March 1, 1966 H. KANTER ET AL 3,237,208

NECKTIE KNOT FORMING DEVICE

Filed June 15, 1965

FIG. 1

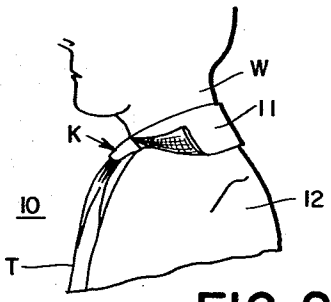


FIG. 2

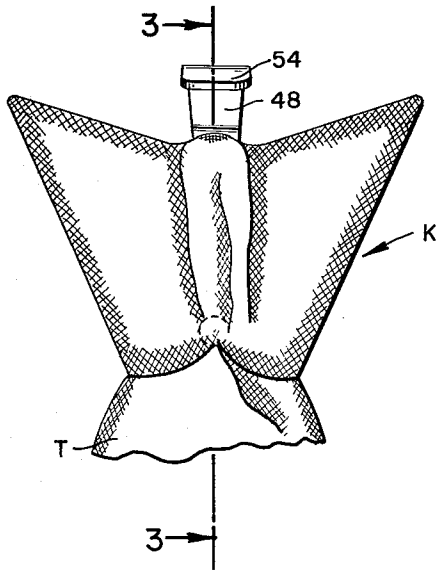


FIG. 3

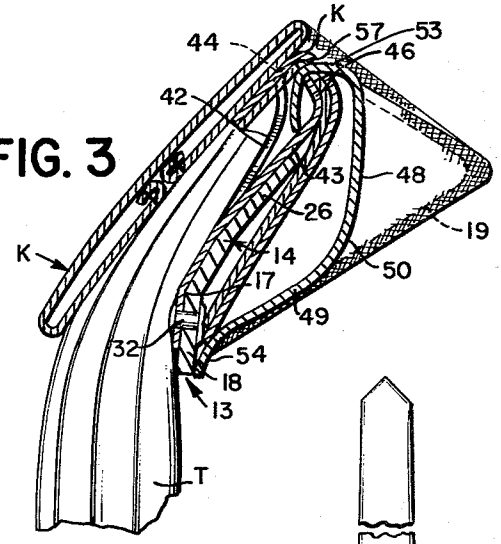
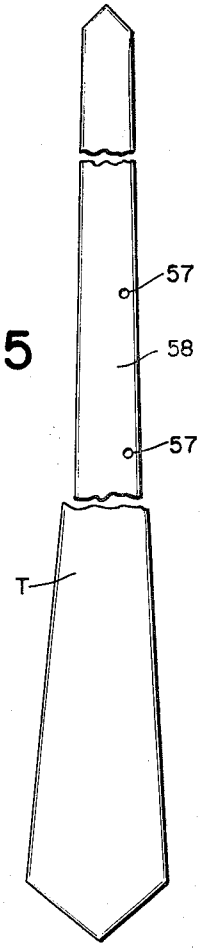


FIG. 5



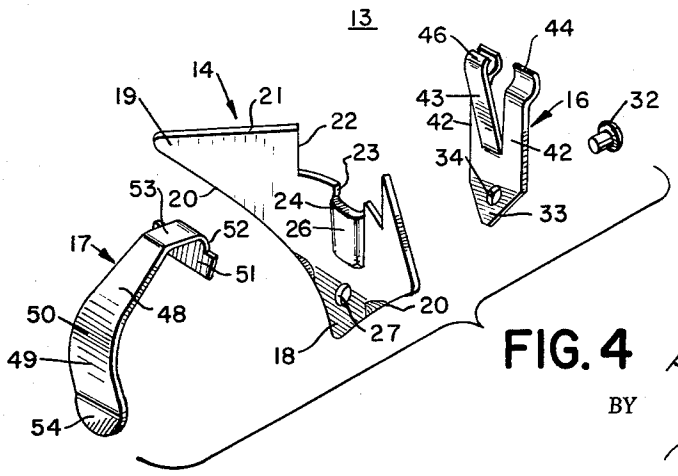


FIG. 4

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NECKTIE KNOT FORMING DEVICE

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The present invention relates generally to improvements in articles of neckwear and it relates more particularly to an improved necktie of the pretied type which is provided with fastening means permitting its releasable attachment to a collar, neckband or the like.

The proper tying of a knot in a necktie around the neck of a wearer is not only frequently time-consuming, but requires a high degree of skill which is often lacking in many wearers of neckties. It has accordingly been a common practice to provide neckties with a preformed knot and fastening means for releasably attaching the pretied necktie to the collar of the shirt on the wearer thereof. A type of pretied necktie is described in U.S. Patents No. 2,798,226 granted July 9, 1957, and No. 2,972,750 granted February 28, 1961, to H. Kanter, and the copending application of H. Kanter, et al., Serial No. 416,461, filed December 7, 1964, and although the devices disclosed therein are highly satisfactory, the device of this application improves thereover and solves considerable problems in the art. Some drawbacks of the pretied neckties described in the aforesaid patents are obviated by the pretied necktie described in the above copending patent application. The present device further improves the necktie in effectively minimizing the visibility of the attaching units when positioned on the collar, and also minimizing any undue pressure of the attaching unit on the neck of the wearer with the consequent elimination of discomfort. Moreover, the present improved device is simpler and more economical to produce and it provides a knot of normal and natural appearance.

It is therefore a principal object of the present invention to provide an improved article of neckwear of the above preknotted or pretied type.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved pretied necktie in which the support and knot former member is substantially invisible when in use.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved pretied necktie which may be worn with a maximum of comfort.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide an improved pretied necktie which may be easily secured in its assembled condition and which simultaneously therewith provides a more natural looking, less rigid appearance.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device of the above nature characterized by its versatility, adaptability, ruggedness, low cost and ease, convenience and comfort of use.

The above and other objects of the present invention will become apparent from a reading of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary side view in perspective showing a pretied necktie embodying the present invention illustrated in position on the collar of the shirt of a wearer;

FIGURE 2 is a rear fragmentary view of the assembled necktie;

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is an exploded perspective view of the necktie support and former device; and

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary plan view of a necktie

advantageously employed with the present support and former device.

In a sense the present invention contemplates the provision of a support and former device for pretied neckties comprising a former member including a pair of symmetrically disposed wing elements projecting laterally from the medial axis thereof, a rearwardly bowed clamp arm hinged to the upper part of said former member between said wings and swingable between a closed position with its free end adjacent to the bottom of said former member and an open rearwardly directed position, the rear apex of said clamp arm when in said closed position being rearwardly spaced from the rear face of said former member a distance of between .25 and .40 inch, preferably .30 inch, and spring means urging said clamp arm toward said closed position.

According to a preferred form of the present device the former member is formed of pressed fiberboard and the side edges of the wing elements converge downwardly to a medially located bottom apex which is downwardly rearwardly inclined. A recess is formed in the upper edge of the former member and a medial vertical channel is formed in the front face thereof extending from the base of the recess to a point above the former bottom apex. A vertical mounting arm is medially disposed along the front face of the former member and is fastened at its bottom to the former member apex. A pair of laterally spaced vertical slits is formed in the upper part of the mounting arm and delineates an intermediate longitudinal leg registering with the former member channel and a pair of outer resilient longitudinal legs. The intermediate leg terminates at its top in a forwardly directed crotch section and the side legs terminate at their tops in rearwardly directed crotch sections. The clamp arm is provided at its top with a rearwardly directed leg and an arm depends from the rear edge of said leg and terminates in a laterally extending rectangular cross-bar which is engaged by the mounting arm crotch sections to alternatively urge the clamp arm to an open or closed position.

Referring now to the drawing which illustrates a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the reference numeral **10** generally designates the pretied or preknotted tie which is illustrated as attached to the band of a collar **11** of a shirt **12** on a wearer W. The knot K of the tie **10** is formed on and supported and releasably attached to the neck band by an improved tie or knot former and support device **13** constructed in accordance with the present invention. The device **13** comprises a knot former and support member **14**, a mounting arm **16**, and a clamp arm **17**.

The former member **14** is formed of a rigid somewhat resilient material, advantageously a pressed fiber board having a thickness, for example, of about .080 inch, and is of approximately triangular configuration with a bottom medially located downwardly rearwardly inclined apex section **18** as best shown in FIG. 4, and a pair of laterally rearwardly directed wings **19** symmetrical to the vertical medial axis of the former member **14**. The side edges **20** of the former member converge downwardly to the apex **18** and the upper edges **21** thereof are substantially horizontal. A shallow relatively wide first recess **22** is medially formed in the upper edge **21** a shallow relatively narrow recess **23** is medially formed in the base edge of the recess **22**. Formed in the front face of the former member **14** is a vertical forwardly facing medial channel or rabbet **24** which extends downwardly from the base of the recess **23** to a point above the apex section **18**. The base **26** of the channel or rabbet **24** is downwardly forwardly inclined and meets the wall of the former member at the bottom point of the

channel 24. An anchoring aperture 27 is formed in the apex section 18.

The mounting arm 16 is formed of resilient sheet metal and is medially disposed along the front face of the former member 14. The bottom of the arm 16 is tapered to a downwardly rearwardly inclined apex section 33 which substantially overlies the front face of the apex 18 and is provided with an aperture 34. The mounting arm 16 is secured to the former member 14 by a rivet 32 which registers with the apertures 27 and 34 and engages the borders thereof.

The upper part of the mounting arm 16 is provided with a pair of laterally spaced vertical slits which divides the arm upper section into a pair of laterally spaced resilient outer legs 42, and an inner resilient leg 43 intermediate the legs 42, the leg 43 registering with the channel or rabbet 24 and joining the base part of the arm 16 at about the level of the bottom of the channel or rabbit 24. The legs 42 terminate at their upper free ends in rearwardly facing knuckle defining crotch sections 44 and the leg 43 terminates at its upper free end in a forwardly facing knuckle defining crotch section 46.

Swingably supported by the knuckles 44 and 46 and cooperating with the former member apex 18 to define a fastening device is the clamp arm 17 comprising angularly related upper and lower legs 48 and 49 respectively, joined by an integrally formed crotch section 50 whereby the clamp arm 17 is rearwardly bowed. It is important that the included angle between the upper and lower legs 48 and 49 is between 115° and 135,° preferably 125°, and that the distance between the crotch 50 at its apex and the rear face of the former member 14, that is at its closest point to the crotch 50, is between .25 and .40 inch, preferably .30 inch, when the clamp arm 17 is in its fully closed position with the bottom of the leg 49 substantially engaging the apex 18.

The arrangement for swingably supporting the clamp arm 17 and alternatively urging it to its open and closed positions includes a rectangular cross-bar 51 which is engaged between the opposite facing knuckles 44 and 46. The cross-bar 51 is disposed at the lower edge of and integrally formed with a short leg 52 depending from the forward edge of an arm 53 which projects forwardly from the upper edge of the leg 48. The clamp arm lower leg 49 terminates in a finger piece defining rounded bottom leg 54 which is rearwardly downwardly inclined to provide a forwardly convex curved section at the level of and closely adjacent to the apex 18 when the clamp arm 17 is in its closed position. The action of the knuckles 44 and 46 on the edges of the cross-bar 51 urges the clamp arm 17 alternatively to its open or closed position.

In employing the improved former and support device 13 described above, a tie T, preferably shorter than the conventional tie, i.e. about 35 inches, is laced about the former member 14 to form a knot K in the well known manner, such as described in the above-identified Kanter patents. The tie T is advantageously provided with suitably positioned apertures 57, spaced about 4 inches apart, along to what corresponds to the upper rear edge of the knot forming section 58 thereof to facilitate the knotting of the tie T on the former member 14 without impeding the locking assembly. As seen in FIGURE 3 of the drawing, the clamp arm leg 53 registers with the apertures 57.

It can be seen from the above that the tie support and former device 13 is simple, compact and inexpensive. It is easy to knot a tie thereon and the resulting knot is attractive and highly adjustable to suit any taste. Moreover, the preknotted necktie employing the device 13 may be easily and rapidly applied to neckbands and collars of any conventional type and is inconspicuous, firmly worn and very comfortable.

While there has been described and illustrated a preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is apparent that numerous alterations, omissions and additions may be made without departing from the spirit thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A support and former device for pretied neckties comprising a former member including a pair of symmetrically disposed wing elements projecting rearwardly and laterally from the medial axis thereof and having outer side edges converging downwardly to a medially disposed bottom apex, said former member having a medially disposed recess formed in the upper edge thereof and a vertically extending medial rabbet formed in the front face thereof from the base of said recess to a point above said apex, a mounting arm contiguous to said former member front face and extending along said medial axis and secured at its lower end thereto, said mounting arm having a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal slits formed therein to delineate an intermediate resilient longitudinal leg registering with said channel and a pair of outer resilient longitudinal legs, said intermediate and outer legs terminating at their tops in forwardly and rearwardly directed crotch sections respectively, and a rearwardly bowed clamp arm provided at its upper part with a forwardly and downwardly directed section terminating in a lateral rectangular cross-bar disposed between and engaged by said crotch sections, said clamp arm being resiliently urged by said resilient legs to a closed position with the lower part thereof adjacent to said former member apex.

2. The support and former device of claim 1 wherein said former member apex is rearwardly downwardly inclined, said mounting arm having an apex which abuts and is co-extensive with said former member apex and is likewise rearwardly downwardly inclined, both of said apexes being formed with registering apertures, and a fastener through said apertures.

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