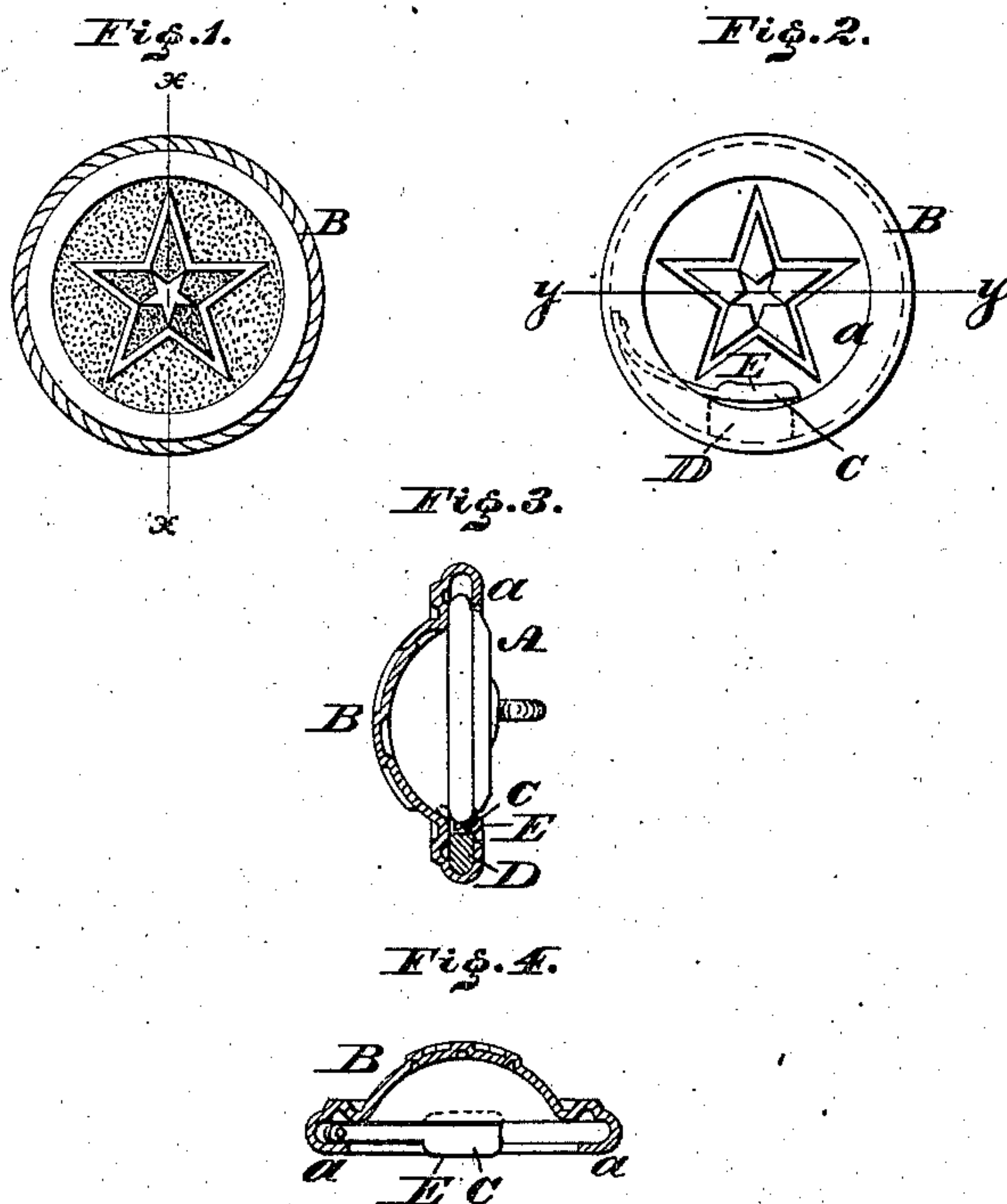


(No Model.)

T. J. CLOSE.  
BUTTON.

No. 277,005.

Patented May 8, 1883.



WITNESSES:

A. P. Grant,  
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INVENTOR:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. CLOSE, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## BUTTON.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,005, dated May 8, 1883.

Application filed December 6, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. CLOSE, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Buttons, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are views of opposite faces of the portion of a button embodying my invention. Fig. 3 is a section of the complete device in line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a section on line *y y*, Fig. 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

My invention consists of a metallic sheath of the form of the head of a button, adapted to be fitted over and secured to the head of another button, whereby when a metallic or uniform button is required the sheath is applied in position, and the appearance of such metallic or uniform button is presented, the fastening for the sheath being concealed within the same, and embracing the periphery of the button, the garment being adapted to be buttoned and unbuttoned without necessarily removing the sheath.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a button which may be composed of any desirable material, with or without a covering of fabric, and made plain or ornamental, or, in other words, is generally of well-known form and construction.

B represents a metallic sheath, hollow and of the form of the head of a uniform button, its diameter being greater than the head of the button A, so as to be easily fitted over the latter and conceal the same.

To the inner face of the sheath B is secured an arm, C, which is curved to accord with the rim *a* of the sheath, and depressed in the longitudinal direction, so as to receive the periphery of the head of the button A, said arm at its free end being forced inwardly from the rim *a* by the action of a spring, D, which is interposed between the arm and rim, said spring being a piece of rubber, coiled wire, or other suitable material or contained in the arm C itself.

The button A will be worn as usual. When, however, it is desired to wear a uniform-but-

ton in lieu of the button A without removing the same from the garment, the sheath B is presented to the said button, so that the contiguous part of the periphery of the latter enters the groove or depression of the arm C, and by proper manipulation of the arm is moved back, or toward the rim *a*, so that the entire head of the button A may be pressed into the sheath. The arm C, owing to its spring, then forces the button against the inner face of the rim of the sheath, the overhanging edge of said rim serving to prevent displacement of the button.

In order to remove the sheath, the button or the sheath is so pressed, as to overcome the power of the spring-arm and uncover the edge or periphery of the button opposite to said arm, whereby the sheath may be readily withdrawn from the head of the button.

The sides of the arm C have lips E, which serve as guards for preventing the displacement of the button, in which case the groove or depression of the arm, although advantageous, is not indispensable. The outer lip may also act as a handle to depress or force back the arm, and, if desired, said arm may be cut from the rim of the sheath, and when it is properly struck up or shaped it yields and operates similar to that hereinbefore stated.

It will be seen that I virtually combine two buttons in one—a feature which will be appreciated by members of the army and navy, Grand Army of the Republic, &c., custom-house officials, letter-carriers, car-conductors, and others who are required at certain times to wear uniform-buttons of their order, service, and occupation.

I am aware that a removable metallic sheath is not new; but in my case the fastening is within the sheath, and thereby concealed, is adapted to embrace the periphery of a button, so that the shank is not affected, and the operation of buttoning and unbuttoning may be accomplished without removing the sheath. Hence I have made an improvement in the art.

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

1. A button-sheath provided on the inner face of its peripheral rim with a curved spring-

arm coinciding with the periphery of the sheath and adapted to engage the periphery of the button when applied, substantially as set forth.

5 2. A button-sheath provided on its inner face with a spring-pressed clamping-arm, C, having a lip, E, said arm being adapted to receive the periphery of a button, and said lip

being adapted to prevent its separation from said sheath, substantially as set forth.

THOS. J. CLOSE.

Witnesses:

JOHN A. WIEDERSHEIM,  
A. P. GRANT.