T. Kirk.

Button.

No. 44,958. Patented. Nov. 8. 1864.

Fig. 1.

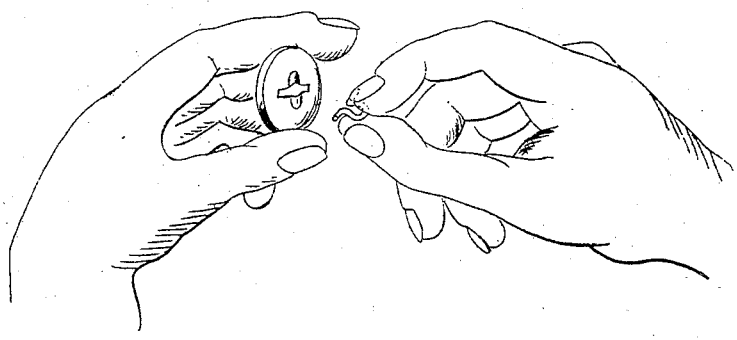

Fig: 2.

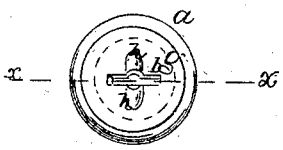

Fig: 3.

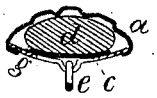

Fig: 4.

Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS KIRK, OF WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN DETACHABLE METAL BUTTONS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **44,958**, dated November 8, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS KIRK, of Waterbury, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented new and useful Improvements in Buttons; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a button constructed after my improvement, the operator being about to apply the eye thereto. Fig. 2 is an enlarged back view of my button. Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line *x* of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 shows the eye detached.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in constructing a button so that the eye can be detached therefrom and again applied thereto at pleasure, being held in place in the button by spring-pressure. The button here shown as an example of my invention is composed of an outer metallic case, *a*, which may be ornamented in any way desired, of a back, *g*, of an inner plate, *c*, of a spring, *d*, and of an eye *e*. The back *g* is slotted, as at *b*, to receive the arms *i* of the eye when it is about to be fastened in the body of the button. The back is also swaged at *h h* on opposite sides of, and at right angles with, the slot *b*, to form sockets for the arms of the eye, when the latter is secured in place.

The spring *d* is in this instance made of india-rubber, but it may be of metal or of any other elastic material that will hold the eye up to its place. The spring is covered and protected by a plate, *c*, of circular form. (Represented in Fig. 2 by a dotted outline.) The back *g* is then placed over the plate *c*, and the rim of the case *a* is then turned over, as plainly seen in the sectional figure, so as to hold the whole together.

When it is desired to insert the eye, the button is to be held in the position shown in Fig. 1 with one hand, while with the other hand the arms of the eye *e* are pressed in the slot against the plate *c* until the elasticity of the spring is overcome, when the eye is quickly turned over the surface of the plate until its arms articulate with the sockets *h*, when it is released. The spring immediately pushes the plate back against the back *g*, holding the arms of the eye locked in their sockets.

This mode of construction enables one to remove the buttons from a garment to clean the buttons or the garment without injury to either.

This principle of construction is applicable to buttons covered with cloth, as well as those for military and naval uniforms, and for those used upon ladies' garments for use or ornament.

The eye being sewed onto the cloth, or otherwise attached thereto, the body of the button can be detached and a new set of a different pattern substituted without difficulty. The plate *c* is here used for protecting the rubber spring from injury by contact with the eye *e*.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A button with a detachable eye, which is held to the button by pressure from within the button, substantially as above described.

THOMAS KIRK.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL GEDDES,
HENRY KIRK, Jr.,
S. W. KELLOGG.