Feb. 22, 1949. H. E. RENO 2,462,553

MATERNITY DRESS

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Fig. 1

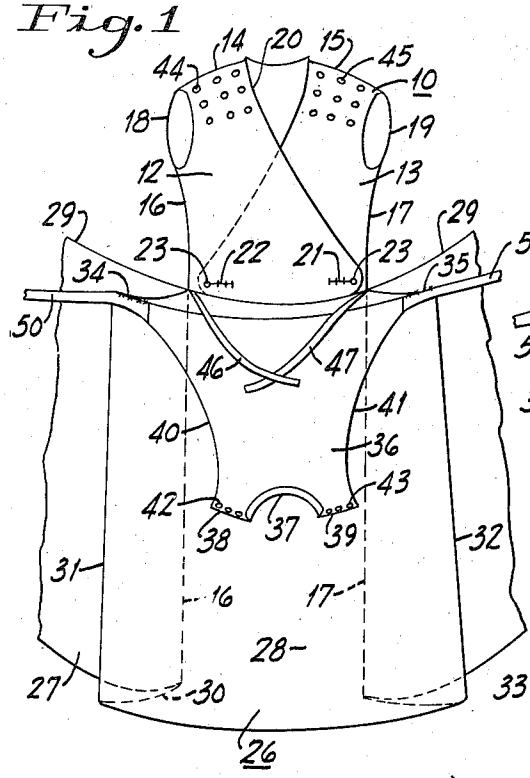


Fig. 2

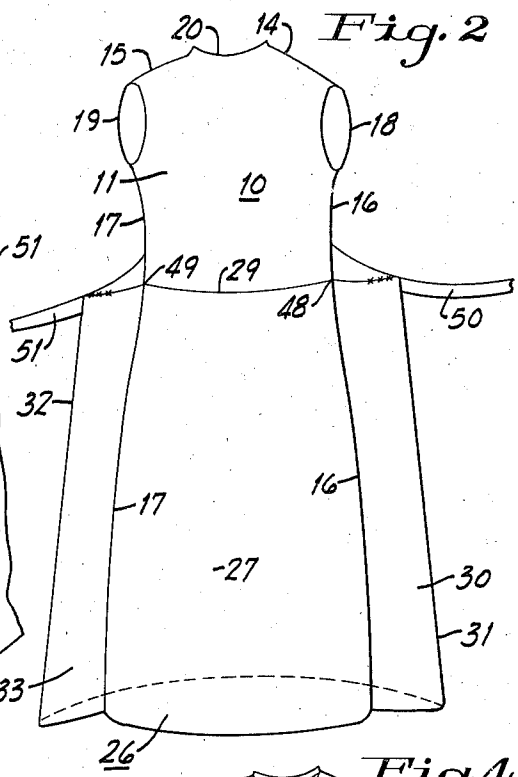


Fig. 3

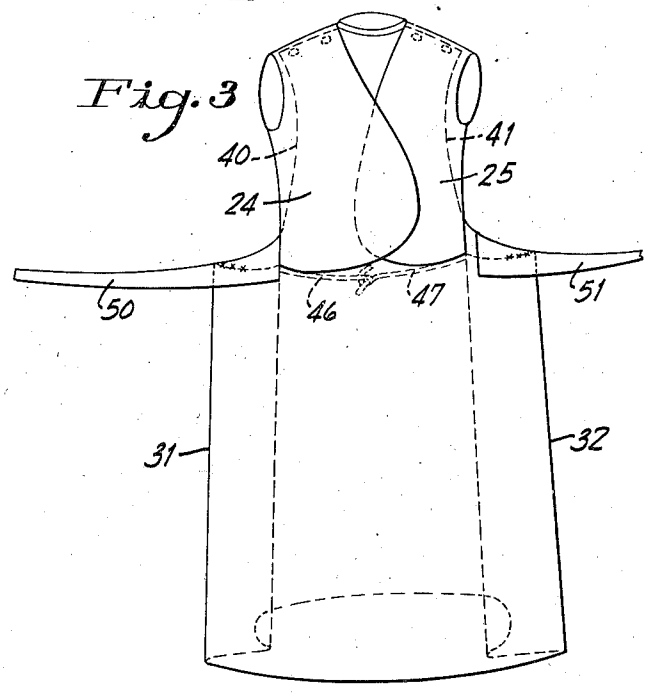
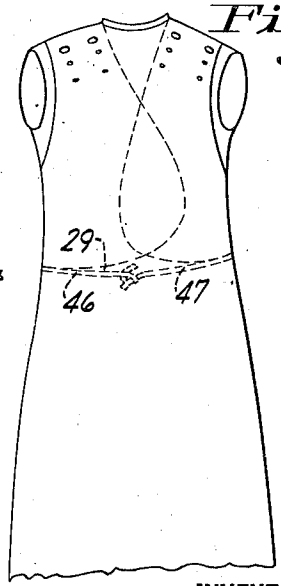


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

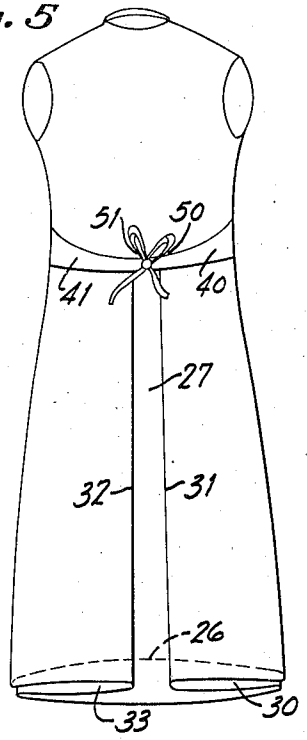


Fig. 6

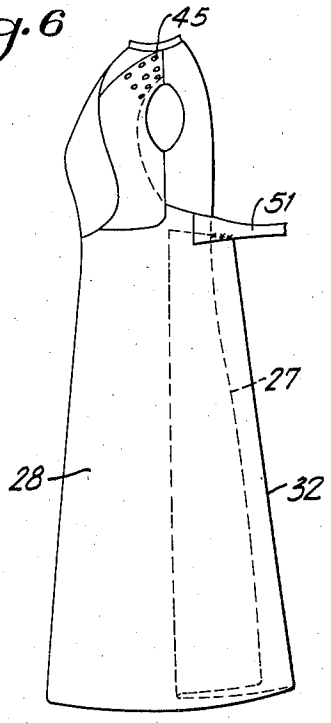


Fig. 7

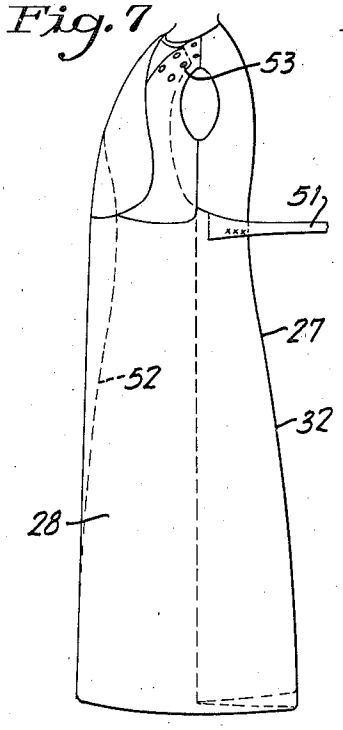
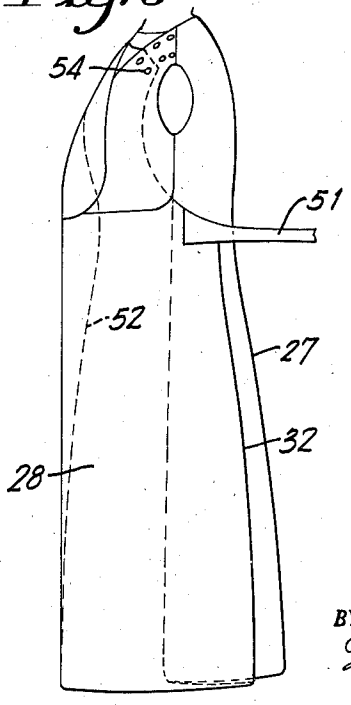


Fig. 8



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MATERNITY DRESS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—76)

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This invention relates generally to wearing apparel and more particularly to an adjustably fitting garment such as a maternity dress.

This invention is an improvement of U. S. Letters Patent No. 2,261,662, for Maternity dress, issued November 4, 1941.

The principal object of this invention is the provision of a one-piece dress, for wear during pregnancy, which is adjustable to maintain the front of the dress uniformly straight regardless of the waistline measurement.

Another object is the provision of a one-piece maternity dress that is adjustable to maintain the front hem at a uniform height.

Another object is the provision of a one-piece maternity dress arranged to fit the figure and yet mask the person of the wearer.

Another object is the provision of an adjustable one-piece maternity dress that may be designed to follow any vogue, pattern or style.

Another object is the provision of an adjustable one-piece maternity dress arranged to conceal the person of the wearer by suspending the front of the skirt vertically from the waistline.

Other objects and advantages appear hereinafter in the following description and claims.

A practical embodiment illustrating the principles of this invention is shown wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of the dress comprising this invention but showing the skirt severed at the back and extending outwardly at the sides.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the dress comprising this invention showing the side pleats open.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the dress comprising this invention with a bib section secured under the waist front flaps which are altered from that shown in Fig. 1 and with the skirt pleats open.

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the dress comprising this invention with the bib secured over the waist and the dress fastened in its normal wearing position.

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of the dress showing the skirt pleats tied in wearing position.

Fig. 6 is a view in side elevation of the dress.

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 5 showing the dress partially expanded.

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7 showing the dress further expanded.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, 10 represents the waist of the one-piece dress which comprises a plane back 11 illustrated as a single piece of material and the front waist portions or flaps 12 and 13, which are secured to the back 11 along the shoulder seams 14 and 15 and the underarm seams 16 and 17 and providing the right and left arm openings 18 and 19 together with the neck opening 20. The waist 10 may of course be designed to follow any mode in vogue and it may be provided with full, half or quarter-length sleeves or other styles without varying or otherwise changing the fundamental principles of this invention.

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The front of the waist may be plain and closed or it may be cut with surplus as indicated in Fig. 1 and provided with the adjustable buttonholes 21 and 22 to receive the buttons 23. On the other hand the front of the waist may be constructed in the form of an Eton such as illustrated by the front waist sections or flaps 24 and 25 in Fig. 3. Again the back 11 of the waist may be made up of panels or any other design but it is preferable that a design be chosen which is suitable to the back of the wearer.

The skirt 26 is continuous, preferably being made with two pieces of material 27 and 28 sewed together along the extended underarm seams 16 and 17 from the waistline 29 to the bottom hem of the skirt. Although it is preferable to form the skirt with two pieces of material, the design of the dress may demand that the skirt be made up of more than two pieces sewed together to form a continuous skirt. As shown the rear portion 27 of the skirt extends between the underarm seams 16 and 17 and the front skirt portion 28 extends from the seam 16 rearwardly across the inner face 30 to the fold 31 of the right pleat and then around the front of the dress to the fold 32 of the left pleat and returns across the inner face 33 of this pleat to the seam 17. The top of each of the pleats are sewed along the waistline of the skirt for approximately three inches as indicated in Fig. 1 at 34 and 35 respectively. The sewing of the top of the pleats in this manner insures the correct fold and hang of the pleat.

A bib 36 is preferably formed integral with the front section of the skirt 28 between the folds 31 and 32 of the right and left pleats and is arranged to extend upwardly over the bust of the wearer. The top of the bib is provided at its upper end with a neck or yoke opening 37, disposed between the bib shoulder sections 38 and 39. The sides of the bib section 36 are provided with arcuate marginal edges 40 and 41 extending from their respective bib shoulder sections 38 and 39 to adjacent the top of the skirt. A suitable fastening means such as snaps or button-

holes are placed on the bib as indicated at 42 and 43 adjacent shoulder sections 38 and 39 for securing the bib adjacent the shoulder of the waist 10 on which the counterpart of said fastening means are attached as indicated at 44 and 45. The fastening means may provide for increment adjustment of the bib to the waist.

This bib section may extend up over the front of the waist and be secured to the outer side thereof as illustrated in Fig. 1 or 4 or it may extend up under the front waist sections 24 and 25 and secured to adjacent the shoulder thereof as illustrated in Fig. 3. The counterpart of the fastening means illustrated at 44 and 45 may extend down the front of the waist to permit the bib 36 to be adjustably secured to the waist at different positions relative to the top of the shoulders depending upon the waist measure of the wearer for the purpose of providing a uniform hem length at the front of the dress.

It is also preferable to secure a fastening means such as the ties 46 and 47 at the underarm seams 16 and 17 where the underfaces 30 and 33 of the skirt pleats, or the sides of the rear skirt 27 join the waist at waistline 29 as indicated at the points 48 and 49 in Fig. 2. The tie members 46 and 47 may then be brought across the front of the person of the wearer and tied for the purpose of drawing the back of the skirt 27 closely to the figure to make a neat and properly fitting garment at the back. The ties 46 and 47 are shown to be secured in Figs. 3 and 4. This permits the wearer to draw the rear skirt section in a fitting relation and the ties are concealed by the bib portion 36 when the latter is secured adjacent the top of the waist.

The skirt is provided with the tie members 50 and 51 adjacent the top of the pleat folds 31 and 32 and the waistline ends of the arcuate marginal edges 40 and 41 of the bib. These ties may be drawn to the back of the person of the wearer and knotted as indicated in Fig. 5 thus drawing the pleat folds 31 and 32 in close proximity to one another at the back of the dress.

When the dress is secured as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the rear skirt section 27 snugly fits the person of the wearer and the ties 50 and 51 draw the arcuate marginal edges of the bib into fitting relation with the figure from the shoulders down in front of the arms to the rear of the dress, and the front section 28 of the skirt hangs straight from the waistline 29 as illustrated in Fig. 6 thus providing an attractive and well-fitting garment with a uniformly even hem.

In Figs. 6, 7 and 8, the dress is shown to be adjusted to figures of different girth measurements. In Fig. 6, the dress is fitted to the normal waistline of the wearer causing the folds 31 and 32 of the pleats to substantially meet in the back of the dress as shown in Fig. 5. However to illustrate the different adjustments in these figures, the tie 51 is drawn rearwardly, and in Fig. 6, the fold 32 of the left pleat extends beyond the rear of the skirt 27 and the bib is attached to the uppermost fastening members 45. In Fig. 7, the girth of the figure is increased and the normal waistline is indicated by the dotted line 52. In order to properly fit the dress to the figure, it is then necessary to drop the top of the bib to the next consecutive fastening members 53 and the fold 32 of the left pleat is in line with the rear skirt section 27 in order to accommodate the increased

girth and prevent the front of the dress from hiking upwardly out of alignment with the back hem of the skirt.

In Fig. 8, the girth has been increased over that of Fig. 7 illustrating that it is necessary to emp'oy the next consecutive fastening means 54 for attaching the upper end of the bib to the waist and the fold 32 of the left pleat does not extend rearwardly as far as the back of the skirt 27 yet the front hem hangs uniformly with the balance of the skirt owing to the fact that the bib has permitted the skirt to be lowered as the front waistline of the skirt 28 is permitted to come forward but is maintained at the largest girth measurement. Thus the dress is capable of adjustment for different sizes of girth and at the same time will properly mask the figure.

I claim:

1. A maternity dress consisting of a circumferentia'ly continuous lower body covering skirt loosely fitting the body and provided with vertical pleats folded and retained to the back, a waist having upper body covering portions including a back panel and overlapping front flaps, with their lower edges substantially at the waistline, the back panel of said waist being attached to the skirt back centrally thereof, means to adjustably draw and retain the back portion of the skirt at the waistline to fit the body, a bib attached to the skirt front between the pleat forming portions, and means to adjustably retain the bib under or over the waist flaps adjacent the shoulder of the waist to drop the front portion of the skirt upon increase of girth and maintain an even skirt hem.

2. A maternity dress consisting of a circumferentially continuous lower body covering skirt loosely fitting the body and provided with vertical pleats folded to the back, a waist having upper body covering portions including a back panel and overlapping front flaps with their lower edges substantially at the waistline, the back panel of said waist being attached to the skirt back centrally thereof, means to adjustably draw and retain the back portion of the skirt at the waistline to fit the body, a bib attached to the skirt front between the pleat forming portions and having marginal edges fitting the body from the front of the shoulders to the waistline, means to adjustably retain the bib under or over the waist flaps adjacent the shoulder of the waist to drop the front portion of the skirt upon increase of girth and maintain an even skirt hem, and fastening means to hold the marginal edges of the bib to the body and to draw the vertical folded pleats to the back adjacent the waistline.

HANNAH E. RENO.

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