# United States Patent

**Mundt**

[15] **3,693,189**

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[54] **PROTECTIVE GARMENT**


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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **2/47**

[51] **Int. Cl.** ..... **A41d 27/12**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 2/46, 47, 2, 22, 59, 61, 62; 36/2



[56] **References Cited**

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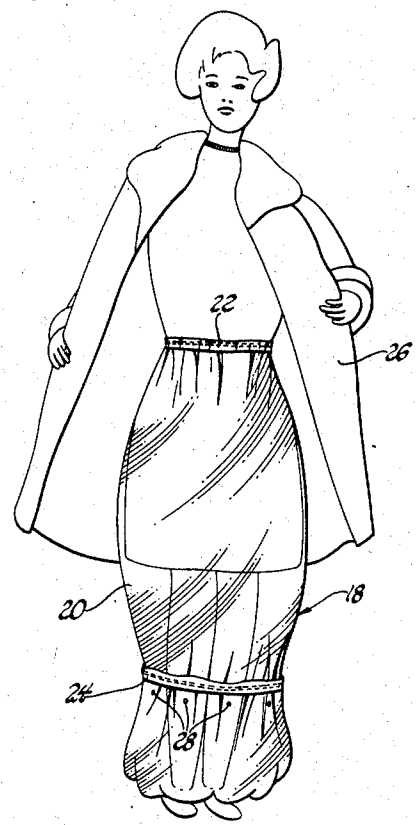
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A protective garment comprising a seamless, transparent, plastic body of tubular design having gathered elastic loops at the opposite ends thereof. In one embodiment, the loops are of such size as to be worn about the waist and the length of the body is such as to extend along both the inside and the outside of a coat or other piece of feminine apparel to be protected. In another embodiment, the body is of such length as to be worn between the upper thigh and the ankle and the opposite ends thereof are provided with elastic loops of differing sizes, one end to be worn about the upper thigh and the other end to be worn about the ankle.


**1 Claim, 3 Drawing Figures**



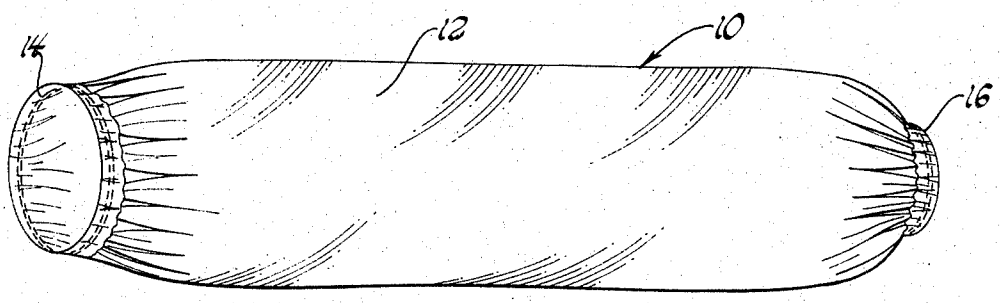



Fig. 1

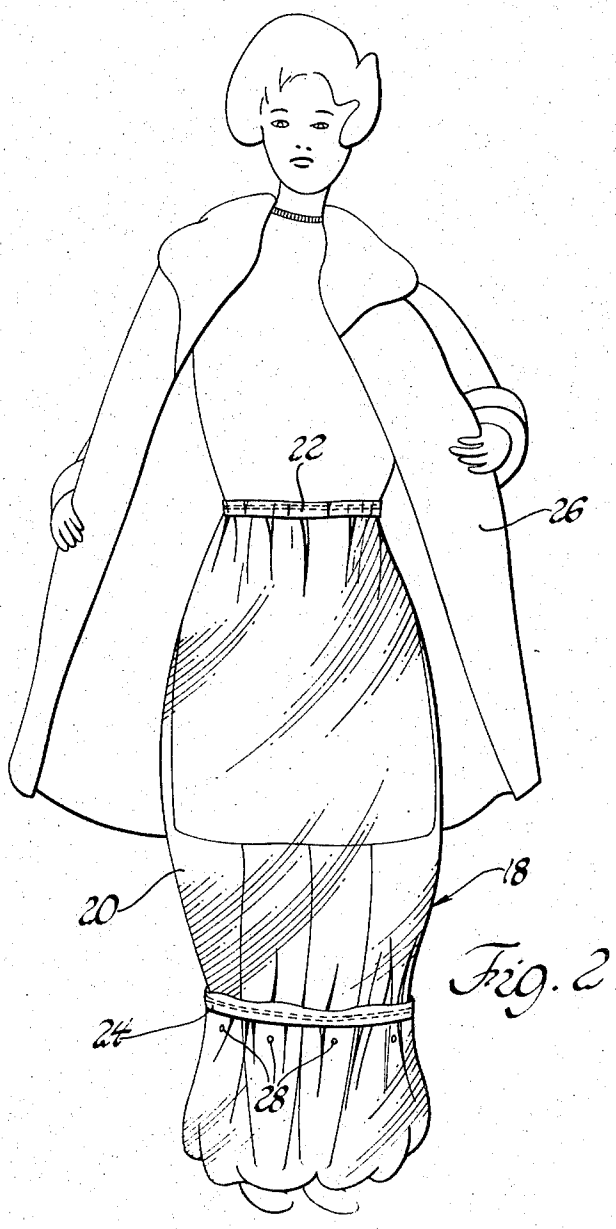



Fig. 2

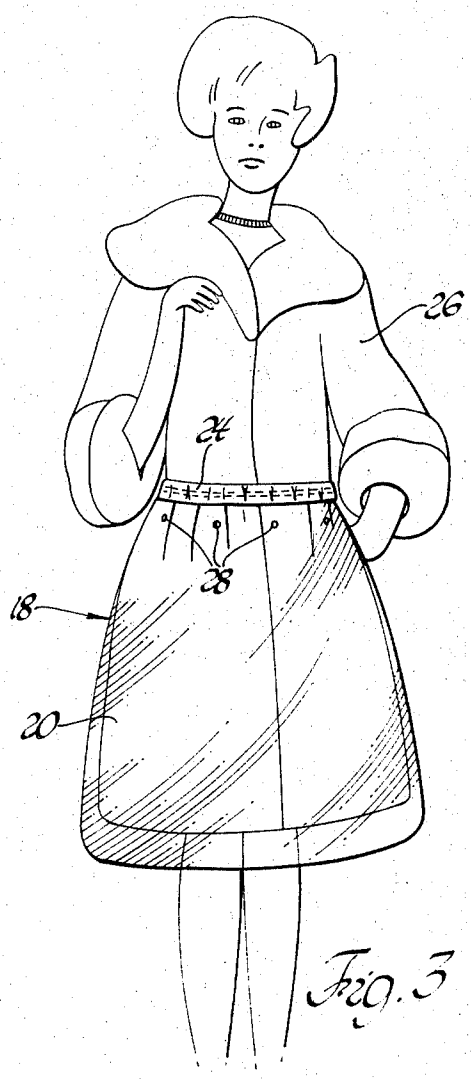



Fig. 3

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# PROTECTIVE GARMENT

This invention relates to protective garments for human apparel and particularly to the design of inexpensive transparent garments of pliable material which are adapted to be worn temporarily over normal human apparel during inclement weather.

It is well known that human apparel, including particularly outer garments, are subject to soiling when worn during inclement weather. The longer outer coat styles are especially subject to soiling from water and slush which may be splashed onto such garments during winter weather. The repeated cleaning of such garments is, of course, reasonably expensive and in many cases shortens the useable lifetime of the garment.

As a result there has been developed in the prior art a type of protective garment which is typically worn over normal human apparel for the purpose of protecting the apparel against such soiling conditions. One such protective garment is illustrated in the patent to Jennings, No. 2,798,224, as comprising a somewhat tubular body of transparent plastic material which is provided at one end with an axial zipper and a waistband and at the other end with an elastic corset section which fits tightly over the hips and is also provided with an inelastic waistband. This garment is complicated and would appear to be expensive to produce. In addition, the use of inelastic waistbands at the axially-opposite ends thereof suggests a certain lack of adaptability thereof to various users of various sizes and would appear to require at least some degree of custom fitting. Another similar protective garment is shown in the patent to Marks, No. 2,994,088, to comprise a substantially rectangular sheet of transparent plastic material with axially-oriented fasteners along two sides to permit the garment to be wrapped around one and closed in a tubular shape. One axial end of the garment is provided with a drawstring which may be adjustably fastened about one's waist and the other end of the garment is provided with an elastic band so as to be worn about one's knees. In use, the Marks garment is worn in a draped fashion with one portion bloused over the garment to be protected and another axial end of looped up inside of the garment to be protected and fastened about one's knees. The elasticity of the portion which is fastened about the knees appears to permit one to walk although with apparently restricted freedom.

It is the principal object of the present invention to provide an improved protective garment similar in certain respects to the Jennings and Marks garments but in which no axial opening is required and which is both inexpensive and simple to manufacture and is simple to wear and further is of such design as to accommodate a wide variety of wearer sizes. In general, this is accomplished by fabricating the protective garment so as to provide an elongated tubular body of flexible transparent, nonporous material, such as transparent plastic and by providing at the opposite axial ends of the body elastic loops of lesser normal diameter than the body intermediate the ends when in the unflexed condition.

In one illustrative embodiment of the invention as hereinafter described, the elastic loops are of substantially identical diameter and are of such size as to be worn about one's waist. The length of the garment, thus illustrated may, of course, be variable but generally is of such dimension as to permit one axial portion of the



garment to be worn over the apparel to be protected and the other axial portion of the garment to be worn under, i.e., inside of, the apparel to be protected. Thus, both axial ends of the garment are placed about one's waist with the apparel to be protected being completely enclosed, both inside and outside by the protective garment. The use of elastic loops at the opposite ends of the body permits the use of the garment by wearers of various sizes and obviates the need for custom fitting. Moreover, the preferred seamless construction of the garment is such as to eliminate high-stress areas and the need for any sort of axial fasteners, thus, permitting the use of a light-weight, inexpensive material and the elimination of substantially all hand finishing during the fabrication thereof.

In another illustrative form of the invention as hereinafter described, the axially opposite ends of the body of transparent nonporous material are of dissimilar diameters, one end being of such size as to be snugly fit about one's upper thigh and the other end of the body being of such diameter as to be fit snugly about one's ankle. In this embodiment the length of the body is such as to correspond roughly with the length of one's leg and, thus, the garment may be worn over the legs of a pair of slacks or trousers. Two such garments are normally worn independently by the average person.

The various features and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by a reading of the following specification which specification is to be taken with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a first embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a front view of a model applying a second embodiment of the invention to the protection of an outer coat; and,

FIG. 3 is a front view of the same model with the second embodiment of the invention completely applied.

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is shown a first embodiment of the invention in the form of a protective garment **10** which is adapted to be worn over the legs to protect slacks and trousers. The garment **10** comprises an elongated tubular body **12** of flexible transparent, nonporous material, such as plastic, the axial length of the body **12** being roughly equal to if not slightly greater than the length of one's leg between the upper thigh and the ankle. Body **12** is formed of a seamless extruded plastic material of continuous length, such material being cut into the desired length during the manufacturing process. Body **12** has at the left end, as shown in FIG. 1, an elastic loop **14** comprising a band of elastic material which is disposed inside of a turned-back hem. The plastic material from which body **12** is made is preferably such as to be weldable to itself under heat and pressure so as to fully enclose and entrap the elastic band. The opposite end of the body **12** is similarly gathered and formed into an elastic loop **16** comprising an elastic band which is entrapped within a turned-over and welded hem of the plastic material. The loop **16** is of such diameter as to fit snugly about one's ankle whereas the loop **14** is of such diameter as to fit snugly about one's upper thigh. The loop sizes are determined by the sizes of the elastic bands rather than by the material of the body **12**. Thus, the garment **10**

may be worn over slacks or trousers between the upper thigh and the ankle to provide protection thereof against inclement weather. The garment **10** may, of course, be manufactured in various lengths so as to be marketable to a broad spectrum of persons.

Referring now to FIGS. **2** and **3**, there is shown a second protective garment **18** which is adapted particularly for the protection of feminine apparel, such as skirts and coats. The garment **18** comprises a tubular, seamless, elongated body **20** of flexible, transparent, nonporous material, such as plastic, having gathered elastic loops **22** and **24** formed at the opposite axial ends thereof. Loops **22** and **24** are formed by entrapping a band of elastic material within a turned-back and welded hem. The loops **22** and **24** are of such dimension in the unflexed condition as to be of lesser diameter than the body **20** intermediate the axial ends. This is indicated by the gathering of the body material adjacent the loops **22** and **24**.

As shown in FIG. **2**, the overall length of the body **20** of garment **18** between the loops **22** and **24** is such as to be approximately double the length of the skirt or other apparel which is to be protected. In this embodiment, as illustrated in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the apparel to be protected is a coat **26** of average length and, thus, the protective garment **18** is axially of such length as to be approximately twice the length of the coat **26** between the waist and the bottom edge of the coat.

FIG. **2** illustrates the manner in which the garment **18** is worn for the protection of coat **26**. In FIG. **2** the model has placed the elastic loop **22** about her waist over her skirt but under the cost **26** which is to be protected. It can be seen that the garment **18** extends downwardly over the skirt and legs and is partially looped back up toward the model's waist. In FIG. **3**, the model is seen to have closed and fastened the coat **26** around one axial portion of the garment **18**. In addition, the model has slipped the axial portion of garment **18** between the center and the elastic loop **24** upwardly over the outside of the coat **26** until the elastic loop **24** is approximately at waist height. In this condition, the garment **18** extends along both the inside and outside surfaces of the coat **26** between the waist line of the wearer and the bottom of the coat, thus, protecting it against splashing water, slush and other soiling elements. Holes **28** are punched or otherwise formed around the upper part of garment **18** to exhaust excess air when putting the garment on. The holes **28** are about six in number and are disposed about 2–3 inches below the waist loop **24**.

It is to be understood that the garment **18** may be fabricated in various lengths for wearers of different height as well as for coats, skirts, and other apparel of varying length. For example, a long garment **18** might be worn with ankle length skirts and coats whereas a short length garment would be worn for the protection of a skirt or a skirt length garment. The garment **18** may, of course, be worn in combination with the garment **10** of FIG. **1**.

Although the following dimensions are not to be construed as in any way limiting the invention thereto, they are given by way of illustrative example. The garment **10** may be made of tubular, seamless, plastic material having a constant 15 inch width (double) when laid flat and being cut into lengths of approximately 34 inches. The preferred material is two mil polyethylene. The garment **18** of FIGS. **2** and **3** may be formed of seamless tubular material having a flat width of approximately 30 inches and a length of approximately 60 inches between the hemlines. Again, seamless, tubular two mil polyethylene material is preferred. It can be seen that the seamless, constant width character of the material from which garments **10** and **18** are made eliminates hand finishing except for the loops at the ends and yet results in an attractive, highly useful product.

The foregoing description is understood as being illustrative in nature and is not to be construed as limiting the invention.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

**1.** A protective garment for skirted, feminine apparel comprising: an elongated, tubular body of light, pliable, nonporous material of a length approximately double the length from waist to lower end of the skirted garment to be protected; a closed elastic waistband at each end of the body for contemporaneous disposition about the wearer's waist to define a folded-over interior such that the garment to be protected lies within the folded-over interior and is protected by the body, both inside and outside, said body being of substantially constant width throughout its length and being gathered at the elastic waistbands, and a plurality of air exhaust holes in the body adjacent one end thereof to prevent the trapping of air within the folded-over interior when worn to protect a skirted garment.

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