Oct. 12, 1943. B. Z. STRONG 2,331,853

LADY'S GARMENT

Filed March 6, 1942

Fig. 1

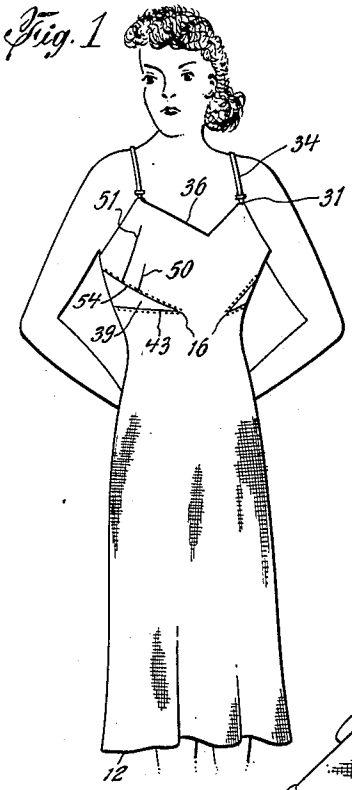


Fig. 2

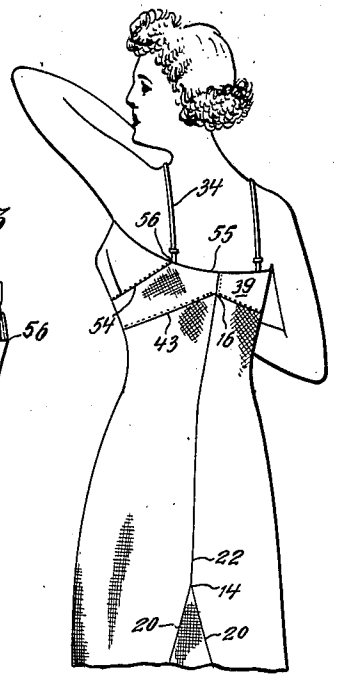
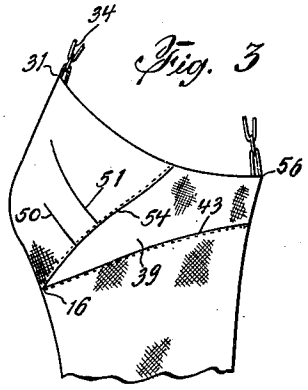


Fig. 3



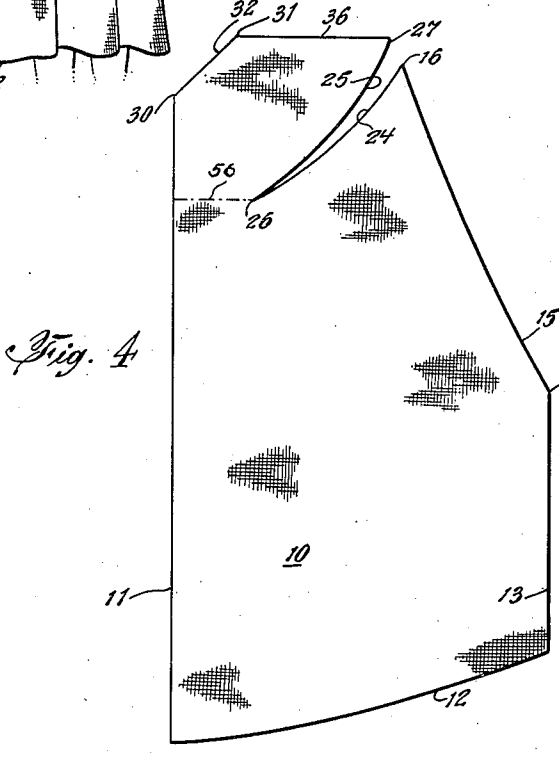


Fig. 4

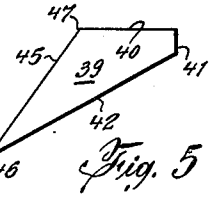


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

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Patented Oct. 12, 1943

2,331,853

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,331,853

LADY'S GARMENT

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Application March 6, 1942, Serial No. 433,573

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—73)

This invention relates to an improved lady's body garment, and relates more particularly, though not exclusively, to a novel undergarment or slip.

Body garments of this general character, and including integrally formed or attached waist and skirt portions, may be classified in three types. The first type is the bias cut garment which, because of its positioning of the several blanks of the garment relative to the weave of the material, gives a considerable amount of lateral stretch as it passes over the shoulders of the wearer while being placed on the body. When the wearer sits down the middle portion of the body expands, and the bias cut garment again accommodates itself to this circumferential expansion at the expense, however, of the length of the garment. This shortening of the garment causes it to ride up over the knees of the wearer and is very objectionable.

The second type of garment is formed on the straight of the material and does not ride up over the knees of the wearer, nor does it have any circumferential expansion. Accordingly, such a garment cannot be a snug fitting one, since it must be large enough to pass over the shoulders of the wearer, and in a lady of approved figure the shoulder measurement normally exceeds the waist measurement, so the result is an ill fitting garment.

The third type includes garments having elastic inserts in the side or back, or a vertical opening normally held closed by a slide fastener or button arrangement. Despite the bulges produced by such fastener elements, and other objectionable features, the garment nevertheless does fit the body, particularly at the middle round, and the wearer can get the garment over her shoulders without breaking the seams open.

The reason why practically all garments, except those of the first and third type, in most cases have a sloppy fit, is because at some point between the waist and the upper end of the garment a non-elastic circumferential line or "hoop" is formed, and if the garment is to eventually get onto the body of the wearer it must be made large enough through this "hoop" section to get over the wearer's shoulders, which normally means a sloppy fitting garment through the waist section.

The principal object of the present invention is the provision of an extremely novel garment, the front of which is formed on the straight of the material, thus preventing any "riding up" when the wearer sits; the back, and particularly the waist section, is given a distinct bias effect without employing unimaginative bias panels, the garment being so formed as to eliminate this non-stretchable area or "hoop" almost as completely as it is eliminated in the complete bias garment, without, however, possessing any of the numerous objections to such garments.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a body garment formed essentially on the straight of the material and with a bias waist-encircling section, wherein such waist-encircling section may be formed two and three inches smaller in circumference than in a corresponding straight-cut garment not formed with a side or back opening.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the garment on the body of the wearer.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation thereof.

Fig. 3 is a broken side elevation of the garment showing the bust and waist-encircling portions.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of one-half of the blank or pattern used in forming the main portion of the garment.

Fig. 5 is a plan view or pattern of a blank which is inserted in the waist-encircling portion on each side of the garment.

Fig. 6 is a plan view of a folded blank or pattern which may be inserted at the center of the lower rear skirt portion of the garment depending upon the size of the particular garment.

A lady's slip is chosen for illustration of the invention in the drawing, although it will be apparent that the invention may be embodied in a nightgown, dress, or other body garment having waist and skirt portions.

Fig. 4 shows the blank or pattern forming the main body portion of the garment and is designated by the reference numeral 10. This blank may be formed from a substantially square piece of material folded along the line 11, which line constitutes the front median line of the garment. Thus, the blank includes two integrally formed portions of substantially the shape shown in Fig. 4. The lower edge 12 of the blank may be straight or convexly curved, as desired, and forms the lower edge of the garment. The blank thus includes opposed vertical edges 13 which are substantially parallel with the front median line 11.

Beginning at the point 14 the blank is cut along a straight or slightly curved line 15, such line terminating at, or adjacent to, the point 16. In case the material employed is of greater than standard width, it is usually necessary to insert a small triangular godet or panel 17 in the center of the

lower rear skirt portion of the garment. This godet may be formed of two pieces of the shape shown in Fig. 6, although it may also be formed from a single piece of double the size of the blank shown at 17 and folded along the line 18.

The edges 19 are joined to the edges 13 of the main blank forming stitch lines 20. Edges 15 are further joined together to form a single vertical seam 22 extending over the rear center vertical line of the garment from the point 14 to the point 16. In the event that wider material is used, or in the event that a relatively small sized garment is being constructed, the godet 17 may be eliminated completely, and the slightly curved line 15 extend from the point 16 downwardly to the lower edge 12 of the garment.

A cut-out portion defined by lower edge 24 and upper edge 25 is now formed in the upper portion of the blank, the lower edge 24 extending from point 16 to point 26 which is located on either side of the garment just below the bust-encircling portion. Upper edge 25 extends from point 26 upwardly to point 27. The amount of material removed from the blank between lines 24 and 25 is dependent upon the size and shape of the garment, and in many instances the blank is merely cut and no material will be removed. Also, the invention is not limited to a concavely curved lower line 24 and a convexly curved upper line 25, since in some cases, depending upon size of garment and figure to be fitted, the configuration of these lines will be reversed, or both may be made generally convex or concave, or even substantially straight.

If a V shaped neck portion is wanted, a substantially triangular portion is removed from the garment between points 30 and 31 along line 32. A shoulder strap 34 is secured to each point 31 at the front of the garment, and thus the upper edge of the garment between point 31 and point 27 is defined by edge 36, which in the blank may be straight, as shown in Fig. 4, although it may also be curved.

The blank 39 illustrated in Fig. 5, which is inserted between curved edges 24 and 25, is somewhat irregularly shaped and is preferably formed with an upper edge 40 forming a continuation of upper edge 36 at the rear of the garment, and a vertical edge 41 in alignment with stitch line 22 at the rear of the garment. It is further formed with a diagonally inclined, straight or substantially straight edge 42, which is joined in end to end relationship with lower curved edge 24 on the main blank forming stitch line 43, and a fourth diagonal edge 45, which is somewhat shorter than upper curved edge 25, on the main blank.

The intersection of edges 42 and 45 is designated by the reference numeral 46, and the intersection of edges 40 and 45 is designated by the reference numeral 47. Before curved edge 25 is joined to edge 45 a plurality of conventional tucks 50 and 51 are formed in the bust-encircling portion between edges 26 and 27. In the preferred embodiment the tuck 51, positioned to the rear of tuck 50, is somewhat longer than tuck 50. Edge 45 of blank 39 is now stitched to the shortened edge 25 of the main blank forming stitch line 54. The upper edge of the garment from point 31 and designated as 55 extends through the under-arm section to the rear of the garment, and shoulder straps 34 are secured to such upper edge as at 56.

It will be noted from an examination of Fig. 4 that the entire front center portion of the garment lies substantially on the straight of the material, since front median line 11 is on the straight of the material. When edge 24 of the blank is dropped, as by the insertion of blank 39, the material below stitch line 43 is on a distinct, though not complete, bias relative to the waist line of the garment. The extent to which line 24 is dropped depends somewhat upon the size of figure to be fitted, but only rarely would this line be dropped sufficiently to be parallel with the waist line of the garment.

The grain line of the material above line 25 is altered only slightly from that shown in the blank by virtue of forming tucks 50 and 51, and in view of the insertion of blank 39, no particular bias in this bust-enclosing portion is required. One grain line of the material in blank 39 is preferably generally parallel with upper edge 40, although if greater elasticity is required this may be varied somewhat. The lower rear skirt portion of the garment is on a distinct bias relative to the rear vertical seam 22, thus giving such skirt portion the desired flexibility.

The blank forming the main body portion of the garment was earlier described herein as being cut from a substantially square piece of material, although it will be appreciated that this blank may be formed in one or more pieces of material. For instance, it will be noted that the distance between points 16 (Fig. 1) at the front waist portion of the garment is relatively short, and in order to save on material the main blank may be formed in two pieces joined by a seam between these two points. The location of such a seam is shown in broken line 56 in Fig. 4. Also, the general structural advantages of the garment will be generally preserved with this change, even as they would be if the main blank were formed from two pieces joined by a seam along line 11 (Fig. 4). Accordingly, when the main body portion of the garment is defined in the appended claims as being formed from a single blank, it will be appreciated that such blank may be a single piece of material or a plurality of pieces joined together, as aforesaid, or in any other convenient manner.

It will be further noted that line 36 (Fig. 4) defining the upper edge of the blank, lies at substantially a right angle to the front median line of the garment. This angle is illustrative only and will vary according to the size of the garment constructed. For instance, if the material is of limited width, and it is not desired to insert a rear panel from the upper to the lower edge of the garment (as a substitute for triangular panel 17), this upper edge will lie at more than a right angle to front median line 11 which causes the garment to accommodate a wearer of larger bust dimensions.

The vertical panel, just mentioned, extending the full length of the garment is not illustrated herein since it is a common expedient in making larger-sized garments with material of limited width. In the appended claims, however, wherever the two opposed vertical edges are defined as being joined together to form a rear vertical seam, it is understood that such edges may be joined to each other by stitching, or may be joined to the opposed edges of a panel of any shape, that is, with non-parallel edges, such as blank 17, or parallel edges, and extending all or any portion of the length of the garment.

The foregoing specific embodiment of the invention just described is illustrative of one garment which may be constructed in accordance with the invention as defined by the appended

claims. It is to be understood, however, that such embodiment is for the purpose of illustration only, and is not to be considered in any limiting sense. Also, many modifications and changes may be made without depriving the garment of its many unusual qualities.

What I claim is:

1. A body garment including skirt and waist portions and formed from a blank of material, the central longitudinal line of which is substantially on the straight of the material and forms the front median line of the garment, the opposed vertical edges of the blank extending from the upper edge thereof, downwardly and outwardly along a bias line, such edges being joined together to form a rear vertical seam, each side of the blank being cut along a diagonal line extending from a point just below the bust-encircling portion to a point adjacent to the upper terminal of the rear vertical seam and forming opposed edges lying on a bias of the material, and a substantially triangular blank joined along two adjacent edges thereof to said opposed edges of each of the diagonal cuts, the point of intersection of said two adjacent edges of each triangular blank being positioned adjacent to the inner end of the diagonal cut.

2. A body garment including skirt and waist portions and formed from a generally rectangular blank of material, the central longitudinal line of which is on the straight of the material and forms the front median line of the garment, the opposed vertical edges of the blank being joined together to form a rear vertical seam, the blank having a cut-out portion on each side thereof extending from a point adjacent to the joinder of the upper edge with the rear vertical edge, downwardly toward the front of the garment, and terminating at a point adjacent to said front median line in the lower bust-encircling portion, the material on each side of said cut-out portions lying on a bias, and a substantially triangular blank inserted within each of such cut-out portions and being secured thereto along its opposed edges, the apex of each substantially-triangular blank being positioned adjacent to the inner terminal of the cut-out portion.

3. A body garment formed with skirt and waist portions and formed from a blank, the central longitudinal line of which is on the straight of the material and forms the front median line of the garment, the lower edge of the blank being of greater length than the upper edge and forming the lower edge of the garment, the two remaining edges extending along a generally diagonal line from the upper to the lower edges of the blank and being joined together to form a rear vertical seam, the blank having a generally diagonal cut extending from a point in the lower bust-enclosing portions to a point adjacent to the intersection of the upper and vertical edges at the back of the garment, and a smaller blank on each side of the garment and having two intersecting edges lying at an acute angle to each other, such edges being joined to the edges formed by the diagonal cut, the intersection of the two edges of the smaller blank being positioned adjacent to the inner terminal of the diagonal cut.

4. A body garment formed from a blank of material, the central longitudinal line of which is substantially on the straight of the material and forms the front median line of the garment, the opposed vertical edges of the blank extending from the upper edge thereof, downwardly and outwardly on a bias relative to the grain line of the material, such edges being joined together to form a single rear vertical seam, each side of the blank being cut along a diagonal line extending from a point just below the bust-encircling portion, adjacent to said front median line, to a point adjacent to the upper terminal of the rear vertical seam and forming opposed edges lying on a bias relative to the grain line of the material, the upper edge thereof being gathered to make such edge of lesser length than the lower edge, and a smaller blank formed with two intersecting edges lying at an acute angle to each other being secured along such edges to the opposed edges formed by the diagonal cut, the point of intersection of such two edges lying adjacent to the inner end of the diagonal cut.

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