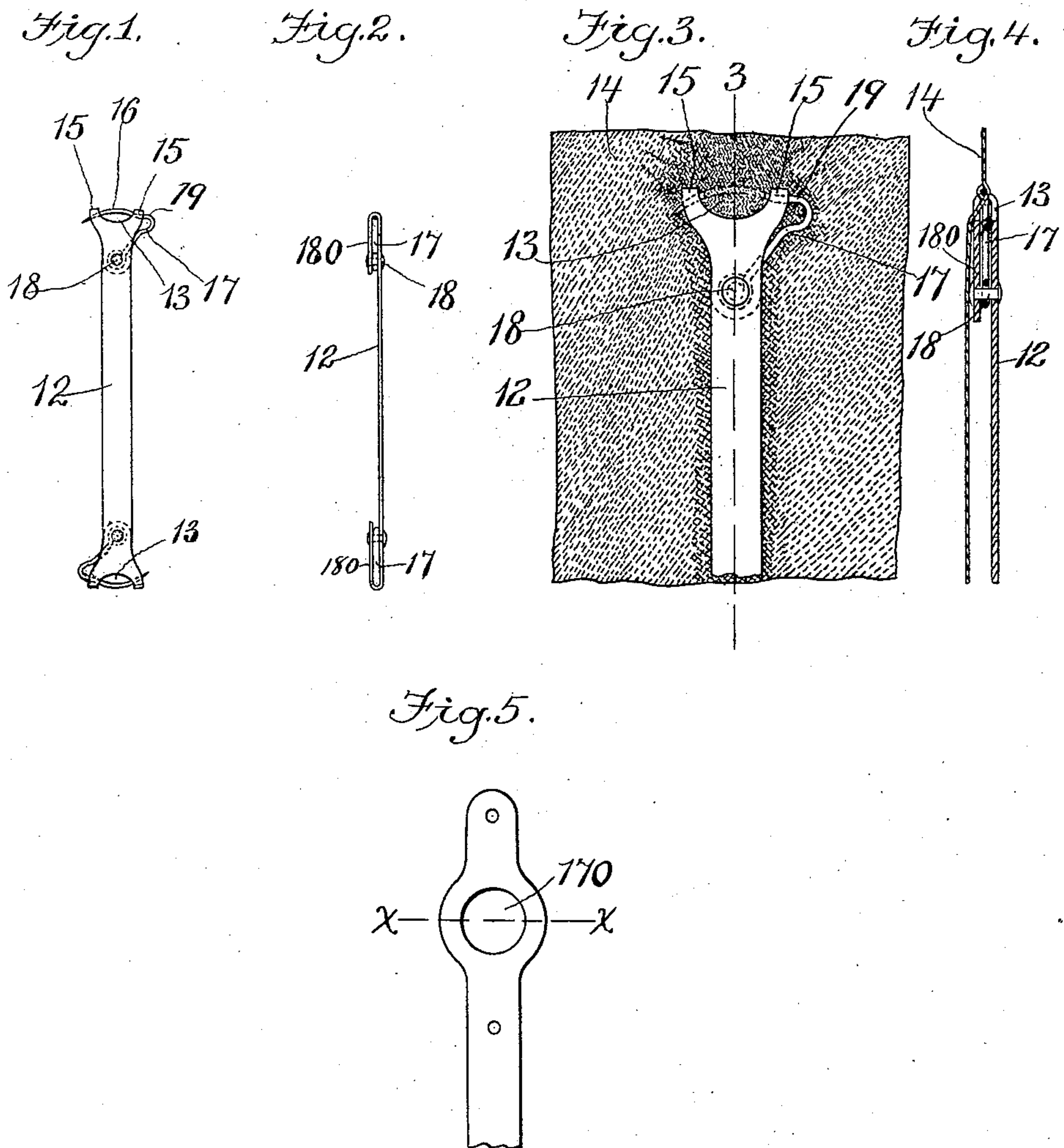


No. 860,774.

PATENTED JULY 23, 1907.

S. H. TOLMAN.  
STIFFENING DEVICE FOR COLLARS.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 8, 1907.



Witnesses:  
H. L. Robbins-  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SCOTT H. TOLMAN, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## STIFFENING DEVICE FOR COLLARS.

No. 860,774.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 23, 1907.

Application filed January 8, 1907. Serial No. 351,355.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SCOTT H. TOLMAN, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Supporting or Stiffening Devices for Collars, &c., of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for stiffening, spreading and supporting fabrics, especially stocks or collars of soft material, such as are used by ladies for neckwear.

The invention has for its object to provide a device adapted for this purpose, of such construction that it can be quickly and securely attached to and detached from the fabric, the form of the device being such that it does not undesirably displace the fabric, or cause an objectionable protuberance on the outer surface thereof.

The invention consists in the improvements which I will now proceed to describe and claim.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a side view of a collar-supporting device constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 represents an edge view of the same. Fig. 3 represents an enlargement of a portion of Fig. 1, and a piece of fabric engaged with the device. Fig. 4 represents a section on line 4—4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 represents a side view of the blank from which the body of the device shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4 is made.

The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, 12 represents the body portion of my improved stiffening device, the same being preferably composed of a thin strip of relatively stiff material, such as celluloid, preferably formed in such manner that it has dull or non-lustrous surfaces, and therefore will not reflect light through the meshes of a lace collar with which it may be engaged. The end portions of the body 12 are provided with a recess 13 into which a portion of the fabric 14 with which the stiffener is to be engaged, may be inserted. At opposite ends of the recess are raised guides 15 15.

16 represents a pin, preferably of segmental form, adapted to move in the guides 15, and to pass through the recess 13, so that the portion of the fabric 14 which projects into said recess, will be transfixed by the pin when the latter is moved across the recess from one guide to another. The pin is suitably engaged with the body 12 so that when moved it will move in a predetermined path, the pin being therefore kept in alinement with the guides 15. The pin is engaged with the body by means of a connecting member which is preferably a shank 17, extending from the heel end of the pin to a rivet 18 engaged with the body and an arm 180 thereof, the shank having an eye which surrounds and is adapted to turn

upon the rivet. The preferred construction whereby the recess 13 and guides 15 are provided is as follows: The blank from which the body 12 is made, is preferably formed as shown in Fig. 5, it being provided near its end portions with an orifice 170. The blank is bent along the dotted line  $x\ x$  in Fig. 5, the line of the bend being across the orifice 170. The bending of the blank converts each extreme end portion into an arm 180 which is parallel with the adjacent portion of the body, as shown in Fig. 2, each rivet 18 being engaged with an arm 180, as well as with the adjacent portion of the body. The pin and its shank are located between the arm and the body, the bent portions of the blank at opposite sides of the orifice forming the guides 15 through which the penetrating portion of the pin is adapted to pass.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the described device is adapted to be quickly applied to and detached from a collar, the operation of attaching the device consisting in simply pressing parts of the fabric into the recesses 13, and then forcing the pins 16 through the recesses and the portions of the fabric therein, the fabric being thus transfixed by the pin, as indicated in Fig. 3. When the device is to be detached from the fabric, the pins 16 are retracted from the recesses, thus releasing the fabric. The outer portion of the shank 17 is preferably formed with an outwardly bent or offset portion 19, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, to enable the operator's finger to engage the shank and retract the pin, said offset portion also acting as a stop, by engaging the wall of one of the guides 15, to limit the inward movement of the pin 16.

My invention is not limited to use in connection with neck collars, as it may be used as a stiffener or support for various flexible articles of apparel.

I claim:

1. A device of the character stated, comprising a body having an end recess and two pin guides and an arm extending below the recess beside the body, a rivet connecting the end of the arm with said body, and a pin having a segmental portion movable in said guides and through the recess and having an eye mounted on said rivet.

2. A device of the character stated, comprising a body having an aperture and bent across said aperture to form an arm or guard beside the body, the wall of the aperture forming a recess between two guides formed by the bent portions of the body at opposite edges of the aperture, a rivet connecting the end portion of the arm or guard with the corresponding portion of the body, and a segmental pin movable in said guides and through the recess, said pin having a shank provided with an eye mounted on said rivet and having an offset portion to engage one of the guides to limit the inward movement of the pin.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

SCOTT H. TOLMAN.

Witnesses:

C. F. BROWN,  
ALVIN T. CONDON.