April 24, 1945. A. LA FRANCE 2,374,440

GARMENT

Filed July 14, 1942

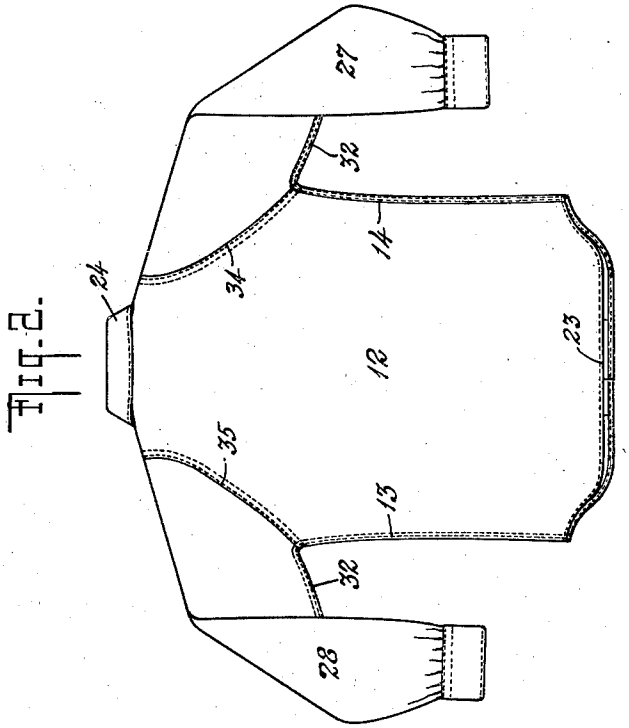



Fig. 2.

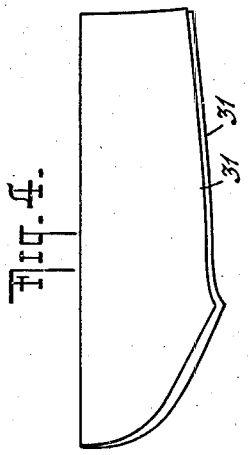



Fig. 4.

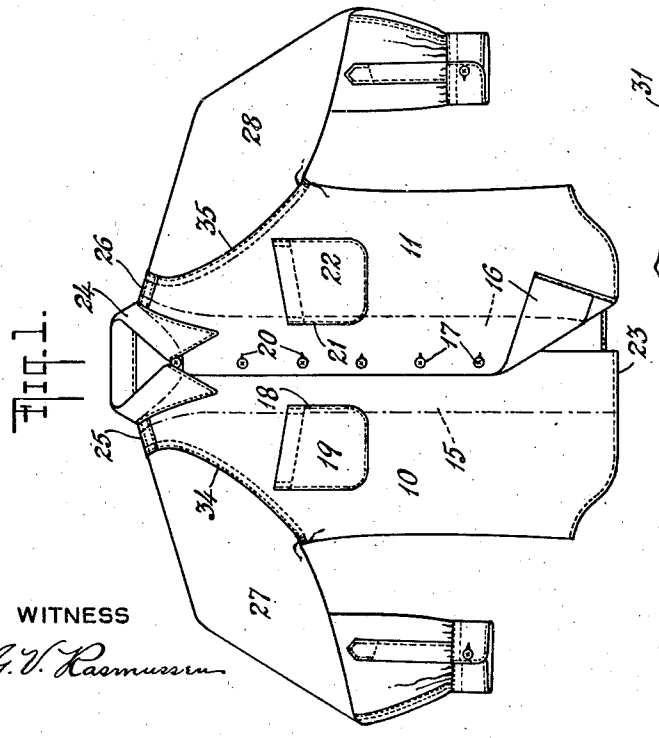



Fig. 1.

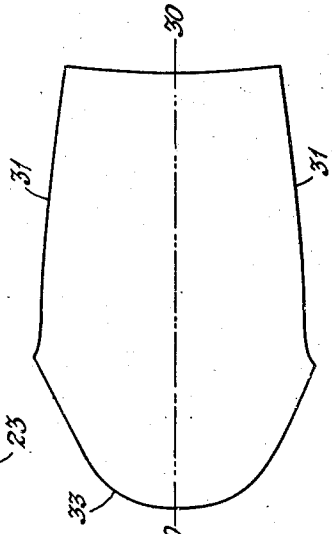



Fig. 3.

WITNESS

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,374,440

## GARMENT

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Application July 14, 1942, Serial No. 450,846

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—115)

This invention relates to garments, and its object is to provide an improved sleeve construction for garments which will give added comfort to the wearer, and at the same time have an attractive and pleasing appearance.

The sleeve construction of this invention is disclosed in connection with a man's shirt which is usually made with shoulder seams which extend out to the extremities of the wearer's shoulders, and side seams which extend from the armpits of the wearer to the bottom of the shirt. The sleeves of the shirt are usually connected to the body of the shirt by circular, substantially vertically disposed seams, which are connected to the outer ends of the shoulder seams and to the upper ends of the side seams. There is thus provided at the extremities of the shoulders a framework of inelastic seams, which limit to an appreciable degree the freedom of movement of the wearer's arms, and which bind the wearer and place the shirt material under great strain in the regions of the shoulders if the wearer stretches his arms more than is usual. Thus, while the usual man's shirt is quite satisfactory as a dress shirt, it restricts his comfort and freedom of movement on the many informal occasions when such freedom is desired.

In a shirt constructed according to this invention, the disadvantages above pointed out are overcome by providing a novel form of shoulder construction which permits the arms of the wearer to move freely and unrestrained in every possible direction without the interference and binding effects which are normally encountered in shirts heretofore made. For a better understanding of this sleeve and shoulder construction, as well as the other advantages and features of the garment of this invention, reference is made to the following description and to the accompanying drawing in which Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a shirt embodying the invention, Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the garment shown in Figure 1, Figure 3 is a plane view of one of the sleeve panels, and Figure 4 is a top view showing the sleeve panel folded along its longitudinal, central line.

In the drawing, the reference numerals 10 and 11 indicate the right and left panels, respectively, which constitute the front of the shirt. The outer side edges of the panels 10 and 11 are joined to the side edges of the back panel 12 by side seams 13 and 14, which extend from the armpits of the shirt to the bottom of the garment. The inner sides of the panels 10 and 11 are folded to provide relatively wide lining sections 15 and 16, respectively, which are disconnected from the panels from which they are formed, except at the places now to be explained. The lining section 15 is connected to the right panel 10 along its length by the threads which connect the buttons 17 to such panel and lining section 15, and the left-hand vertical portion of the line of stitches 18 which secures the pocket 19 to panel 10, the upper end of such portion of the line of stitches forming a rectangle at the upper side portion of the pocket 19. In a similar manner the lining section 16 is connected to the left panel 11 along its length by the threads which form the buttonhole 20 and the right-hand vertical portion of the line of stitches 21 which secures the pocket 22 to the left panel 11, the upper end of such portion of the line of stitches also forming a rectangle on the upper ends of the pocket. The inner longitudinal edges of both lining sections 15 and 16 are selvaged and disconnected from their associated panels. The bottom edges of the lining sections 15 and 16 are connected to the panels 10 and 11, respectively, by the hem 23 which finishes the bottom of the shirt. The upper ends of the lining sections 15 and 16 are concavely cut to conform to the curvature of the front portions of the lower edge of the collar 24 and to form at the upper ends of such lining sections, portions which are gradually reduced in width until their width is about one-third the length of the shoulder seams 25 and 26. These portions, together with the associated edge portions of the panels 10 and 11, are connected to the associated lower edge portions of the collar 24 along the concave cuts, and at their reduced upper ends such portions are connected to the shoulder seams 25 and 26. Thus the relatively wide lining sections 15 and 16 are connected at their upper ends to the panels 10 and 11, respectively, by shoulder seams 25 and 26, respectively, and the lines of stitches which connect the collar 24 to such panels.

The upper ends of the front panels 10 and 11 and the lining sections 15 and 16 are connected also to the back panel 12 by the shoulder seams 25 and 26, respectively, the back panel 12 being connected to the collar 24 intermediate such seams in the usual fashion. The upper ends of the panels 10, 11, and 12 are so formed and constructed that the shoulder seams 25 and 26 extend outwardly from the line of attachment of the collar with the body of the shirt to points just short of the outer ends of the wearer's collar bones. The upper side portions of the

panels 10, 11, and 12 are cut out with shallow concave cuts which extend from points just short of the outer ends of the wearer's collar bones, diagonally across the body of the shirt to points beneath the armpits of the garment. Connected to these cut-out portions of the panels 10, 11, and 12 are the sleeve panels 27 and 28.

As is shown more clearly in Figure 3 of the drawing, each sleeve panel is composed of a flat blank which is folded along the longitudinal central line 30—30 (see Fig. 4) to form the top central line of the sleeve. The sides 31, 31 of the sleeve blank are sewn together to give the sleeve a substantially tubular form, and to form the underseam 32 of the sleeve. It will be noted that the sides 31, 31 of the sleeve diverge outwardly toward the top of the blank and are cut so that they are slightly convex for substantially their entire lengths, and at their upper ends flare outwardly in a concave curve to provide at the upper ends of such sides the greatest cross dimension of the sleeve panel. The top edge 33 of the sleeve panel is convexed in shape, such upper edge being composed of two substantially straight side portions extending in converging relation from their points of connection with the flared ends of the side edges 31, 31 of the panel and a central portion having a flat convex shape. The sleeves 27 and 28 are united to the panels 10, 11, and 12 by the seams 34 and 35, respectively, which are connected at their upper ends to the shoulder seams 25 and 26, respectively, and at the lower ends to the side seams 14 and 13, respectively, which connect the sides of the front panels 10 and 11 to the rear panel 12.

It will be seen from the foregoing that as a result of the above shoulder construction, the sockets of the wearer's arms or outer ends of his shoulders will be enclosed by the loose sleeve material so that no restraint whatsoever will be exerted upon the wearer's outer shoulder portions in the movements of his arms to any position. The extremely high top edge or cap 33 of the sleeve is so formed that it extends upwardly from the armpits of the wearer in a gradual slope at approximately thirty degrees from the vertical and across the body of the wearer below the places of connection of the wearer's arms to his body. The upper central portion of the cap 33 is somewhat flattened so that in the region of the shoulder it forms a seam portion disposed transversely to the shoulder seam and which properly supports and drapes the body of the shirt on the wearer's body. The shirt shoulder seams 25 and 26 coact also with the sloping seams 34 and 35 to maintain the body of the shirt in position on the wearer even while the wearer is strenuously moving his arms and will, without affecting such arm movements, operate to prevent riding up of the body of the shirt and the consequent bulging or protruding of the shirt above the trousers. The short shoulder construction also has the advantage of permitting maximum movement of the arms without complicating the construction of the garment or requiring any special fittings or precautions in assembling the sleeves and collar of the garment and without affecting or disturbing the collar of the shirt during such movements, the strains set up by such movements with this construction being dissipated before reaching the collar. This construction also provides a garment which so far as appearance is concerned is very attractive and distinctive.

I claim:

A garment composed of a front panel and a back panel joined together along their adjoining side edges to a point under the armpit of the wearer to form a side seam, the upper outer side edges of such panels from the top of the side seam being cut concavely to form a gradually sloping arm opening extending from the wearer's armpit to a point on the wearer's shoulder short of the outer end of the wearer's collar bone, a relatively short shoulder seam extending from the last mentioned point to the collar of the garment and connecting together the upper reduced ends of said panels, and a sleeve panel connected at its upper end to said front and back panels and to said shoulder seam, said sleeve panel, in its flat, blank form, including a body portion having side edges which incline outwardly toward the top of the sleeve and are adapted to be secured together to provide a tubular sleeve construction, and said sleeve panel including a relatively high cap portion at the top of said body portion and having a substantially convexly-shaped outer edge which is somewhat flattened at its top central portion and whose lower ends extend downwardly and outwardly to points positioned from the central longitudinal axis of the sleeve blank a distance greater than the distance of any portion of said side edges from such axis, and are joined to the upper ends of said side edges by short side edges extending toward each other, the said outer edge of said cap portion in the assembled form of such panel on the garment, being connected to said shoulder seam and to the upper ends of said front and back panels by a seam extending from such shoulder seam and diagonally across the body of the wearer below the place of connection of the wearer's arm to his body, to the upper end of said side seam.

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