Nov. 28, 1950 J. J. MARTINI 2,531,857

DRESS FORM

Filed Nov. 27, 1948

FIG. 1

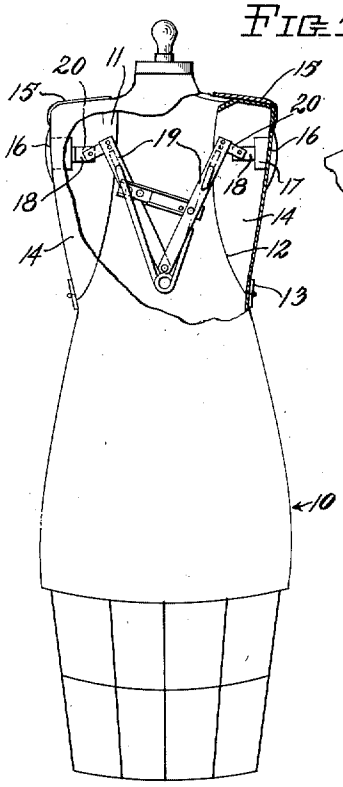


FIG. 2

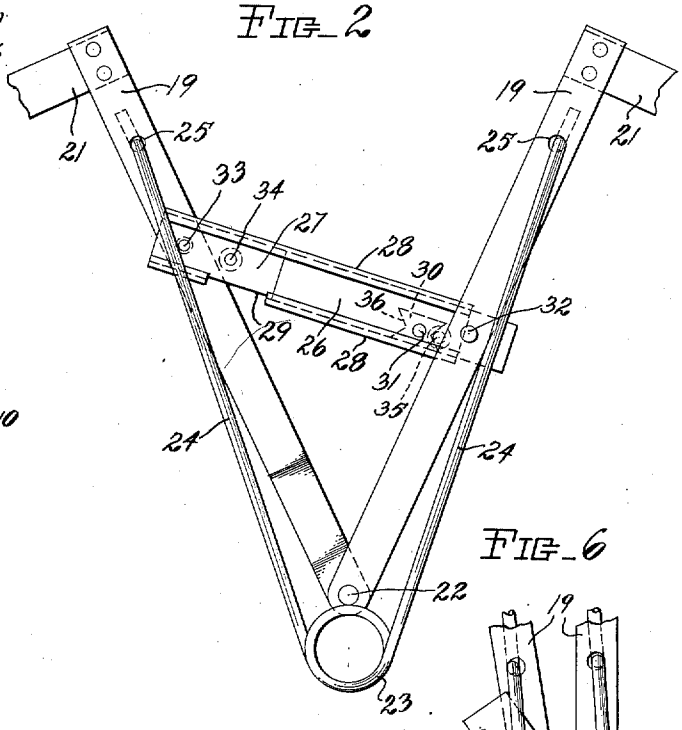


FIG. 6

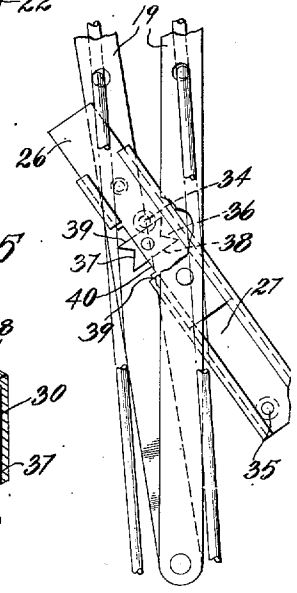
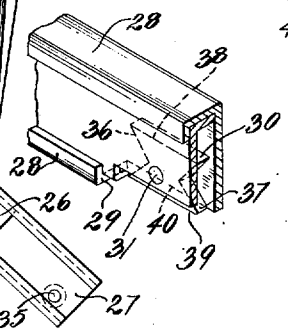


FIG. 5



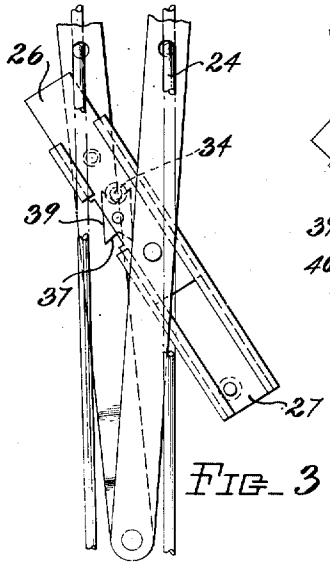


FIG. 3

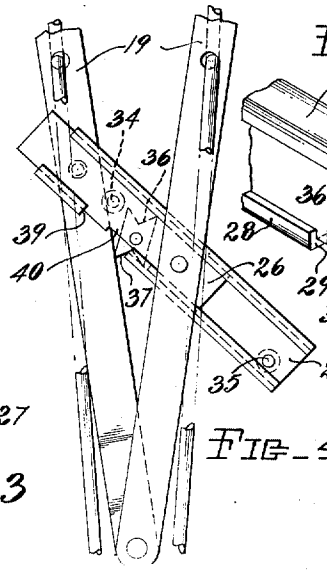


FIG. 4

INVENTOR.
JOSEPH J. MARTINI

BY

ATTORNEY

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DRESS FORM

Joseph J. Martini, New Dorp, N. Y.

Application November 27, 1948, Serial No. 62,340

8 Claims. (Cl. 223—68)

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This invention relates to dress forms, and in particular to the collapsible shoulder structure thereof.

In model forms over which dresses are fitted, the shoulder portions of a form are wider than the waist section of the form, and some provision must be made for drawing the fitted garment over the shoulders in placing it over or removing it from the form. To this end the shoulder sections are hinged and can be swung inwardly of the body of the form to decrease the width of the latter in its upper end, and various means have been used for holding said sections inwardly that require release means to be manually operated that are complicated, get out of working order, and are expensive to incorporate in a model form.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a latching mechanism that is simple to make; is fool-proof in operation; requires no auxiliary operating means; uses the same motion to collapse the shoulder portions of the form as to release them to open position and one which is simple of construction, provides a novel alternately operating action and can be incorporated in the dress form at minimum expense.

With these and other objects in view, the invention comprises certain constructions hereinafter described and then particularly pointed out in the claims, and a preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of a garment form broken away in part to disclose the application of the invention to the shoulder portions thereof;

Figure 2 is a front view of the mechanism used in collapsing and expanding the shoulder sections of the form, the device being shown in its spread or expanded position;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view of the mechanism shown in its fully compressed or contracted position;

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 showing the mechanism in its arrested position for holding the shoulder pieces of the form retracted;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary view in perspective showing the interfitting relation of the slides and the dog associated therewith; and

Figure 6 is a view of the mechanism in the secondary compressed position for releasing the dog so that the mechanism can assume the expanded position shown in Figure 2.

Referring to the drawing in detail, 10 indicates a standard dress form having a hollow body

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presenting an upper shoulder portion 11 in the openings 12 of which are hinged as at 13 the swingable shoulder pieces 14. The latter are limited in their outward movement by retaining strips 15 secured at the ends beneath shoulder plates 16 which are secured to blocks 17 in any suitable manner. The blocks 17 are provided with brackets 18 to which the upper ends of arms 19 are pivoted as at 20 through connecting pieces 21.

The arms 19 are pivoted to each other at their lower ends as at 22 and constitute a suspension element whose lower pivot point 22 stays at the center of the form when the arms 19 are moved toward and away from each other to respectively withdraw and project the shoulder pieces 14 to which said arms are pivoted. The arms 19 are normally and yieldably held in expanded position as shown in Figure 2 by a coil spring 23 whose arms 24 engage an opening 25 in each arm 19. The extent of opening or expanded movement of the arms is controlled by a slide 26 having flanged upper and lower edges and a slide channel 27, one of whose turned edges 28 is interrupted as at 29 to form a drop opening for a dog 30 disposed between the channel and the slide and pivoted to the latter as at 31. The flanged lower edge of the slide is also cut out as at 40.

The slide is pivoted as at 32 to one arm 19 and the channel member 27 is pivoted as at 33 to the other arm, and the channel 27 has fixed therein spaced dog stops 34 and 35. The dog 30 is a short piece of metal shaped to provide end notches 36 and 37 and parallel sides 38 and 39. The dog is pivoted in register with the slide opening 40 so that when the latter is aligned with the cut-out 29 of the channel member 27 the dog can swing about its pivot so that one end thereof falls into the aligned openings 29 and 40.

In the fully open position of the shoulder pieces, the retract member as illustrated in Figure 2 is expanded or opened to its limit position under influence of the spring as defined by contact of the notched end 37 of the dog 30 with the stop pin 35. When the shoulder pieces are pushed inwardly by manual pressure at opposite sides of the form, the retractor takes the form shown in Figure 3, the slide and channel telescoping until the openings 29 and 40 thereof are in register so that the dog may swing down into the opening when the notched end 36 thereof engages the limit pin 34. The notches present tapering edges which constitute camming means so that as the upper edge of notch 36 reaches the

pin 34, the latter will engage the upper edge of the notch to turn the dog to the position shown. Release of manual pressure on the shoulder pieces to allow the parts to assume the Figure 4 position will result in the notch 37 of the dog engaging the edge of the opening 29 to arrest further opening movement of the slide. The shoulder pieces are thus held in retracted position so that a garment can be placed over or removed from the form.

After the garment is in place, the shoulder portions are then pressed inwardly to position the retractor arms as shown in Figure 6 and so that the tilted dog 38 will have its straight edge 39 engaged by the pin 34, which will cause the dog to swing to a position in and at substantially right angles to the length of the openings 29 and 40. When the pressure is released on the shoulder pieces, the slide and channel will have relative movement and the notch 37 of the dog, in retractile movement with the slide, will engage the pin 35 to arrest the opening movement of the retractor and hold the shoulder portions of the form in open or extended position as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

It is to be understood that the arms 19 can be so shaped at their upper ends that they can be directly pivoted to the brackets 18 instead of through the extension pieces 21 and that any suitable form of spring means may be used. It is to be also understood that the means for moving the slide and channel members need not be arms or means of the character shown since the essence of the invention resides in the slide and channel members, their associated parts and mode of operation.

My invention is not to be restricted to the precise details of construction shown since various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention or sacrificing the advantages to be derived from its use.

What I claim is:

1. In a dress form having inwardly movable shoulder portions for reducing the width of the form in the upper portion thereof; retract means connected to said shoulder portions and movable toward and away from each other, a plurality of relatively movable slide means actuated by the movement of said retract means, detent means mounted on one of said slide means for engagement with the other slide means and means associated with the other slide means for controlling the movement of said detent means and limiting the operation of said retract means.

2. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 1 in which the retract means includes arms associated with the shoulder portions and adapted to move therewith and a spring for yieldably resisting movement of the arms toward each other.

3. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 1 in which said detent means includes a dog pivotally mounted on one of said slidable means and movable to engage the other slidable means.

4. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 1 in which the detent means includes a dog pivotally mounted on one of the slide means and a limit stop on the other slide means with which the dog engages to limit the relative movement of the slidable means in one direction.

5. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 1 in which the detent means includes a dog mounted on one of the slide means and limit stops on the other slide means with which the dog engages to limit the relative movement of the slidable means in opposite directions.

6. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 1 in which said limiting means comprises a cut-out portion in one of the slidable means with which the detent means coacts.

7. In a dress form having inwardly movable members for reducing the width of the shoulder portion of the form, retract arms pivoted to said members and to each other for relative opening and closing movement, telescoping means associated with said arms and having openings for register at one stage of telescoping relation, a dog pivotally associated with one of said telescoping means for movement into said openings and for engagement with the other of said means for holding said arms in a closed position and pin means for controlling the pivotal movement of said dog.

8. In a dress form of the character set forth in claim 7 in which the dog is shaped to provide end notches for the reception of said pin means and the edges of said notches constituting a cam means for pivotally adjusting the position of said dog.

JOSEPH J. MARTINI.

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