Oct. 15, 1963 R. D. CUVIN 3,106,717

SEPARABLE MATERNITY GARMENT

Filed July 27, 1961

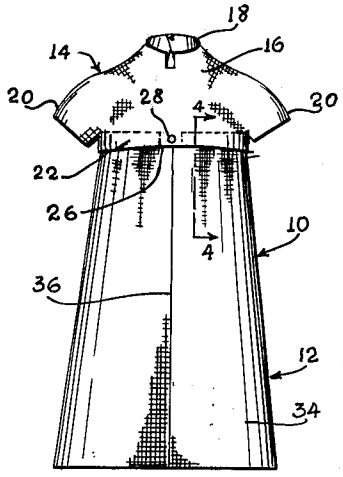


Fig. 1.

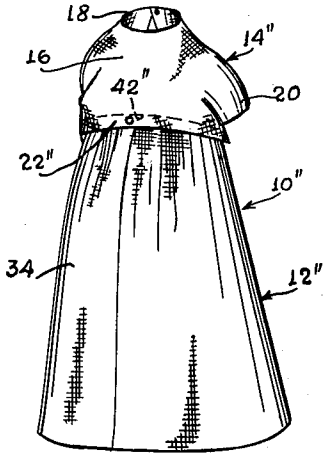


Fig. 6.

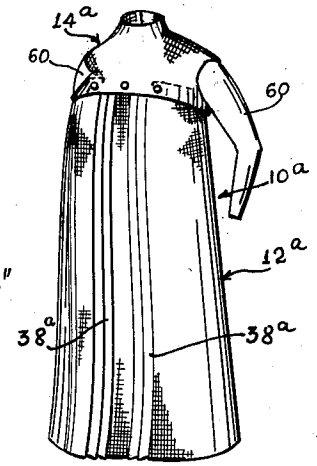


Fig. 7.

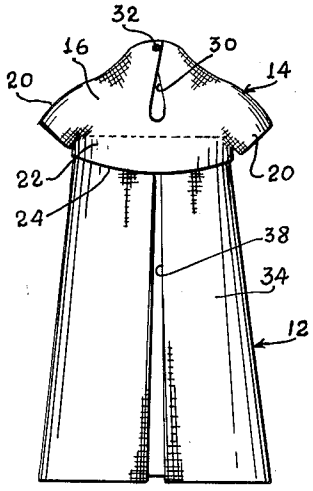


Fig. 2.

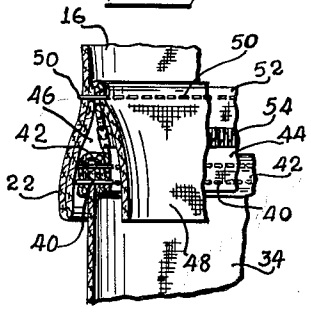


Fig. 4.

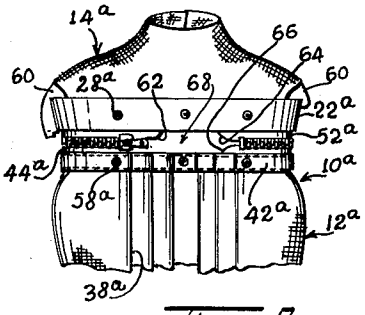


Fig. 8

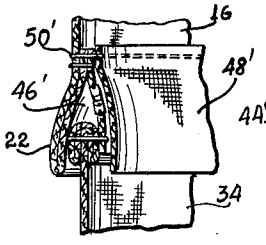


Fig. 5.

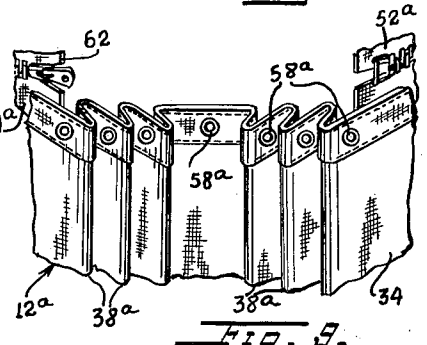


Fig. 9.

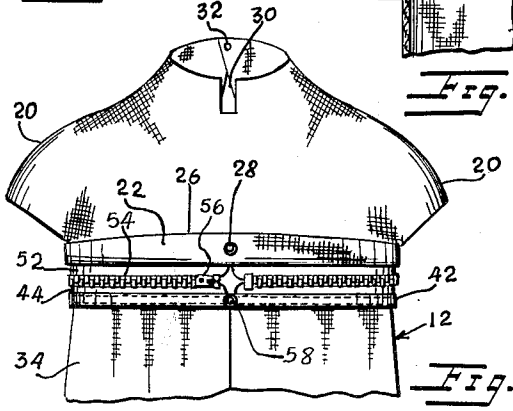


Fig. 3.

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SEPARABLE MATERNITY GARMENT

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This invention relates to female garments and more particularly to new and useful improvements in separable maternity garments.

The invention broadly concerns a female garment that has a blouse or bodice portion or section and a body or skirt portion or section, the garment being provided with ready means for attaching or detaching the portions or sections. The blouse or bodice portion can be readily and interchangeably attached to skirt or body portions of varying lengths and fullnesses such as to skirt portions of maternity dresses, to slacks, shorts or bathing suits.

A principal object of the present invention is to provide a bodice or blouse for the upper part of the female body with means for ready attachment to skirt portions of varying lengths and fullnesses, to trousers and slacks, to body portions of bathing suits, swim suits and the like.

Another object of the invention is to provide a female garment having an upper bodice or blouse section and a lower skirt or slacks section or the like with ready means for attaching and detaching the upper and lower sections.

A further object is to provide a female garment with a bodice or blouse section having a slide fastener at one end thereof, and with a skirt or body sections having a slide fastener at one end thereof adapted to cooperate with the slide fastener on the bodice or blouse section.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a female garment having a bodice or blouse section and a separable skirt or body section, the separation being achieved by a slide fastener device.

A further object of the invention is to provide a maternity dress consisting of a skirt portion and a separable blouse portion wherein the skirt is supported in draped fashion by the bust of the wearer and each portion provided with a series of separable fasteners extending entirely around the bust section of the wearer, with the male fastener on one portion and the female fastener on the other portion.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a garment such as a maternity dress having circular garment sections circularly interconnected by a slide fastener, as in the case of the skirt and blouse, with one of the sections, such as the blouse having an improved circular flap for overlying and concealing the slide fastener and to protect the wearer against chafing contact with the fastener.

Another object is to provide a maternity dress that is cut in a modified pyramid shape that will show limited extension from beginning to end of pregnancy.

Still another object of the invention according to a modification thereof is to provide a combined blouse and skirt wherein the skirt is pleated to adjust the skirt to various sizes of wearer.

For further comprehension of the invention and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of a maternity dress embodying one form of my invention.

FIG. 2 is a rear elevational view thereof.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged front elevational view of the top end of the dress, with a flap turned up to disclose the slide fastener.

FIG. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a view similar to FIG. 4 but showing a modified protective flap.

FIG. 6 is a front perspective view of a maternity dress embodying a modified form of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of a maternity dress embodying a further modified form of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a front elevational view of the top end of the dress of FIG. 7, with a flap turned up to disclose the slide fastener.

FIG. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of the top of the skirt portion of the dress of FIG. 7 shown in spread part condition, parts being omitted.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the inventions is illustrated by way of example in a maternity dress but it will be understood that the top or bodice section or portion of the dress might be used with any other type of garment or dress, or skirt of varying lengths, such as tunic lengths, or such as trousers or slacks, bathing suits and swim suits and the like that are provided with cooperating slide fastener means.

In FIG. 1 a maternity dress of the separable type is shown and is designated by the reference numeral **10**. The dress **10** may be of any desirable style or fabric material and comprises a skirt section or portion **12** and a blouse or bodice section or portion **14**.

The blouse or bodice section or portion **14** consists of a short tubular body **16** with a low neck **18**, at one end, opposed sleeves **20**, **20** and an outer circular flap **22** at its other end. The flap is formed with a slightly convexly curved edge **24** at the rear and a slightly dipped edge **26** at the front. A snap fastener element **28** is secured in the dipped edge **26** of the flap at its center. The neck **18** is slitted at the rear as indicated at **30** and is closed by a button and button hole assembly **32**.

The skirt section or portion **12** comprises an elongated tubular body **34** with a seam **36** extending the length thereof at the front center and with a pleat or fold **38**, extending the length thereof at the rear center. Along its top edge, a strip of fabric is turned upon itself, folded over the top edge and stitched thereto by stitching **40** forming a hem **42**.

The skirt section or portion **12** and the blouse section or portion **14** are detachably connected together by means of a conventional slide fastener connection. This slide fastener connection includes a slide fastener stringer **44** secured by the stitching **40** to the hem **42** of the skirt portion **12** and extending completely around the skirt portion **12**. The outer flap **22** is turned upon itself inwardly and upwardly as indicated at **46** and again folded upon itself downwardly as indicated at **48**, the folds of the flap at the bend therein being stitched to the body **16** of the blouse by a line of stitching **50**, the innermost fold **48** being unattached and constituting an inner flap.

A slide fastener stringer **52** is secured between the inner folds **46** and **48** of the flap by the line of stitching **50** and extends completely around the flap portion of the blouse coextensively with the stringer **44**. The stringers **44** and **52** are provided with conventional interlocking elements **54** which are engaged and disengaged from each other by a slider **56**. The inner fold or flap **48** covers and conceals the slide fastener connection and protects the skin of the wearer from the metal parts of the connection.

Instead of forming an inner flap **48** by folding the material of outer flap **22**, the inner flap **48'** may be separate from the flap portion **46'** and stitched to the flap portion **46'** as shown in FIG. 5, by a line of stitching **50'**.

In the drawing, the blouse and skirt are shown completely attached. The combination garment can be put

on and taken off as a unit without completely disconnecting the slide fastener stringers by simply unmeshing some of the interlocking elements **54**.

When it is desired to separate the blouse **14** from the skirt **12**, it is merely necessary to move the slider **56** along the stringers **44** and **52** to the ends thereof whereby the stringers may be completely separated, and simultaneously the blouse and waist will be completely separated from each other. When it is desired to again attach the blouse **14** to the skirt **12**, this may be readily done by connecting the stringers to each other.

In wearing the maternity dress **10** shown in FIGS. 1 to 4, inclusive, the hem portion **42** of the skirt portion **12** is placed around the center of the bust of the wearer and supported by the bust. When so worn, the skirt portion **12** hangs or drapes loosely downwardly in a straight line from the bust thereby eliminating any contours and presenting a neat and attractive appearance and thereby affording maximum comfort to the wearer. The flap **22** conceals the zipper connection and is adapted to be held in this position by the snap fastener element **28** on the flap engaged over a complementary snap fastener element **58** on the body **34** of the skirt **12** closely spaced from the hem **42**.

The modified form of separable maternity dress **10''** shown in FIG. 6 differs from the form of maternity dress **10** shown in FIG. 1 in that the skirt portion **12''** is shorter and the blouse portion **14''** is correspondingly longer. In wearing the maternity dress **10''**, the hem **42''** of the skirt portion encircles the bust section and is supported on the bust of the wearer.

Referring now to the modified form of separable maternity dress **10a** shown in FIGS. 7 to 9, inclusive, in this dress **10a** the skirt portion **12a** is longer than either the skirt portion **12** or skirt portion **12''**, and the blouse portion **14a** is correspondingly shorter than the blouse portions **14** and **14''**. The blouse portion **14a** is also provided with sleeves **60**. Furthermore, the skirt portion **12a** is formed with a plurality of pleats or folds **38a** at the front of the skirt portion extending the length thereof.

The flap **22a** at the bottom end of the blouse portion **14a** is constructed similarly to the flap **22** of the dress **10** of FIG. 1 but instead of having a single snap fastener element at the center, the flap **22a** is provided with three spaced snap fastener elements **28a** adapted to snap over a plurality of spaced complementary snap fastener elements **58a** at the top of the pleats or folds **38a** and at the center of the body **34** of the skirt portion at the top. This pleated construction and plurality of fastener elements permit adjustment girthwise of the dress.

The slide fastener stringer **52a** is secured to the flap **22a** in the manner of stringer **52** but the stringer **52a** starts at a point remote from the center of the blouse, as indicated at **62** encircling the blouse and stopping at a point remote from the center as indicated at **64**. The companion slide fastener stringer **44a** is secured to the top edge of the hem **42a** of the skirt portion **12a**, starting at a point remote from the center thereof and approximately at the point where the stringer **52a** started and extending around the hem **42a** and stopping at a point remote from the center of the hem as indicated at **66** and in line with the adjacent end of stringer **52a**. The dimensions of the stringers are such as to leave an elongated space **68** between the top of the skirt portion **12a** and the bottom proper of the blouse portion **14a** as seen in FIG. 8 thereby permitting of a wide range of adjustment of the dress girthwise of the wearer.

The separable feature of the dress is particularly desirable from the standpoint of washing or cleaning.

The assembled dress portions present a neat waist band free from bulges and wrinkles as noticeable in conventional skirt and waist combinations. The separable slide fastener eliminates the objectionable waist tail and provides a unitary garment that will not separate or pull

apart when in use. The separable feature of this dress also presents a full length dress with the advantages of the ordinary two-piece maternity dress thus enabling the wearer a variety and the opportunity to select the most becoming styles and achieving a multitude of outfits at a nominal cost. The separable fasteners may be snaps, hooks or may be made of any material that is adapted to be made into a male and female counterpart.

It will also be understood that instead of a single slide fastener device, a slide fastener device may close the front and a separate slide fastener device may close the rear, or a pair of slide fasteners may be used at any point of the bodice.

The skirt portions of the garment may be pleated, gathered, cut on the bias or straight. While the garment is shown without any side placket openings, it will be understood that the garment may be designed with either a top or bottom or both openings at either front, back or either side of the garment.

The garment of the present invention does not cause any blouse discomfort to the wearer. The separable fastener elements are placed at convenient comfortable places away from the armholes in all styles.

It will be further understood that the present invention is not limited solely to maternity dresses but may be embodied in children's and teenage garments as well.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

A maternity dress comprising a skirt portion, a hem on the top edge of the skirt portion, a blouse portion, an outer flap on the bottom end of the blouse portion, means of connection between the skirt portion and the blouse portion, said connection including a slide fastener stringer secured along the top edge of the hem and extending therearound, a slide fastener stringer secured around the blouse portion at its bottom end, interconnecting elements carried on the long edges of said stringers in meshing engagement, an inner flap on the bottom end of the blouse portion superposed on the outer flap, for protecting the wearer of the dress against the interconnecting element of the stringers, said outer flap concealing the connection between the skirt portion and blouse portion, the means of connection between the skirt portion and blouse portion disposable over the bust line of the wearer of the dress, the body of said skirt portion having a pleated front section, said slide fastener stringers starting at one end of said pleated front section, extending around the dress and terminating at a point at the other end of said pleated front section to provide an expandible portion, a clearance at the front of the dress for adjustment of the dress girthwise of the wearer and a plurality of snap fastener elements on the outer flap adjacent its bottom edge and a plurality of complementary snap fastener elements on the hem of the skirt portion for holding the flap against the dress.

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