This invention concerns scarves, mufflers or similar items of wearing apparel having combined apparel and display purposes. More particularly, it relates to scarves, mufflers, or the like which, in addition to a usual clothing function, may be used by the wearers at sporting events to create coordinated or synchronized displays in a so-called "cheering section" in support of the athletic team which represents the group of wearers using the scarves.

A principal object of this invention is provision of improvements in scarves, mufflers or similar articles of wearing apparel. Further objects include:

1. The provision of signal or display devices for use at sporting events to create massive coordinated displays in cheering sections.
2. The provision of flexible display webs which may be employed by teenagers, college students or other persons attending sporting events such as baseball, basketball or football games to create spectacular displays as a part of the sporting event, e.g., coordinated displays from the bleachers or stands of a sports arena or in performing so-called "trick dances" upon the athletic field in conjunction with the sporting event.
3. The provision of scarves, mufflers or similar apparel items which would appeal to wearers of high school and college age because of the utility of the item for a group social activity in addition to the utility of the item for wearing purposes.

Other objects and further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter; it should be understood, however, that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

These objects are accomplished according to the present invention by the provision of a scarf, muffler or similar article which is provided along one of its longitudinal edges and along one of its transverse edges with fastening means and along the other transverse and longitudinal edges with complementary fastening means which enable a plurality of the separate items to be fastened together as a unit, both along the longitudinal edges and the transverse edges thereof. A more complete understanding of the construction of the new scarves and their manner of use may be had by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one form of scarf in accordance with the invention;
FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary view of a young lady using a scarf of the present invention as an item of wearing apparel;
FIGURE 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional side view of complementary edges of two scarves of the invention about to be joined together by engagement of the complementary edge fastening means of the two scarves;
FIGURE 4 is a plan view on substantially reduced scale showing a large display panel which has been created by fastening together a plurality of scarves of the invention along both their longitudinal and transverse edges;
FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary enlarged top view of a modified form of scarf of the invention;
FIGURE 6 is a fragmentary top view, similar to FIGURE 4, but of larger scale, showing a panel formed by transverse and longitudinal edge connection of a plurality of scarves of the form shown in FIGURE 5;
FIGURE 7 is an enlarged fragmentary top view of still another modified form of scarf of the invention; and
FIGURE 8 is a fragmentary top view, similar to FIGURE 6, of a panel formed by joining together a plurality of scarves of the form shown in FIGURE 7.

Referring in detail to the drawings, and with special reference to FIGURES 1 through 4, the scarf or muffler 2 comprises a rectangular section 4 of fabric formed with a plurality of transverse sections of one color 6 and alternating color sections 8. The fabric 4 may be of woven, non-woven or knit construction and the alternate colored sections 6 and 8 may be created by weaving or knitting the sections alternately into the fabric by long or short weaving or knitting techniques or, particularly in the case of non-woven fabrics, by dyeing or otherwise coloring the fabric web in alternate sections.

The rectangular web 4 is provided along one of the longitudinal edges 10 with a plurality of spaced male snap fastener elements 12 which are preferably located on the center line of the alternate color sections 6. One of the transverse edges 14 of the fabric web 4 is provided with a plurality of male snap fastener elements 12.

The second longitudinal edge 16 of the rectangular web 4 is provided with a plurality of spaced female snap fastener elements 18 which are offset with respect to the male snap fastener elements 12 being located approximately on the center line of the alternating colored sections 8. A plurality of female snap fastener elements 18 are also attached along the second transverse edge 20 of the rectangular web 4.

The new scarves 2 are adapted to be worn in any fashion in which scarves, mufflers or similar articles are normally employed. FIGURE 2 illustrates use of the new scarf as an item of wearing apparel by simply draping it around the neck of the wearer 12 as shown in FIGURE 3. Snap fasteners on complementary edges may be used to hold the scarves in wearing position which may assume many other forms than that shown in FIGURE 2, e.g., encircling the neck, head or waist of the wearer.

The new scarves may be quickly assembled by a group of wearers to form various design panels for display purposes, particularly at football games, basketball games and similar sporting events which have a "cheering section." Hence, the new scarves serve, in addition to their function as an item of wearing apparel, to identify the wearer as one of a particular group and permit the wearer to engage in coordinated cheering or display activities. With proper direction of a cheerleader or other director, the new scarves may be used to create spectacular displays, particularly when viewed in a football stadium or other sports arena having tiered seats which may be seen by other attendants at the sporting event.

One form of display item which can be created from the new scarves is shown in FIGURE 4. Hence, a large panel 24 has been formed by joining together a plurality of the rectangular webs 4 along both their longitudinal and transverse edges by connecting together the snap fastener elements as shown in FIGURE 5. It will be observed that because of the staggered arrangement of the snap fasteners 12 and 18 in the colored sections of the web 4, the display panel 24 has a checkerboard effect. This preferred form of the fastening elements has been found to produce a spectacular display effects when a large panel is created from a dozen or more of the new scarves.

In another preferred form of the scarves, the spacing of the snap fasteners along longitudinal edges 10 and 16...
may be made to coincide with the spacing of the fasteners along the transverse edges 14 and 20, permitting displays to be formed in which a transverse edge is fastened to the longitudinal edge of a separate scarf.

Referring to FIGURES 5 and 6, the new scarves may use zippers instead of snap fasteners as the joining means. A preferred form of scarf comprising a zipper employs a separable zipper element 26 fixed to one of the transverse edges 28 of the scarf 30 and a complementary zipper section 32 fixed to the other transverse edge 34 of the scarf. Male snap members 12 are fixed at spaced intervals along one of the longitudinal edges 36 of the scarf 30, the other longitudinal edge 38 is provided with spaced female snap members 18. This modified form of scarf has the snap members 12 and 18 positioned in pairs along transverse lines parallel to the transverse edges 28 and 34.

The formation of a display panel for cheering or other purposes from the form of scarf shown in FIGURE 5 is illustrated in FIGURE 6. The separate scarves 30 are joined along the transverse edges by uniting the zipper elements 26 and 32 in known manner and by also fastening together, in known fashion, the snap elements 12 and 18 on the longitudinal edges of the scarves. The scarves may be of one solid color or of any colored designs. For special effects, the cheerleader or display director may have wearers use the scarves of particular chosen colors which may be fixed in an overall design which will produce a unitary panel having a colored design formed by the proper placement of separate colored scarves in the overall panel.

The use of buttons and buttonholes in place of snap fasteners, slide or zip fasteners, "Velo" fasteners or the like in the new scarves is illustrated in FIGURES 7 and 8. Here, the transverse edge 40 of the scarf 42 is provided with a plurality of spaced buttons 44 while the other transverse edge 46 has a plurality of buttonholes 48 properly placed to receive the buttons 44. Similarly, one of the longitudinal edges 50 is provided with a plurality of spaced buttons 44 and the other longitudinal edge 52 has formed therein a plurality of buttonholes 48 so spaced as to properly receive the complementary buttons 44 on the other longitudinal edge 50. This construction permits a display panel to be created as shown in FIGURE 8 by joining together separate scarves along both their transverse and longitudinal edges.

Having described the new items of wearing apparel of the invention which are called "Cheerscarves" in sufficient detail to enable persons skilled in the art to make and use the same and to show the manner in which these new scarves differ from related items available heretofore, the invention to be protected by United States Letters Patent is defined in the following claims:

1. A combination item of wearing apparel and flexible display element for use in combination with similar elements in forming a coordinated large flexible display panel of a plurality of elements which comprises a rectangular flexible web having parallel longitudinal edges and parallel transverse edges formed with a plurality of transverse alternating colored rectangular sections, a plurality of spaced fastening elements fixed along one of said longitudinal edges along the transverse center lines of colored sections of one color, a plurality of similarly spaced complementary fastening elements fixed along the other of said longitudinal edges on the transverse center lines of colored sections of another color, said fastening elements permitting a plurality of said combination items to be fastened together along their longitudinal edges, fastening means fixed to one of said transverse edges and complementary fastening means fixed to the other of said transverse edges to permit a plurality of said combination items to be fastened together along their transverse edges, the resulting fastened plurality of combination items creating a checkerboard effect.

2. A combination item as claimed in claim 1 wherein said spaced complementary fastening elements are male snap fasteners and said complementary fastening elements are female snap fasteners.

3. A combination item as claimed in claim 1 wherein said spaced fastening elements are buttons and said complementary fastening elements are buttonholes.

4. A combination item as claimed in claim 1 wherein said fastening means are zipper fasteners.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,720,654 10/1955 Stephenson ———— 2—69
3,079,611 3/1963 Boryszewski ———— 2—89

FOREIGN PATENTS

657,985 3/1938 Germany.
238,300 4/1928 Italy.

JORDAN FRANKLIN, Primary Examiner.
RICHARD J. SCANLAN, Jr., Examiner.