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PADDING MATERIAL FOR JEWELRY CONTAINERS

Raymond E. Reed, Walpole, Mass., assignor to
The Kendall Company, Boston, Mass., a corporation of Massachusetts

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The present invention relates to a jeweler's cotton or padding material for jewelry containers. This novel material is particularly adapted for use in the packaging of inexpensive jewelry, wherein it is adapted to support and display the jewelry within the box or container.

My material presents decided advantages over the usual material which has been used heretofore for this purpose, and moreover, a web of my material presents a beautiful lustre which may be varied as hereinafter mentioned and thus provides an advantageous background for the display of the jewelry. The web possesses a high loft with little or no tendency to pack down or mat, even when rolled into the rolls in which it may conveniently be supplied to the trade. The generally non-absorbent property of my material is also of great advantage. Inexpensive jewelry is likely to tarnish, if it remains in contact with moisture as would be the case if it were packaged with an absorbent material. My material further possesses considerable web strength, the web while light and fluffy having sufficient cohesive strength to permit rolling, unrolling and handling without loss of identity and integrity of the web and without losing its form or dimensions. Jewelry has a tendency to pick up short or broken fibres on the surface of the padding but the smooth, uniform fibres presented by the surface of my padding material prevent this. My material also resists "crimping", or the tendency for the fibres to adhere together at the edge of the piece when cut into suitable sizes for the containers. Crimping is a serious disadvantage in a padding material for jewelry containers since it impairs the fluffiness or loft of the cut product.

I obtain this advantageous product by a novel combination of generally non-absorbent carded cotton fibres which may preferably, although not necessarily, contain a fatty body such as wax or oil, and artificial cellulosic fibres such, for example, as are produced by the viscose or cuprammonium processes.

The chemical treatment of cotton fibre known as the "boil" will remove the waxes and oils naturally present in the fibre. For my present purpose I preferably control the boil so that while the waxes and oils are removed from the surface of the fibre, wax and oil remain within the individual fibres where they may enhance the resiliency, non-absorbency, strength and non-crimping properties of the final product.

As an example of one way of preparing my product in the form of a web, the following may be given: The cotton as it comes from the boil,

preferably but not necessarily, containing natural wax and oil within the fibre, is bleached and carded. A number of cards may be used, most of them turning out cotton, but one or more carding artificial cellulosic fibres, such, for example, as rayon. The layers from the cards are superposed to form a web. In this procedure, a layer of these dry-assembled rayon fibres may appear only on one surface of the finished product, on both surfaces, or also within the web.

When a layer or layers of rayon fibre are positioned within the web, the web may, if desired, be subsequently separated at the laminations so formed. In this industry it is often desired to divide a cotton web or bat into two or more equal layers. Whereas it is extremely difficult to divide the ordinary cotton web equally, in this embodiment of my novel product the rayon layer or layers serve as lines of demarcation which make possible ready separation of the web into uniform layers.

Instead of forming a laminated structure I may mix the carded cotton and artificial fibres throughout the web.

My finished web secures in a unitary structure dual characteristics, the curled and kinky nature of the cotton fibre imparting loft and non-absorbent and non-crimping properties to the web, while the smooth, uniform, lustrous rayon fibres, which alone would not be suitable for jeweler's cotton due to lack of strength and resiliency and tendency to crimp when cut, not only enhance the appearance of the web but minimize the undesirable picking up of fibres by the jewelry and permit separation of the rolled web without significant adherence of one layer to another. Rayon fibres having fibre lengths well in excess of any lengths obtainable with cotton fibres may well be used. The lustre of the web may be varied over a wide range by varying the diameter of the artificial fibre and by the use of delustering treatments to which such fibre is susceptible.

A body of cotton fibre may be dyed and coated with a layer of dyed or undyed artificial cellulosic fibre of a thickness permitting the color of the dyed cotton to be visible through the coating, when the material will present a brilliance and specular reflection previously unknown in dyed material.

Not only regenerated cellulose fibre such as is produced by the viscose or cuprammonium processes, but also cellulose esters and ethers may be used in combination with cotton fibres of the type specified. While such cellulosic fibres are

preferred for use in my invention, natural silk may also be used.

My material may be rolled tightly into a roll and supplied to the trade in this form, yet without the use of any interlining between successive layers of the roll these layers will retain their identity and will unroll without substantial adherence of one layer to another. This advantageous property is enhanced when the web presents at its surface a layer of artificial fibres. These fibres do not intermesh and tangle together under pressure as do cotton fibres.

A suitable web may also be produced by the use of China cotton, which presents a short, curly, very wiry fibre. Prior to my invention this material, which is ideal from the standpoint of loft and resiliency, could not be used for jewelers' cotton because of its appearance when carded. When combined with artificial cellulosic or silk fibres in accordance with my invention, however, China cotton (as also garnetted materials which are very economical to produce) makes a highly satisfactory material for this purpose.

I claim:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material comprising a body of tangled cotton fibre, individual fibres of which are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping, and a superimposed layer of relatively absorbent, lustrous, smooth, uniform, unwoven artificial fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded, and discontinuous longitudinally of said material to form with said cotton fibres a laminated web having a loft and fluffiness comparable to carded cotton, said web capable of rolling and unrolling without substantial adherence of one convolution to another.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material being in web form and the web being in the form of a roll, the web comprising tangled cotton fibres which are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping, and lustrous, smooth, unwoven artificial cellulosic fibres, said artificial fibres being unbonded and forming with said cotton fibres an unfelted, coherent web having a loft and fluffiness comparable to carded cotton, successive layers of the roll being in direct contact with each other yet capable of unrolling without substantial adherence of one convolution to another and without loss of identity of the web as such.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material being in web form and comprising tangled cotton fibres which are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping, and lustrous, smooth, unwoven artificial cellulosic fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded and discontinuous longitudinally of the web, the web as a whole possessing strength, resilience and loft comparable to carded cotton.

4. As an article of manufacture, a web comprising resilient, relatively non-absorbent, non-crimping, tangled, cotton fibres and unwoven, artificial cellulosic fibres, the cotton fibres and artificial fibres intermixed to form an unfelted

but coherent web having a fluffiness and loft comparable to carded cotton.

5. As a new article of manufacture, jewelers' cotton in web form, said web comprising tangled cotton fibres which are resilient and relatively non-absorbent, the tangled cotton fibres being associated in the web with a plurality of layers of lustrous smooth, unwoven, artificial fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded and discontinuous longitudinally of said web.

6. As a new article of manufacture, a layer of colored, tangled, carded cotton fibre, and superposed thereon a layer of lustrous, smooth, unwoven artificial cellulosic fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded, and discontinuous longitudinally of said layer to form with the cotton fibre layer a laminated web having a loft and fluffiness comparable to carded cotton, the color of the tangled cotton web being visible through the artificial fibre layer.

7. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material comprising a body of tangled cotton fibre, individual fibres of which are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping and contain natural wax and oil, and a superimposed layer of relatively absorbent, lustrous, smooth, uniform, unwoven artificial fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded, and discontinuous longitudinally of said material to form with said cotton fibres a laminated web having a loft and fluffiness comparable to carded cotton, said web capable of rolling and unrolling without substantial adherence of one convolution to another.

8. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material being in web form and comprising tangled cotton fibres which contain a fatty body such as wax or oil and are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping, and lustrous, smooth, unwoven artificial cellulosic fibres, said artificial fibres being dry-assembled, unbonded and discontinuous longitudinally of the web, the web as a whole possessing strength, resilience and loft comparable to carded cotton.

9. As an article of manufacture, a web comprising intermixed resilient, relatively non-absorbent, non-crimping, tangled, cotton fibres containing wax and oil, and unwoven, artificial cellulosic fibres, the cotton fibres and artificial fibres intermixed to form an unfelted but coherent web having a fluffiness and loft comparable to carded cotton.

10. As a new article of manufacture, a padding material for jewelry containers, said material comprising a body of tangled cotton fibre, individual fibres of which are relatively non-absorbent and non-crimping, having associated therewith lustrous, unwoven, dry-assembled silk fibres, said silk fibres discontinuous longitudinally of said material and forming with the cotton fibres a unitary strip having a loft and fluffiness comparable to carded cotton and capable of being rolled and unrolled without substantial adherence of one convolution to another.

RAYMOND E. REED.