fastener, a detachable moulded one-piece yieldable connector comprising an elongated body interposed between and in conforming relationship with the inner and outer portions of the collar, and said connector being provided with a hole receiving the fastener on the inner portion of the collar and also with fastening means received in the hole of the outer portion of the collar for connecting the said portions together in a manner whereby the connector will conform to the neck of a wearer.

JOHN V. SCHAFER.

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