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(54) **DEVICE FOR IDENTIFYING GARMENTS**

(57) The invention relates to a device for identifying garments, comprising a first element having an outer region decorated with aesthetic patterns and a second element to which the first element joins mechanically through the fabric of the garment in such a way that said outer region of the first element is oriented towards the outside of the garment. Said device is characterised in that it uses a tongue-and-groove-type connection system between the constituent parts thereof.

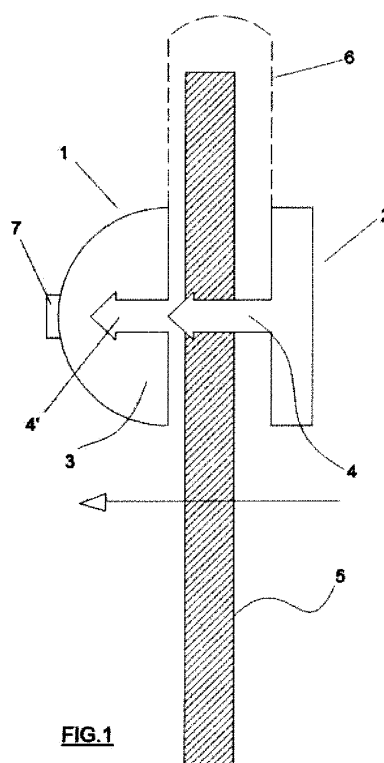


FIG.1

Description

[0001] The object of the present invention is a device for the identification and classification of single items of clothing or paired items such as socks.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Currently, the identification of items of clothing is complicated, particularly for the blind or for persons with another type of visual impairment. Generally, when items of clothing are paired, in some cases it is complicated to match them correctly; for this reason, embroidery or tapes are used for the correct identification of the pair of the item. Therefore, the technical problem solved by the present invention is that of facilitating the task of matching the separate items in a simple, intuitive way, and in a sufficiently universal manner to be usable by persons with serious visual handicaps.

EXPLANATION OF THE INVENTION

[0003] With the aim of solving the aforementioned technical problem, the device object of the invention is presented, comprising two elements mutually linked preferably by joining tongue and groove, and with an exterior shape defined for their identification, in such a way that a first device is located on one item of clothing and a second device, with an identical external motif is located on the matching item, enabling the identification and classification of the same in an intuitive, simple and rapid manner.

[0004] These two parts pierce the fabric of the item to be marked and are locked together, the only part remaining visible being the external part of the female elements which due to their shape, texture or structure enable the correct identification and/or classification of the item(s) of clothing, even for persons with a high degree of visual impairment, as said identification and classification is performed by touching the same. Throughout the description and the claims, the word "comprise" and its variants shall not exclude other technical characteristics, addenda, components or steps. For those skilled in the art, other objects, advantages and characteristics of the invention will become apparent in part from the description and in part from the practice of the invention. The following examples and drawings are provided for illustrative purposes, and are not intended to be limitative of the present invention. Furthermore, the present invention covers all possible combinations of preferred and particular embodiments indicated herein.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] Figure 1 shows a schematic view of the use of the device for the identification of items of clothing which is the object of the present invention.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0006] As may be observed in the attached figures, the device for the identification of items of clothing which is the object of the present invention comprises a first female element (1) which is positioned on the exterior of the item of clothing (5) to which it is to be affixed. On the other side, interiorly, and piercing the fabric of the aforementioned item (5), a second male element (2) is linked by joining tongue and groove, thus firmly and securely affixing the device (1,2) to the item of clothing (5) and enabling its identification and classification by means of the external region (3) of the first female element (1).

[0007] More specifically, in the particular embodiment portrayed in figure 1, the female element (1) comprises an external surface or region (3) endowed with a differentiating aesthetic motif, in such a way the identification and classification of the item of clothing is based on the matching of said aesthetic motif. This is particularly useful for persons with considerable visual impairment, as it enables identification of the garment by means of touching the device, irrespective of the type of garment, or the colour or texture of the same.

[0008] The female element (1) and the male element (2) may be linked together by means of a linking tape (6) in order to prevent the loss of either of the two elements. In this particular embodiment, the join is made by means of joining tongue and groove (4,4'), this being the most secure and resistant means. In the embodiment portrayed in figure 1 a single attachment point is depicted, but several may be employed together, with no limit to the number of the same. The joining tongue and groove may be executed by means of any method or system and the lock may be permanent or releasable. Likewise, other mechanical links of the type featuring clips are also useful, on condition that they guarantee sufficient resistance to permit automatic washing and automatic drying of the item of clothing once the device has been affixed. The materials of which the device is constructed may be of any type, on condition that they fulfil the required level of resistance to automatic washing and automatic drying.

[0009] Finally, it should be noted that the identification of the item of clothing may be performed by means of a single device or a combination of several, according to the wishes of the user. Likewise, the devices may comprise on their first element (1) - this being the one which remains on the exterior of the garment - a linking means (7) which corresponds to a linking means on the first element (1) of another device, to enable the linking of the two. In this way, should the device be used for the identification of socks, one device is affixed to each of the socks in the pair, and the two devices are linked by way of said linking means (7) of each.

Claims

1. A device for the identification of items of clothing

comprising a first element (1) comprising an external area (3) decorated with aesthetic motifs and a second element (2), **characterised in that** said first element (1) and said second element (2) are mechanically bonded through the fabric of the item of clothing (5) in such a way that said external area (3) of said first element (1) faces the exterior of said item of clothing (5).

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, where the first element (1) is female and the second element (2) is male, in such a way that the bonding is produced by joining tongue and groove (4,4').
3. A device as claimed in claim 1, where the first element (1) is male and the second element (2) is female, in such a way that the bonding is produced by joining tongue and groove (4,4'), regardless of the order of placing the elements (4,4').
4. A device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, which is manufactured in a material which is resistant to automatic washing and automatic drying.

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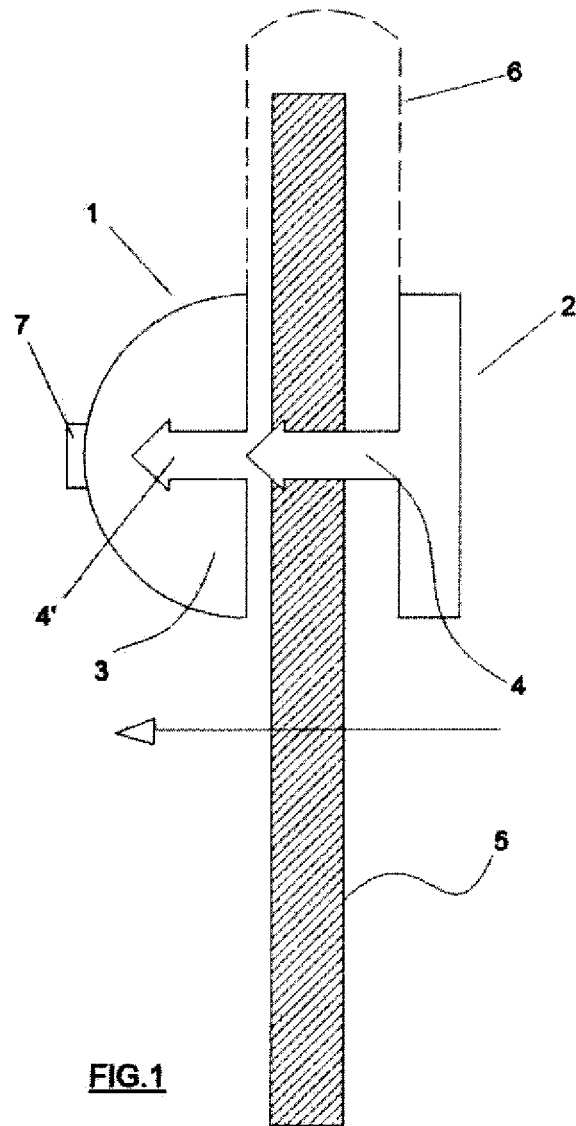
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/ES2013/000189

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

G09F3/02 (2006.01)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, INVENES, WPI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0858062 A2 (MAURIN CLAUDINE) 12/08/1998, abstract; column 11, line 37 - column 12, line 45; figures 10A, 10B, 11.	1-4
X	WO 2011055157 A2 (VATHY ZOLTAN ET AL.) 12/05/2011, abstract; paragraphs[13 - 15]; figures 1 - 3.	1-4
X	US 3678608 A (KNOGO CORP) 25/07/1972, figures.	1-4
X	CN 201349606Y Y (GUANGDONG TEXTILE VOCATIONAL T) 25/11/2009, Abstract from DataBase EPODOC. Retrieved from EPOQUE [retrieved on 03.12.13]; figures.	1-4

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Information on patent family members

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 2009)