

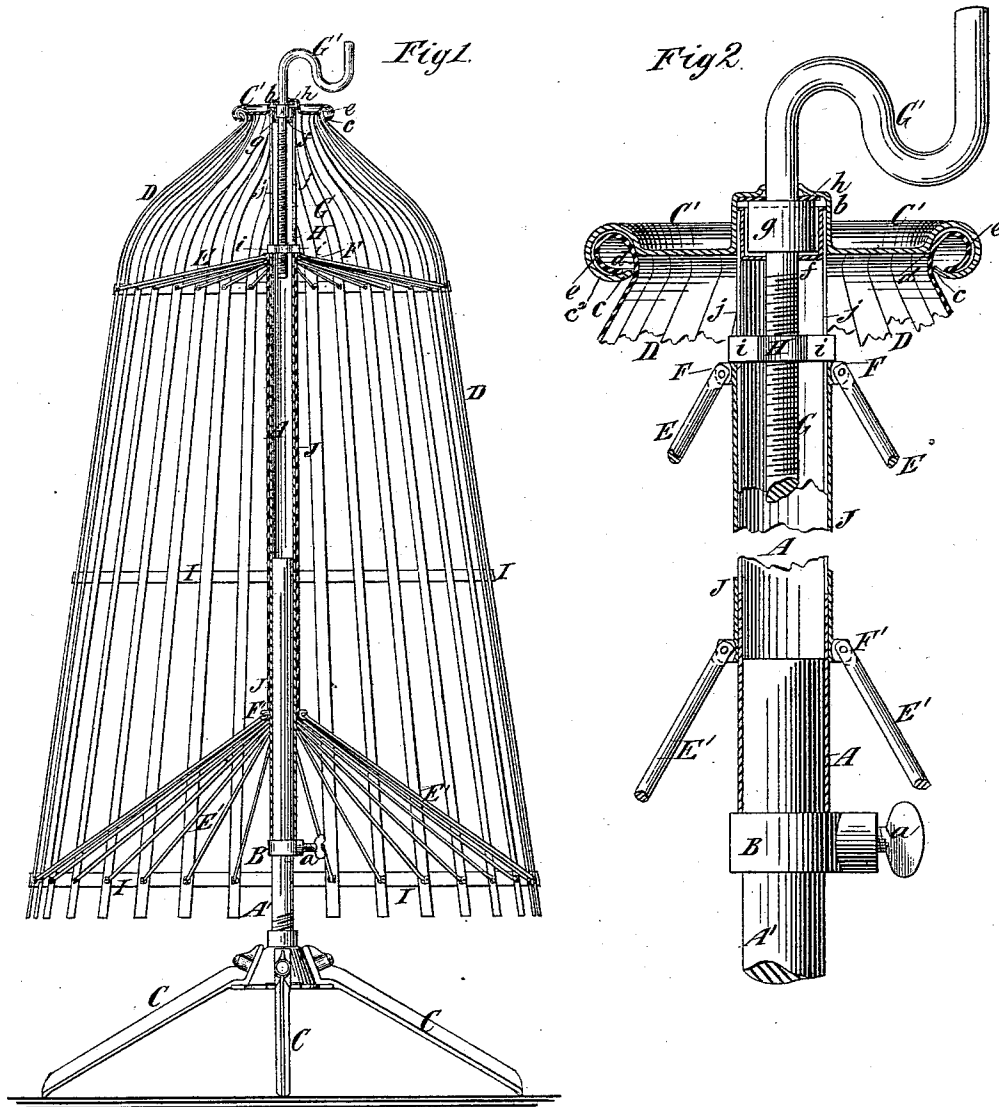
(No Model.)

J. D. RICHARDSON & F. L. MANCHESTER.

DRESS FORM.

No. 277,344.

Patented May 8, 1883.



Witnesses:  
J. H. Wagner  
Ed. L. Moran

Inventors,  
John D. Richardson  
Francis L. Manchester  
By their Attorneys  
R. W. Brown

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN D. RICHARDSON AND FRANCIS L. MANCHESTER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## DRESS-FORM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,344, dated May 8, 1883.

Application filed March 13, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN D. RICHARDSON and FRANCIS L. MANCHESTER, both of the city of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Dress-Forms, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to a dress-form of the kind shown and described in our Letters Patent No. 266,892, dated October 31, 1882, and upon which dresses or dress-skirts may be draped while being made or after washing, and which may be contracted when not desired for use, so as to be conveniently packed in a trunk or occupy but little space wherever it may be placed.

This dress-form comprises a column or post, a circular series of flexible and elastic ribs, a cap or head wherein the upper ends of the ribs are secured, and one or more series of stretchers, whereby the ribs may be expanded or distended to give form to the device.

Our present invention consists in a novel combination of devices for expanding the form or distending the ribs, and in a novel mode of securing the flexible and elastic ribs in the cap or head, which features are hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a central vertical section of a dress-form embodying our invention, showing the same expanded for use; and Fig. 2 is a similar section of portions thereof on a larger scale.

Similar letters of reference designate corresponding parts in both figures.

A A' designate a post or column, which consists, as here shown, of a tubular portion, A, and an inner tube or rod, A', over which the portion A is placed. Upon the portion A' is a collar, B, which may be secured in different vertical positions by means of the set-screw *a*, or otherwise, and the tubular portion A rests upon this collar. Therefore by varying the position of the collar the form may be raised or lowered and held in any desired position. The part A' has legs or feet C, which form a tripod, and whereby it is afforded a stable support. This tripod is not here claimed, but forms the subject of a separate application for Letters Patent filed March 13, 1883, and of which the serial number is 87,982.

C' designates a cap or head, which is here shown as made of sheet metal, spun, stamped, or otherwise formed. It has a central socket, *b*, into which the upper end of the tube A enters, and wherein it is securely fixed by solder or otherwise; and it also has a hollow circumferential rim or bead, C<sup>2</sup>, formed by turning its edge inward and upward, as best shown. The edge *c* is not turned up sufficiently to touch the adjacent part of the cap or head, but between them is a narrow annular slit or opening, *d*, in the rim C<sup>2</sup>, one side of which is formed by the edge *c*.

D designates flexible and elastic ribs, preferably made of steel, and secured at their upper ends to the cap or head C'. The upper end of each rib is turned outward or bent, so as to form a hook or open eye, *e*. To engage the hook *e* with the rim C<sup>2</sup>, the rib is raised to a vertical position or inverted, and the point of the hook *e* is introduced into the opening *d*. The rib is then brought downward into the position shown, and the hook or eye *e* is turned entirely into the hollow rim C<sup>2</sup>. When once the hooks *e* are engaged with the rim *c* they cannot become accidentally displaced. The ribs D form a circular series.

E designates a series of stretchers similar to those of an umbrella, which are connected at their outer ends with the ribs D and at their inner ends with a runner, F, fitted to the tube A.

G designates a screw extending longitudinally in the tube A, and provided above the cap or head C' with a handle, G', whereby it may be turned. In the upper end of the tube A is inserted and secured a socket or cup-shaped washer, *f*, and upon the screw G is a fixed collar, *g*, fitting in such cup-shaped washer. The upper face of the collar *g* bears against a loose washer, *h*, placed in the socket *b*, and its lower face bears against the cup-shaped washer *f*. The screw is thereby held against longitudinal movement; but the same result might be accomplished in other ways, if desired.

H designates a nut in the tube A, and which is held against turning by lugs or ears *i*, projecting from it through slots *j* in opposite sides of the tube A. This nut bears with its prongs or lugs *i* upon the runner F.

The ribs D, when distended, are confined and kept in circular shape by one or more flexible

hands, I, to which they are secured at equal distances apart, and, although these bands might be sufficient, we prefer to employ a second series of stretchers, E', attached at their outer ends to the ribs D and at their inner ends to a runner, F', fitting the tube A. The runners F F' will then be connected by a tube, J, fitting outside the tube A, and the runners always move together.

As before stated, the prongs or lugs *i* of the nut H rest upon the runner F, and the screw G is held against longitudinal movement. Consequently when the screw G is turned toward the left the nut H will be forced down, and, acting on the runner F and through the tube J upon the runner F', it will spread the stretchers and move them toward a horizontal position. The ribs will thereby be distended and the form expanded, as shown in Fig. 1, so as to adapt it for use.

By means of the screw and nut the form may be expanded to just the degree desired, and it is expanded so gradually that but little strength is required, and it may therefore be readily done by a lady.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a dress-form, the combination of a tubular post or column, a cap or head secured thereto, a series of elastic ribs secured in said cap or head, a series of stretchers and a runner fitting the said tube, a nut contained in said tube and adapted to act on the said runner, and a screw held against longitudinal

movement in said tube, fitting said nut and serving as a means of expanding the form, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the tube A, provided with slots *j*, the cap or head C', the ribs D, the stretchers and runner E F, the screw G, and a nut, H, provided with prongs or lugs *i*, working in said slots *j* and bearing on said runner, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the tube A, the cap or head C', the ribs D, the stretchers E E', the runners F F', and the tube J connecting them, the screw G, and the nut H, acting on said runner F, all substantially as described.

4. The combination of the cap or head C', having the socket *b*, the tube A, fitting thereon, the cup-shaped washer *f*, the screw G, provided with the fixed collar *g*, the ribs D, stretchers and a runner or runners for expanding the form, and the nut H, fitting said screw and acting on the said runner or runners, substantially as described.

5. In a dress-form, the combination, with the cap or head C', having the inwardly-turned rim *c*, of the ribs D, having their ends formed with hooks *e*, engaging with said rim, and devices for distending said ribs to expand the form, substantially as described.

J. D. RICHARDSON.  
F. L. MANCHESTER.

Witnesses:

FREDK. HAYNES,  
CHANDLER HALL.