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BUTTON

The present invention relates to a button including a button body and a tack member adapted to be joined with the button body for attachment of the button to a garment fabric.

5 A known button comprises a button body and a tack member adapted to be joined with the button body for attachment of the button to a garment fabric. In attachment, a shank of the tack member is pierced through a garment fabric and is then forced through a
10 hollow hub of the button body so as to deform or bend a tapering end of the shank, thus securing the latter to the hollow hub of the button body. However, in this prior button the tapering end portion of the tack member's shank is usually in the shape of a pyramid
15 with its tip end disposed on the axis of the shank and hence requires relatively great force for the bending of the tapering end portion. This great force often

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causes not only the tack member's shank but also the button body's hollow hub to be objectionably deformed or otherwise damaged. Further, since the tip end of the pyramid-shaped end portion is disposed on the axis of the shank, the tip end would tend to penetrate into the back plate. As a consequence, accurate and firm joining of the tack member with the button body cannot be achieved.

Japanese Utility model Publication (Kokoku)

10 44-5791 discloses a tack member in which a shank has a lateral groove of square cross section near its tapering end portion so that the tapering end portion is bendable about the recess as the shank is inserted into a hollow hub of a button body. Another attempt
15 has been made, as disclosed by Japanese Utility Model Publication (Kokoku) 12-6342, in which a shank has a plurality of lateral grooves of V-shaped cross section near its tapering end portion to facilitate bending. However, the groove or grooves of either Japanese
20 Publication are formed by cutting, which makes the shank mechanically weak around such cutouts. With this structural weakness of the shank, the tack member would tend to be easily deformed or bent back so as to be removed from the button body when a relatively great
25 pulling force is exerted on the button.

According to the present invention there is provided a button for attachment to a garment fabric,

comprising; a button body including a button back,
a cap covering said button back on its obverse side,
and a back plate disposed between said button back and
said cap, said button back having a hollow hub disposed
5 remotely from said cap and extending axially of said
button back, said hollow hub having a flanged free end;
a tack member including a head, and a shank projecting
perpendicularly and centrally from said head for being
pierced through the garment fabric and then inserted
10 into said hollow hub of said button back to thereby
join said tack member with said button body; and said
shank including a stem portion of circular cross
section and a tapering end portion, said shank having a
cold-pressed recess adjacent to a border between said
15 stem portion and said tapering end portion, said recess
of said shank being disposed in such a position that
said recess is disposed adjacent to said flanged end of
said hollow hub of said button back when said shank is
fully inserted through said hollow hub with the garment
20 fabric sandwiched between said tack member's head and
said hollow hub, said tapering end portion having a
distal end disposed off the axis of said shank toward
said recess, said tapering end portion being bendable
about said recess as said distal end is forced, in use,
25 against said back plate during the insertion of said
shank into said hollow hub of said button back.

It is believed possible by means of the present
invention to provide a button

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in which a tack member's shank can be secured to a button body's hollow hub easily and accurately not only without damage of the button body's hollow hub or any other part, but also without accidental removal of the
5 tack member from the button body.

The invention will be described by way of examples with reference to the accompanying drawings in
10 which preferred embodiments,

of the present invention are shown by way of illustrative example. In the drawings:-

Figure 1 is a front elevational view, partly in cross section, of a button embodying the present
15 invention, showing the button having been attached to a garment fabric;

Figure 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view of a button body;

Figure 3 is a side elevational view of a tack
20 member, showing the same before having been joined with the button body;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the tack member of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a vertical cross-sectional view
25 taken along line V-V of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line VI-VI of Figure 3, showing a recess in

the tack member's shank;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a punch used to form the recess of Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a side elevational view of a
5 modified tack member;

Figure 9 is a plan view of the tack member of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a front elevational view of the tack member of Figure 8;

10 Figure 11 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line XI-XI of Figure 8, with the tack member's head omitted; and

Figures 12 and 13 are fragmentary cross-sectional views showing modified forms of an
15 inner tube of a button back's hollow hub.

The present invention is particularly useful when embodied in a button as shown in Figure 1, generally indicated by the numeral 10.

The button 10 comprises a button body 11 and a
20 tack member 12 (joined with the button body 11 in a manner described below), attaching the button 10 to a garment fabric 13. Both the button body 11 and the tack member 12 are made of metal, preferably brass.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the button body 11
25 includes a button back 14 having an annular rim 15 covered by a cap 16. A circular back plate 16a is sandwiched between the button back 14 and the cap 16,



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for a purpose described below. Alternatively, the back plate 16a may be an integral part of the cap 16. The button back 14 also has a hollow hub 17 in the form of a double tube of circular cross section projecting
5 downwardly from an inner edge of the annular rim 15. The double-tube hub 17 is composed of a pair of concentric inner and outer tubes 18, 19 joined at their lower end by an annular turn 20. The inner tube 18 has a curled annular flange 21 projecting outwardly from an
10 upper end of the inner tube 18 and terminating in an edge 21a which defines a circle of a diameter smaller than the maximum outside diameter D (Figure 2) of said curled annular flange 21.

Figures 3 to 5 illustrate the tack member 12
15 before having been joined with the button body 11 as shown in Figure 1. The tack member 12 includes a disk-like head 22 and a shank 23 projecting perpendicularly and centrally from one face 22a of the head 22 for being pierced through the garment fabric 13
20 (Figure 1) and also for being inserted through the hollow hub 17 of the button back 14. The head 22 is substantially flat on opposite faces, one of which has a plurality of angularly spaced teeth 22b arranged in a circle around the shank 23.

25 The shank 23 is composed of a tapering end portion 24 disposed remotely from the head 22, and a stem portion 25 of circular cross section extending

between the head 22 and the tapering end portion 24. At its base, the stem portion 25 has an arcuately curved surface 25d (Figure 5) blending into the flat face 22a of the head 22. The shank 23 has a recess 25a immediately below or adjacent to the border between the tapering end portion 24 and the stem portion 25. The recess 25a is formed by cold pressing, that is, punching a circumferential surface of the shank 23 with a punch 40 (Figure 7). The punch 40 has a punching end 40a in the shape of generally a frustrum of a square pyramid with rounded corners; as a consequence, the recess 25a has a contour corresponding to the shape of the punching end 40a of the punch 40. As shown in Figure 6, as the recess 25a is thus formed in the shank 23, a mass of material of the shank 23 flows due to plastic deformation, providing a pair of lateral protuberances 25b, 25b on opposite sides of the recess 25a. Because of this cold pressing, both the walls of the recess 25a and the lateral protuberances 25b have a surface layer 25c (indicated by dots, in Figure 6, for convenience) harder than the remaining regions of the shank 23.

As shown in Figures 3 to 5, the tapering end portion 24 of the shank 23 has a pyramidal configuration defined by four sloping flat surfaces with ridges therebetween meeting at a distal end 24a, the number of the sloping surfaces being not pertinent

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here. The distal end 24a of the tapering end portion 24 is disposed off the center axis 41 of the shank 23 toward the recess 25a, as shown in Figure 5.

The position of the recess 25a on the shank 23 is such that it is disposed adjacent to the upper end, i.e. the annular flange 21, of the button back's inner tube 18 when the shank 23 is fully inserted through the hollow hub 17 of the button back 14 with the garment fabric 13 sandwiched between the hollow tube 17 and the tack member's head 22.

To attach the button 10 to the garment fabric 13, the shank 23 of the tack member 12 of Figures 3 to 5 is pierced through the garment fabric 13 and is then inserted through the inner tube 18 of the button back's hollow hub 17. At that time, the flaring lower end 18a of the inner tube 18 allows the shank to be easily inserted into the inner tube 18. With continued insertion of the shank 23, the tapering end portion 24 is bent through substantially 90 degrees about the recess 25a as its distal end 24a is forced against the back plate 16a sandwiched between the button back 14 and the cap 16. As a result, the tapering end portion 24 lies over and against the curled annular flange 21 of the hollow hub's inner tube 18 to permanently join the shank 23 of the tack member 12 with the inner tube 18 of the button back's hollow hub 17.

Partly because the shank 23 of the tack member

12 has a recess 25a immediately below or adjacent to the border between the tapering end portion 24 and the stem portion 25, and partly because the distal end 24a of the tapering end portion 24 is disposed off the axis 41 of the shank 23 toward the recess 25a, the tapering end portion 24 of the shank 23 can be deformed with only relatively small force, making not only the shank 23 but also the button back's hollow hub 17 free from objectionable bending and inclination. Having at its base an arcuately curved surface blending into the flat face 22a of the tack member's head 22, the stem portion 25 opposes bending and hence prevents inclination of the shank 23 during insertion of the latter through the button back's hollow hub 17.

With such structure, the shank 23 of the tack member 12 can be secured to the hollow hub 17 of the button back 14 easily and accurately, not only without inclination of either the tack member's shank 23 or the button back's hollow hub 17, but also without bending or otherwise deforming of the shank's stem portion 25. Further, since the recess 25a and the lateral protuberances 25b (Figure 6) are formed by cold pressing, the tapering end portion 24 bent over and against the curled annular flange 21 is resistant to bending back toward its original position, thus preventing not only accidental removal of the tack member 12 from the button body 11, but also angular

displacement or rotation of the tack member 12 with respect to the button body 11.

As the tack member 12 and the button body 11 are joined together with the garment fabric 13 sandwiched therebetween, the teeth 22b of the tack member's head 22 bite into the garment fabric 13, preventing the tack member 12 and thus the whole button 10 from being angularly displaced or rotated with respect to the garment fabric 13.

10 . The curled annular flange 21 serves to distribute a radially outwardly pressing force, exerted on the flange 21, to various directions, thus making the upper end portion of the inner tube 18 free from being easily broken or otherwise deformed.

15 Figure 8 to 11 illustrate a modified tack member 12' in which the distal end 24a of the pyramid-shaped tapering end portion 24 is round as viewed in Figure 8, i.e. from a radial direction in which the recess 25a is positioned. Further, one of the ridges (of the
20 pyramid-shaped tapering end portion 24) that is disposed most remotely from the recess 25a has a circumferentially curved surface 24b along the entire length of the same ridge. Likewise, another ridge that is disposed most adjacent to the recess 25a also has a
25 circumferentially curved surface 24c. As the tapering end portion 24 is forced against the back plate 16a, the rounded distal end 24a and, subsequently, one of

the rounded ridges 24b slides on the back plate 16a smoothly, thus facilitating the bending of the tapering end portion 24.

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate alternative forms of the inner tube 18 of the button back's hollow hub 17. In the inner tube 18 of Figure 12, the curled annular flange 21 terminates in a radially inwardly directed edge 21a which is in contact with a peripheral surface of the inner tube 18. In the inner tube 18 of Figure 13, the curled annular flange 21 terminates in an upwardly directed edge 21a, with a peripheral surface therealong being in contact with a peripheral surface of the inner tube 18. With such curled annular flange 21, the inner tube 18 is free from being swelled even when a relatively great amount of radially outwardly pressing force is exerted on the inner tube 18 during insertion of the tack member's shank 23 through the inner tube 18.

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Claims:-

1. A button for attachment to a garment fabric,
comprising:

5 (a) a button body including a button back, a cap
covering said button back on its obverse side, and a
back plate disposed between said button back and said
cap, said button back having a hollow hub disposed
remotely from said cap and extending axially of said button
back, said hollow hub having a flanged free end;

10 (b) a tack member including a head, and a shank
projecting perpendicularly and centrally from said head
for being pierced through the garment fabric and then
inserted into said hollow hub of said button back to
thereby join said tack member with said button body; and

15 (c) said shank including a stem portion of circular
cross section and a tapering end portion, said shank
having a cold-pressed recess adjacent to a border between
said stem portion and said tapering end portion, said recess
of said shank being disposed in such a position that
said recess is disposed adjacent to said flanged end of
20 said hollow hub of said button back when said shank
is fully inserted through said hollow hub with the garment
fabric sandwiched between said tack member's head and said
hollow hub, said tapering end portion having a distal
end disposed off the axis of said shank toward said
25 recess, said tapering end portion being bendable about
said recess as said distal end is forced, in use, against
said back plate during the insertion of said shank into



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said hollow hub of said button back.

2. A button according to claim 1, said tapering end portion having a pyramidal configuration defined by a plurality of sloping surfaces with ridges therebetween meeting at said distal end.

3. A button according to claim 2, said distal end of said tapering end portion being round as viewed from a radial direction in which said recess is positioned.

4. A button according to claim 2 or 3, one of said ridges that is disposed most remotely from said recess being round along the entire length of said one ridge.

5. A button according to any preceding claim, said hollow hub of said button back having a pair of concentric inner and outer tubes joined at one end thereof, said inner tube having a curled annular flange projecting outwardly from the other end of said inner tube.

6. A button according to claim 5, said curled annular flange of said hollow hub terminating in an edge which defines a circle of a diameter smaller than the maximum outside diameter of said curled annular flange.

7. A button according to claim 6, said edge of said curled annular flange being in contact with a peripheral surface of said inner tube.

8. A button according to claim 6, a peripheral surface of said curled annular flange around said edge thereof being in contact with a peripheral surface of said inner tube.

9. A button according to any preceding claim said



recess having a contour of generally a frustrum
of a pyramid.

10. A button according to any preceding claim, said
shank of said tack member having a pair of lateral
5 protuberances disposed contiguously to said recess at
opposite sides thereof.
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