

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,645,867

IDENTIFICATION TAG FOR CLEANSING OR
STORAGE ESTABLISHMENTSIsrael K. Sternberg, Lynn, Mass.; Rose Sternberg
and Howard Rubin, executors of said Israel K.
Sternberg, deceased

Application November 25, 1949, Serial No. 129,403

2 Claims. (Cl. 40-5)

1

2

This invention relates to identification tags and pertains more particularly to improvements in identification tags for use in laundries, dry cleaning establishments, for storage shops, or the like.

The principal purpose of the invention is to provide an identification tag of simple and economical construction, which may be removably affixed to garments, rugs or other articles left for laundering, dry cleaning or storage; which may remain on the garment during laundering or dry cleaning, without damage to the tag, until the garment is delivered to the customer; which has removable and replaceable index studs or buttons, whereby the tag may be reused repeatedly with other indicia applied thereto; and which thus eliminates the expense of preparing new identification tags for each garment or other article deposited for cleansing or storage, the cost of marking machines or the like now commonly employed in laundries, or the labor of applying hand written indicia, and the damage which may result to garments from marking inks or from wire staples employed to affix the conventional identification tags or tickets thereto.

More specifically, it is an object of this invention to provide an identification tag having a body portion made of flexible plastic material or other pliable material which will withstand the washing or dry cleansing operations, and having a plurality of slits or openings for removably receiving a number of individual index studs or buttons; a metal shield applied to one end of the tag body, and providing a space for a permanent index symbol; a spring clip attached over the metal shield and arranged removably to hold a safety pin for attaching the identification tag to the article deposited for cleansing or storage; the fold of the shield preferably having a groove in which the shank of the safety pin seats and having notches receiving the legs of the spring clip, whereby the safety pin is effectively secured but is easily removed and replaced, when necessary.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, but it will be understood that the structural details of the tag herein shown and described may be varied for particular purposes without departing from the essence of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the identification tag, prepared for affixation to one piece of a three-piece garment such as a man's suit, deposited for dry cleaning;

Fig. 2 is an end elevation looking to the right of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is an exploded view showing in perspective the several elements of the tag, the tag body being partly broken away.

The identification tag illustrated in the drawing is, as aforesaid, designed for application to a three-piece garment such as a man's coat, vest and trousers, but a similar tag may obviously be applied to other garments and other articles which are left by the owner at a cleaning or storage establishment, for the purpose of designating the ownership of the article, until it is returned to the owner. The tag comprises a body portion 11, consisting of a strip of pliable plastic material, or other pliable material which will withstand laundering or cleansing, said strip having a plurality of slits or openings 12 for removably receiving a number of index elements, such as the double-headed studs or buttons 13, made of metal or of plastic material. One or both faces of each of said buttons display an identifying symbol, such as a numeral, as shown, a letter, or a combination of the two.

A folded metal shield 14 embraces one end of the strip 11, and is secured thereto by eyelets 15 or other fastenings passing through openings 16 and 17 in the shield and strip, respectively. The fold of the shield is preferably formed with a depressed longitudinal groove 18 extending across the top of the shield, and with two pairs of transverse notches 19.

A folded spring clip 20 is applied over the top of the shield, and the curled ends or eyes 21 of the clip are secured by the eyelets 15. The bights 22 of the legs of the wire clip are received in the notches 19 of the shield 14.

The shank 23 of a conventional safety pin 24 is snapped into the shield groove 18, beneath the clip, by sliding it upwardly under the spring tongue 25 thereof, which normally engages one side of the shield 14. The safety pin is thereby securely but removably attached to the identification tag, in such a manner that it is unlikely to be dislodged during the handling of the tag or during the washing or cleansing operations performed upon the articles to which the tag is affixed by the pin.

Either or both of the exposed surfaces of the shield 14 may display a permanent index symbol 26, such as the letter "A," to designate the branch office or shop at which garments are left for washing or dry cleansing. The numerals on the respective studs or index elements 13 preferably correspond with the last three digits

3

of the customer's serial number customarily stamped on a conventional receiving ticket, made out in duplicate, one copy of which is delivered to the customer when the article is deposited for cleansing or storage; but other identification systems may be employed, as desired.

In the specification form illustrated in Fig. 1, for example, the consecutive numerals "9-3-5" on the respective buttons 13 thus designate the owner of the article to which the tag is applied. The button or index element 27 adjacent the bottom of the tag is used when a garment, for example, consists of more than one piece; the symbol "3P," for example, indicating a three piece suit or the like. In such case, each piece of the suit will bear an identification tag like that shown in Fig. 1.

It will be understood that the buttons 13 and 27 are manually inserted in the slits 12 of the tag body at the time the receipt form is made out for the customer. The tags remain on the deposited articles, as aforesaid, during processing or storage thereof and until the article or articles are delivered to the customer. The tag is then removed by unclaspings the safety pin, the index elements 13 and 27 are detached, and the tag body 11 is then ready for the reception of other index elements, to designate other articles deposited for cleansing or storage. The detached studs or buttons may be placed in suitable receptacles, with other studs where they will be available for reuse.

An identification tag constructed as herein described admirably serves the purposes and objects of this invention, as heretofore explained. The device is very convenient, efficient and economical when used by cleansing and storage establishments, and the customers' articles are not damaged or defaced by markings applied to the articles at the time of deposit, or by removal of stapled fabric tags after delivery.

I claim:

1. An identification tag for articles to be cleansed or stored, comprising a relatively pliable body portion having a plurality of openings there-through for receiving removable index elements, a folded relatively stiff shield embracing a mar-

4

gin of said body portion, a folded spring-wire clip straddling the fold of said shield and having eyes at the free ends thereof, fasteners passing through said shield and body portion and through said eyes for permanently securing said parts together, the fold of said shield having a depressed longitudinal groove therein and having pairs of transverse notches, the spring clip having wire leg portions received in the respective pairs of notches and a resilient tongue on one side of said shield, said groove and said leg portions forming between them a seat for retaining the shank of a safety pin.

2. An identification tag for articles to be washed, cleansed or stored, comprising a strip of relatively pliable material having a plurality of longitudinally spaced slits therein for receiving removable index elements, a folded metal shield embracing one end of said strip, a spring-wire clip having folded leg portions straddling the folded shield and having eyes at the ends of the respective leg portions, fasteners passing through both sides of the folded shield, through said strip and through said eyes for permanently securing said parts together, the fold of said shield having a depressed longitudinal groove paralleling said strip end and having pairs of spaced transverse notches respectively receiving the leg portions of said clip, said clip having a resilient, looped tongue normally bearing against one side of said shield, said groove and said leg portions forming between them a seat for retaining the shank of a safety pin.

ISRAEL K. STERNBERG.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,159,329	Plympton	Nov. 2, 1915
1,198,826	Dansereau	Sept. 19, 1916
1,348,546	Cutler	Aug. 3, 1920
1,461,565	Velte	July 18, 1923
1,687,361	Carroll et al.	Oct. 9, 1928
1,894,906	Henry	Jan. 17, 1933
2,197,738	Balthasar	Apr. 16, 1940
2,455,007	Hayslip	Nov. 30, 1948