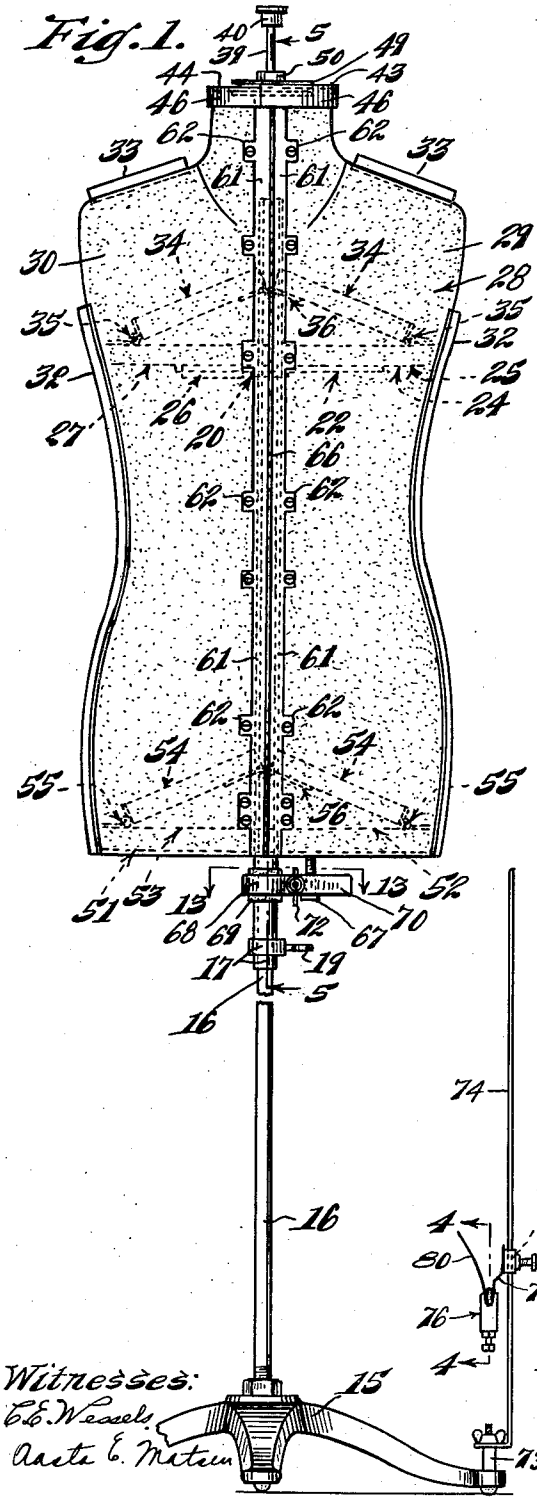
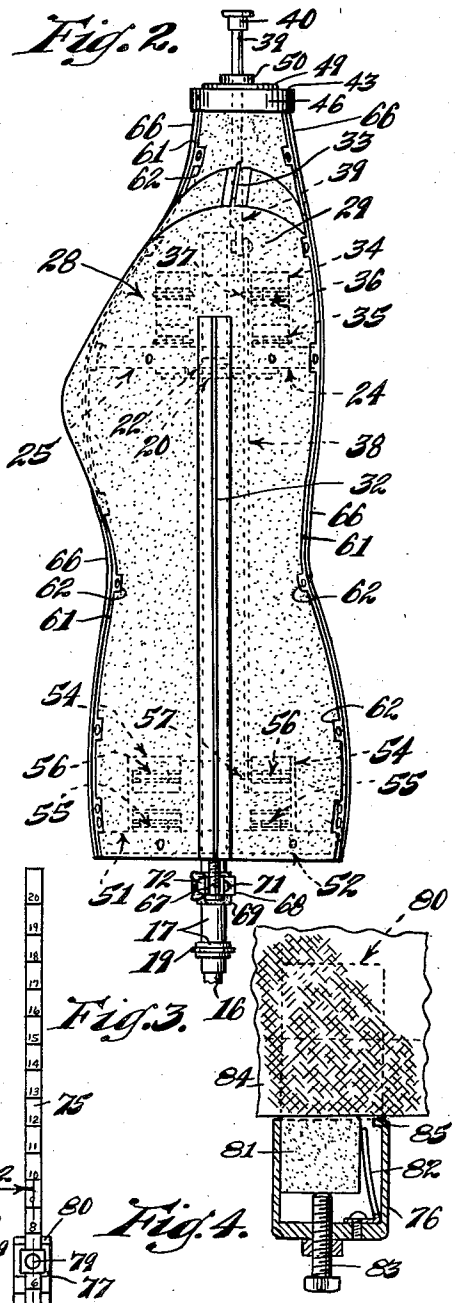
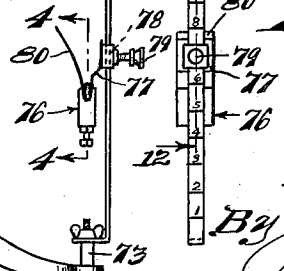
Oct. 4, 1938. D. LA RUE 2,132,034

DRESSMAKING FORM AND THE LIKE

Filed July 15, 1935 3 Sheets-Sheet 1







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DRESSMAKING FORM AND THE LIKE

Filed July 15, 1935 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6.

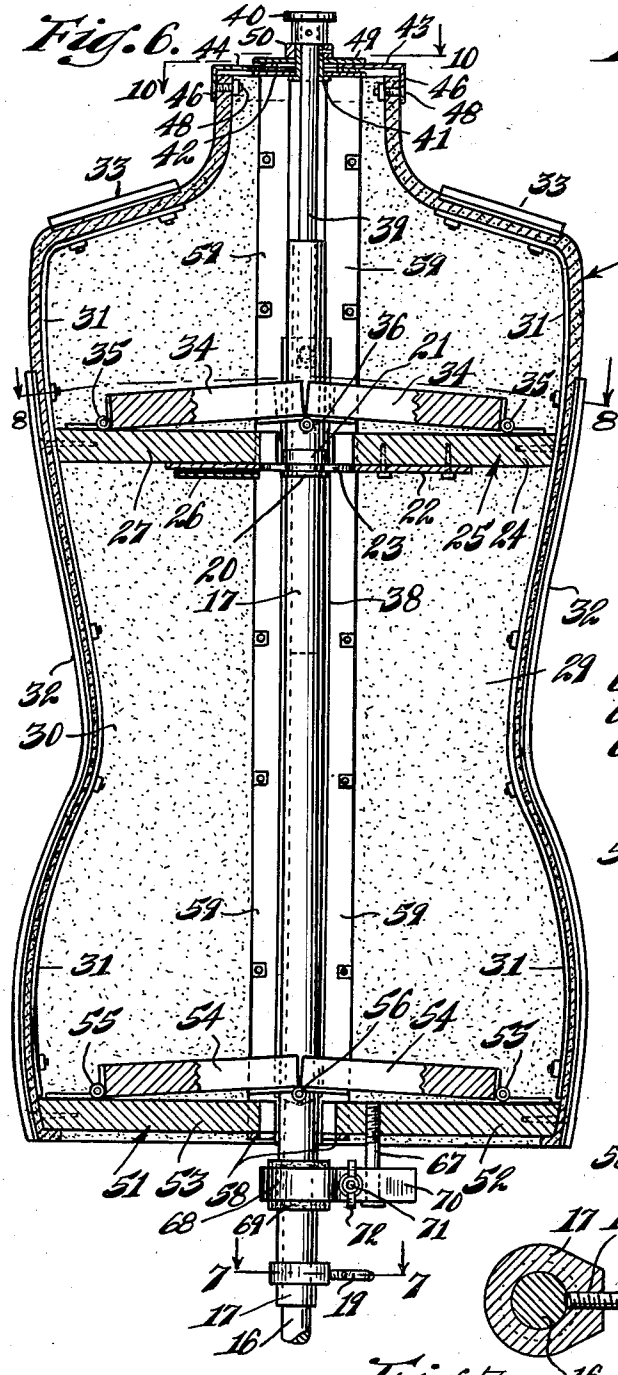


Fig. 5.

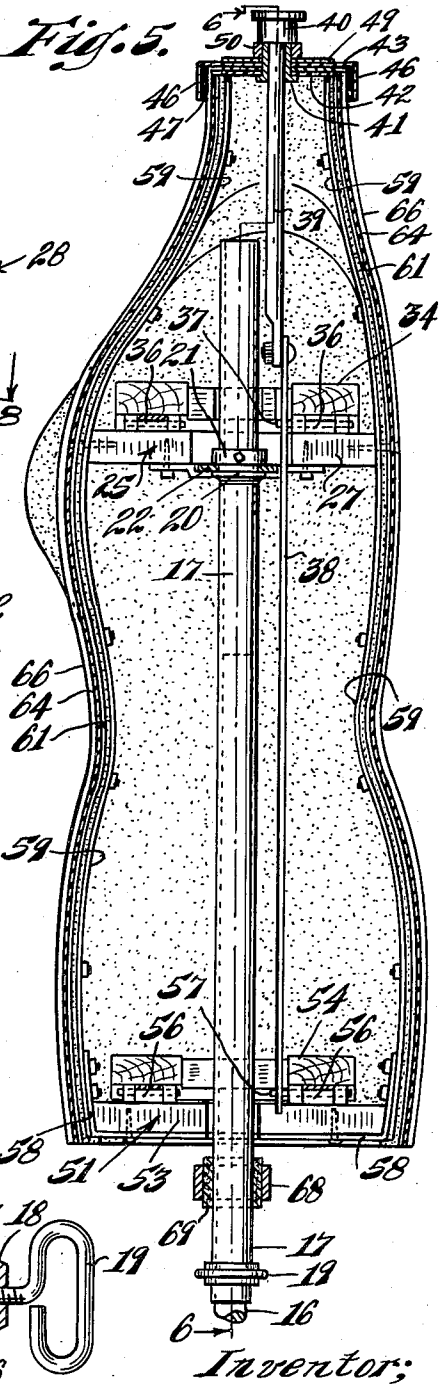


Fig. 7.

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DRESSMAKING FORM AND THE LIKE

Filed July 15, 1935 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 8.

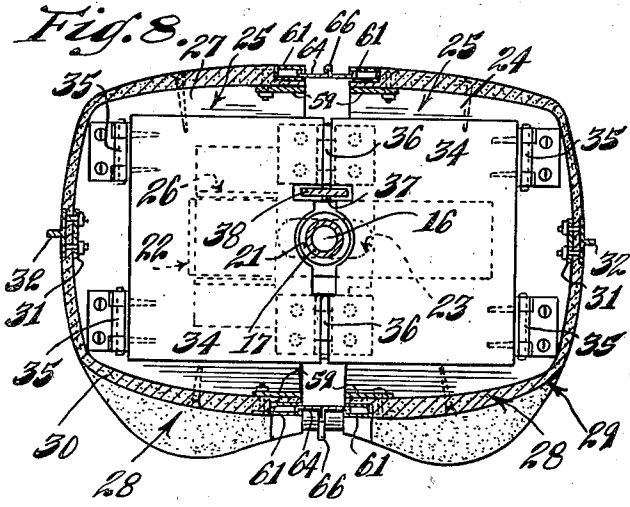


Fig. 9.

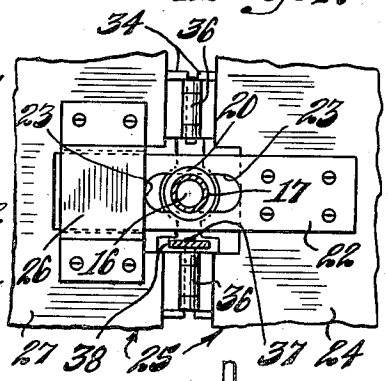


Fig. 10.

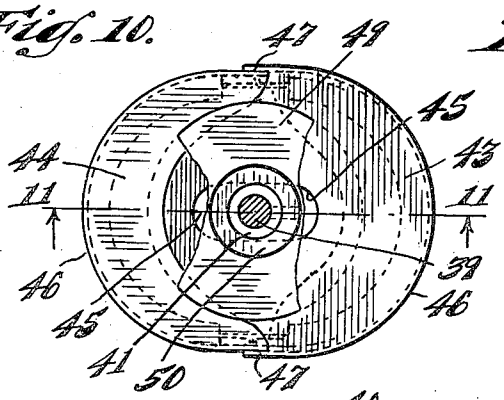


Fig. 12.

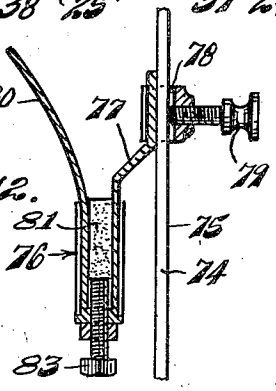


Fig. 11.

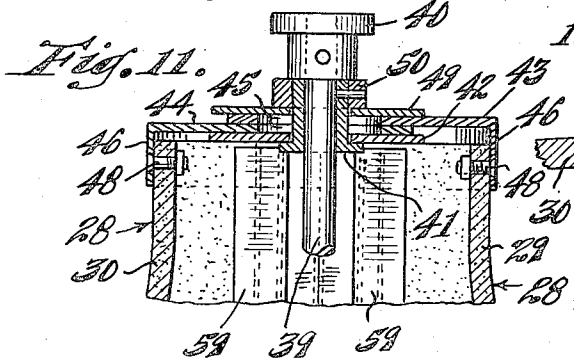


Fig. 13.

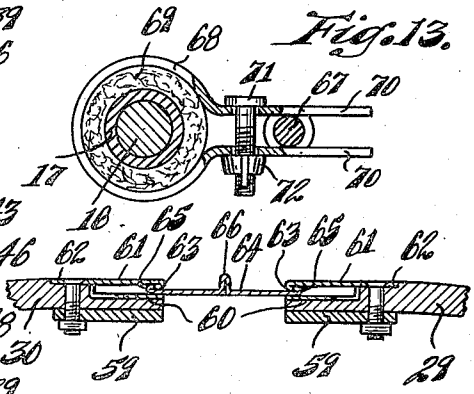


Fig. 14.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,132,034

DRESSMAKING FORM AND THE LIKE

Dee La Rue, Chicago, Ill.

Application July 15, 1935, Serial No. 31,368

14 Claims. (Cl. 223—68)

This invention relates to improvements in dressmaking forms and the like.

An object of the invention, among others, is the provision of means for making a dressmaking form in two or more sections which form so made in sections may be collapsed or expanded. It is desirable to make a dress in as form fitting a manner as possible and to that end, I have provided a device which, for example, in its expanded form may constitute a thirty-six form or other form. When it is desired to fit a dress on the form, the form may be collapsed and the dress slipped over the form and the form may be expanded to its thirty-six condition, when, whereas if the form was not collapsed it would be impossible without stretching or damaging the dress to fit it to the form.

Another object, among others, of my invention is the provision of efficient means for making a dressmaking form collapsible and expandible, and still another object of the invention is to provide a form of the kind described which is vertically adjustable in a simple manner.

Another object is the provision of means for permitting such a form to turn and for preventing it from turning.

Another object is the provision of improved marking means for adjusting the marking device.

Another object, also of great importance, is the provision of seam guiding means on various portions of the form, particularly on the sides and shoulders whereby an operator is guided to locate a seam where most desirable, in a simple manner.

My invention will be of especial advantage in the making of clothes at home. By my invention, persons without expense or talent will easily be able to make dresses themselves in their homes, which dresses will have a professional appearance and will be made to fit as though they were made by an expert dressmaker. Specifically, this advantage is accomplished by outlining the main seams, to wit, the shoulder, under arm seams and direct lines down the front and back, and the collapsible feature makes the work simple and fast. By the attached marking device, there is provided a complete organization for making a complete suit or dress. By the means provided, the process of making a dress or suit is so simple that it is rendered practically impossible for even the most inexperienced and least talented to go astray as will be readily manifest to persons familiar with the subject.

Another object, among others, is the provision of means of the character described which will be simple of construction, easy of manufacture, attractive, and relatively inexpensive.

The invention consists in the combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of the device in collapsed condition;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the device in collapsed condition with the lower part of the stand omitted;

Fig. 3 is a face view of the marking device;

Fig. 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1, showing part of the marking device enlarged;

Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1 showing the device in expanded condition;

Fig. 6 is a section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6, showing the vertical adjusting means;

Fig. 8 is a plan section taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6, showing the device in expanded condition;

Fig. 9 is an inverted view of the telescoping means of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a plan view taken on the line 10—10 of Fig. 6, showing the telescoping arrangement at the top of the form;

Fig. 11 is a vertical section taken on the line 11—11 of Fig. 10;

Fig. 12 is a section taken on the line 12—12 of Fig. 3, illustrating the marking device and illustrated upon an enlarged scale, the element 75 being shown in elevation;

Fig. 13 is a section taken on the line 13—13 of Fig. 1 showing clamping means for preventing the form from turning;

Fig. 14 is an enlarged view of the telescoping means.

The preferred form selected in the drawings to illustrate the principle of my invention is mounted as shown in Fig. 1 on a spider base 15 having a vertical post 16 extending upwardly therefrom. A sleeve 17 is adapted to telescope on the post 16 and is provided with a threaded aperture 18 into which a key 19 is adapted to be threaded. The key, when turned in one direction, is adapted to pass through the aperture 18 and impinge on the post 16 to hold the form in a variety of vertical positions. When turned the other way, the key is adapted to release the sleeve for desirable adjustment.

For mounting the dressmaking form on the

sleeve 17 the sleeve is provided at its upper end with a circular flange 20 and a collar 21, as particularly shown in Figs. 5 and 6. A plate 22 is adapted to rest on the flange 20 beneath the collar 21, said plate 22 being provided with an aperture 23 through which the sleeve 17 extends. This arrangement provides for a pivotal movement of the form, hereinafter to be described, about the sleeve 17.

The plate 22 may be fixed by means of screws, or other similar means, at one end to the right side portion 24, as viewed looking at Figs. 1 and 6, to a web 25. The other end of plate 22 extends into and reciprocates in a guide member 26 as shown particularly in Figs. 6 and 9. The guide member 26 is mounted on the underside of the left hand portion 27 of the web 25.

As particularly shown in Figs. 6 and 8, the right hand portion 24, and the left hand portion 27 of the web 25 are secured to a forming wall 28 which may be formed of paper pulp or other material. The paper pulp wall 28, which is made to the form in expanded condition of a female body of a definite measurement, is shown made up of a right hand body section 29 as viewed looking at Figs. 1 and 8, comprising one-half of the front and one-half of the back, as will be readily understood from an examination of the drawings, and also a left-hand body section 30 comprising one-half of the front and one-half of the back.

The wall 28, on each side and on the inside thereof, is provided with a reenforcing metal strip 31 extending from the shoulder to the hip, by means of bolts and nuts, as particularly shown in Figs. 6 and 8.

I have attached to my dressmaking form a seam guiding means. On the outside of the wall 28 on each side there is provided a metal T-shaped seam guide extending from below the arm pit to the hip, also on the outside of the wall 28 on the center line of each shoulder is provided a T-shaped seam guide 33, said guides 32 and 33 being secured to the wall 28 by means of the bolts and nuts which secure the strips 31 to the wall 28.

Hinged to the web 25 is a pair of pivoting elements 34 by means of hinges 35. The pivoting elements 34 are also hinged to each other by means of hinges 36. One of the hinges 36 has a pin 37 which protrudes into a reciprocating bar 38 pivoted to an operating member 39, such features being clearly shown in Figs. 5, 6 and 8.

For operation by the hand, the operating member 39 is provided with a head 40, and beneath the head 40 of the operating member 39 is a flanged stud 41, as shown particularly in Fig. 11. Resting on this flange 41 is an apertured circular disk 42. Resting on top of the disk 42 are a pair of telescoping cover plates; that is, a reciprocating right hand cover plate 43 and a left hand cover plate 44, as very clearly shown in Figs. 10 and 11. Each of these cover plates 43 and 44 is provided with an elongated slot 45 and also the cover plates 43 and 44 have aprons 46 which have overlapping telescoping portions 47. The aprons 46 may be secured to the neck portion of the pulp wall 28 by screws 48 as shown in Fig. 11, thus also securing the cover plates in place. Resting on right hand cover plate 43 is an apertured top cover disk 49, as clearly shown in Figs. 10 and 11, similar to the disk 42. The head 41 may have pinned to it a locking collar 50 as shown in Fig. 11. The stud 41, it will be apparent, that circles the operating member 39, acts as a guide for it and extends down through the slots in the plates and the apertures in the disks, the plates and disks resting on the flange of the stud and the collar securing the plates and disks in place.

Secured to the forming member 28 is a web 51 similar to the web 25, having a similar right hand portion 52 and left hand portion 53. It will be understood that the web 51 which is located in the lower part of the body and the web part which is located in the upper part of the body are each cut away for the reception of the sleeve 17. A pair of pivoting elements 54 similar to the pivoting elements 34 are also provided and secured to the members 52 and 53 by hinges 55, the pivoting elements 54 are also hinged together by means of hinges 56. One of the hinges 56 has an elongated pin 57 which protrudes into an aperture in the reciprocating bar 38 in the same manner that the pin 37 does.

It will be understood, as clearly shown in Fig. 5 that when the operating head 40 is lifted upwardly the reciprocating bars 38 and 39 will be lifted up, which will cause pins 37 and 57 to be lifted upwardly, which in turn will cause the pivoting elements 34 and 54 to be drawn upwardly which in turn will, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, cause the right hand body portion 29 and the left hand body portion 30 to be drawn to each other to collapse the figure. It will be understood that the degree to which they are moved to each other will depend upon the movement of the operating head 40.

The right hand body portion 29 and the left hand body portion 30 are each reenforced by a transverse U-shaped metal strip 58, which may be secured by screws to the body portions 29 and 30 and the web 51, as shown clearly in Fig. 5.

The body portions 29 and 30 are further reenforced by a pair of vertical metal strips 59, as particularly shown in Figs. 5, 6, 8 and 14, which may be attached by bolts to the wall 28. These vertical metal strips 59 are located adjacent the central vertical line of the front of the form and the central vertical line of the back of the form.

The body portions 29 and 30 are each provided with a pair of vertical notches 60 as shown in Fig. 14, also located adjacent the central vertical line in the front of the form and the central line in the back of the form adjacent and parallel the strips 29, but on the opposite side of the wall 28. Located in each notch 60 is a telescoping casing 61 having ears 62 which may be secured by the bolts which secure the members 59 to the forming wall 28. Each telescoping casing is provided with a bead 63, in the form shown, and located in each pair of casings is a stop member 64 provided with beads 65. Each stop member is also provided with a flanged seam guide 66.

Also provided are means to prevent the dressmaking form from turning. Mounted in the right hand portion 52 of the web 51 is a rigid post 67 with a flanged end said post extending downwardly from the portion 52. A clamping member 68, as clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 13, which clamping member may have a felt inset 69 encircling the sleeve 17, and the clamping member 68 is provided with legs 70 that encompass the posts 67 also. The legs 70 are provided with apertures, and a bolt 71 is adapted to pass through the apertures as shown in Fig. 13, and a wing nut 72 may be operated to tighten the bolt and clamping member on the sleeve 17 and the rigid post 67. In this manner the form may be locked against turning.

The dressmaking form is also provided in the form shown with attached marking means.

Fixed in one of the legs of the base 15 and ex-

tending upwardly therefrom, is a stud 73, as shown clearly in Fig. 1, which stud by means of a wing nut supports a scale 74 having an inturned end provided with inch indications, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. In ordinary use, the scale itself does not actually measure from the floor but instead, the bottom of the scale may be positioned about two inches from the floor so the inch indicator "1", will indicate a height about three inches from the floor which will automatically be promptly understood by those familiar with the subject. The scale supports or marking device 76, as shown clearly in Figs. 4 and 12, has an offset aperture arm 77 with a slot 78 in which the scale extends. Adapted to extend in to a threaded aperture in the arm 77 is a narrow screw 79 which when secured inwardly toward the scale, impinges against the scale and holds the marking device into whatever position it is adjusted. The marking device has integrally formed therewith a flared arm 80 forming a guide with the arm 77 for marking and for properly positioning and passing the material through the marking device. Adapted to be retained in the marking device 76 is a piece of chalk 81, which chalk may be held in position by a flat spring 82, as clearly shown in Fig. 4. The chalk is adjustable by a threaded bolt 83 extending upwardly through a threaded aperture in the marking device. The chalk is set, as will be understood by those skilled in the art, to mark the bottom of a skirt 84 for example, as shown in Fig. 4. The goods may be passed over the chalk to the left, looking at Fig. 4. A guiding ledge 85 is also provided on the marking device to prevent catching and stretching of the material as it is passed through the marking device. In the preferred use of the chalk, as shown in Fig. 4, chalk is usually flush with the guiding ledge 85 and the bottom of the skirt may be marked by passing a portion of the skirt between the two hands and rubbing it on the chalk. It will be understood that if the chalk needs to be raised up after use for some time, all that is necessary is to manipulate the threaded bolt 83 which will automatically push the chalk up according to the turn given.

With respect to the operation of the device, a person desiring to use the dressmaking form for a fitting, for example, may start with the form shown in the condition of Fig. 1, to wit, its collapsed condition. If, for example, the form in its expanded condition is a size 36 form, and a size 36 dress is intended, it may be seen that if the form is collapsed from its 36 size to the condition shown in Fig. 1 there will be no difficulty in slipping the dress on the form. The degree of telescoping or collapsing and expansion may be varied, of course. I have found it satisfactory to provide for a collapsing of about an inch in front and an inch in back, making a total collapse and reduction in circumference of about two inches.

After the dress has been slipped on the form in the collapsed condition of the form the form may be expanded by pushing down on the head 40. This will result in the reciprocating bar 38 pushing the pins 37 and 57 downwardly which results in the pairs of pivoting elements 34 and 54 being moved downwardly and flattened out to push the two body portions 29 and 30 in opposite directions, or away from each other. As the body portions are pushed away from each other each of the two pairs of casings, one on the front of the form, and one on the back of the form will also be pushed away from each other, being fixed to the base portion, and will separate until the beads 65 on the stop members 64 engage the beads 63 on the casings, when the stop members 64 will limit further diverse movement. Fig. 8 shows clearly how there is a pair of casings on each side of a form, that is, one centrally located in the front and one centrally located in the back, each engaging also with a stop member 64. At the same time that this telescoping action is taking place between the stop members and casings aforesaid, a telescoping action will be taking place in the neck portion, as shown in Fig. 11, where the neck portion is shown in its expanded condition. When the body portions 29 and 30, as shown in Fig. 11, are moved in opposite directions by the pivoting elements 34 and 54 aforementioned, the cover plate 43 will be moved in one direction and this will be made possible by the elongated slot in the cover plate 43 into which the sleeve 39 extends, and the cover plate 44 attached to the left hand body section 30 will be moved in the opposite direction this being permitted by the elongated slot in the cover plate 44. When the cover plates are so drawn in opposite directions, there is no unattractive appearance inasmuch as the top disk 49 is large enough to cover the elongated slot and adjacent portions of the cover plates, so that the elongated slot is not visible at any time. It will also be seen at the same time, the overlapping portions 47 of the aprons 46 permit expansion and preserve an attractive exterior.

By the means shown in Fig. 7 it will be understood that desirable vertical adjustment may be had with respect to the dressmaking form itself.

Seam guides 32, 33 and 66 are also an important feature of my construction. By the use of these, when the form is in expanded condition a seam may be easily and accurately made as the members 32 and 33 and 66 will form a simple, readily apparent straight line guide, at the same time conforming to the body.

At this stage it will be assumed that the form will not be in a turnable condition, and to accomplish this result the mechanism shown in Fig. 13 will have been utilized. When it is desired to mark the bottom of a skirt, my device may be made turnable and to accomplish this, the wing nut shown in Fig. 13 may be loosened to loosen the hold of the clamping device on the sleeve 17. When such has been done the forming device will be free to turn and pivot on the flange 20.

When the device has been made pivotable the marking device may be adjusted so that the chalk will be a height corresponding to the intended length of the skirt. The height of the marking device can be adjusted by manipulation of a nut 79. When this has been done all that is necessary is to collapse the material and fold it back to form a hem, with the bottom of the hem of such a length as to permit chalking of it. When this has been done all that is necessary is to rub the bottom of the hem or skirt on the chalking device passing it about through the fingers and over the chalk through the guide members 77 and 80. When this has been done the head 40 may be pulled upwardly which will collapse the dressmaking form and enable the dress to be easily lifted off the form.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect, this is capable of variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail myself of such varia-

tions and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. A dressmaking form comprising a body portion divided vertically into two parts, toggle levers connecting the upper and lower portions thereof respectively, a support extending vertically through said body portion, a link connecting said toggles and means for actuating said link to contract or expand the form, substantially as described.

2. In a dressmaking form, a body portion divided vertically into two parts, means within said body portion for contracting and expanding the same and stop members arranged between the adjacent edges of said parts to limit the expansion of the device, said stop members telescoping within the edges of the form parts substantially as described.

3. In a dressmaking form, a body portion divided vertically into parts, means within said body portion for contracting and expanding the same, and stop members for limiting the expansion of the body portion, said stop members comprising closure plates arranged between the adjacent edges of the form parts and co-operating beads on the closure plates and the form parts adapted to engage when the device is expanded, substantially as described.

4. A device as set forth in claim 3 further characterized by outwardly extending ridges formed on said stop members, substantially as described.

5. In a dressmaking form a body portion divided vertically into two parts, horizontal webs within said parts, means connecting said webs for expanding and contracting the form, a transverse plate fixed to one of said webs and a sliding connection between the same and the other web, said plate having a longitudinal slot, a supporting member extending vertically within the form and through said slot, and means on said supporting member forming a rotatable connection between said plate and said supporting member, substantially as described.

6. A device as set forth in claim 5 further characterized by means on said supporting member, below the body portion, for locking said body and said supporting member against relative rotation, substantially as described.

7. A device as set forth in claim 5 in which the vertical supporting member comprises a tube, in combination with a stand, including a vertical extending rod telescoping within said supporting tube, and means on the lower end of said tube for clamping the same in vertically adjusted position on the rod, substantially as described.

8. In a dress form, a body portion divided vertically into two parts, horizontally disposed web members in each of said parts, a sliding connection between said webs, a central vertically disposed supporting member extending within the body portion, a rotary connection between said sliding connection and said supporting member, a toggle lever connecting said webs and means adapted for vertical reciprocation for actuating said toggle lever to contract and expand the body portion, substantially as described.

9. A device as set forth in claim 8 in combination with means on said supporting member below the body portion for locking the body portion and the supporting member against relative rotation, substantially as described.

10. In a dressmaking form a fixed support, a form vertically adjustable on said support and rotatable in its vertically adjusted position, in combination with a skirt marker fixed to the support, substantially as described.

11. A device as set forth in claim 10 in which the marker is non-rotatably connected to the support and vertically adjustable thereon, substantially as described.

12. A dressmaking form comprising a body portion divided vertically into two parts, means for expanding and contracting the same, a vertical support for said body and a closure for the upper end of said body portion comprising a pair of closure plates fixed to the body parts respectively and having their inner edges overlapping, said plates being slotted to receive said support, substantially as described.

13. A device as set forth in claim 12 further characterized by a cover plate mounted on the support and covering said slots in the closure plates, substantially as described.

14. A device as set forth in claim 12 further characterized by a pair of superposed spaced plates mounted on said support and between which the overlapping edges of the closure plates telescope, substantially as described.

DEE LA RUE.