Oct. 11, 1932. M. F. HUEBSCH 1,882,015

LAUNDRY IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS

Filed Nov. 6, 1930

Fig. 1

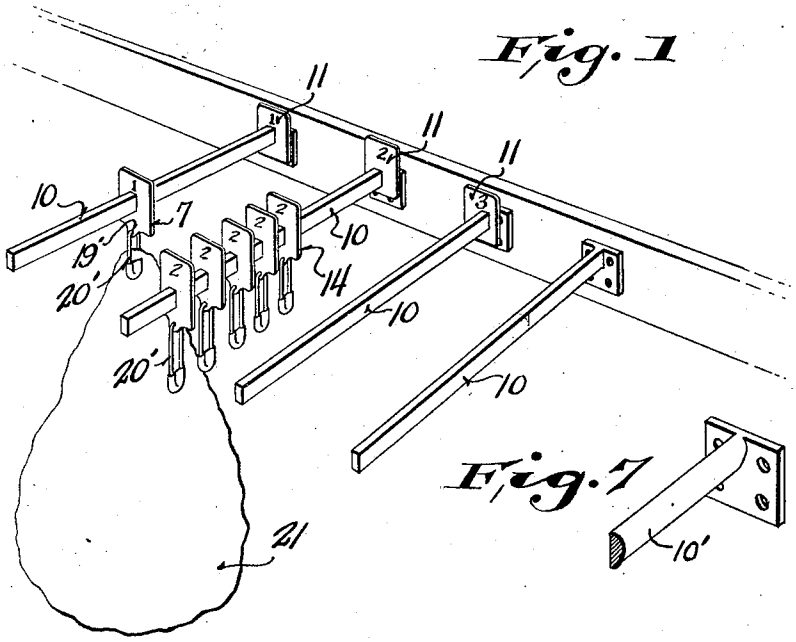


Fig. 7

Fig. 2

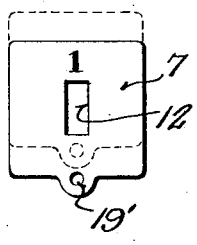


Fig. 3

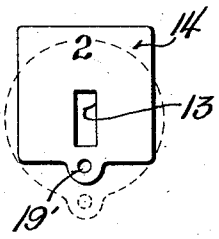


Fig. 4

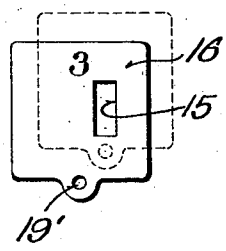


Fig. 5

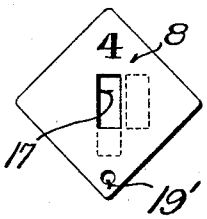


Fig. 6

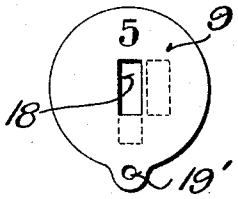
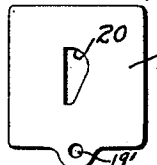


Fig. 8



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LAUNDRY IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS

Application filed November 6, 1930. Serial No. 493,753.

The invention relates to laundry identification apparatus.

It has been heretofore proposed in laundry checking systems to provide a series of tags having openings therein of certain configurations so that only those tags having a definite configuration will go on to certain racks. The system provides an excellent means for checking but in the actual use of this system much time is lost as the tags are all of the same exterior outline and the sorter works according to the numbers on the tags and the racks and where a great many racks are in use frequently mistakes the numbers and carries the wrong bundle or bag to the wrong rack. For example, the numbers 13 and 31 are frequently mistaken and other sets of numbers are frequently confused and in some instances the numbers cannot be readily distinguished. The object of the present invention is to provide a simpler and faster checking means than the one above described and one in which the operator is not so much dependent on the number on the tag to find the rack on which it goes but is aided in finding the proper rack by the shape of the tag and the position of a tag in place thereon with which the next proper tag should register and if the wrong tag is placed on the wrong rack the same will be immediately apparent by the relative position of the right and wrong tags. According to the present invention applicant has provided a plurality of series of tags, the tags of several series of which may be of the same shape but the tags of different series of the same shape being distinguished by the difference in location of the opening which receives the rack bar and the tags of other series being distinguished from this first-mentioned series by differences in shape. Thus several series of tags may be of general square or rectangular outline and these in turn divided into individual series of checking means by the difference in location of the rack bar opening. Other series of tags may be of other shapes which even though the rack bar opening is in the same location as one of the first series will be readily distinguishable therefrom when the two tags of different series are placed upon the same rack bar.

The invention further consists in the several features hereinafter described and more particularly defined by claims at the conclusion hereof.

In the drawing Fig. 1 is a detail perspective view of checking means embodying the invention applied to a sorting rack;

Fig. 2 is a detail elevation view of one tag of one series;

Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 6 are detail elevation views of other tags of other series.

Fig. 7 is a detail view of another form of tag bar;

Fig. 8 shows a tag for use with the bar shown in Fig. 7.

According to the present invention, I provide a number of series of tags which vary in shape or general outline; for example, I provide tags having a square or rectangular formation as the tag 7, other tags of diamond shape as the tag 8, other tags of round shape as the tag 9 and still other tags which may have geometric outlines differing from these or be in the shape of different objects, whether of animate or inanimate form. Thus, as each of these different series of tags differ in general outline the sorter will readily know that when a round tag or diamond-shaped tag is placed on a fixed key or sorting bar 10 whose base or indicator tag 11 shows that it was intended to receive a square tag 7 that this round or diamond-shaped tag is out of place, as shown by the full and dotted line position of the tags in Fig. 3. Furthermore, the sorter will not be apt to make this mistake as she will readily know where the sorting racks for the different tags are. Thus, while each of the tags of any one series is given a number, the sorter does not need to rely on this number alone for getting the tag on the proper bar but her first check is getting the tag of a certain definite shape into its proper checking section.

The next division of the checking means is made by taking the series of tags having any one particular outline or shape and dividing them into further individual checking series by providing openings 12 in the checks whose location with reference to a check of the same check series differ as the checks in the indi-

vidual series. For example, in the tag 7 the sorter bar opening 12 is arranged centrally of the check, while in a similar shaped tag 13 the sorter bar opening 14 is arranged centrally but toward the lower end of the check, while in the similar shaped tag 15 the sorter bar opening 16 is arranged at one side of the check. It will be readily seen from reference to Fig. 2 that when the tag 13 is placed on the same bar with the tag 7 that the difference in location of the bar openings puts the tags out of line and immediately shows the operator that something is wrong as all the tags on one bar should line up with the base tag of that bar.

Similarly the series of diamond-shaped tags 8 and circular tags 9 have the sorter bar openings 17 and 18 arranged in different position in the body of the tag so as to divide a series of tags of the same general shape into individual series for different sorter bars or racks.

Instead of the symmetrical bar 10 I may use a bar 10′ of non-symmetrical section and each of the tags previously described may have openings to fit this bar such as the opening 19 in the tag 20. This non-symmetrical opening will further assist the operator in the sorting as it will prevent the tags from being put on the arms or bars left side to the right and vice versa, since by using an arm of this kind, the operator could not reverse the tags.

As is usual, each of the tags is provided with an opening 19′ to receive a safety pin 20′ or other suitable fastening device whereby the tag may be attached to any particular bundle or piece of laundry, as indicated at 21.

With this construction, the tags of one individual series are placed on a customer's laundry and accompany it through the various laundrying operations and after washing this laundry is brought to the sorting table, where the sorter, by the shape of the tag, its number and the location of the sorter bar opening, as well as the non-symmetrical form of the sorter bar, determine the proper bar upon which to place the various bundles of any particular customer and if the sorter should have mistaken the number on the tag, the same will readily be apparent, either due to the different shape of the tag from others on the proper bar or due to the different relative position of the wrong tag with reference to the position of the right tag on the right bar.

While the invention is especially useful for checking laundry of various kinds, it is obvious that it may be applied for the checking of other articles and while the checks have been shown as mounted on rack bars other means may be provided without departing from the spirit of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. In a checking device, the combination with fixed keys, of plural series of check members having external outlines independent of said fixed keys, certain series being distinguished from other series by differences in external outline, and check members of similar outline being further divided in individual series by varying the relative location of those parts of the checks cooperating with the fixed keys.

2. In a checking device, the combination with fixed keys, of plural series of check members having external outlines independent of said fixed keys, certain series being distinguished from other series by differences in external outline, the series of check members of similar outline having key openings located in different locations in the bodies of the check members to further divide these series into a number of individual check series.

3. In a checking device, the combination with a plurality of checking rack members, of a check member associated with each of said rack members and providing an indicator for the identification of check members to be associated with said rack member, and plural series of check members cooperating with said rack members and having different external outlines distinct from said rack members and different rack member receiving openings in the bodies thereof.

4. In a checking device, the combination of fixed keys of non-symmetrical section, of a plural series of check members having external outlines distinct from said keys, certain series being distinguished from other series by differences in external outline, and check members of similar outline being further divided into individual series by varying the relative location of those parts of the check cooperating with the fixed keys.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature.

MONTE F. HUEBSCH.