

Velcro : a sensational swiss invention conquers the world

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VELCRO — A sensational Swiss invention conquers the world

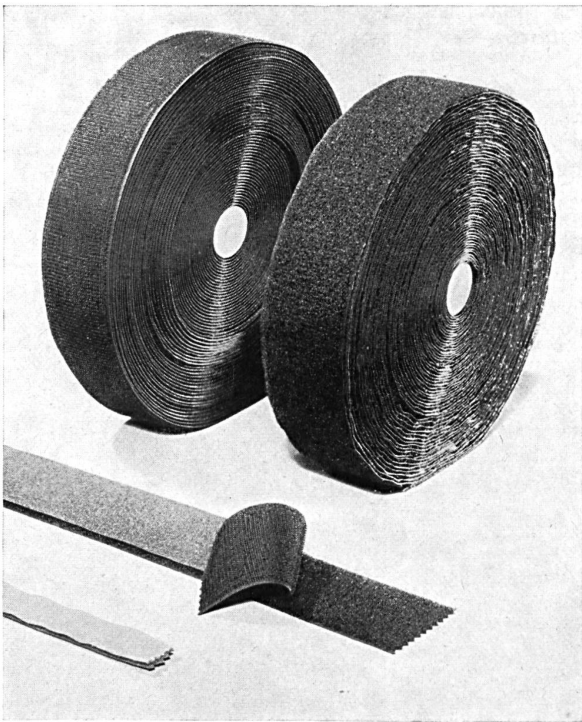


Fig. 1

A Swiss invention is fast conquering the markets of the world and revolutionising a whole sector of the textile industry.

This sensational novelty is a new fastener, consisting of two superimposed or juxtaposed ribbons which interlock and adhere securely together by an ingenious system of minute hooks, merely on being pressed together (Fig. 1). This fastener can be opened as easily as it is closed, without any effort whatsoever, simply by pulling on one of the ribbons (Fig. 3).

The story behind the invention of this fastener is an amusing one. The inventor, Mr. G. de Mestral of Nyon (Switzerland), was out for a walk one day in the Jura mountains when he fell into a clump of burs and spent a

good half hour trying to remove them from his corduroy trousers.

« How is it these burs stick so well? » he wondered. It took him four years to find a practical answer to this question, patiently perfecting, with the help of a Swiss weaving loom manufacturer, two strips of nylon which would hook onto each other even more securely than the burs to his trousers. One of the strips, like the bur, is covered with hundreds of hooks (about 380 to the sq. inch) made of single filament nylon, the other is a sort of uncut velvet composed of thousands of loops (approx. 5,160 to the sq. inch) (Fig. 1).

One has only to press these two ribbons together, even very lightly, and they immediately hook onto each other; as soon as one pulls them apart, they unhook. Consequently they make a fastener that is as simple in operation as it is practical, and which in certain tests to which it has been submitted has been opened and closed as many as 30,000 times without the slightest wear.

10.85 sq. inches of Velcro closer stands a pull of up to 88 lbs.

This closer is washable and can be sterilised at a temperature up to 110° C (230° Fahrenheit). It can be ironed (external surface) and chemically cleaned. It can be sewn, stuck and dyed; it is manufactured in different lengths and supplied in rolls of 20, 30 or 50 mm. widths (inches 0.79-1.18-1.97).

Its scope is tremendous.

For clothing: town clothes, sportswear, dressing gowns, pyjamas, underwear, maternity clothes, waterproofs, etc.

For interior decorating and furnishing: curtains, drapes, furniture covers, rug and carpet fixtures. For the leather industry (Fig. 2): footwear, sandals, bags, travel articles, belts, etc. For orthopedics: dressings, belts, corsets (Fig. 3), bandages, surgical stockings, etc. For industry: the uses of Velcro in industry would be too long to enumerate here and are beyond the scope of this article.

The appearance of Velcro on the market, in particular the textile market, is bringing about a veritable revolution.

To close, we wish to stress the fact that this is a purely Swiss invention, conceived and carried out entirely in Switzerland, and that it is a credit to the industry of this country, which is well known for its spirit of inventiveness and the improvements it has made in the field of machine engineering, particularly with regard to textile machinery.

Fig. 2



Fig. 3



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TEXTILES SUISSES N° 4-1958/N° 1-1959

No ! This is not a double number, as it might seem, but the one that usually appears at the end of December and is the fourth of the year.

As it is distributed almost entirely abroad, our subscribers only receive their copies as a general rule during the first weeks of the following year.

The editors of «Textiles Suisses» consider therefore that it would be more logical to call the December issue No. 1-1959. From now on, the old No. 1, which came out in April, will become No. 2, and the one that appears at the end of June will be No. 3, while the October number will be known as No. 4. In this way, the last number of the year will become No. 1 of the following year.

The present issue is marked 4-1958/1-1959, in order to avoid any misunderstanding and to show readers that we are still continuing to publish four numbers a year.

The Redaction



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