L. W. HARLEM.

BUTTON CARD.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 21, 1920.

1,388,833. Patented Aug. 23, 1921.

Fig: 1.

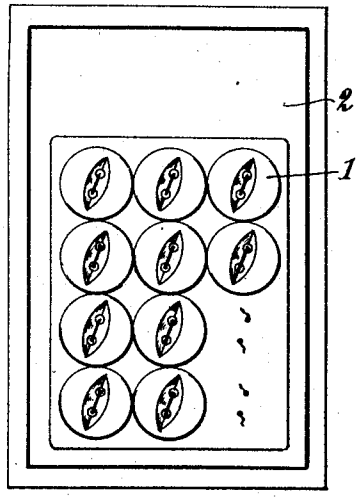


Fig: 2.

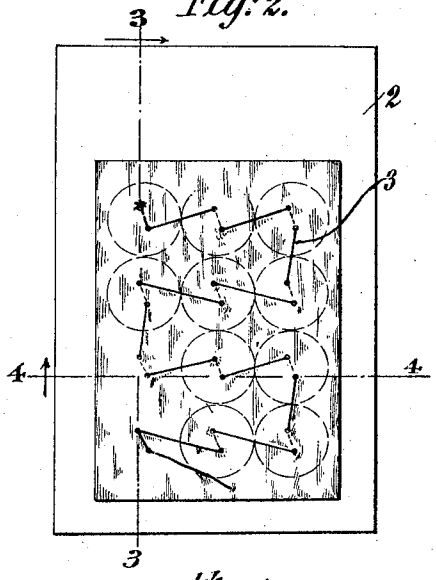
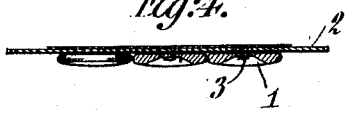


Fig: 3.



Fig: 4.



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BUTTON-CARD.

1,388,833. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 23, 1921.

Substitute for abandoned application Serial No. 358,274, filed February 12, 1920. This application filed July 21, 1920. Serial No. 397,991.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS W. HARLEM, a citizen of the United States, residing at 555 West 173d St., New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Button-Cards, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and improved construction for a button card.

For more than fifty years it has been customary to sell buttons to department stores and other retailers, mounted on paper cards to which these buttons were sewed. These buttons have always been sewed by hand to the button cards by means of a continuous thread which was passed through two of the holes of each button and then was continued along the back of the card to the next button.

Since these buttons have been sewed onto cards in quantities of one dozen or more, it has been customary to sell the buttons a few at a time, so that it was necessary to sever them from the card. This has ordinarily been done by cutting the thread with a pair of scissors, as pulling the buttons off the card would twist and warp it badly and would often break the thread at the same time to such an extent, that a number of buttons would fall off.

As soon as a button was cut off the card, the thread became loose and no matter how much care was exercised, other buttons would fall off the card.

This has been for more than fifty years a source of great loss and annoyance to the button trade because many customers will not buy buttons on a card having a bad appearance and they will not buy loose buttons at all as they desire to see the name of the manufacturer or the trade mark which is printed upon the card. Many of the large department stores have returned many cases of buttons at the end of each season to the manufacturer to be sewed on new cards, or they have kept several employees busy sewing the buttons back on the cards.

Attempts have been made to devise a machine for sewing the buttons on the cards in a secure manner, but it has not been found possible to develop a practical machine because buttons come in so many different sizes.

It has also been proposed to spread a paste made of flour and water upon the backs of the cards and to cover this with a sheet of thin paper, so that the sheet of thin paper would adhere to the thread and prevent the buttons from falling off. This expedient, however, did not go into practical use because the paste did not dry quickly and it caused the card to warp.

The manufacture and sale of buttons is seasonal and orders must be filled within a short space of time.

It would require a prohibitive amount of floor space to have a great number of cards kept while the paste dried, since all paste contains water as an ingredient thereof, and even after this was done, the thin paper did not properly secure the thread in place and the warping of the cards produced a very disagreeable effect.

It has also been proposed to sew loops onto cards and to connect the thread to the card by means of paste, but this has not gone into use in the button trade.

This is because these buttons mounted upon the cards are packed in layers of a dozen or more which are shipped to the customer. If the paste is not perfectly dry, it comes off on the buttons of the adjacent card, which makes them unsalable. In addition, a paste softens in a damp hot atmosphere and this will cause even a dried paste to adhere to the buttons of the adjacent card.

According to my invention I secure the thread at the back of the card to the body of the card by means of a thin translucent flexible adherent and non-flaking film of a quick drying adhesive that preferably does not penetrate the card to any great extent and does not warp it or affect its appearance.

Other objects of my invention will be disclosed in the following description and drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment thereof.

Figure 1 is a front view of my novel card.

Fig. 2 is a rear view of my novel card.

Fig. 3 is a section along 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a section along 4—4 of Fig. 2.

After the buttons 1 have been sewed to the card 2 by means of the thread 3 in the usual and well-known manner, the button cards are laid face downward. The custom

in the trade has been to sew the buttons on by hand, by the ordinary stitch shown in the drawings, and which may be called a running stitch for the purposes of this specification. Experience has shown that the buttons sewed on in this manner were never held tightly to the card, because the thread lay loosely on the back of the card. This rattling of the buttons caused fragile ones to break during shipment. The paper of which the card is composed is preferably filled with a good sizing or some other good filler which closes up its pores. A cement consisting of a solution of pyroxylin in acetone is then spread over the back of the card on all parts thereof where the thread is located. This is preferably done so as to provide a continuous film on the back of the card.

I prefer to make my solution in the preparation of eight ounces of pyroxylin to one gallon of acetone.

The cement dries almost instantly and it does not penetrate to any substantial extent into the pores of the paper. It leaves a thin translucent flexible and tenacious film of celluloid located substantially at the surface of the back of the card and with sufficient thickness to surround the thread and prevent it from moving. This film does not flake and fall off even after many months of exposure in spite of its thinness and is not affected by high temperatures. In fact the film may be exposed to temperatures much higher than that of any known climate without any deterioration or without any loss of its desirable properties. Neither moisture nor heat makes the back of the film, that is, the face of the film which is not adjacent the paper card, soft or become adherent.

The cards containing the buttons can thus be shipped to all climates and kept in moist, hot stock rooms, with the back of one card adjacent the buttons of the next card, without having the film come off on the buttons of the next card and spoil their appearance. Buttons having cloth covered shanks projecting from the backs of the cards are well known in this industry. Such buttons are not spoiled by using the film of celluloid before described, because this film is so thin and so translucent that it is not visible.

Of course, a film of pyroxylin which would flake and fall off would be useless for the purposes herein described.

As the thread is sewed in place by hand, there are many parts thereof which remain slightly spaced from the back of the card and the film of cement is absorbed by the thread so as to thicken it and strengthen it and it also flows under the thread so that the film of pyroxylin connects it to the back of the card.

This structure has proved very satisfactory in use and has solved the before-mentioned requirements for the first time as elaborate practical tests have shown. The film is absolutely unaffected by moisture or by any other climatic conditions.

I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention but it is clear that numerous changes could be made without departing from its spirit.

I claim:—

1. In a button card having a paper body and having buttons sewed thereto by means of a running stitch of thread, the combination of the body of the said card and a thin tenacious film of adhesive which connects the back of the said card to the thread located adjacent thereto, the said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat, and being durable and flexible, the said film being absorbed by the said thread to thicken and strengthen it.

2. In a button card having a paper body and having buttons sewed thereto by means of a running stitch of thread, the combination of the body of the said card and a thin tenacious film of adhesive which connects the back of the said card to the thread located adjacent thereto, the said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat, and being non-flaking and flexible, the said film being absorbed by the said thread to thicken and strengthen it, the paper body of the said card having its pores substantially filled with a filling material, so that the said film does not penetrate into the said paper to any substantial extent, whereby said card remains unwarped.

3. In a button card having a paper body and having buttons secured thereto by means of a running stitch of thread, the combination of the body of the said card and a thin tenacious non-flaking flexible film of pyroxylin located at the back of the said card and binding the thread thereto, the said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat and being absorbed by the thread to strengthen and thicken it.

4. In a button card having a paper body and having buttons sewed thereto by means of thread which is partly located at the back of the said card, the combination of the body of the said card and a thin, tenacious film of non-aqueous adhesive which connects the back of the said card to the thread located thereto, said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat so that its back is non-adherent, while its front adheres tenaciously to the card.

5. A button card having a body to which buttons are sewn by means of thread which is partly located at the back of the said card, the said back having a thin tenacious film of adhesive which connects the said thread thereto, the said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat, so that its

back is non-adherent while its front adheres tenaciously to the card.

6. A button card having a fibrous body to which buttons are sewn by means of thread which is partly located at the back of the said card, the said back having a thin tenacious film of adhesive which connects the said thread thereto, the said film being substantially unaffected by moisture and heat, so that its back is non-adherent while its front adheres tenaciously to the card.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

LEWIS W. HARLEM.