

SPECIFICATION

Sliding clasp fastener

5 *Description:—*

This invention relates to a sliding clasp fastener and more particularly to an end stop device adapted for use on an open end type of fastener.

- 10 There have been proposed many open end type sliding clasp fasteners. A common drawback of such fasteners is found in that when the fastener is fully closed, the opposed fastener tapes tend to flare up at their respective upper ends owing to what is commonly termed "diamond" or guide post of a slider which urges the tape ends apart. As a result, it becomes difficult to sew fasteners having such flared tape ends neatly onto a garment or the like.

- 20 An improvement has been made in the art such that an open end type of fastener can be held in closed disposition with respective tape ends aligned and straightened providing a substantially V-shaped opening between the opposed tape ends for receiving the diamond portion of the slider. While this prior fastener device has accomplished the purpose of preventing the tape ends from getting spread or flared, it has encountered a different drawback in that when starting the slider in the fastener opening direction, the diamond of the slider is liable to impinge upon the endmost or the next to the endmost ones of interlocking fastener elements which are still interengaged within the channel of the slider, and this therefore makes the starting movement of the slider sluggish, sometimes difficult.

- 40 According to the invention, there is provided an open end sliding clasp fastener comprising a pair of stringer tapes, each carrying a respective row of interlocking fastener elements along one longitudinal edge, a slider having side flanges and a diamond and adapted to open and close the fastener, and an end stop consisting of a pair of lugs formed from a plastics material and secured to the longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes, said lugs each having an oblique inner edge extending divergently with respect to the longitudinal axis of the fastener such that said lugs define therebetween a substantially V-shaped opening complementary in shape with the diamond of the slider, and one of said pair of lugs having at least one projection contiguous to said oblique inner edge and the other lug having a recess receiving said projection, said projection extending transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis of the rows of interengaged fastener elements and disposed for abutting engagement with the slider diamond, the pair of lugs being fused together with extensions of the respective rows of fastener elements to

the longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes whereby, in use, pressure by the slider upon the lugs so as to urge the lugs to spread apart is transmitted to, and urges apart, endmost ones of the rows of fastener elements.

The invention will now be described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

- 75 *Figure 1* is a fragmentary plan view of a sliding clasp fastener with its top end separated;

- 80 *Figure 2* is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the fastener in fully closed disposition;

- Figure 3* is a fragmentary plan view of closed top end portion of the fastener with the top slider body cut away to show the relative positions of the slider diamond and a top end stop provided according to the invention;

- 85 *Figures 4, 5 and 6*, inclusive, are fragmentary plan views of the fastener respectively showing progressive movement of the slider in the fastener opening direction with respect to the top end stop; and

- 90 *Figure 7* is a fragmentary plan view of sliding clasp fastener according to another embodiment of the invention.

- Referring now to the drawings and Fig. 1 in particular, there is shown a fragment of a sliding clasp fastener generally designated 10 which comprises a pair of stringer tapes 11, 12 each carrying along its inner longitudinal edge a row of interlocking fastener elements E_1 , (E_2) formed from a continuous plastic filament into a helical coil structure consisting of convolutions which provide a continuous row of spaced apart interlocking elements.

- The opposed rows of elements E_1 , E_2 are taken into and out of mutual engagement by a slider S to open and close the fastener 10 in a well known manner. The slider S comprises a body S_1 , flanges S_2 extending downwardly from opposite sides of the body S_1 , a pull tab S_3 pivotally connected to the body S_1 for manipulating the slider and a diamond or guide post S_4 projecting intermediate the side flanges S_2 to define therebetween a substantially Y-shaped channel for the passage of the rows of fastener elements E_1 , E_2 . The form and construction of this slider is conventional and hence will require no further description.

- In accordance with the invention, there is provided a top end stop 13 comprising a pair of lugs 13a, 13b formed from a plastics material and secured to respective inner longitudinal edges of the stringer tapes 11, 12.

- The lugs 13a, 13b are fused together with extensions of the respective rows of fastener elements E_1 , E_2 to the tape edges so that they can be retained firmly in place against displacement when subjected to external stresses. An inner edge 14 of each of the lugs 13a, 13b is cut together with the tape fabric obliquely to extend divergently with respect to

the longitudinal axis of the fastener, so that when the two opposed lugs 13a, 13b are brought toward each other, they define therebetween a substantially V-shaped bay or opening 15 complementary in shape with the periphery of the diamond S_4 of the slider S , the V-shaped bay 15 thus serving to receive and anchor the diamond S_4 therein when the slider S has taken the fastener into fully closed position as better shown in Fig. 3.

Each of the lugs 13a, 13b has an upper marginal edge 16 extending from the oblique inner edge 14 and flush with an extremity of the end of the respective tapes 11, 12, and an outer edge 17 extending obliquely downwardly from the upper marginal edge 16. The lugs 13a, 13b each have a shoulder 18 merging into the oblique outer edge 17 and extending horizontally for abutting engagement with the upper end of the respective flanges S_2 of the slider S when the latter is in the uppermost position as shown in Fig. 3. The inner oblique edge 14 of the lug 13a terminates with a first recess 19 and that of the mating lug 13b extends a short distance to form a first projection 20 directed toward the recess 19. Contiguous to the first recess 19 of the lug 13a is a second projection 21 and contiguous to the first projection 20 of the lug 13b is a second recess 22 complementary in contour with the second projection 21.

Extending vertically downwardly from the shoulder 18 of each of the lugs 13a, 13b is a straight outer edge 23 which defines with the shoulder 18 an offset spacing 24 for facilitating free movement of the flared side flanges S_2 of the slider S when closing and opening the fastener 10.

An important i.e. preferred aspect of the invention resides in the provision of a plurality of such alternate projections and recesses in each of the lugs 13a, 13b wherein at least one of the projections 20, 21 extends transversely beyond a central longitudinal axis C of the rows of fastener elements E_1 , E_2 that are interengaged, so that the diamond S_4 of the slider S comes into contact with and urges the end stop 13 to spread apart with this urging pressure transmitted to the endmost ones of elements E_1 , E_2 to disengage the latter in a manner hereafter described. The number of the projections 20, (21) that extends transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis C of the fastener 10 is not limited. For example, as shown in Fig. 7, it is possible to provide two such projections 25, 26 on the lug 13a and one projection 27 on the lug 13b extending in the space between the projections 25, 26, the arrangement being substantially functionally the same as the first embodiment previously discussed with reference to Figs. 1-3.

The behaviour of the top end portion of the fastener 10 in response to the operation of

the slider S is illustrated in Figs. 4-6, from which it will be seen that starting downward movement of the slide S in the fastener opening direction from the position of Fig. 3 brings the diamond S_4 into abutting engagement with the first projection 20 of the lug 13b and urges the two opposed lugs 13, 13b spread apart, whereupon the endmost fastener element E_2 on tape 12 begins to move apart from the endmost element E_1 on the other tape 11, as shown in Fig. 4.

As the slider S further advances in the fastener opening direction the diamond S_4 , while being still engaged with the projection 20, now impinges upon the second projection 21 of the lug 13a continues to force apart the opposed lugs 13a, 13b, the resulting pressure being transmitted to and urging further apart the endmost elements E_1 , E_2 , as shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 6 illustrates further advancement of the slider S and concomitant behaviour of the end stop 13 and the endmost elements E_1 , E_2 , as well as the ensuing ones of fastener elements E_1 , E_2 that are progressively moved out of mutual engagement.

CLAIMS

1. An open end sliding clasp fastener comprising a pair of stringer tapes, each carrying a respective row of interlocking fastener elements along one longitudinal edge, a slider having side flanges and a diamond and adapted to open and close the fastener, and an end stop consisting of a pair of lugs formed from a plastics material and secured by being fused to longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes, said lugs each having an oblique inner edge extending divergently with respect to the longitudinal axis of the fastener such that said lugs define therebetween a substantially V-shaped opening complementary in shape with the diamond of the slider, and one of said pair of lugs having at least one projection contiguous to said oblique inner edge and the other lug having a recess receiving said projection, said projection extending transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis of the rows of interengaged fastener elements and disposed for abutting engagement with the slider diamond, the pair of lugs being fused together with extensions of the respective rows of fastener elements to the longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes whereby, in use, pressure by the slider upon the lugs so as to urge the lugs to spread apart is transmitted to, and urges apart, end-most ones of the rows of fastener elements.

2. A sliding clasp fastener as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pair of lugs each have a plurality of projections and corresponding recesses, at least one of said projections extending transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis of the rows of interengaged fastener elements.



the longitudinal axis of the fastener, so that when the two opposed lugs 13a, 13b are brought toward each other, they define therebetween a substantially V-shaped bay or opening 15 complementary in shape with the periphery of the diamond S_4 of the slider S , the V-shaped bay 15 thus serving to receive and anchor the diamond S_4 therein when the slider S has taken the fastener into fully closed position as better shown in Fig. 3.

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Extending vertically downwardly from the shoulder 18 of each of the lugs 13a, 13b is a straight outer edge 23 which defines with the shoulder 18 an offset spacing 24 for facilitating free movement of the flared side flanges S_2 of the slider S when closing and opening the fastener 10.

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As the slider S further advances in the fastener opening direction the diamond S_4 , while being still engaged with the projection 20, now impinges upon the second projection 21 of the lug 13a continues to force apart the opposed lugs 13a, 13b, the resulting pressure being transmitted to and urging further apart the endmost elements E_1 , E_2 , as shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 6 illustrates further advancement of the slider S and concomitant behaviour of the end stop 13 and the endmost elements E_1 , E_2 , as well as the ensuing ones of fastener elements E_1 , E_2 that are progressively moved out of mutual engagement.

CLAIMS

1. An open end sliding clasp fastener comprising a pair of stringer tapes, each carrying a respective row of interlocking fastener elements along one longitudinal edge, a slider having side flanges and a diamond and adapted to open and close the fastener, and an end stop consisting of a pair of lugs formed from a plastics material and secured by being fused to longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes, said lugs each having an oblique inner edge extending divergently with respect to the longitudinal axis of the fastener such that said lugs define therebetween a substantially V-shaped opening complementary in shape with the diamond of the slider, and one of said pair of lugs having at least one projection contiguous to said oblique inner edge and the other lug having a recess receiving said projection, said projection extending transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis of the rows of interengaged fastener elements and disposed for abutting engagement with the slider diamond, the pair of lugs being fused together with extensions of the respective rows of fastener elements to the longitudinal edges of the respective stringer tapes whereby, in use, pressure by the slider upon the lugs so as to urge the lugs to spread apart is transmitted to, and urges apart, end-most ones of the rows of fastener elements.

2. A sliding clasp fastener as claimed in claim 1 wherein said pair of lugs each have a plurality of projections and corresponding recesses, at least one of said projections extending transversely beyond the central longitudinal axis of the rows of interengaged fastener elements.

3. A sliding clasp fastener as claimed in claim 1 wherein said lugs each have a horizontally extending shoulder engageable with the side flanges of the slider and a vertically straight outer edge defining with said shoulder an offset spacing.
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