

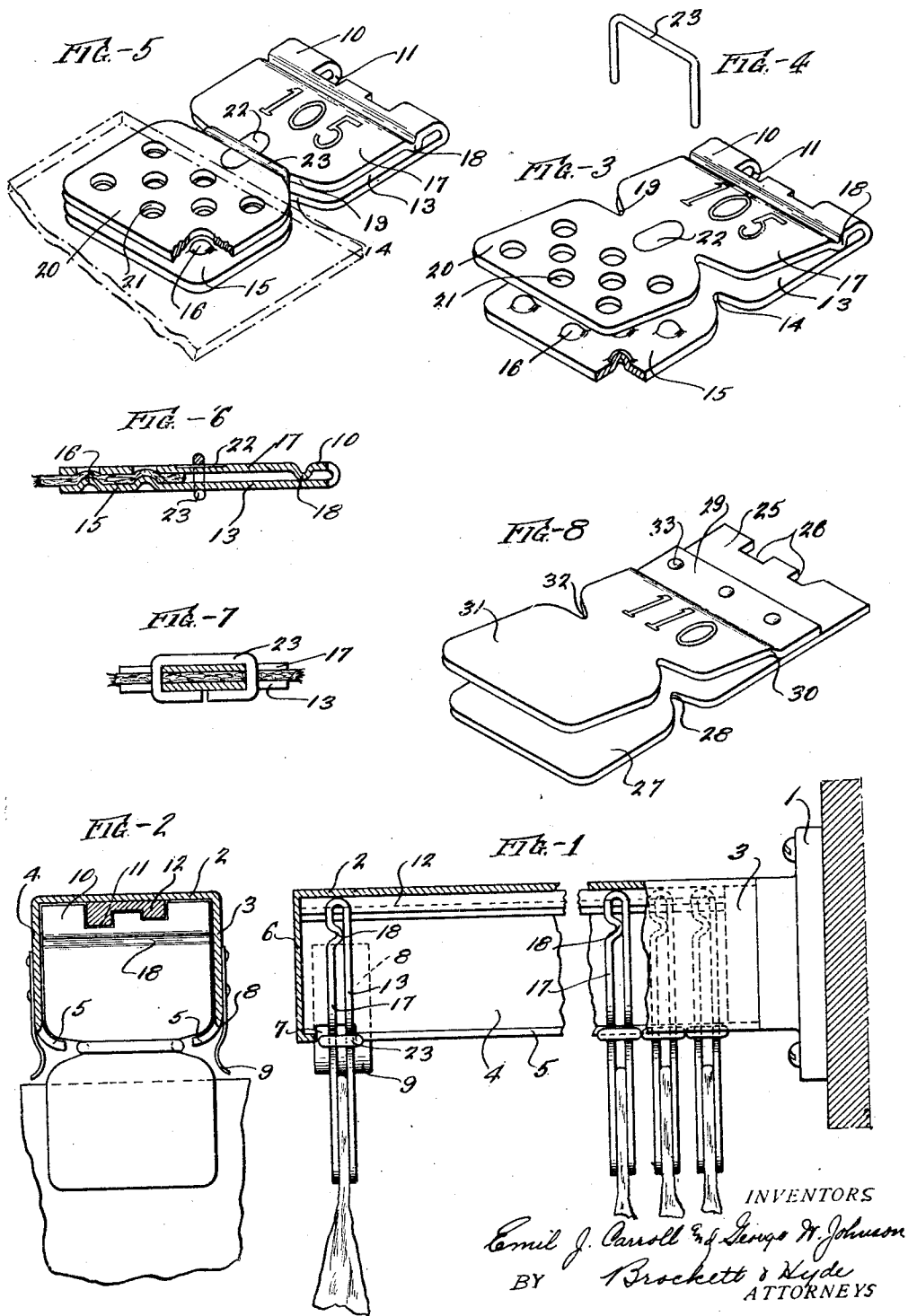
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LAUNDRY MARKING TAG

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LAUNDRY-MARKING TAG.

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This invention relates to marking apparatus for fabric articles to be treated and particularly to that type of such apparatus wherein non-corrosive markers are applied to the several articles with suitable identification means for properly classifying such articles, as for example, the identification of the wash of an individual whereby it may be separated or sorted from a larger mass of articles belonging to others after a laundering process.

The present invention aims to overcome some of the difficulties encountered heretofore in such identifying and sorting apparatus and markers by providing a normally open clamping marker having clamping parts, adapted to be secured to the article by an adjustable holding device in the form of a staple embracing the clamping parts beyond the edge of the fabric article, and thereby holding the clamp in closed position upon the article and at the same time being adjustable for various thicknesses of material. These markers, in some instances, will be identified in lots or groups or, in fact, in any desired arrangement, one suitable arrangement being where each marker is provided with an identification number and with a physical configuration identifying it with a suitably identified rack preferably in the form of a hollow rail with a slot at the bottom providing lips or flanges for supporting the markers and with an entrance or gate at the front and bottom adapted to permit the insertion of the marker upwardly into the rack. For the purpose of causing each rack to receive its own particular articles as distinct from others, it is provided within and at its top with a suitable formed bar adapted by its cross sectional configuration, to correspond with the notched recesses at the end of its own marker thereby identifying and assorting the articles belonging to that particular rack.

Important phases of the invention are the following, to wit, the normal spring opening of the clamping parts of the marker to facilitate release and application to the fabric article; the holding of these clamping parts in place by means beyond the edge of the marker and of a type to be inherently adjustable to the position of the two clamping members when engaging articles of various thick-

nesses; the provision of means for increasing the life of the spring marker when made of a single strip of metal by providing near the bend a transverse bead engaging the other side of the marker; the particular configuration of the rack with its entrance gate; and means for centering the marker into the gate.

Other features and phases of the invention will be brought out in connection with the following description, drawings and claims.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a side view partly in section showing the apparatus; Fig. 2 is a vertical section just ahead of one of the markers as it is located in the entrance gate; Fig. 3 shows the marker in open position; Fig. 4 is a view of the staple; Fig. 5 shows an assembled marker clamped to the article; Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section; Fig. 7 is a section through the waists of the clamping members; and Fig. 8 is a modified form of marker made up of two separate pieces as opposed to the one piece marker as shown in the other figures.

In the embodiment set forth in the drawings, the apparatus comprises a suitable support 1 adapted to be applied or secured to a wall or other main support. Projecting from this support 1 is a tubular rack of substantially rectangular form in cross section comprising a top wall 2, side walls 3 and 4, inwardly projecting side flanges 5 forming a slot along the underside of the rack. The front of the marker may be closed by an end wall 6 which may have a suitable indication to designate the particular rack. To the rear of the end wall 6 and notched out of the flanges 5 is a suitable entrance opening or gate 7 of suitable size and configuration to readily receive the markers vertically, as will appear. Secured to the side walls 3 and 4 and extending down beyond the ends of the opening or gate 7 are suitable guiding clips 8 having outwardly bent spring ends 9 to facilitate the entrance of the marker into the opening or gate.

Any length, size or arrangement of racks may be employed to carry out any desired requirements for the system to be employed.

The racks already described are used in conjunction with markers applied to the fabric articles and these markers, as shown, are formed, in one arrangement, of a single strip

of non-corrosive spring metal. In the particular arrangement shown all of these markers include a main body portion 10 bent over and provided in its end with a suitable irregular recess 11 to cooperate with an identifying bar 12 of the proper shape secured within to the upper wall 2 of the rack. One side 13 of each marker, the lower as shown in Fig. 5, is flat and is notched at 14 to form a waist. The outer end of this member is the clamping portion or jaw and is here designated by the reference character 15 and its inner surface is provided with projections 16 for a purpose to be described. The other marker member 17 is provided with a transverse inwardly projecting bead 18 engaging the inner surface of the lower member 13 to relieve the bent end portion of some of the strain and to increase the spring opening effect of the marker. This member 17 is notched at 19 to form a narrow waist corresponding in all respects to the similar arrangement of the lower member. The clamping jaw 20 of this member 17 is provided with openings 21 registering with the projections 16 to produce projections in the fabric and assist in holding the marker upon the article. The outer upper face of the member 17 at the waist is provided with a depression 22 at the center for a purpose to be described.

These markers have a normal tendency to spring open as shown in Fig. 3 and are held clamped upon the article by a staple 23 applied in any suitable manner at the waists of the two members 13 and 17. By using a staple of this kind the clamping jaws 15 and 20 may be applied to the article and the staple applied to hold the clamping members together beyond the edge of the fabric so that no perforation of the fabric for the staple is necessary. In using a staple to hold the clamping members closed upon the article such holding means becomes at once adjustable since the clamping jaws will be brought tightly against the article by the confining action of the staple and at the same time the staple, when crimped over will not create such an undue holding action upon the clamping members that the outer ends of the jaws are separated as would be the case where a slidable band or the like was moved up along the clamping members and did not have a variable holding characteristic. In other words, when the marker is applied to a relatively thin fabric the staple will be crimped up tighter. When applied to a thick article it will be extended somewhat. It is in this sense that the staple becomes an adjustable holding device for the clamping members of the marker. When the marker is applied the flimsy yielding fabric follows the upper contour of the lower clamping jaw 15 and portions of the fabric are forced up into the openings 21 of the upper clamping jaw so that a strong hold of the marker upon the fabric results.

When the article has proceeded through the various steps of the laundering or other treating process and the marker is to be removed, this may be accomplished very readily by inserting a tool under the staple at the recess 22.

In use as applied to laundry work, for example, the various laundry articles of a customer are conveyed to the marking room or any other suitable point. Here the customer is delegated a certain number or other similar indication. The markers corresponding to this mark or indication are applied to the various laundry articles belonging to that customer. After being suitably marked the several articles pass through the various laundering steps, the markers being made of suitable material so as not to be affected by the various materials in the laundry process and be of such size and shape that they pass through the various machines employed including the flat work ironer. When the articles have been laundered they are sorted and by a suitable designation upon each marker they are carried to the corresponding rack. To check the mental assortment made by the employee the notches 11 and the rail 12 are provided in connection with the marker and rack so that when the marker is inserted in the rack by the employee, if the proper mental and physical assortment has been made by the employee, then the rack will receive the marker and all others of its kind whereby the customer's articles when properly marked are already assembled and may be handled as a group.

In the modification shown in Fig. 8, the marker is specifically of a little different form. In this arrangement one member, the lower one as shown, is a single flat piece of metal and comprises the end portion 25 provided with the notches 26 for cooperation with the sorting apparatus and the clamping portion 27 separated from the end portion by the waist indicated at 28. Secured to the end portion 25 is an upper clamping end portion 29 bent up slightly at 30 and then sprung away from the lower member to provide an upper clamping member 31. This member is likewise provided with a waist at 32. The two members are secured together by suitable rivets 33. This marker is substantially of the same thickness as the other marker and may possess some advantageous features to recommend its use over the single piece marker.

What we claim is:

1. A laundry marker comprising a re-usable main portion having self-opening jaws, a destructible and removable clamping means embracing said jaws, and means for preventing jaw releasing movement of said clamping means.

2. In a device of the class described in claim 1 wherein the clamping means is a metallic device crimped over opposite sides of the

clamping jaws to hold them in engagement with the work.

3. In a device of the class described in claim 1 wherein the clamping means is a metallic wire-like device crimped about the jaws and open at one point to facilitate removal.

4. In a device of the class described in claim 1 wherein the clamping jaws are recessed at their edges for receiving the clamping means.

5. In a device of the class described in claim 1 wherein the clamping jaws are provided

with waist-like recesses to receive the clamping means.

6. In a device of the class described in claim 1 wherein one of the clamping means is provided with a recess in the region of the clamping means for facilitating the insertion of a removing tool under the clamping means.

In testimony whereof we hereby affix our signatures.

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