Nov. 14, 1950 S. SCHUSSEL 2,529,708

TROUSER CUFF SHAPER

Filed Aug. 19, 1949

Fig. 1.

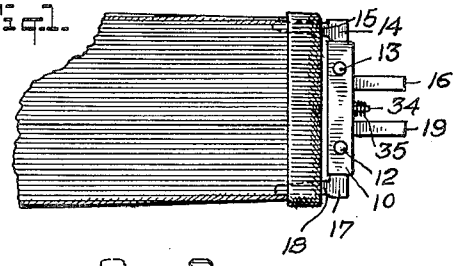


Fig. 4.

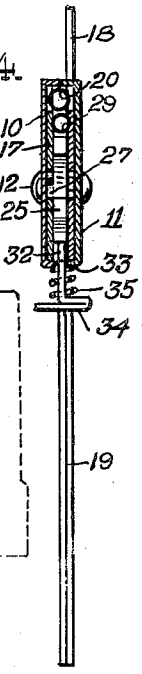


Fig. 2.

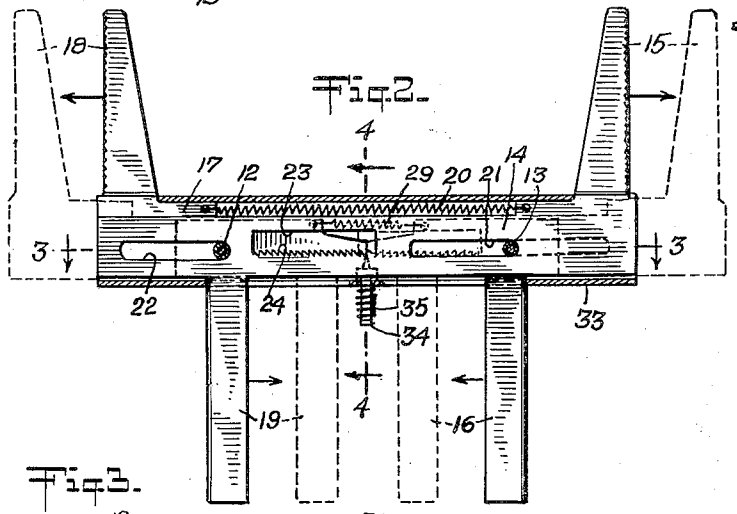


Fig. 3.

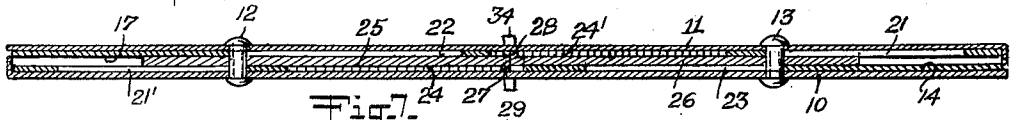


Fig. 7.

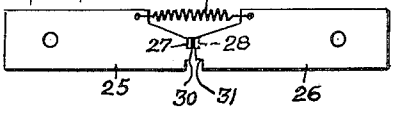


Fig. 5.

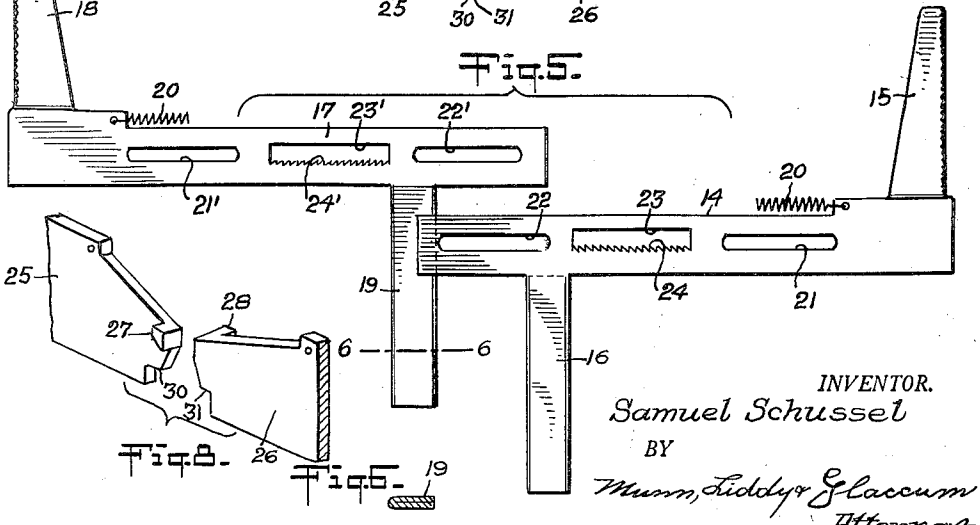


Fig. 8.

Fig. 6.

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TROUSER CUFF SHAPER

Samuel Schussel, Jamaica, N. Y.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 223—61)

1

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in devices for shaping or spreading the cuffs of trousers.

In regular clothing retail stores, when a customer comes in to buy a suit, the trousers cuffs are not finished because of the different leg lengths of the customers, so that after a person has selected a suit, the trousers lengths have to be adjusted and the cuffs finished and pressed. In order to enable the operator to easily and quickly shape and spread the finished cuff for pressing, this device was invented.

In brief and general terms, the invention comprises a housing within which are disposed two slidable plates having fingers to be projected into the trousers and handles to be manipulated to spread the plates when the device is thus inserted, so that the fingers will expand and spread the cuff of the trousers to permit them to be shaped and properly pressed. Means are provided to automatically latch the plates in any spread position and manual means is provided to release the plates and cause them to spring back to normal inoperative position by the mere pressure of the finger on a releasing device.

The present preferred form which the invention may assume is illustrated in the drawings, of which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a pair of trousers with the shaper in operative position with respect thereto;

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the device with the front casing plate removed;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is an exploded view of the two cuff spreading elements;

Fig. 6 is a horizontal cross section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a side elevation of the pivoted ratchet pawl-supporting plates; and,

Fig. 8 is a partial perspective view of the adjacent ends of said pawl-supporting plates.

Referring now merely to the specific preferred form of the invention shown in the drawings, it is noted that the device includes a housing formed of a front plate 10 and a rear plate 11 fixedly connected by rivets 12 and 13. Disposed adjacent the front plate 10 is a slidable plate 14 having an upwardly extending trouser engaging finger 15 and a dependent hand-operated bar 16. Disposed adjacent the rear plate 11, is a similar slidable plate 17 having an upwardly extending

2

trouser engaging finger 18 and a dependent hand-operated bar 19. These two plates are connected by a spring 20 which tends to always pull them together.

The slide plate 14 is provided with a slot 21 in which rides the rivet 13, a slot 22 in which rides the rivet 12, and a slot 23 the lower surface of which is provided with ratchet teeth 24. The slide plate 17 is provided with similar slots similarly constructed and numerated 21', 22', 23', and 24'.

Disposed between the slide plates 14 and 17 are two pivoted plates 25 and 26, pivoted on the rivets 12 and 13, and having on their closely adjacent ends the oppositely extending pawls 27 and 28, which are adapted to engage the respective teeth on the racks 24' and 24. A spring 29 connects adjacent portions of these pawl plates to tend to swing them downwardly to press the pawls into engagement with the ratchet teeth 24 and 24', as shown in Figure 7.

The adjacent faces of these pivoted pawl plates are provided with downwardly-facing shoulders 30 and 31, and releasing latch bar 32 has an upper end which is adapted to be pushed upwardly to engage said shoulders and pivot the plates 25 and 26 around their pivot points to lift them and release the pawls 27 and 28 from the teeth 24 and 24', so that the spring 20 may pull the slide plates 14 and 17 together. This latch bar 32 extends upward through the bottom flanges 33 of the casing plates 10 and 11, and has a lower head 34 to be engaged by the finger of the operator to press the bar upward to release the pawls from the teeth and unlatch the plates 14 and 17. A spring 35 is disposed between the head 34 and the bottom of the flanges 33, so as to constantly urge the bar 32 downwardly.

Operation of the device

With the parts in the position shown in Figure 2, it is apparent that the fingers 15 and 18 are in the inoperative position. When the handles 16 and 19 are grasped and pressed together, the fingers 15 and 18 are spread apart against the resistance of the spring 20. The racks on these slide plates 14 and 17 are automatically engaged by the pawls 27 and 28 on the pivoted plates 25 and 26, so that as the handles 16 and 19 are pulled closer together they are latched in position progressively and automatically as the handle bars are pressed. When the fingers of the slide plates have engaged within the trousers and spread them as desired, the pressure on the handles is stopped and the de-

vice holds the parts in their operative position. When it is desired to release the mechanism, it is merely necessary to press up on the head **34** on the lower end of the release bar **32** to swing the pawl plates upward and lift the pawls away from the racks, and thereby permit the spring **20** to restore the slide plates to their normal inoperative position.

It is obviously an extremely simple matter to insert the fingers within the cuff of a pair of trousers, then press together the handle members until the required spreading of the cuff is achieved and then leave the parts in their automatically latched position. To release the device from the trousers cuff it is merely necessary to press the finger upward on the head **34** and the parts immediately snap back in released position, as shown and described.

While the invention has been described in detail and with respect to the preferred form shown in the drawings, it is not to be limited to such details and forms since many changes and modifications may be made in the invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention in its broadest aspects. Hence, it is intended to cover any and all forms and modifications of the invention which may come within the language or scope of any one or more of the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention, is:

1. A trousers cuff spreader which comprises a housing, a pair of slide plates therein having extending fingers to be inserted into the cuff end of a trouser leg, spring means connecting the plates tending to keep them in a normal retracted inoperative position, rack elements on said plates, pawl means to engage said rack elements and hold the plates in any extended position, means tending to hold the pawl means in engagement with the racks, and manual means operable at will to release the pawl means from the rack elements and allow the spring to restore the plates to normal inoperative position.

2. A trousers cuff spreader which comprises a housing, a pair of slide plates therein having extending fingers to be inserted into the cuff end of a trouser leg, spring means connecting the plates tending to keep them in a normal retracted inoperative position, rack elements on said plates, a pair of pivoted plates having pawls thereon to engage and hold the slide plates in any extended position, a spring connecting the pawl plates tending to press the pawls into engagement with the rack elements, and manual means to move the pivoted pawl plates against the action of their spring to release the pawls from the rack elements and allow the slide plates to return to normal inoperative position.

3. A trousers cuff spreader which comprises a housing, a pair of slide plates disposed against the adjacent front and rear walls of the housing and having fingers extending outwardly therefrom to be inserted into the cuff end of a trouser leg, a spring connected between the slide plates and tending to keep them in a normal retracted inoperative position, rack elements on said slide plates, a pair of aligned pivoted plates disposed between the slide plates and having dependent pawls thereon to engage the respective rack elements and hold the slide plates in any extended position, a spring connecting the pivoted pawl-carrying plates and tending to press the pawls into engagement with the rack elements, a release bar disposed to engage the free ends of the pivoted plates when operated, a spring engaging the release bar to hold it in retracted position, and a head on said bar to be engaged by the finger of the operator to press it into contact with the free ends of said pivoted plates to release the pawls from the rack elements and allow the spring connecting the slide plates to restore them to normal inoperative position.

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