R. W. FOWLER.

SHIRT HOLDING MECHANISM FOR IRONING BOARDS.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 7, 1908.

937,785. **Patented Oct. 26, 1909.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

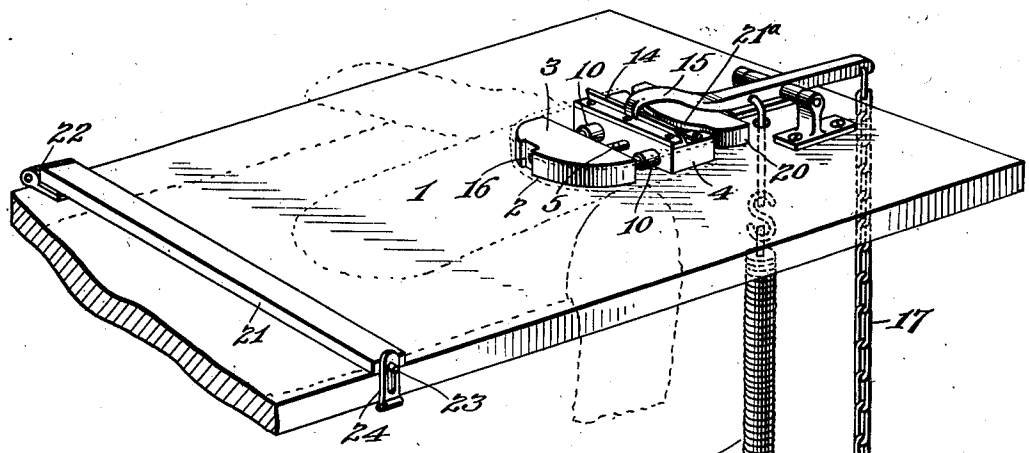


Fig. 2.

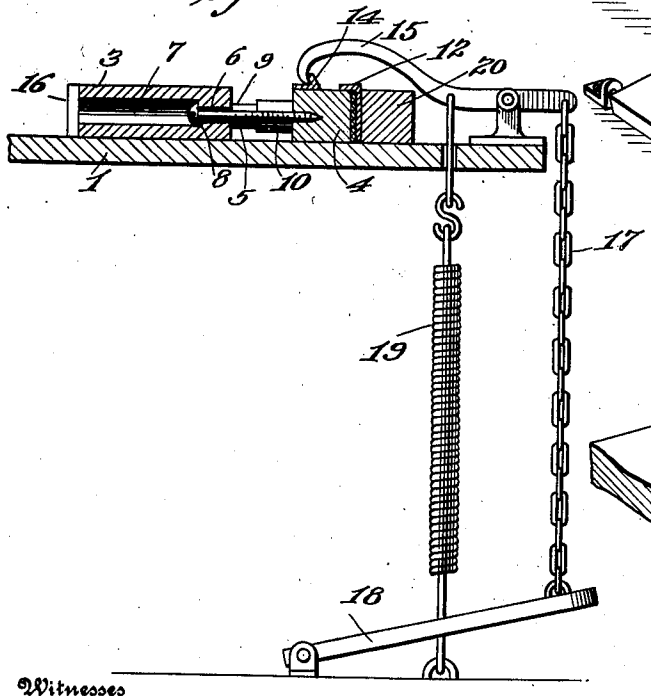
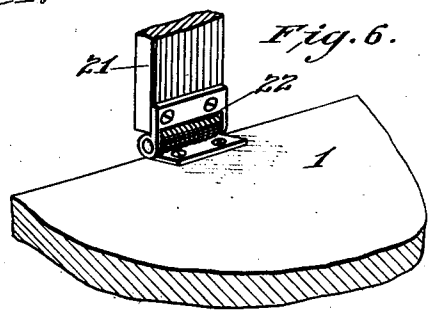


Fig. 6.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

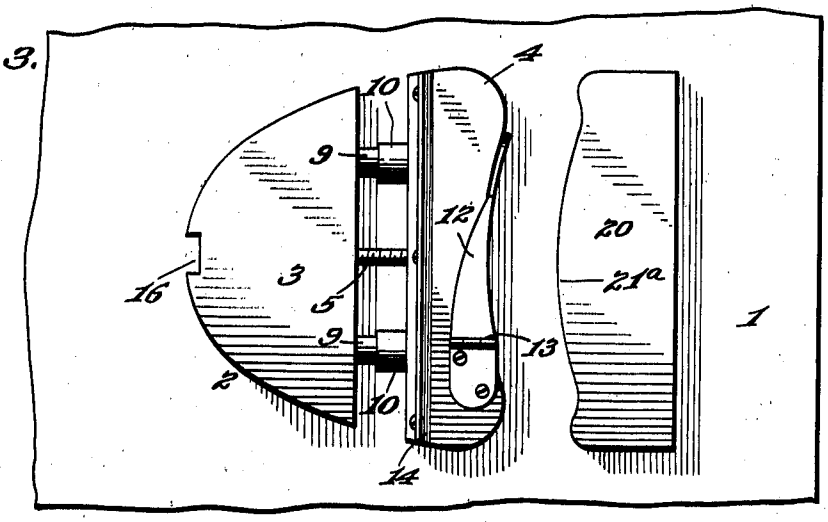


Fig. 4.

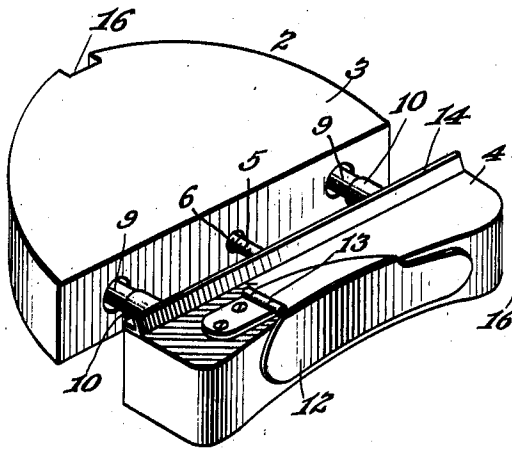
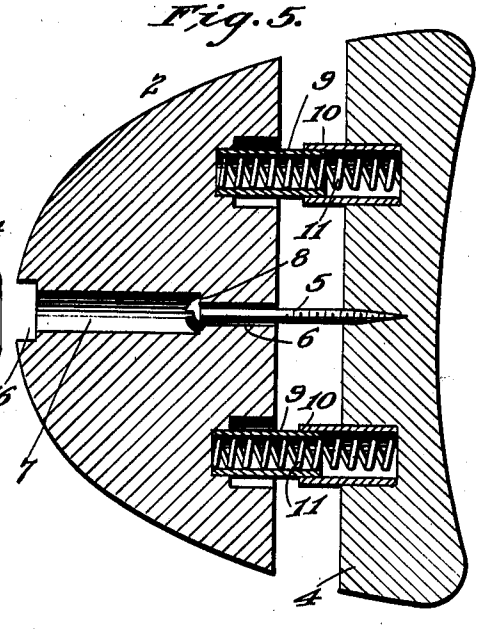


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHIRT-HOLDING MECHANISM FOR IRONING-BOARDS.

937,785. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 26, 1909.

Application filed October 7, 1908. Serial No. 456,603.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT W. FOWLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shirt-Holding Mechanism for Ironing-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in a shirt holding mechanism for ironing boards, the object of the invention being primarily to provide improved means for holding the collar of a shirt in proper form for shaping during the ironing operation.

A further object is to provide improvements of this character which will hold a shirt in position on the ironing board leaving the operator's hands free to iron the shirt.

A further object is to provide means of this character which will permit the shirt to be removed from the ironing board with the collar band shaper therein, and thus allow the ironing of the collar band to be completed with the shaper in place.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in certain novel features of construction, combinations and arrangements of parts as will be more fully hereinafter described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating my improvements in operative position. Fig. 2, is a view in longitudinal section. Fg. 3, is an enlarged plan view showing the collar band shaper and its coöperating stop block on the ironing board. Fig. 4, is a perspective view of the collar band shaper. Fig. 5, is a view in horizontal section of the same, and Fig. 6, is a detail perspective view showing the clamping bar and its means of attachment to the ironing board.

1 represents an ironing board of any desired form and supported in any approved manner.

2 indicates my improved collar band shaper comprising two blocks or members 3 and 4 respectively, the former having a general semi-circular shape while the latter has a compound curved shape to give to the back portion of the collar band a somewhat flattened or slightly incurved contour when ironed, as is now the case with new shirts on the market. Members 3 and 4 are connected by a screw 5, located in a central opening 6 in member 3, and screwed into member 4. Member 3 has free sliding movement on the screw and an enlarged opening or recess 7 in member 3 accommodates the head of the screw. At the juncture of the openings 6 and 7 a shoulder 8 is formed to limit the movement of the screw head, and hence restrict the separation of the members 3 and 4. In members 3 and 4 at both sides of screw 5, tubes 9 and 10 respectively are secured in the opposite faces of members 3 and 4, the tubes 9 being of sufficiently smaller diameter than tubes 10 to freely telescope therein and coil springs 11 are housed in said telescoping tubes and exert pressure on the members 3 and 4 to normally press them away from each other and expand the collar to its limit when placed in position thereon. A clamping plate 12, bent as shown, and having a hinge connection 13 with the upper face of member 4, is of the same general shape or contour as the end face of member 4, and is adapted when forced over the outer face of a collar band to clamp the shaper 2 in the band and permit the manipulation of the shirt without danger of the shaper falling out of the collar band. An angle bar 14 is secured on member 4 to be engaged by a hook 15 to hold the shirt in position for ironing as will more fully hereinafter appear, and a notch 16 is made in the end of member 3 to accommodate a collar button in the front of a collar band. The hook 15 above referred to is pivotally supported between its ends on the ironing board, and at its rear end is connected by a chain 17 with a treadle 18, which latter, when depressed, lifts the inner end of hook 15 to an inoperative position. A coil spring 19 exerts a downward pull on hook 15 between its inner end and its pivotal point and holds the hook in operative position until elevated by the treadle 18. A stop block 20 (against which the rear face of the collar band is held by shaper 2) is made with a collar band engaging face 21^a, substantially the same shape as the rear face of member 4, although of course, the contours of the two faces, to clamp the rear portion of the collar band between them, are exactly opposite so as to provide parallel walls, constituting an even clamping surface at both sides of the band. A clamping bar 21 is connected, by a spring hinge 22, to the ironing board 1, which hinge tends to raise

the bar away from the board. A pin 23 on the end of the bar 21, is adapted to receive the hinged link or keeper 24 on the edge of the ironing board, to hold the clamping bar down on the shirt and assist in holding the latter in position for ironing.

The operation of my improvements is as follows: My improved collar band shaper 2 is contracted by pressing the members 3 and 4 toward each other and then inserted inside the collar band of the shirt and allowed to expand, the springs 11 serving to expand the collar band to its limit and cause it to lie smoothly around the edge of the shaper. The shirt is then, with the shaper in position, placed upon the ironing board, with the rear portion of the collar band tightly against the stop block 20, and hook 15 is permitted to be drawn down by spring 19 and engages over the angle bar 14 of member 4 and tightly clamps the rear portion of the collar band between the member 4 and block 20. The shirt after being carefully smoothed out is then further clamped in position by means of bar 21, which latter is drawn down across the shirt and secured by means of the keeper 24. After the shirt has been ironed as much as it can be in this position, treadle 18 is operated to lift the hook 15, and bar 21 is released from keeper 24 and will spring upward out of the way. The collar band can then be moved away from block 20 and the clamping plate 12 forced over the outer face of the collar band to effectually clamp the shaper thereto. In this position the shirt can then be manipulated to finish the ironing operation without danger of the shaper becoming displaced.

While I have illustrated and described what I believe to be a preferred form of my improvements, a great many changes might be made without departing from my invention, and hence I do not restrict myself to the precise details set forth, but consider myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of my invention.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with an ironing board, of a block thereon, a collar band shaper and a hook on the ironing board constructed to engage the shaper and clamp a collar band between the shaper and the said block.

2. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with an ironing board, a block thereon, a shirt clamping bar on said ironing board, a collar band shaper and a hook to engage the collar band shaper and clamp the collar band between the shaper and said block.

3. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with an ironing board, of a block thereon, a collar band shaper, a hook pivotally mounted between its ends on said ironing board and constructed at one end to engage the shaper, and clamp a collar band between the shaper and said block, and means connected with the other end of said hook for elevating the same out of engagement with the shaper.

4. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with an ironing board, of a block thereon, a collar band shaper, a hook pivotally mounted between its ends on said ironing board and constructed at one end to engage the shaper, and clamp a collar band between the shaper and said block, a treadle, and a flexible connecting device between said treadle and the other end of said hook, whereby the latter may be operated by the treadle.

5. In a mechanism of the character described, the combination with an ironing board, of a block thereon, a collar band shaper, a hook pivotally mounted between its ends on said ironing board and constructed at one end to engage the shaper, and clamp a collar band between the shaper and said block, a treadle, a flexible connecting device between said treadle and the other end of said hook, whereby the latter may be operated by the treadle, and a spring exerting downward pressure on said hook between its shaper engaging end and its pivotal point.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT W. FOWLER.

Witnesses:
R. H. KRENKEL,
J. A. L. MULHALL.