

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Garment Packaging Means.

We, FRATELLI RODA S.A., a Swiss Company of 6962 Viganello, Switzerland, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to garment packaging means for shirts and other garments having collars, cuffs and shoulders. Shirts and other similar clothes (pyjamas, blouses, overalls and the like) are usually wrapped for sale by folding and fastening the same to a packaging means generally made of cardboard so that, having acquired a certain rigidity, they may be offered for sale in their most convenient and appealing form.

To confer to the various parts of the shirt or other garment the required rigidity, it has been necessary, up to now, to use holding pins, clips or special cardboard sheets provided, in some portions thereof, with adhesive means.

With the spreading on the market of the more recent synthetic fibres, the usage of pins has proved to be often inconvenient: first of all, pins are not practical to use and secondly they cause in the garment the formation of small holes which never disappear completely. The use of cardboard sheets which have been made adhesive at certain points has also proved to be unsatisfactory since, with time, the adhesive substance causes deformation of the cardboard and consequently of the garment supported thereby bringing about an untidy appearance.

The garment packaging means of the present invention aims at conferring to the wrapped article or envelope the required rigidity and handiness without usage of pins, clips, or adhesive supports.

According to the invention there is provided a garment packaging means for shirts

and other garments having shoulders, collars and cuffs, for the purpose presenting the garment in a folded state and for sale, comprising a strip of cardboard or other equivalent material having a width approximately equal to the width to which the garment is to be folded, and a length equal to approximately twice that to which the garment is to be folded, said strip being adapted to be bent back on itself along a line extending transversely of the strip and at approximately the middle of the strip to form two semi-strips, an upper semi-strip and a lower semi-strip, the upper semi-strip having its free end portion which in the package is adjacent to the garment's neck formed with a curved or shaped profile corresponding to the form of the garment's shoulders and provided with three flap elements, a central one and two side ones, the central one being adapted to be bent at right angles to the upper semi-strip so that it can fit underneath the back of the garment collar, whilst the side flap elements are adapted to be bent through 180° to serve to hold the lower semi-strip in the folded over position.

The accompanying drawings show, by way of example only, a preferred embodiment of supporting means according to the invention, the packaging means being here used in connection with a man's shirt, and modifications of such embodiment. In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a plan view on the complete packaging means in its extended form;

Figure 2 is the corresponding lateral view;

Figure 3 is a lateral view of the support when bent into the two semi-strips; the upper and the lower one;

Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 show the several phases according to which the shirt is folded

[Price 5s. 0d.]

around the packaging means to present it for sale;

Figures 8, 9 and 10 are views of three modifications of the upper part of the packaging means.

The packaging means, as illustrated in Figures 1 to 3, is made of a strip of cardboard or other equivalent and sufficiently rigid material, with a width A—B equal to about the width A¹—B¹ (Figure 7) of the wrapped article and with a length C—F (Figure 1) approximately twice the length C¹—F¹ (Figure 7) of the article when presented for sale.

The strip 1 is adapted to be bent on itself along the crease line A—B to form two semi-strips; an upper one 1¹ and a lower one 1¹¹.

The upper semi-strip 1¹ has the free end portion D—C.E, in correspondence to the shirt's neck, curved or shaped so as to fit to the shape of the shirt's shoulders.

At this end portion D—C—E there are also three depending flap elements, the central flap element 2 and the two side flap elements 3 and 4.

These three depending flap elements may either be formed from an additional cardboard strip 5 glued or somehow fastened as at position 6 (Figure 10) to the semi-strip 1¹ below. They may have any desired shape and possibly be so formed as to completely cover the end portion D—E.

The central flap element 2, located in direction of the longitudinal axis of the upper semi-strip 1¹, is bent in the direction shown in Figure 3 about a right angle so that it can fit beneath the back of the collar (Figure 6) of the garment, while the side flaps 3 and 4 are bent through 180° to a position between the two superposed semi-strips 1¹ and 1¹¹ (Figures 3 and 6) to hold a folded over part of the garment when it is to be presented for sale.

The three above mentioned flap-elements 2—3—4 may either be made integral with the same cardboard strip which constitutes the semi-strip 1¹ (Figure 8) or they may part be integral with said cardboard strip 1 and part be made of a separate cardboard portion glued or otherwise fastened to the cardboard strip 1 as shown in Figure 9.

In Figure 10 the side flap elements 3 and 4 are glued or otherwise fixed as at 3¹ and 4¹ and have a considerable length so that, after being bent through 180°, they may cross one another on the back of the folded garment.

To dispose the garment ready for sale using the packaging means of the Fig. 3 embodiment, one should follow the steps shown in the Figures 4 to 7. The garment, in this case a shirt, is disposed on a surface with its back upwards so as to receive thereon the completely extended strip 1. The cen-

tral flap 2 is located beneath the back of the shirt's collar which has been previously made stiff by inserting therein, in any conventional manner, a small collar strip or cardboard or any other rigid plastics material.

Thereafter, as shown in Figure 5, the two lateral portions 10 and 11 of the shirt are folded on each other, the sleeves 12, 13 are bent at about a right angle so that the cuffs 14, 15 stick out laterally and the lower end 19 of the shirt is bent upwardly to lie over strip portion 19¹.

After having arranged the shirt on the support as mentioned above, the strip 1, together with the shirt, is bent along the crease line A—B to form the two superposed semi-strips 1¹—1¹¹ with the shirt thereon. The end of strip 1¹¹ is tucked under strip 5 and the side flap elements 3 and 4 are then tucked in behind semi-strip 1¹¹ and engage the free end of semi-strip 1¹¹ (Figure 6) whereafter the so prepared article is turned face upwards.

Passing from the step illustrated in Figure 5 to the one illustrated in Figure 6 and in consideration of the fact that the central flap element 2 is introduced under the shirt's collar and the folding of the lower part 19 prevents the garment from becoming loose on the supporting means, it may be readily seen that the shirt is subjected to an elastic tension so as to acquire a perfectly even and smooth shape.

After having arranged the strip 13 of any transparent material to hold the cuffs 14, 15 in the position shown in Figure 7, the shirt will be ready to be presented for sale.

The original strip 1 may be provided, as shown in Figure 1, with longitudinal slits or cuts 17 suited to confer to the said strip the necessary cross flexibility while keeping the required longitudinal elasticity.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A garment packaging means for shirts and other garments having shoulders, collars and cuffs, for the purpose of presenting the garment in a folded state and for sale, comprising a strip of cardboard or other equivalent material having a width approximately equal to the width to which the garment is to be folded, and a length equal to approximately twice that to which the garment is to be folded, said strip being adapted to be bent back on itself along a line extending transversely of the strip and at approximately the middle of the strip to form two semi-strips, an upper semi-strip and a lower semi-strip, the upper semi-strip having its free end portion which, in the package is adjacent the garment's neck, formed with a curved or shaped profile corresponding to the form of the garment's shoulders and provided with three flap ele-



around the packaging means to present it for sale;

Figures 8, 9 and 10 are views of three modifications of the upper part of the packaging means.

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At this end portion D—C—E there are also three depending flap elements, the central flap element 2 and the two side flap elements 3 and 4.

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ments, a central one and two side ones, the central one being adapted to be bent at right angles to the upper semi-strip so that it can fit underneath the back of the garment collar, whilst the side flap elements are adapted to be bent through 180° to serve to hold the lower semi-strip in the folded over position.

2. A means according to Claim 1, wherein the strip is provided with longitudinal cuts to confer flexibility to the strip.

3. A means according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the central flap element consists of a separate strip glued or fixed to the upper semi-strip, and the two side flap elements are formed integral with the upper semi-strip.

4. A means according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the three flap elements are formed in a separate strip fixed or glued to the upper semi-strip.

5. A means according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the three flaps are integral with the upper semi-strip.

6. A means according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the side flap elements are elongated so that after being bent through 180° they cross one another.

7. A garment packaging means for shirts and other garments having shoulders, collars and cuffs, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 to 7 or Figures 1 to 7 as modified by Figures 8, 9 or 10 of the accompanying drawings.

8. A package comprising a garment packaging means according to any preceding claims and a garment having shoulders, a collar and cuffs, wherein the garment is supported in the packaging means by laying the garment out flat and face down, disposing the strip on the back of the garment, folding the lateral portions extending beyond the strip and the bottom of the garment over the strip, and folding the strip over upon itself and folding the side flap elements to hold the strip in the folded over position, the centre flap being located under the rear of the collar of the garment.

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