July 16, 1968 J. LENOIR 3,392,729

FASTENER WITH FLEXIBLE CORD OR THE LIKE FOR SECURING A PACIFIER TO A GARMENT

Filed Jan. 3, 1966

Fig. 1

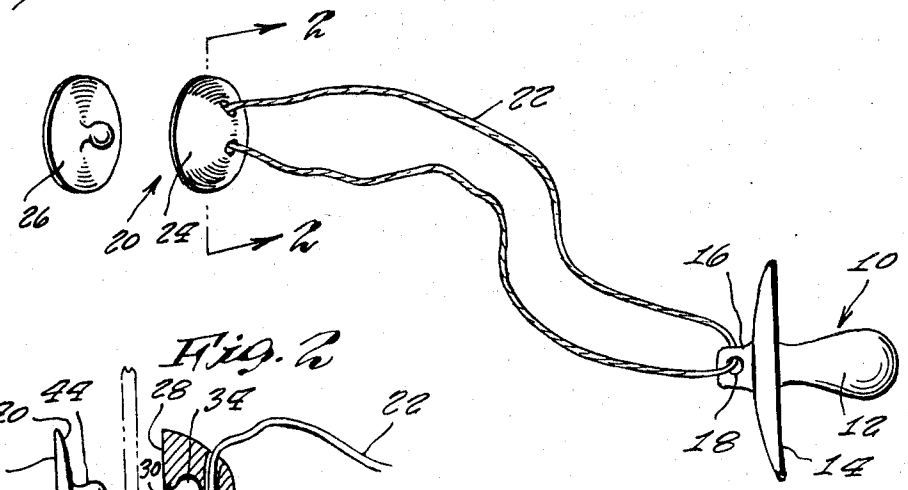


Fig. 2

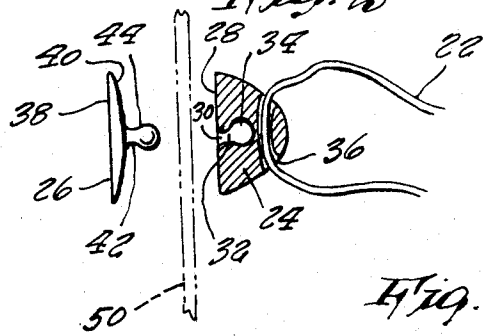


Fig. 3

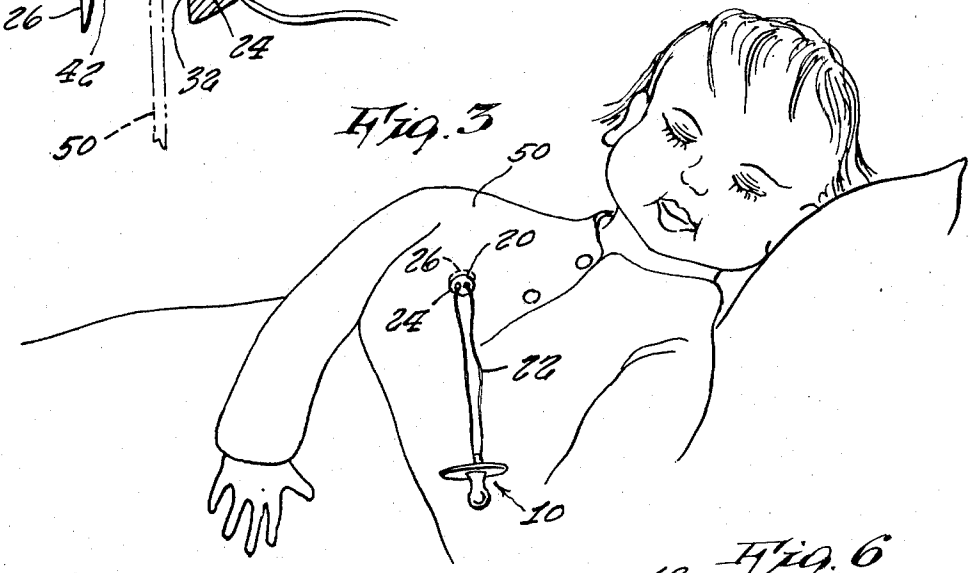


Fig. 4

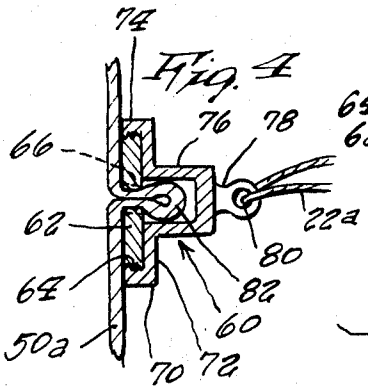


Fig. 5

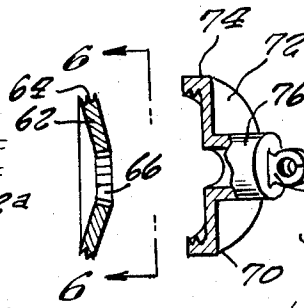
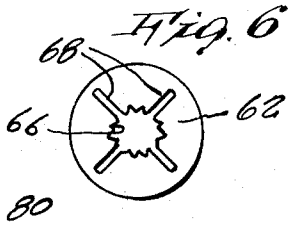


Fig. 6



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FASTENER WITH FLEXIBLE CORD OR THE LIKE FOR SECURING A PACIFIER TO A GARMENT

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pacifier unit for attachment to a garment of an infant having a two part fastener element separable to receive a puckered portion of the fabric of the garment, the fastener parts being both on the outer side of the garment and when in assembled relation are securely clamped to the puckered garment portion. A cord element is secured at one end to the outer of the fastener parts and at its other end to a pacifier element, the cord element being of a length such as to render the pacifier element available to the infant when dropped by him and to preclude any possibility of the cord element from twisting around the infant's neck.

This invention relates to a securing device for attaching a pacifier such as used by infants to the garment of the infant.

It is well recognized that an infant using a pacifier, frequently drops or release the same from his mouth, resulting in a temporary loss thereof by being dropped on the floor or in the crib or carriage, or on the pavement, thus becoming unsanitary when retrieved, to preclude further use thereof without a prior cleaning or sterilization. To prevent this loss, it is conventional practice to provide the pacifier with a string so that the same will hang from the neck of the infant. This expedient is not only unsatisfactory as the loop of string may slip off from the neck of the infant as it squirms about, but is also dangerous to the extent that the string may become tangled or twisted and thus create the hazard of strangling the infant.

It is accordingly the principal object of this invention to provide a short length of string which is attached at one end to the pacifier and at its other end to a two-part separable snap-fastener means which is to be secured to the infant's garment, with the fabric of the garment between the two snap-fastener parts when in connected relation.

Another object of this invention relates to providing the snap-fastener with an outer dome shaped flat bottomed button having a transverse bore adjacent the tip thereof, for receiving the string, and an axial socket opening into the flat bottom, and an inner flat disc-shaped button having an axial projecting headed stud to be received by the axial socket, both the headed stud and axial socket being so dimensioned as to accommodate the normal fabric thickness of the infant's garment therebetween in the snapped together connection of the button and disc when attached to said garment.

A further object of this invention relates to providing a modified form of a separable two-part fastener to which the string is attached, which fastener is secured in its entirety to the outside of the infant's garment and having an inner part for receiving a puckered portion of the garment and an outer part connected to the inner part such as to cause the latter to clampingly and/or frictionally engage the puckered portion of the garment.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, my invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that change may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective partially exploded view of the snap-fastener with pacifier and connecting string.

FIGURE 2 is a detail exploded view of the snap-fastener with one part thereof shown in section taken on line 2—2, FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 shows the pacifier, connecting string and snap-fastener attached to a garment of an infant.

FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional view of a modified form of garment attaching means.

FIGURE 5 is a sectional exploded view of the attaching means of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is a plan view of one of the parts of the attaching means of FIGURE 4, as viewed from line 6—6 of FIGURE 5.

Referring to the details of the drawing, a pacifier **10** is shown of a conventional type having a nipple **12**, a guard **14** and an attachment lug **16** provided with an opening **18**. The pacifier **10** as to its shape, size and material, forms no part of the invention. Connecting the pacifier **10** to a snap-fastener **20**, see FIGURE 3, is a cord **22** preferably formed of "nylon" or any other suitable material.

The snap-fastener **20** is formed of any suitable material such as plastic, rubber or metal and consists of an outer dome-shaped button **24** and an inside disc-shaped button **26**. The bottom **28** of outer button **24** is preferably flat as shown, though it may also be slightly concave. Extending inwardly and axially of the outer button **24** is an axial socket **30** having a small diameter entrance passage **32** and a large diameter substantially spherical recess **34**. Adjacent the outermost tip of the outer button **24** is a transverse bore **36** through which the cord **22** extends. The inside button **26** has a flat bottom **38** and an arcuate or part spherical front **40**, and is made relatively thin as compared to the axial length of the outer button **24**, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2. Projecting integrally and axially from the front **40** is a stud **42** terminating in a substantially spherical head **44**. The axial socket **30** of the outer button **24** is so dimensioned with relation to the stud **42** as to accommodate the normal thickness of the fabric making up an infant's garment, shown by the dotted lines **50** in FIGURE 2, such that with the inside button **26** on the inside of the garment **50**, the stud **42** thereof with a portion of the fabric of garment **50** will be forced into the socket **30** of the outside button **24** to be engaged therein in the manner well known in snap-fasteners so as to be securely engaged one with the other end at the same time attached to the garment **50**.

The "nylon" cord **22** is doubled as shown with its ends appropriately looped through bore **36** in outside button **24** and opening **18** in the attachment lug **16** of pacifier **10**, the length of doubled cord **22** is made short, about 7 or 8 inches, and the attachment of the snap-fastener **20** to the garment **50** is at an appropriate location thereon such as to permit complete and easy use of the pacifier **10** by the infant while at the same time precluding any possibility of the cord **22** twisting around the neck of the infant. In the event the pacifier **10** is dropped from the mouth of the infant, it is obvious from the above and as shown in FIGURE 3, that the same will not become lost but will always be available and in sight and within easy reach by the infant who will soon learn to grasp the pacifier and bring it back to his mouth.

With the snap-fastener **20** disengaged from the garment **50**, the entire assembly of pacifier, cord and snap-fastener may be washed and/or sterilized in order to maintain the pacifier sanitary at all times.

In FIGURES 4, 5 and 6, a modified form of fastener **60** is shown. In this form of fastener, the entire unit is on the

outside of the garment **50***a*. The fastener **60** consists of a dished disc **62** threaded as at **64** on its peripheral edge. Formed in the disc **62** is a central serrated opening **66** with a plurality of radial slots **68**, there being four shown in FIGURE 6, arranged 90° apart. A button housing **70** having a base **72** with an internally threaded flange **74** is provided with an axial cylindrical pocket **76** closed at its outermost end from which extends a lug **78** having an opening **80** therein. The disc **62** and button housing **70** may be formed of plastic, rubber or metal. Looped through opening **80** is a cord **22***a* similar to **22** for connecting a pacifier (not shown) to the snap-fastener **60**.

In the attachment of the fastener **60** to the fabric of garment **50***a*, a portion of the fabric at the selected location is puckered as at **82** and inserted through the serrated opening **66** in the disc **62**, the disc having its concave side facing the fabric. The button housing **70** is then placed over the disc **62** with the threaded flange **74** threadedly engaging the threads **64** on the periphery of the disc. The disc **62** possesses sufficient flexibility to the extent that the threaded flange **74** will in its movement on the threads **64**, cause the button **70** to effect by engagement of the base **72** with the disc **62**, a flattening of the same to thereby constrict the serrated opening **66** so as to firmly grip the puckered portion lying therewithin while the portion projecting therebeyond will lie within the cylindrical pocket **76** as shown in FIGURE 4. A reverse operation to separate button housing **70** from disc **62** will provide for disengagement of fastener **60** from the garment **50***a*.

While certain novel features of my invention have been shown and described and are pointed out in the annexed claims, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. An infant pacifier unit comprising:

(a) a pacifier element,

(b) a cord element connected at one end to the pacifier element,

(c) a dished disc element threaded at its peripheral edge constituting one part of a fastener structure,

(d) there being a central opening having a serrated edge in said disc element with a plurality of radial slots directed from the edge of said opening and terminating short of the peripheral edge thereof,

(e) a button housing including an annular base and a forwardly projecting axial cylindrical pocket closed at its free terminal end constituting a second part of said fastener structure,

(f) an internally threaded peripheral flange on said annular base extending rearwardly therefrom, and

(g) said cord element connected at its other end to said housing pocket and being of such a length as to render the pacifier element available to the infant when dropped by him and to preclude any possibility of the cord element from twisting around the infant's neck,

whereby in the attachment of said fastener structure to the infant's garment, a puckered portion of the fabric of the garment is passed through the serrated opening in the disc element forming said one part of the fastener structure, and in the threaded connection of the flange of the button housing to the disc element, said disc element will be flattened to engage the annular base thus constricting the serrated opening to securely grasp the puckered fabric portion with the projecting portion thereof accommodated in the cylindrical pocket.

2. The pacifier attachment unit of claim **1**, including:

(a) a lug having an eye at its end connected to the closed end of said cylindrical pocket through which eye said cord element is passed.

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