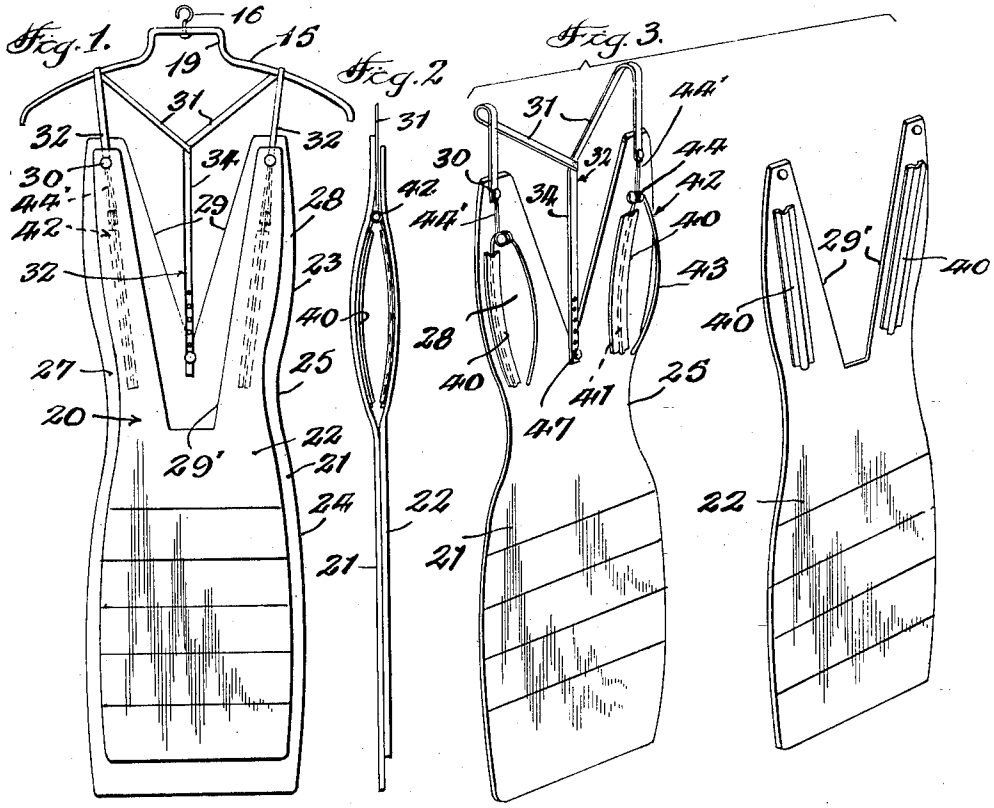
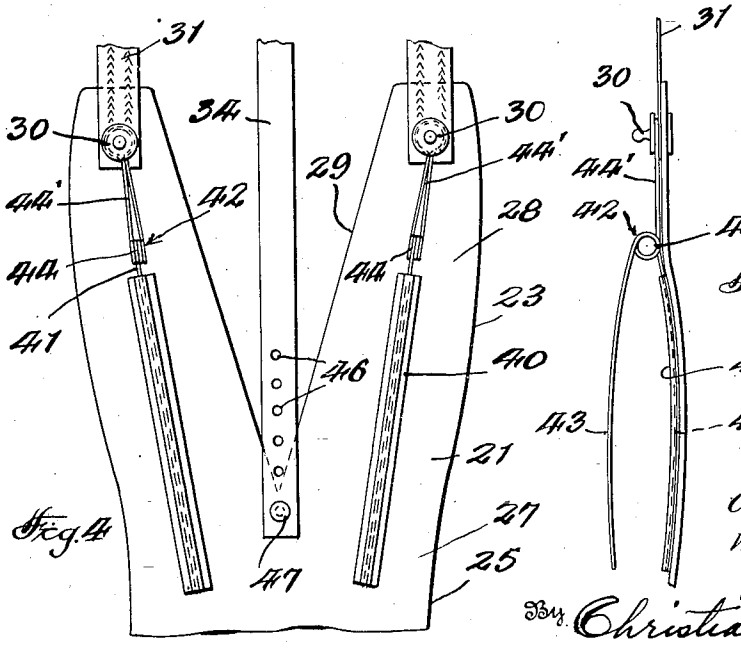
July 27, 1943. C. H. ROWLEY ET AL 2,325,428

GARMENT DISPLAY DEVICE

Filed July 19, 1941 4 Sheets-Sheet 1





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July 27, 1943. C. H. ROWLEY ET AL 2,325,428

GARMENT DISPLAY DEVICE

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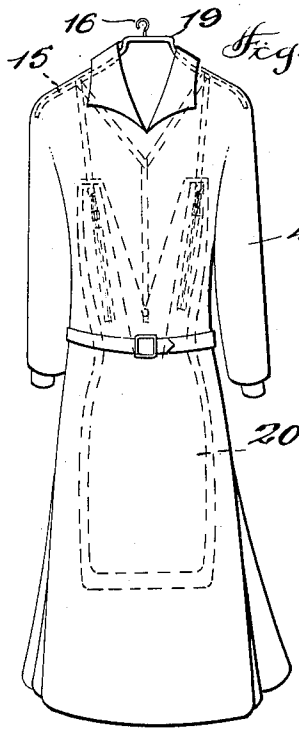


Fig. 6.

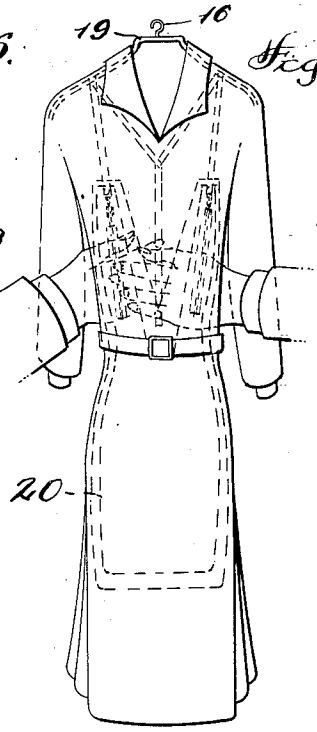


Fig. 7.

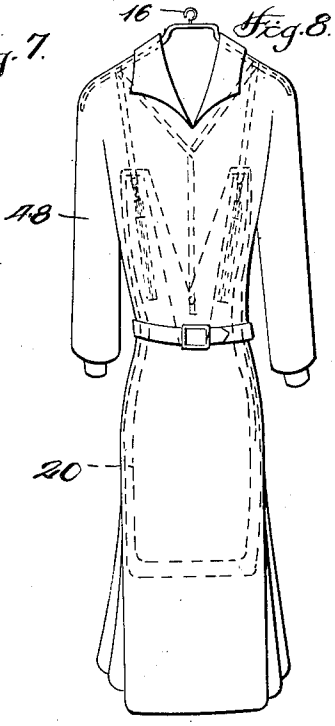


Fig. 8.

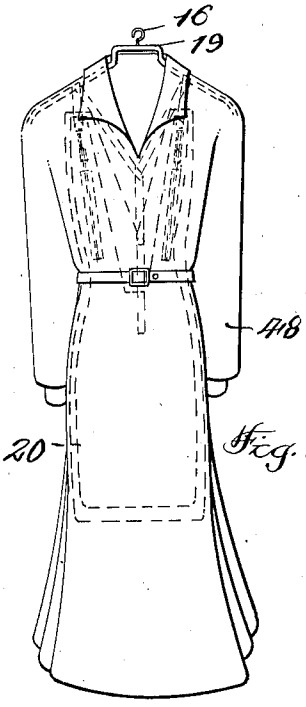


Fig. 9.

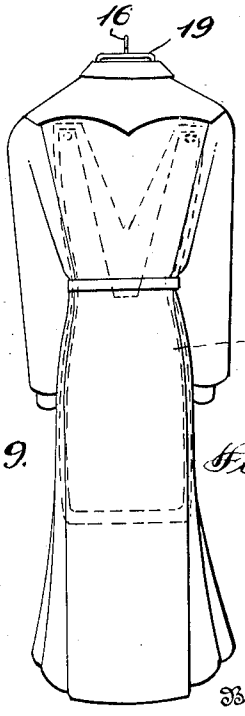


Fig. 10.

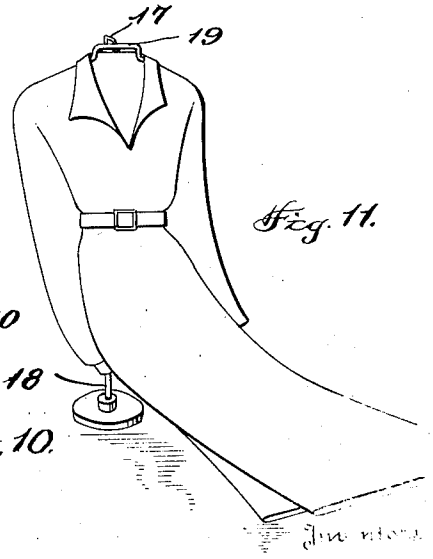


Fig. 11.

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GARMENT DISPLAY DEVICE

Filed July 19, 1941 4 Sheets-Sheet 3

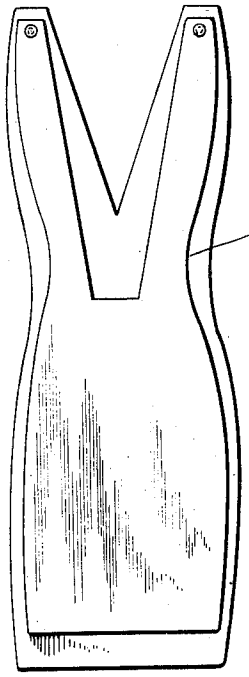


Fig. 12.

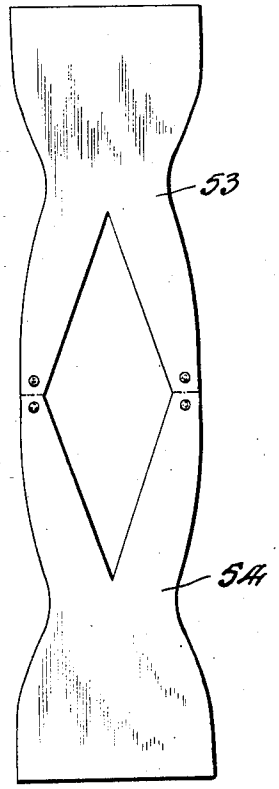


Fig. 14.

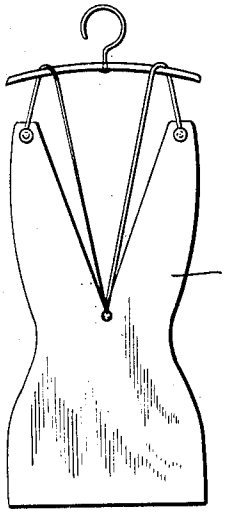


Fig. 15.

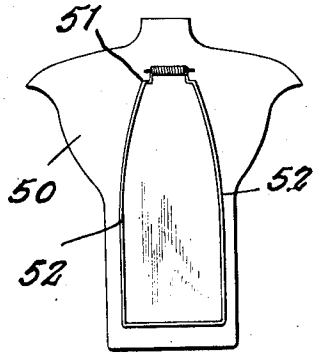


Fig. 13

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July 27, 1943. C. H. ROWLEY ET AL 2,325,428

GARMENT DISPLAY DEVICE

Filed July 19, 1941 4 Sheets-Sheet 4

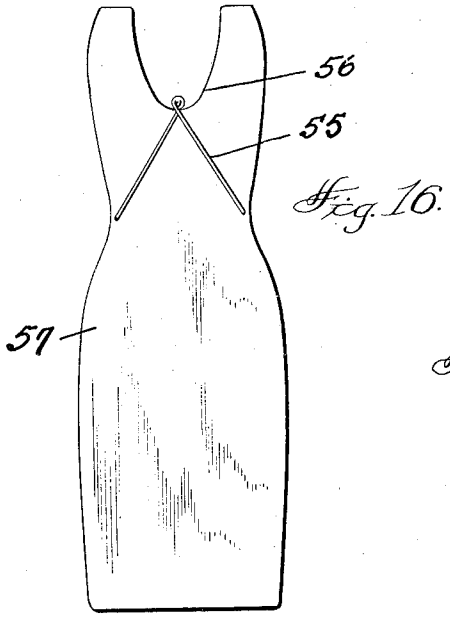


Fig. 16.

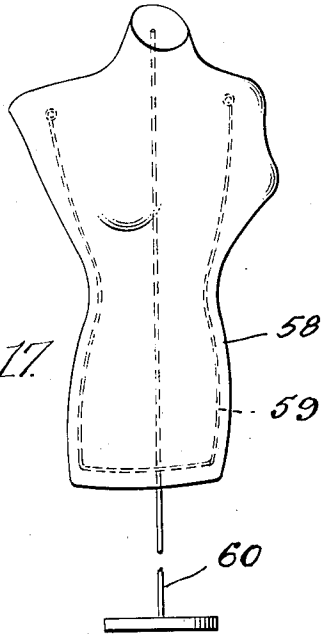


Fig. 17.

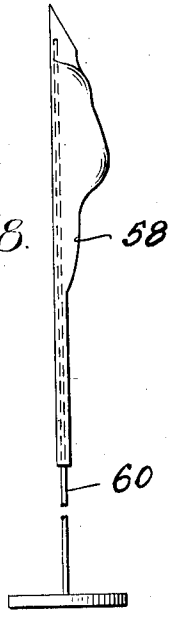


Fig. 18.

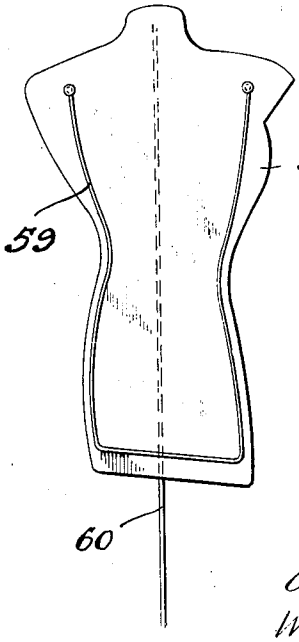


Fig. 19.

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2,325,428

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,325,428

GARMENT DISPLAY DEVICE

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

Application July 19, 1941, Serial No. 403,222

5 Claims. (Cl. 223—68)

The invention relates to forms for displaying garments in flat or semi-flat shape, particularly to that type which is adapted to be inserted within a garment, and engaged with a garment in such a manner as to hold the latter in an attractive form, so that the garment may be supported and displayed in a form which will occupy a minimum of room and yet will present the garment in such manner that its appearance will closely approximate that of the garment when worn upon a person, the width at the waist approximating that of the width of the waist of the garment when worn, and the hip portions being given a shaping corresponding to the contours of the hips of a person, at the same time that skirt portions of women's garments at their lower parts will be held in a pleasing pleated or fold relation, and will retain that appearance after initial adjustment upon our form device, so as to approximate the set of the skirt when worn.

It is an important aim of the invention to enable the adjustment of a garment in an attractive appearance for flat or semi-flat display, by a person of no special taste in such adjustments, so that it may be subsequently placed in a window display or elsewhere, without disturbance of the good adjustment initially given, even though handled by a person with less ability and training.

It is a special aim of our invention to present a dress form device which may be also utilized as a hanger, so that garments may be suspended upon the common rack used in stores, and when removed from the rack for display to a customer, will be held in the pleasing form to best set off the features and values of the garment as regards its fashionable appearance and distinctive pattern, etc.

A further important aim of the invention is to present a form of this kind which may be made up from sheet material so that the article may be shipped in quantities and stored in quantities without occupying excessive space, and whereby it will function in a peculiar manner to effect the holding of a garment in its adjusted shape upon the form without the use of fastenings, and in a peculiar relation of folds of the garment which will enable the garment to be fixed thereon without rumpling and without making the complete display of the garment as a unit excessively thick or bulgy. It is also an aim of the invention to enable the securement of garment folds in a device in this manner without the use of fastenings and with a simple movement of the hands of the user.

Further important objects consist in the provision of novel means for securing folds of a garment within a sheet material form of the general indicated, and a further novel feature lies in the means for supporting a form device in special relation to a hanger element for adjustment in the shoulder and neck portions of a garment after the manner of a conventional coat hanger.

Additional objects, advantages and features of invention reside in the construction, arrangement and combination of parts involved in the embodiment of the invention, as will be more readily understood from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure 1 is a back view of a garment form embodying our invention and suspended upon the coat hanger device appropriately coordinated therewith.

Figure 2 is an edge view of the assembly of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an exploded view showing the front and back portions of the article, at left and right, respectively, in perspective, with inner sides presented toward the observer;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary elevational view of the upper part of the front piece as viewed from the rear.

Figure 5 is a side elevation thereof.

Figure 6 is a front elevational view of a garment engaged upon my display device.

Figure 7 illustrates the manner of manipulation of the garment, subsequently to positioning as in Figure 6, to adjust it to a desired shape.

Figure 8 is a view of the garment showing the relation of the sleeves thereto after such manipulation as shown in Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a similar view showing a modified adjustment of the garment to represent a high waist effect, utilizing the same device as employed in Figure 6, but with a modified adjustment on the hanger, and also illustrating the securement of the sleeves of the garment.

Figure 10 is a rear view of the garment as mounted upon our device, in Figure 9.

Figure 11 is a perspective view of a garment with our display form therein, and displaying upon a low stand, as might be employed at the front of a show window, so that further display of erect figures or the like might be made in the rear of this garment without being unduly obscured.

Figure 12 is a rear elevation of a modified form of the device.

Figure 13 illustrates a modified construction of spring device which may be employed.

Figures 14 and 15 illustrate a further modification of the garment form.

Figure 16 shows a further form and arrangement of spring device.

Figures 17 to 19 inclusive illustrate a moulded construction of the garment form.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, there is illustrated a coat hanger 15, which may conform to conventional practices, and may be made in approved forms to properly shape the shoulders of a sleeved garment, and may include a hook 16 adapted to support the hanger and engaged garment upon a rack, hook, stand or other support, and in place of the hook any other suitable support engaging means may be employed, as found expedient, one method shown in Figure 11 involving the omission of any hook or the like whatever, and the coat hanger itself being rested upon a bracket arm 17 of a stand 18, of conventional construction. The hanger in the present instance is illustrated as being formed of some metal, in rod or bar form, bent so that a spacing bight 19 is formed centrally of the hanger, the sides of the bight extending vertically downward, and being spaced apart suitably to engage through the neck of a garment and hold it open a desirable degree, the opposite end portions of the bar being then closed laterally in respective directions from the bight and suitably shaped to fit the shoulder portions of a garment, as illustrated in Figure 6.

Suspended from and vertically adjustable with respect to this hanger, there is a dress form 20, consisting of two separate pieces, a front piece 21, and a back piece 22, made of sheet material, such as a good durable heavy two or three ply paper, or a stiffer sheet material, if desired, and the article may be formed in sheet metal, or one of the synthetic gums or cellulose compositions, or the like, if desired. The front is slightly wider and longer than the back piece, so that the latter may be laid close against the former with its contours all lying inwardly of the contours of the front piece. The lateral edges of the front piece are shaped at the upper part so that a garment having its front portion drawn snugly thereabout will assume approximately the general contour of the garment when worn by a person and viewed from a distance in front, while the lower part of the front part is shaped to represent the general contour of the hips of a person and the form in which the skirt will appear in elevation from the front when worn, as shown at 24. The edge portions 23 and 24 are inclined inwardly toward the central part of the article, so as to assume a suitable waist contour, substantially as illustrated, although this form and shape is not arbitrary, and may be varied in different dress forms, in a manner appropriate to different sizes of persons, as is well understood in the trade. The length of the article from top to bottom is substantially less than the length of an ensemble which is to be displayed thereon, so that our dress form may be adjusted upwardly or downwardly within the same garment, to give a high or low waist line effect, or at intermediate positions as required. In consequence, the upper or body portion of the forms is adapted to extend into the blouse section of the garment in one use, as shown in Figures 6 to 8, while in another use it may be adjusted to show a high dress effect, as in Figures 9 and 10. For the same reason, the skirt portion or lower part 26 is greatly abbreviated, extending only a short distance below the representation of the hip contour, and being cut off square at its lower end, so that in whatever adjustment it may have in a garment, it will still be some distance above the lower edge of the skirt.

In its present embodiment, the article is illustrated as applied to the display of a one-piece ensemble in the nature of a street suit or costume, but it may be also used in connection with a two-piece and sleeveless blouse or jacket, with or without skirts integral or detached.

The body portion 27 is formed with a deeply recessed upper edge 29, the recess being substantially V-shaped and extending nearly to the waist of the piece, so that the upper portion 28 is furcated. This recess enables the ready manipulation of the supporting device subsequently to be described.

The back piece 22 is of similar general contour, except that all of the external dimensions are smaller than those of the front piece 21, and the recess 29' in its upper part is much deeper than the corresponding recess 29 of the front piece. The skirt portion of this back piece stops short of the lower edge of the front piece. The front and back pieces 21 and 22 are secured together at their upper extremities substantially in the relation shown in Figures 1 and 2, by means of snap grommets 30, or otherwise so that the two pieces are secured together, or the two pieces may be detached from each other if desired. These fasteners are also used to secure two ends of branches 31 from a suspension tape 32 attached at the lower extremity of the main portion of the tape. The lower end of the same tape is provided with a series of apertures longitudinally spaced thereon.

The upper body portion 27 of the front piece, as well as the corresponding parts of the back piece is given a bowed shape, by means now to be described. Upon the inner faces of each of the pieces, extending above the waist, there are channel pieces 40, made of a flexible material. Inserted from above in the channel pieces of the front piece, there are respective curved spring arms 41 of a helical spring device 42, having a second arm 43 of bowed form opposed to the first, the two arms being connected by a spiral eye portion 44, of suitable extent to effect the resilient action desired. Centrally of the helical eye portion 44 of the spring arms there is an end piece 44' which is secured under that member of the fastener 30 which is secured upon the body 29. With one arm of the spring device engaged in the channel member at one side of the front piece, and the other arm of the same spring engaged in the opposed channel piece of the back piece, and a spring device at the opposite side of the device being similarly engaged in the corresponding channel pieces, the lower waist portion of the two pieces are pressed toward each other yieldingly, and the upper part held forcibly in close relation. The fasteners 30 additionally secure the pieces against relative longitudinal movement and hold the upper ends of the two pieces snugly together. The front and back pieces of the form may be separated by releasing the fastenings 30, and sliding the back piece downwardly, so that the arms of the spring are drawn out of the channel pieces 40 of the back piece. The respective upper end pieces 31 of the tape are extended from the fastener 30 upwardly, and over respective end portions of the hanger 15, and thence downwardly, the central

or main end being extended downwardly below the crotch or recessed part 29 of the front piece. Here it is secured releasably, for vertical adjustment of the strap part 34 with respect to the garment hanger. The end portion of the strap 34 is provided with a longitudinal series of apertures 46, and a snap fastener device 47 is provided, one element of which is secured to the front piece 21 just below the crotch 29, while the other is releasably engaged therewith, the two being constructed so as to receive the male member of the fastening to one of the apertures 46. Thus, when it is desired to suspend the dress form at a lower level, the strap 34 is disconnected from the front piece, and moved so that its extreme end portion is engaged by the fastener 47, but when the form is to be suspended at a high level, the strap 34 is released from the fastening 47 and drawn downwardly, so that the end portions 32 slide upon the hanger 15, raising the dress form, and the fastener 47 then reengaged with the tape 34, in one of the apertures 46 at a higher level.

By reason of the action of the spring 42, the waist portions of the front and back pieces serve as a yielding clasp device to hold folds of a garment engaged over the form, but push between the front and back pieces will permit separation to admit portions of a garment, after the manner shown in Figure 7. By having the arms of the spring 42 bowed outwardly, the front piece 21 is given a fullness at the dress portion 28, serving to enhance the effectiveness of the display of a garment upon the article. The waist portion of such a garment is drawn inwardly by the tucking in of its side portions between the front and back pieces, where they are held by the clasping action of the article, as before mentioned, and as indicated in Figure 7.

In the use of the article, the hanger device 15 is engaged in the upper part of the garment after the manner of the ordinary coat hanger, and may be suspended upon any proper support while the garment is adjusted thereon. After manipulation of the tape 34 as previously described, to secure the adjustment of the form at the proper height within the garment, the operator pushes the material at the sides of the garment in between the two pieces of the forms, and the bowing of the spring arms afford a considerable space between the two pieces, which will readily accommodate the hands of the operator and a considerable portion of the material of the garment. Preferably, the garment is pushed into the form from opposite sides simultaneously, as suggested in Figure 7, and after the upper portion or side portions of the garment are pressed inwardly between the dress form to present portions of a garment between the sections of the form, the hands are then moved slidingly downwardly, so as to draw the lower portion of the garment likewise between the front and back of the form. In initial engagement of the garment on the hanger after adjustment of the form as to height, the garment will have the appearance substantially as indicated in Figure 6. After the manipulation of the goods as described and indicated in Figure 7, the garment will have substantially the appearance shown in Figure 8, where it is drawn neatly into a contour suggestive of the shape of a person wearing the garment. Substantially the same manipulation of the goods of the garment for its adjustment around the form is followed whether the form is positioned for a higher waist-line or a low waist-line, as will be readily understood. The drawing in of the side portions of the upper body part of the garment between the pieces of the form has the effect of causing the sleeves 48 of the garment to swing inwardly and lie neatly beside the garment, as shown in Figures 8, 9 and 10, and the operator may adjust the ends of the sleeves either behind the garment, or in front of it, according to which side the garment is being displayed toward the front of a show window or the like. Or the sleeves 48 may also be slightly engaged between the form pieces. The upper portion of the skirt of such a garment will also be held between the two pieces, so that it will be caused to have a considerable set, suggestive of the form of the skirt when worn by a person to whom the garment has been fitted.

The form may be quickly removed from a garment due to the fact that it is not fastened to any part of the goods of the garment when used as above described, no pins or other fastenings being required. Thus, the forms may be used over and over again with a minimum of wea. and/or impairment otherwise.

In the use of the article as shown in Figure 11, a full length display of a garment may thus be effected by supporting the hanger upon the low standard or post 18, while the skirt portion of the garment is laid forwardly from the stand 18 upon the floor of the show window or other surface upon which the stand 18 rests. In this way the advantage is gained of displaying full length or a garment ensemble, without involving the use of large space, and without obscuring or concealing other elements of display in the same window, such as might be involved by a full length erect figure display.

The article is adapted to various other uses in garment displays, and for the display of various other garments than those described, and may be modified in form to adapt it in use in displays of other goods as discretion may dictate.

If desired, the sheet material of the front and back pieces as described may be covered with cloth. It will be understood that the channel pieces 40 are flexible with the sheet material to which they are attached, so that the device may readily conform to the shape of the arms of the spring devices 42, and may lie flat when the springs are disengaged.

While we have described our invention with great particularity in the best form in which we have thus far perfected it, it will nevertheless be understood that this is purely exemplary, and that various changes in construction, arrangement and combination of parts, substitution of materials and substitution of equivalents may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, as more definitely defined in the claims hereto appended.

The skirt portion of the front and back pieces may be formed with transverse scored lines at uniform distances, which may correspond to certain standard dimensions of garments, so that the lower portions of the front and back pieces may be folded or severed in appropriate length to adapt the device to various lengths of garments, such as blouses, skirts, sweaters and two piece garments.

It should be noted also that the lower part of the recess 29' is considerably widened, and this together with its greater depth than the recess of the front piece prevents wrinkling of the garment or belt portions thrust between the two pieces, as well as insuring concealment of the back pieces.

As illustrated in Figure 12, the lateral waist recesses 27' of the rear piece may be made higher than the corresponding parts of the front piece, and also somewhat deeper, the remainder being as first described. This has a special value in displaying garments with skirt portions, because when the garment is adjusted on the device and the side portions of the garment thrust between the form pieces, the waist portion at the rear of the garment is drawn upward, so that the edge of the skirt at the rear will not show below the front lower edge of the skirt. This is important due to the fact that skirts are customarily made longer in the back.

The spring devices may be considerably modified, by varying their shape or contour lines, as well as structural modification. Thus in Figure 13, there is shown an arrangement in which a single front piece 50 is provided having the desired contours, either as a flat piece cut-out with the outline of a front elevation, or as a pressed article in relief, and a spring 51 of a "rat trap" type employed, in which the two spring arms 52 are formed as one U-shaped member the bight portion of which is rectilinear so as to press against the flat back side of the piece 50, the upper ends of the arms terminating in helices the extremities of which are suitably connected to the piece 50. In this instance also, the arms 52 are given a suitable form to assist in shaping the garment to be displayed. The piece 50 will extend only into the waist of a garment in the particular device illustrated, but may have a skirt-shaping portion added if desired.

In Figure 14 the front and back pieces 53—54 are indicated as die-cut or stamped integrally both in one piece, from sheet material, joined only at their upper ends and folded there into opposed relation and this may be used as in Figure 15, as a shipping form for dresses or jackets, and for subsequent display on rack with small expense. The spring devices may be omitted or included in these devices according to the expense warranted. This last mentioned device is shown as suitable for blouses, sweaters, jackets, or the waist portions of dresses, but may be amplified as required for more extended shaping.

In Figure 16, the clamping spring 55 is shown as attached at the lower part of the neck recess 56 in the upper end of a flat piece 57, which may correspond to the front piece or the back piece before described, but the device in this instance may comprise only the front piece, and the back piece omitted, if desired, the goods being held by the spring arms pressing against the one flat piece shown.

Figures 17, 18 and 19 illustrate a moulded piece 58, resembling the bas-relief of the bust of a person as viewed from the front, flat in the back, and having attached to the upper back surface, respective ends of a U-shaped wire spring 59, the lower parts of which are arranged to lie flat against the flat surface of the bust piece 58 adjacent the waist portion of the latter, and under tension to clamp goods inserted between the spring and piece 58. In this case the piece 58 may be mounted on a stand 60 of conventional form.

By making the form pieces 21 and 22 of moderately flexible sheet material, when a display is made as in Figure 11, the lower part may be readily bent so as to curve gradually forward and the lower part of the garment and form may lie flat upon the floor. If desired the skirt portion may be more flexible than the upper or bust portion. And the device may be made with a molded bas-relief upper part and a flat sheet-like and completely flexible lower part, these being within the intent of the invention.

The length of the spring arms 44' and corresponding parts of the various forms of the article shown, may be varied as the requirements of use dictate.

We claim:

1. A garment former of the character described comprising two flat form pieces of flexible material having an upper dress portion and a lower skirt portion with intermediate waist portion, longitudinal channel pieces secured upon the inner side of the dress portion of each piece, and adjacent each side, and a respective spring member at each side of the form having bowed arms engaged with the channel pieces of both form pieces and engaging the front piece slidably, said spring having a loop portion extended upwardly, fastenings engaging the upper extremities of the form pieces and interposed loop portion of the spring, and support means engaged therewith.

2. A dress form device consisting of two flat members having a general contour simulating the ideal form for a garment as worn, and having a width corresponding to that of the width of the garmented figure of a person wearing the garment, means to press the two members yieldingly together whereby side portions of the garment may be inserted and held yieldingly therebetween, means to support the form, said flat members being flexible sheet material having longitudinal flexible channels on their inner edges adjacent the upper part, and said means to press the two members together consisting of spring elements having contractile arms engaged within respective channels, whereby to press the flat members together at their lower parts.

3. The structure of claim 2, in which the arms of said spring device engaged with the front piece at least, being bowed outwardly, whereby to give a fullness at the breast portion of the piece.

4. The structure of claim 2, in which said support means includes a garment shoulder supporting and shaping member, a main tape element extensibly engaged with the form at the medial longitudinal axis of the form, and said tape element having branched upper portions slidably engaged over the shoulder shaping portion and extended downwardly to the dress form and secured thereto, whereby the height of the form may be adjusted with respect to said shoulder shaping portions.

5. The structure of claim 2, in which said support means includes a shoulder shaping garment hanger, a strap having a main portion attached for longitudinal adjustment to a part of the garment form, and having upwardly branched ends extended slidably over said hanger and downwardly and attached to the garment form, for the purposes described.

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