Sept. 30, 1930. J. H. LYNCH 1,776,815

ASSORTING APPARATUS

Filed June 5, 1928

Fig. 1.

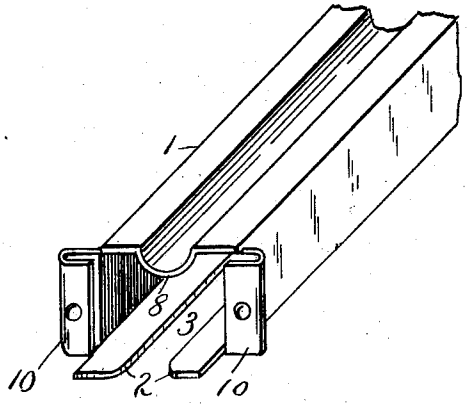


Fig. 2.

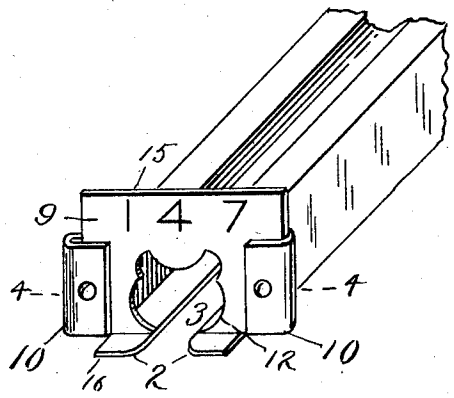
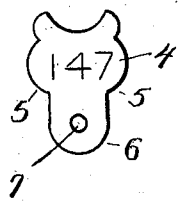


Fig. 3.



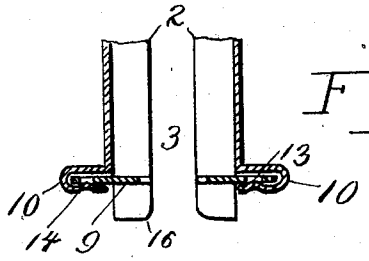


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ASSORTING APPARATUS

Application filed June 5, 1928. Serial No. 283,000.

This invention relates to apparatus for use in assorting articles into classes or groups.

A particular use of the apparatus is in connection with laundry checking systems where the laundered articles are provided with identification tags or clips, all the articles for one customer having the same kind of tag which in turn is different from the tags of all other customers. The difference in general consists in different numbers applied to the tags of different groups.

In order to facilitate the assembling of the articles in their proper groups, the tags are shaped with a different characteristic contour for each number or group, and collecting means are provided into which the tags with their attached articles can be assembled. The collecting means may take the form of a slotted hanger rail onto which the tags are slid and the hangers are provided with means for discriminating between the tags of different contours, only tags of one contour and therefore of one number and of one customer being permitted introduction to the hanger.

This selective permissive means may take the shape of a front opening to the hanger corresponding in contour to the tags it is desired to make it select.

In my prior Patent No. 1,642,963 of September 20, 1927 there is shown a selective hanger of this description.

The object of the present invention is to extend the usefulness and economy of such apparatus.

In the hanger described in the said patent, each hanger was identified with a given numbered group and it was therefore necessary to have as many hangers as there were groups to be accommodated. Consequently many hangers were idle and wasted valuable space during the time the articles identified by it were going through the wash.

According to the present invention this waste of space and apparatus is obviated as follows:

Instead of forming the selective plate at the front of the hanger integral with the hanger I make it removable and interchangeable with the other selective plates so that any hanger may be appropriated to any number.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of the front part of a hanger.

Figure 2 is a similar view with a selective numbered plate applied thereto.

Figure 3 is a front view of a tag corresponding in contour to the plate shown in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a section through the hanger and plate on the line 4—4 of Figure 2.

The hanger may take the form of a rectangular tube 1 which may be supported from a wall in any suitable manner. The bottom of the hanger has shelves or flanges 2 with a slot 3 between them. Into this slot it is designed to have the tags 4 shown in Figure 3 slipped and shoulders 5 on the tags are designed to overhang and rest on the flanges 2 while each article supporting tip 6 projecting down through the slot has a hole 7 into which a safety pin or other article attachment may be introduced.

I prefer to make a ridge 8 on the top of the hanger which projects below the top and which serves the purpose of keeping the tags from turning and thereby falling through the slot, all the tags having a properly designed cutout in the top to straddle the ridge. This is an improvement over the hooks heretofore used for this purpose as shown in my aforesaid patent as the hooks were found to be liable to catch in the cloth of the articles in the wash. With the construction shown here there is no need to have any hook-like parts to the tags. The front of the hang-

er is provided with means to receive and hold a selective plate 9. The means may take the shape of guides 10 supported on or made integral with the hanger, the selective plate being of such a size as to simply slide within the guides to a position where the opening 12 therein registers with the guiding parts of the hanger namely the flanges 2 and the ridge 8. When the selective plate is thus brought into registering position it must be securely held there. This may be accomplished in various ways. As shown, there is provided on each side of the plate a hole 13 and in the guides 10 a corresponding boss 14 is formed. When the plate is slid into registering position, these bosses will, owing to the spring of the metal, form a lock tending to hold the plate in its proper position. The plate may, however, be easily pushed out and an upper extension 15 on the plate may serve as a handy means of taking hold. This extension may also serve to display the identification number of the plate.

The placing of the tags on the hanger is facilitated by having the flanges of the bottom member extend out beyond the end of the hanger as shown at 16. This shelf extension will also form a stop or rest for supporting the selective plate. Instead of the selective plates fitting into guides on the hanger, it will be evident that the guides may be on the selective plates and fit slidably over flanges on the end of the hanger.

With apparatus as described, a maximum number of hangers may be kept in constant use for while the selective plates will have to be as numerous as the number of groups of tags, the number of hangers will be considerably less as the groups that are in use will not have to have a hanger set aside for them until they are ready to be assorted.

I claim:—

1. In an assorting hanger, the combination comprising a tag supporting member, the bottom having two tag supporting flanges divided by a slot and the top having a rib projecting downwardly, and an article supporting tag having side portions riding on the said bottom flanges of the hanger and a top portion straddling the said rib on the top of the hanger to hold the tag from turning into alignment with the slot.

2. A laundry tag holder comprising a body having an inlet at one end, means for limiting the admission through said inlet to tags of predetermined contour, said means comprising a plate having a selective contour and receptive means on the holder adapted to removably hold said plate in a transverse position on the holder.

3. A laundry tag holder comprising a body having an inlet at one end, means for limiting the admission through said inlet to tags of predetermined contour, said means comprising a plate having a selective contour and channels on the holder adapted to removably hold the plate transversely to the holder.

4. A laundry tag holder comprising a body having an inlet at one end, means for limiting the admission through said inlet to tags of predetermined contour, said means comprising a plate having a selective contour and channels on the holder adapted to removably hold the plate transversely to the holder, the plate and channels having coacting means to lock the plate in the channels.

JOSEPH H. LYNCH.