April 14, 1959 H. KOEHL 2,881,495

BUTTON WITH INTERCHANGEABLE INLAY

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Fig. 1

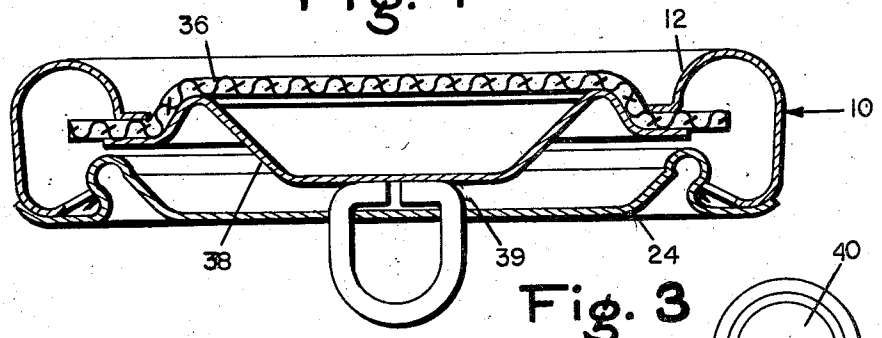


Fig. 3

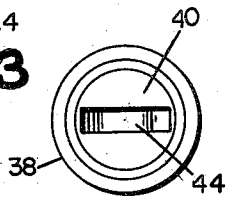


Fig. 2

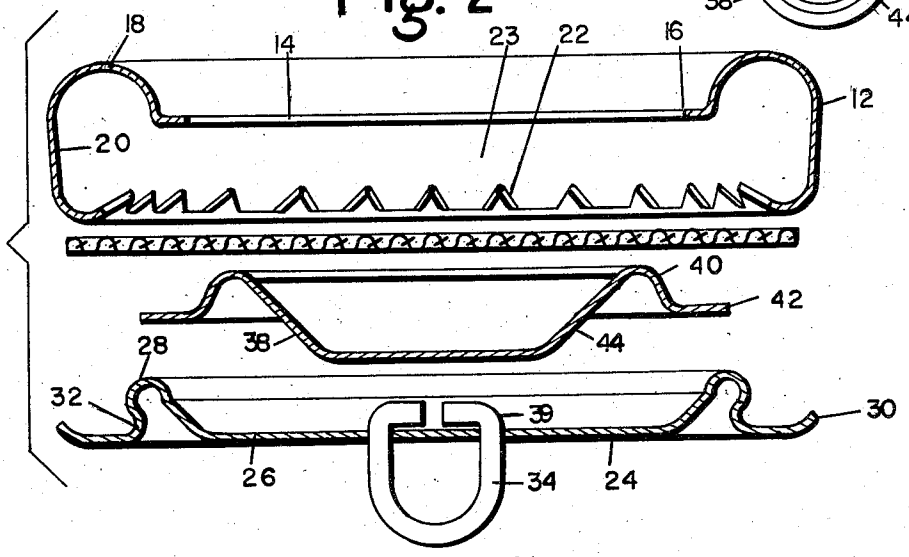


Fig. 4

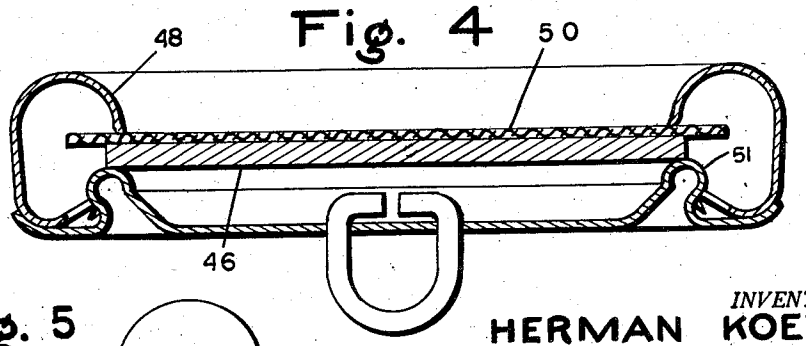
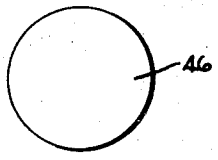


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

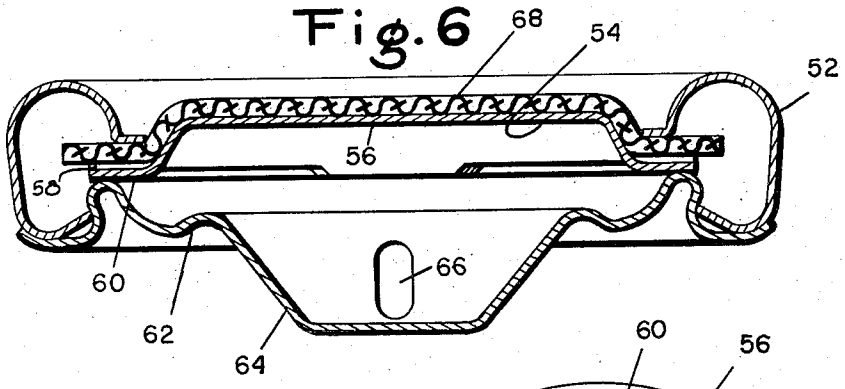


Fig. 7

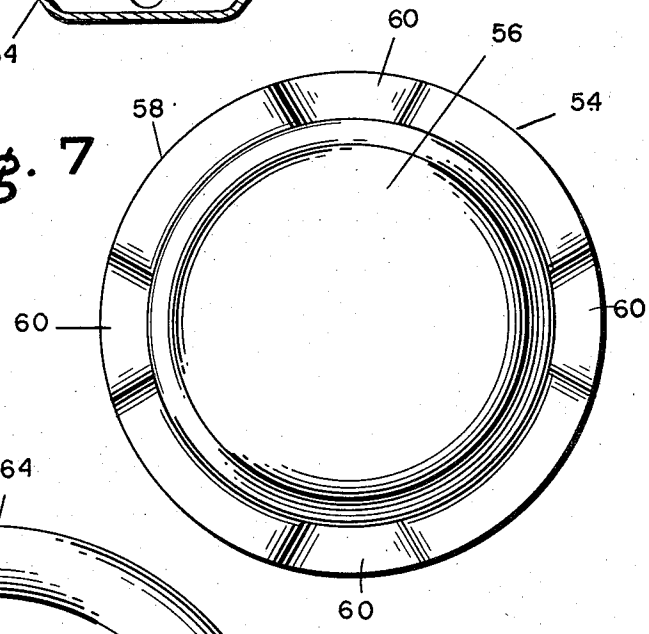
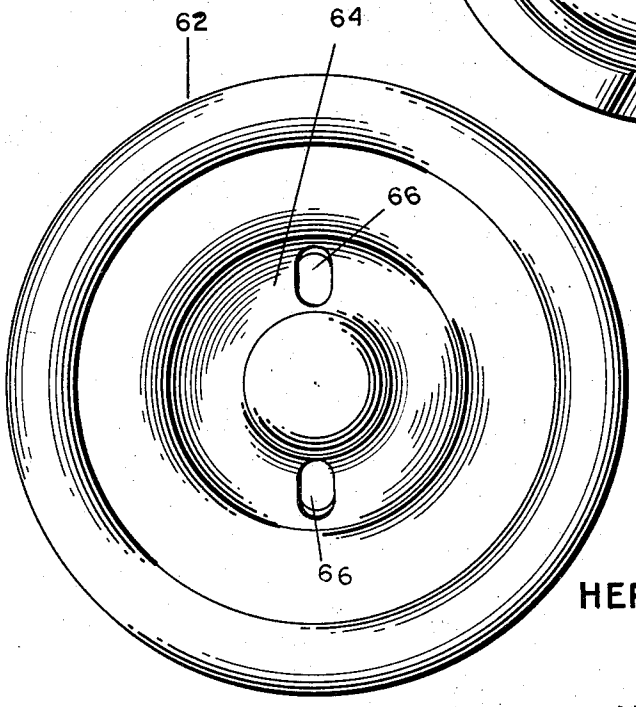


Fig. 8



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2,881,495

BUTTON WITH INTERCHANGEABLE INLAY

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Application April 30, 1954, Serial No. 426,760

5 Claims. (Cl. 24—113)

This invention relates to the so-called "covered" type of buttons wherein a particular material or color is provided on the face of the button to match the material to which the button is to be attached. The invention particularly relates to buttons of the above type wherein the particular material or color is provided in the form of an insert which is removable and may be replaced without destroying the button.

More specifically, the invention comprises a button having separable front and back walls with an insert in the form of a disc or the like, made of either plastic, paper, leather, fur, textile or any other similar desired material, removably but firmly held between the walls. The front wall is actually a ring-like article having a large central opening in which the insert is framed. Additional flexible backing means are provided between the back wall and the insert to firmly but flexibly support the insert within the opening.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a "covered" button wherein the so-called "covering" is easily replaceable.

Another object of this invention is to provide a "covered" button wherein the parts are separable and are adapted to be easily assembled or disassembled without the need of any special tools.

Other objects and many of the attendant advantages of this invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an assembled button embodying the invention,

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of the button shown in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the backing member of the button of Fig. 1,

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a modified form of the invention,

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the backing member of the button of Fig. 4,

Fig. 6 is another modification of the invention,

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the backing member shown in Fig. 6, and

Fig. 8 is a bottom plan view of the rear closure shown in Fig. 6.

Referring now in greater detail to the drawing wherein similar reference characters refer to similar parts, there is shown in Fig. 1 a button, generally designated **10**, comprising a front member **12** in the form of a ring-like body having a central aperture **14** defined by an internal depressed flange **16** extending from a curved rim portion **18** which is provided with a depending outer skirt portion **20**. The skirt **20** ends in a series of teeth **22** which are bent into a plane which is generally perpendicular to the skirt **20** and which define a bottom opening **23**.

The rear wall of the button is formed by a generally disc-shaped closure member **24** which has a flat central portion **26** bounded by an annular rib **28**. Outwardly

of the rib **28** there is provided a peripheral flange **30** which lies in approximately the same plane as the central portion **26**. It should be noted that the rib **28** is intended on its outer side wall to form an annular groove **32**. A metal eyelet **34** is riveted to the center of the portion **26**, this eyelet being adapted to receive the thread when the button is sewn on a piece of material or a garment.

The insert **36** is held in clamped position within the frame formed by the centrally apertured member **12** between the flange **16** on the member **12** and a backing member **38**. This backing member **38** comprises a disc-like member, made of spring metal or the like, which is provided with a raised central portion **40** and a depressed peripheral flange **42**. A central strip **44** is struck away from the remainder of the central portion **40** and is bent to form a depressed bridge.

The insert **36** is clamped at its peripheral portion between the internal flange **16** on the member **12** and the peripheral flange **42** on the backing member **38**, the member **38** being under pressure from the internal portion **39** of the eyelet **34** when the bottom closure member **24** is inserted within the aperture **23** of the top member **12**.

The flexible backing member **38** permits the use of inserts of varying thicknesses since it tends to hold either a relatively thin or relatively thick insert in tight clamping relationship. The necessity for using the backing member for this purpose results from the fact that the closure member which is adapted to cooperate with the teeth **22** is not generally possessed of the necessary flexibility to enable it to clampingly engage inserts of varying thicknesses. Its prime function is to act as a pressure applying supporting means for the backing member. It is absolutely essential to have this flexibility in this instance because the thickness of the insert will vary rather widely according to the type of material from which it is constructed; and since the essence of this invention is to provide a button wherein the insert can be replaced at will, the need for such a flexible backing member is obvious.

In assembling the button, the insert **36** is first inserted through the rear aperture **23** with its peripheral portion abutting against the internal flange **16**; then the backing member **38** is inserted through the aperture **23** behind the insert **36**; finally, the rear closure member **24** is inserted into the aperture **23**. As the member **24** is inserted, the rib **28**, being of greater diameter than the opening between the teeth **22**, resiliently press the teeth back, however, after the top portion of the rib has passed through and the groove **32** comes into position between the teeth, the teeth snap back into the groove and, thereafter, firmly hold the closure member in position. Although the gripping action of these teeth is very intense and there is practically no possibility of the closure member accidentally falling out or being displaced, yet, once the point of the sharply pointed instrument is inserted between the flange **30** and the teeth **22**, the closure member is immediately released.

Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate a modified form of the invention wherein a solid flat disc-like backing member **46**, made of resilient material, is substituted for the backing member **38** of the first embodiment. In this second embodiment, the top member **48** is similar to top member **12** except that it does not have an internal flange surrounding the top central aperture. The insert **50** is, therefore, not bent peripherally as is insert **36**, but is held in flat position by a line contact of the edge of the internal wall of the member **48**. In this embodiment, the pressure of the rear closure member upon the backing member is exerted through the rib **51** at the line of contact between the edge of the member **48** and the backing member. This embodiment is particularly suited for inserts

formed of relatively stiff material such as plastic, cardboard, or the like.

Figs. 6, 7 and 8 illustrate a third embodiment wherein there is provided a top member **52** similar to member **12** in the embodiment of Fig. 1. The backing member **54**, however, differs from the backing members of the other embodiments. This backing member **54** is similar to that of Figs. 1, 2 and 3 in that it comprises a disc made of spring metal or the like having a centrally raised flat portion **56** and a depressed peripheral flange **58**; however, instead of a centrally struck out portion, such as in the embodiment of Figs. 1, 2 and 3, it is provided with a series of depressed portions **60** on the peripheral flange **58**, four such depressions being here illustrated. The rear closure member **62** also distinguishes from that shown in Fig. 1 in that instead of the eyelet **34** there is provided an integrally formed central depression **64** at opposite sides of which are formed openings **66** to receive the needle and thread.

In assembling the button of Figs. 6, 7 and 8, the insert **68**, backing member **54** and rear closure member **62** are inserted in the same manner as in the other embodiments. When the button is in assembled condition, the clamping pressure of the closure member is exerted peripherally through the depressed portions **60** of the peripheral flange **58**.

The backing member **54**, like the backing member **38**, because of its flexible construction, permits the use of inserts constructed of various materials and having various degrees of thickness.

Other modifications are within the scope of the invention and include the substitution of a curved backing member for the relatively flat ones illustrated in the drawings, or the substitution of flexible teeth for the bridge portion **44** of the embodiment of Figs. 1, 2 and 3. Furthermore, the rim portion of the top member may be rectangular in cross-section rather than curved and may be provided with designs, advertising or other indicia.

Obviously many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in the light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed in this invention is:

1. A button device for framing a selected insert comprising a ring-shaped cover member including a top wall and a bottom wall resiliently joined to each other by a side wall, means defining a central aperture in said top wall, said bottom wall comprising a skirt including a series of substantially resilient teeth extending laterally from said side wall, a bottom closure member including a central portion, an upstanding wall surrounding said central portion and projecting towards said cover member, said ring-shaped cover member having a C-shaped cross section to provide a resilient clamping action between said upstanding wall and said means defining said central aperture, said bottom closure member extending radially past said upstanding wall to form a peripheral flange, said flange and said upstanding wall forming between them a groove constructed and arranged for interlocking within said series of teeth of said cover member for detachably locking said bottom closure member within the bottom of said cover member, a fastening means centrally located upon the outer portion of said closure member, said fastening means being constructed and arranged to permit said closure member to be fastened to an article, a backing member disposed within said cover member and resiliently clamped between said means defining said central aperture in said top wall of said cover member and a surface of said closure member for maintaining said insert framed within said cover member between said backing member and said means defining said central aperture, and said cover member and said closure member being constructed and arranged to resiliently clamp said backing member and said insert between said means defining said central aperture and the surface of the upstanding wall of said closure member nearest to said means defining said central aperture.

2. The button device of claim 1 wherein the means defining the central aperture in said cover member is a depressed central flange extending laterally from said cover member.

3. The button device of claim 1 wherein said backing member is a relatively flat body from the central portion of which depends a substantially resilient bowed strip, said bowed strip bearing on said closure member.

4. The button device of claim 1 wherein said backing member is a flat resilient body.

5. A button device comprising a cover member having a top wall, means defining a central aperture in said top wall, a skirt depending from said top wall, a series of substantially resilient teeth extending laterally from said skirt, a bottom closure member comprising a central portion, an upstanding wall surrounding said central portion and projecting toward said cover member, means defining a lateral groove on the outer surface of said wall, said groove being adapted to resiliently retain said teeth, an apertured fastening means extending outwardly from said closure member and adapted to hold thread sewn to an article, a backing member bearing on at least a portion of said closure member, said backing member being at least partially resilient, an insert clamped by the resilient force of said backing member against said cover member, said insert being framed within the central aperture in the top wall of said cover member, said backing member being a relatively flat plate having an off-set, lateral rim, said rim having a plurality of depressed portions therein, and wherein said closure member is provided with a centrally depressed portion having oppositely positioned openings formed therein.

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