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GARMENT MARKING DEVICE

Filed Dec. 10, 1962

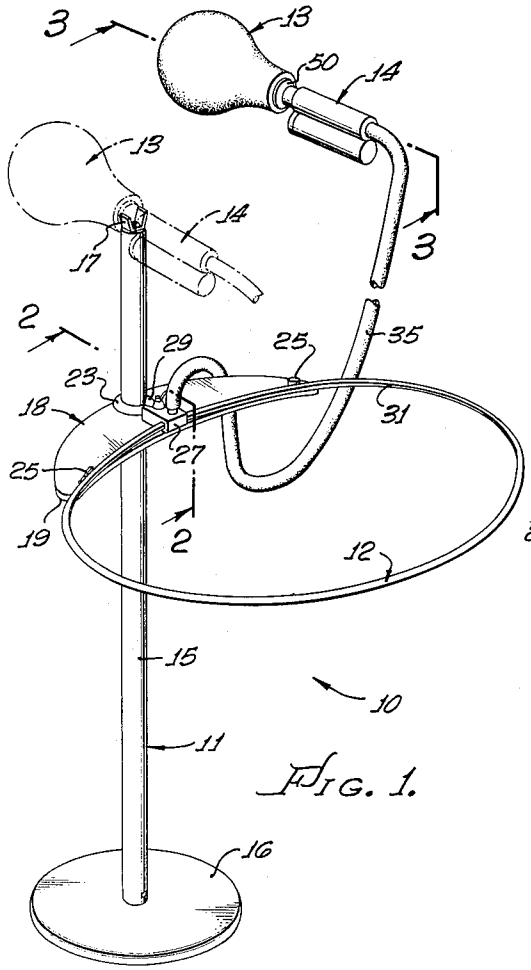


FIG. 1.

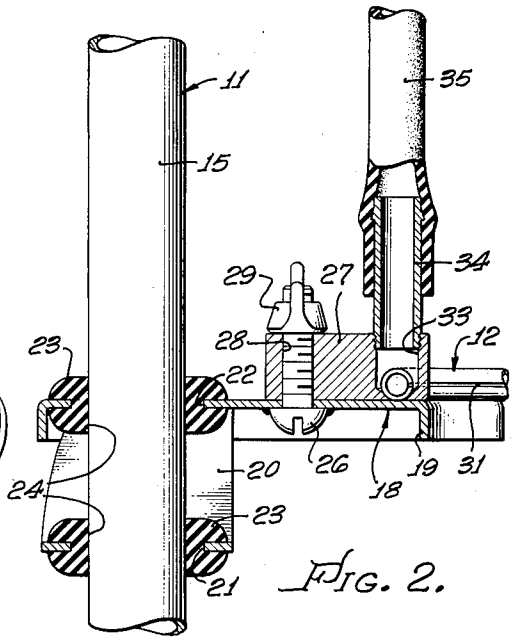


FIG. 2.

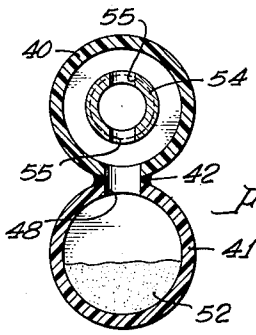


FIG. 4.

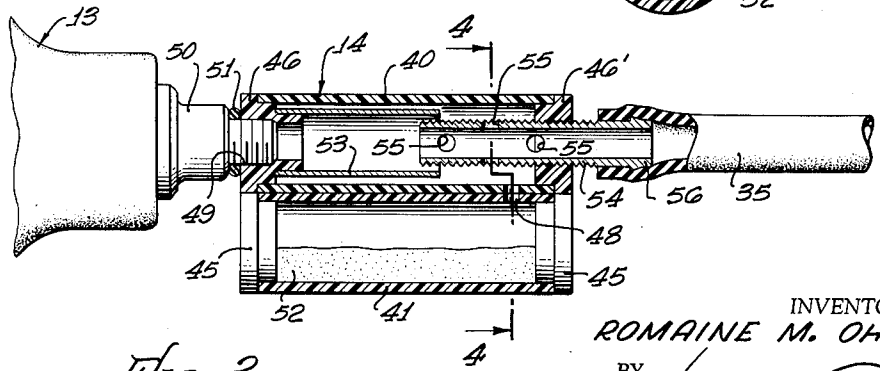


FIG. 3.

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GARMENT MARKING DEVICE

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This invention relates to garment marking devices and more particularly to an improved and simplified device equally suitable for use in dress shops or by the home seamstress to mark hemlines and the like of articles of clothing with accuracy and certainty under the control of a person wearing the garment to be marked without assistance from any other person.

Marking devices of the type to which the present invention relates have been proposed heretofore, but these have been subject to certain disadvantages and shortcomings thought to be overcome by the present invention. For example, certain prior constructions are characterized by their bulkiness and comprise an excessive and unnecessary number of components. Others are unnecessarily costly and are difficult to operate, particularly by a single operator.

These and other shortcomings of prior marking devices are overcome by the present invention which is characterized by its simplicity, lightness, demountability, and positive action, as well as by its convenience and ease of use. Only a single supporting standard is required. Adjustably supported along this standard by means avoiding need for adjustable clamping fasteners is a bracket for the chalk-dispensing and marking hoop. The latter is held asembled to the bracket by a single fastener and comprises a lightweight tube provided with a continuous slot opening inwardly along a horizontal plane. The marking powder is contained within a nonrefillable reservoir connected in circuit with a flexible tube and a squeeze bulb. The marking powder is dispensed along the tube and through the continuous slot in response to manipulation of the squeeze bulb by the user. Once the material has been consumed it is merely necessary to substitute a replacement charge reservoir easily and quickly accomplished without risk of spilling and marking fluid material.

Accordingly it is a primary object of the present invention to provide a simplified and improved garment marking device characterized by its simplicity, effectiveness, reliability and the ease with which it can be assembled for use and demounted after use.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved marking device featuring a dispensing reservoir of a nonrefillable type so designed as to be easily and simply connected in circuit with the squeeze bulb.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a marking device for garments featuring a pedestal having a marking material dispensing hoop clampable in any desired position therealong without need for adjustable fasteners having moving parts.

These and other more specifiic objects will appear upon reading the following specification and claims and upon considering in connection therewith the attached drawings to which they relate.

Referring now to the drawings in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the marking device assembled for use;

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary view on enlarged scale partly in section showing details of the adjustable support for the marking tube bracket and taken along line 2—2 on FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line 3—3 on FIGURE 1 showing structural details of the marking material reservoir; and

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the the dispensing device taken along broken line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

Referring more particularly to FIGURE 1, there is shown a preferred embodiment of the marking device designated generally **10**. This device comprises a pedestal **11**, marking material dispensing hoop **12** and a squeeze bulb **13** for supplying marking powder to this hoop from a storage reservoir **14**.

The pedestal comprises an upright lightweight tube **15** suitably rigidly connected to a weighted base **16** resting on the floor. Desirably, tube **15** is provided with a measuring scale along one or more sides indicating the height of the hoop above the floor level. Suitably secured to the upper end of tube **15** is a spring clip **17** for resiliently receiving and supporting squeeze bulb **13** in a convenient position to be grasped by the user.

Slidably supported along tube **15** is an arcuate bracket **18** for the dispensing hoop. As here shown, this bracket is stamped from lightweight sheet metal and has a downturned flange **19** along its rim to strengthen this bracket and effective to protect the person and his clothing against injury. Suitably secured to the under mid-portion of bracket **18** is a U-shaped bracket **20** provided with an opening **21** in axial alignment with an opening **2**. Firmly supported in these openings are identical rubber grommets **23**, the central openings **24** of which have a sliding frictional fit with the outer surface of tube **15**. It will be understood that bracket **18** is slidable along tube **15** when firmly grasped and pulled in one direction or the other along the tube, but that the grommets **23** are effective to anchor this bracket firmly in any adjusted position to which it is moved. This locking action is enhanced by the fact that the load carried by bracket **18** always acts downwardly from a point offset laterally from the axis of tube **15**. For this reason the bracket tends to pivot away from the horizontal causing both grommets to press against the tube more firmly thereby increasing the frictional contact with the tube.

Projecting upwardly from the center of bracket **18** is a screw **26** which is welded, brazed, or otherwise firmly secured in place. A mounting member **27** secured to hoop **12** has an opening **28** sized to fit over the shank of screw **26**. A thumbnut **29** threaded over the upper end of this screw serves to clamp member **27** rigidly in place on bracket **18**.

Preferably and as here shown, hoop **12** is formed from narrow strip metal the edges of which are rolled toward one another to form a tube having a narrow slot **31** extending the full length thereof and formed by the closely spaced apart lateral edges of the strip material. This slot faces radially inwardly as is made clear by FIGURES 1 and 2. The opposite ends of this hoop are securely anchored in any suitable manner to bores opening through the opposite faces of mounting member **27** and into a well **33**. A tubular fitting **34** is threaded or otherwise secured to the upper end of well **33** and seats the discharge end of a flexible hose or tube **35**.

The nonrefillable supply reservoir **14** for the marking material and forming an important feature of the invention is best shown in FIGURES 3 and 4. As there shown by way of example, the reservoir comprises two tubes of transparent plastic material **40**, **41** fused together at **42**. The ends of the lower or powder-charged tube **41** are permanently closed by plugs **45**, **45** and similar but apertured plugs **46**, **46'** are similarly mounted in the opposite ends of upper tube **40**. Tubes **40** and **41** are in communication with one another through a small port **48**. End cap **46** is provided with a threaded aperture **49** for receiving the tubular fitting **50** of squeeze bulb **13**, there being an O-ring or other gasket **51** mounted about the threaded portions of fitting **50**.

The discharge of powder chalk or other marking material **52** contained in tube **41** is preferably controlled by means now to be described and including imperforate tube **53** telescoped over a tubular nipple formed on the inner side of cap **46**. A threaded tube **54** is adjustably supported in an opening through end cap **46'** and is provided with a plurality of ports **55**. Its innermost end is of smaller diameter than tube **53** for reasons which will become apparent presently. Tube **54** is provided with a tapered end **56** over which hose **35** fits and is held detachably in space thereon as by low height ribs or the like and is adjustable in end cap **46'** to vary the position of its ports **55, 55** with respect to port **48** and also to vary the degree of overlap of tubes **53** and **54**. This adjustment is found highly effective in varying the quantity of powder which is dispensed upon manipulation of the squeeze bulb.

In operation marking device **10** is set up as illustrated in FIGURE 1. Normally hoop **12** and its mounting member **27** will be detached from bracket **18**. The hoop is assembled by removing the thumbnut **29** and then placing mounting member **27** over screw **26** with portions of the hoop to either side of mounting member **27** firmly supported on the outer ends of bracket **18** and against the backstops **25** thereon. The thumbnut is then firmly tightened over the upper end of the screw. If hose **35** is not already attached to tubular fitting **34** of the distributing hoop, the hose is pressed over the upper end of this fitting.

The next step is to adjust bracket **18** and the attached hoop **12** along tube **15** until the hoop lies at the desired height above the floor level. This condition is assured when the horizontally disposed distributing slot **31** of the hoop lies at the elevation desired for the lower edge of the skirt or other garment to be marked. To change the adjusted position, the user grasps bracket **18** in an area closed to tube **15** and shifts it longitudinally of the tube until slot **31** is at the desired height. Once this is achieved, the self-clamping rubber grommets grip tube **15** and lock the bracket and hoop firmly in the new position.

The user, wearing the garment to be marked, then steps into hoop **12** and makes certain that the garment is properly adjusted and lying inside the hoop and that tube **40** contains powder. Squeeze bulb **13** is collapsed one or more times. This causes a flow of air to pass along the tube **35**. As the air moves through reservoir **14** considerable turbulence is created and this is effective to entrain marking powder and pass it through ports **55** into tube **54** and thence along hose **35** and into hoop **12** for dispersion horizontally inward against the garment to be marked. This powder adheres firmly to the garment in a narrow line. The operator replaces the squeeze bulb in clip **17** and steps from the hoop.

The charge of powder within reservoir **14** is adequate to mark many garments before becoming exhausted. When this does occur, the used merely unscrews squeeze bulb **13** from one end of reservoir **14** and detaches hose **35** from the other. A new reservoir charged with marking power is then inserted in lieu of the exhausted reservoir and the marking device is ready for continued use.

Although the drawings, and particularly FIGURE 2, illustrate a pair of grommets **23** of resilient material providing an adjustable friction clutch between bracket **18** and tube **15**, it will be understood that a single sleeve of resilient material may be substituted. This sleeve may comprise a plain cylindrical member sufficiently long to span the distance between the present pair of grommets

and having an annular flange overlying and bonded or otherwise secured to bracket member **18**. It will be understood that the bore of this sleeve fits tube **15** rather snugly and permits the bracket and hoop **12** to be adjusted freely to any desired position and to retain the bracket and hoop firmly in any adjusted position.

While the particular garment marking device herein shown and disclosed in detail is fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the adventages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood that it is merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiment of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A garment marking device comprising:
   (a) a pedestal having an upright column,
   (b) bracket means slidable along said column and including friction gripping means having resilient upper and lower annular portions made of elastomeric material effective to hold said bracket firmly in place along said column, said bracket means carrying a load which always acts downwardly from a point offset laterally from the longitudinal axis of said column, thereby tending to pivot said bracket away from the horizontal and causing said resilient upper and lower portions to press against said column more firmly in opposite directions and increasing the frictional contact with said column,
   (c) ring-like tubular powder-dispensing means detachably mounted in a horizontal plane on said bracket and having an inwardly opening narrow slot extending therealong in a horizontal plane, and
   (d) squeeze-bulb means connected to said tubular powder-dispensing means for discharging a stream of powder thereto and out of said slot for delivery against a garment supported vertically within said powder dispensing means.

2. Apparatus as defined in claim **1** in which said resilient upper and lower portions are a pair of grommets.

3. Apparatus as defined in claim **2** in which said bracket is arcuate in shape and has a pair of arms extending in opposite directions and horizontally from said column, and including, in addition, a single fastener means located centrally thereof for detachably securing said powder-dispensing means to said bracket with portions of said powder-dispensing means overlying and resting upon the remote ends of said bracket arms, said powder dispensing means being removable from said bracket as an intact unit.

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ISAAC LISANN, *Primary Examiner.*