FLEECELIKE STRIPPING FOR BOOT TOPS OR THE LIKE

Inventor:

Leslie S. Brown,

Attorneys
This invention relates to fleece-like stripping for use on articles of wearing apparel or the like, and pertains more particularly to improvements in the so-called "shearing" stripping or "furring" heretofore applied around the tops of storm boots, or used as a facing or trim on garments for ornamental or functional purposes.

Manufacturers of ladies' and misses' oversoles or storm boots customarily apply a strip of natural or artificial shearing as a fur edging or collar around the tops of the boots for decorative treatment to enhance the style and appearance of the footwear and as a warm protector against the entrance of snow or water into the boot top. The stripping heretofore used for these purposes has been applied just as the material is cut into strips from a genuine shearing skin or from a sheet of artificial shearing or pile fabric comprising a textile fabric backing and upstanding fibres or filaments bonded to the backing and simulating fleece or fur. In either case, the fleece or pile stands substantially upright from the skin or backing with the result that raw edges of the striping are visible at the bottom and end of the strip after the striping has been applied around the boot top, thus seriously detracting from the appearance of the footwear.

It is accordingly the principal purpose of the present invention to provide a fleece-like striping of this type having its skin or backing curled or folded rearwardly at one or more of its edges, so that the folded edge is normally disposed approximately at right angles to the body of the backing and the fleece or pile on the face of the curled edge rounds over the folded margin and thus overhangs and hides the raw edges of the backing. When the strip is to be used on a boot top, as aforesaid, the backing is thus curled or folded along the longitudinal margin which will be at the bottom of the applied strip, and preferably at both ends of the strip which will lie in opposed relation along the front opening of the storm boot. It is not necessary to curl or crease the other longitudinal edge which is usually reverse-seamed to the top margin of the boot.

The folding of the backing margins and rounding of the pile at the bottom and ends of the applied strip not only conceals the raw edges of the backing but also affords additional advantages in economy and appearance. The rounding of the pile along the longitudinal edge of the strip increases the apparent width of the strip and thus permits the use of a strip appreciably narrower than the strips customarily required for this purpose.

The conventional stripping for boot top ornamentation is approximately 2½ inches wide; whereas stripping prepared in accordance with this invention need be only 2¼ inches wide to furnish the equivalent visual appearance. Furthermore, the rounding of the pile at the ends of the improved stripping tends to close the gap of the collar at the front of the storm boot, thus hiding the slider of the slide fastener customarily used to close the boot front, further enhancing the appearance of the closed storm boot, and also permitting the use of a shorter collar strip than that normally required. The economies effected by such saving of material are substantial, for it will be appreciated that thousands of yards of such striping are used by storm boot manufacturers in normal daily production.

A recommended embodiment of the invention, showing a strip of artificial shearing prepared for use as a boot top collar or edging, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. It will be understood, however, that the improved striping may be used for many other purposes, such as trimming on slippers, and facing on coats or other wearing apparel, and that this invention is not intended to be limited to the particular usage herein illustrated and described. In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a storm boot having a fur edging or collar made from the improved fleece-like striping; Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of an ordinary shearing strip of the type heretofore used as a boot top collar. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the improved strip, curled or folded in accordance with this invention; Fig. 4 is a transverse section on line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and Fig. 5 is a transverse section on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

The conventional shearing striping heretofore used in ornamenting boot tops consists of a rectangular piece of natural or artificial shearing approximately 2½ inches wide and 8 to 12 inches long, depending on the size of the boot. The strip is suitably cut from natural sheepskin or from a sheet of artificial shearing having a pile of natural or synthetic fibres simulating fleece or fur upstanding from a fabricated backing. Although the wool on natural shearing may run in varying directions in different areas of the skin, the fleece or pile along the edge of a cut strip of either natural shearing or artificial shearing will usually stand upright from the skin or backing, as indicated in Fig. 4. Hence,
the raw edges of the backing are visible when the strip is applied to a boot or other article with its pile surface outermost. When such untreated stripping is applied to a boot top, the raw edges of the backing are objectionably apparent at the bottom edges and ends of the collar and there is a noticeable gap between the opposed ends at the front of the boot exposing the slider or other fastening employed to close the quarters of the boot.

Inasmuch as the improved fleece-like stripping may consist of natural or artificial shearing or equivalent pile fabric, the following terms will hereinafter be used comprehensively to include materials or substances of equivalent utility or appearance: "shearing strip" to connote any stripping of natural or artificial material having the general appearance of a fleece or fur edging or the like; "backing" to connote the skin or hide of sheep or of fur-bearing animals, and also the fabricated backer sheet or body of artificial shearing or other pile fabric; and "pile" to connote the wool or fleece of sheepskin, the hair of rabbit or other fur, and the pile or plush formed by natural or synthetic fibres which are suitably bonded to the backing of manufactured pile fabric.

In accordance with this invention, a rectangular shearing strip comprising a flexible backing 11 of desired width and length, having upstanding pile 12 covering its face or outer surface, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4, is marginally treated to crease, curl or partially fold one or more of its edges so that such edges are folded as shown at 13 and 14 in Figs. 3 and 5, where one longitudinal edge of the backing and both transverse edges or ends thereof are normally disposed approximately at right angles with respect to the body of the flexible backing. The pile is thus pulled or rounded over at the folded edges, as indicated at 15, concealing the raw edges of the backing when the strip is applied to the boot or other article with its pile surface outermost.

Hence, when the improved shearing strip is applied as a fur edging or collar to the top of a storm boot (Fig. 1), the collar edges hang and effectively hides the underlying raw edges of the stripping around the bottom 16 of the collar and also at the opposed ends 17 thereof, where any fastening means employed to close the opening 18 in the front of the boot are substantially concealed from view. The collar or trim thus presents a much more pleasing appearance, and such appearance is afforded by the use of a strip which may be narrower and shorter than that heretofore required for the same purpose.

The edges 13 and 14 of the backing 11 may be curled or folded over by drawing the blunt point of a heated implement along the margin of the bottom surface of the backing which, if artificial, preferably has a latex, acetate, or resinous coating applied to such surface. The heated implement tends to crease or curl the backing along a fold line relatively close and parallel to its extreme edge, with the result that the fibres of the backing are shrunk or contracted along said fold line and the folded edges 13 and 14 are caused to assume a normally curled or arched set with respect to the body of the backing 11. It will be understood that the angle or fold need not be as sharp or abrupt as shown in the drawings, and that any creasing at the fold line is preferably on an arc rather than at an angle, so that the margins 13 and 14 are folded on a curve traversing approximately ninety degrees. The precise degree of the fold is obviously not critical, as long as the raw edge of the backing is substantially concealed by the rounded-over pile edges.

If preferred, the folding operation may be accomplished by applying a strip of latex or resinous cement to the underside of the backing margin, as shown at 19 (Figs. 3), then folding over its edges upon the coated underside of the backing and pressing the folded edge until the cement nearly dries, and finally releasing the adhesive bond by pulling the edge away so that it assumes the position substantially as shown in Figs. 3 and 5.

Such folding or curling operations may be performed by hand or by suitable machines, and other methods of curling or folding selected marginal edges of fleece-like stripping may be practiced without departing from the essence of this invention as defined in the appended claims. It will be found that the curled or folded edges of the stripping will normally maintain their pre-set position even when wet, especially when the backer or backing material has been treated with a waterproof cement of the character mentioned, but both having sufficient stiffness transversely of the margin to hold the curled position. The strip is nevertheless substantially free of longitudinal stiffness whereby it drapes or fits closely to the surface of the boot or other article to which it is applied.

I claim:

1. Fleece-like stripping of the character described, consisting of a limp and flexible backing and pile upstanding from one surface of the backing, at least one margin of the backing being permanently curled toward the opposite surface thereof, the pile extending substantially to the raw edge of said margin, and said edge being disposed in spaced relation to said opposite surface of the backing, whereby the pile carried by said curled margin is rounded over substantially to conceal the raw edge of the backing margin when the strip is applied to an article with its pile surface outermost, said margin being substantially free of longitudinal stiffness.

2. Fleece-like stripping of the character described, consisting of a limp and flexible backing and pile upstanding from the backing on the outer surface thereof, at least one margin of the backing being permanently partially folded over toward and disposed approximately at right angles to the opposite surface thereof, the pile extending substantially to the raw edge of said margin, and said edge being disposed in spaced relation to said opposite surface of the backing, whereby the pile carried by said folded margin is rounded over substantially to conceal the raw edge of the backing margin when the strip is applied to an article with its pile surface outermost, said margin being substantially free of longitudinal stiffness.

3. Fleece-like stripping of the character described, consisting of a limp and flexible backing and pile upstanding from the backing on the outer surface thereof, and extending to the raw edges of the backing, said backing having a permanent downturned margin normally disposed approximately at right angles to the body of the backing, whereby the pile on said backing is rounded over the said margin and substantially conceals the raw edge of said margin, and when the strip is applied to an article with its pile surface outermost, said margin being substantially free of longitudinal stiffness and the
5 edge of said backing margin being disposed in spaced relation to the body of the backing.

4. Fleece-like strip of the character described, consisting of a limp and flexible backing and pile upstanding from the backing on the outer surface thereof and extending substantially to the raw edges thereof, said backing having a permanent crease defining a transversely offset margin normally disposed approximately at right angles to the body of the backing, whereby the pile on said backing is rounded over the said margin and substantially conceals the raw edge of the backing when the strip is applied to an article with its pile surface outermost, said margin being relatively narrow and free of longitudinal stiffness, and the backing edge of the margin being disposed in spaced relation to said body.

5. Fleece-like stripping for use as edging around the top of a storm boot, consisting of a rectangular backing of limp and flexible material having an upstanding pile substantially covering its outer surface and extending substantially to the raw edges thereof, one longitudinal edge and both transverse edges of the backing being permanently curled toward the opposite surface thereof to provide a relatively narrow folded margin normally disposed approximately at right angles to the body of the backing, whereby the pile on said folded margins overhangs and hides the raw edges of the backing when the stripping is applied to the boot top with its pile surface outermost, said margin being substantially free of longitudinal stiffness.

6. Fleece-like stripping for application to the tops of storm boots, consisting of a limp and flexible backing having a pile upstanding from one surface and extending substantially to the raw edge of at least one margin of the backing, said margin being permanently curled toward the opposite surface of the backing and being free of longitudinal stiffness, and the edge of said curled margin being spaced from the backing, whereby the pile on said curled margin is rounded over to conceal the raw edge of the backing margin when the stripping is applied to the boot top with its pile surface outermost, with said curled margin extending along the free bottom of the stripping, so that the stripping conforms closely to the shape of the boot top.

LESLIE S. BROWN.

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