June 8, 1971 J. M. KELLER 3,582,993

GARMENT HAVING READILY CHANGEABLE DECORATIVE INSERTS

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FIG. 2

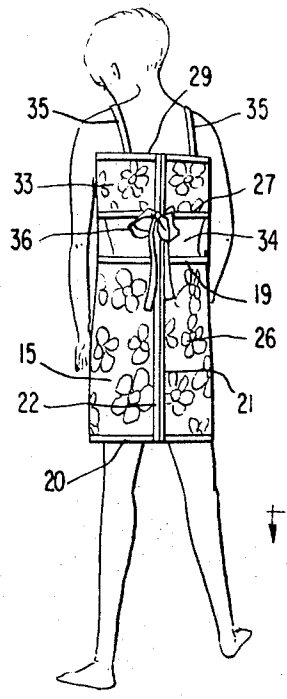


FIG. 1

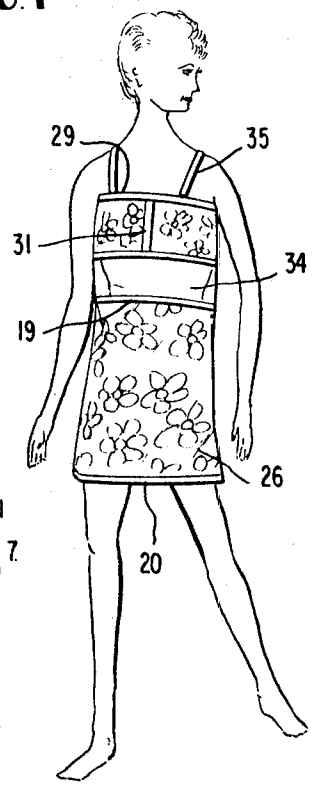


FIG. 5

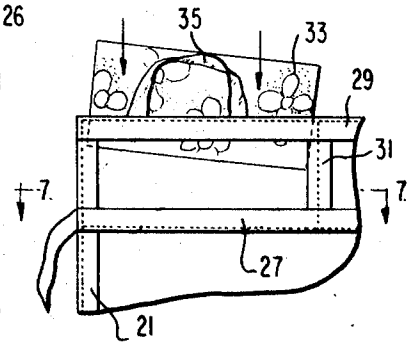
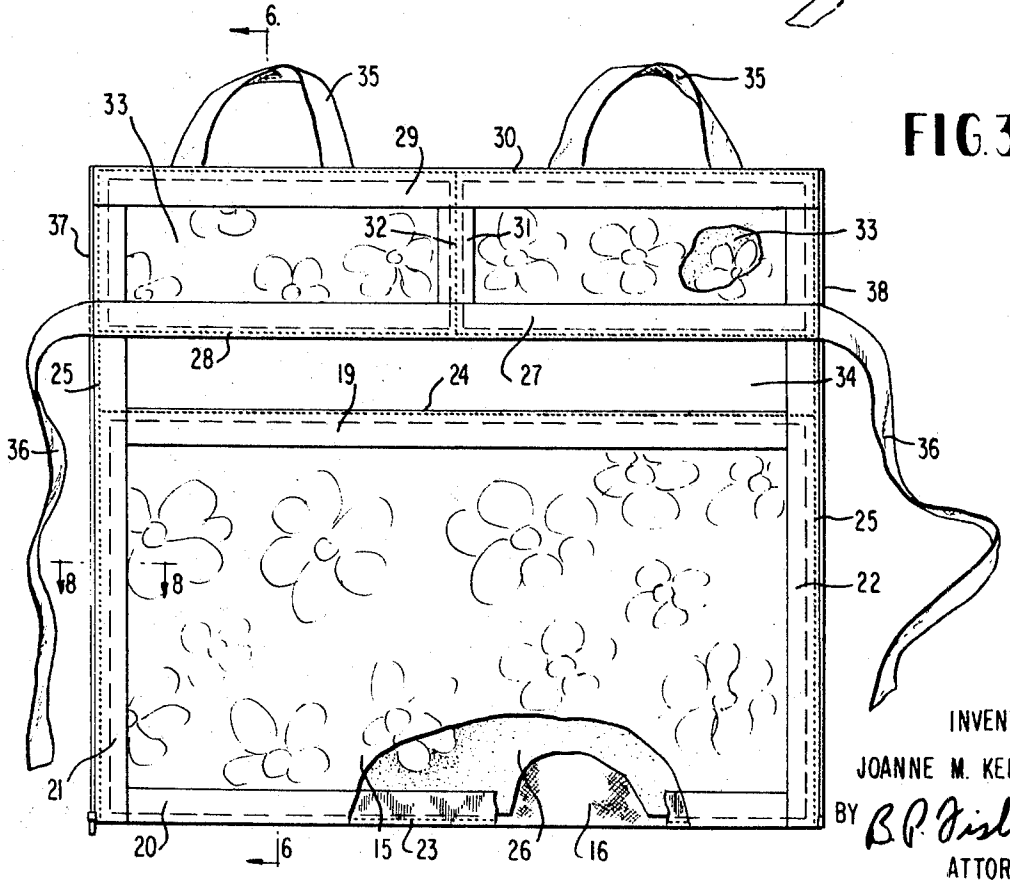


FIG. 3



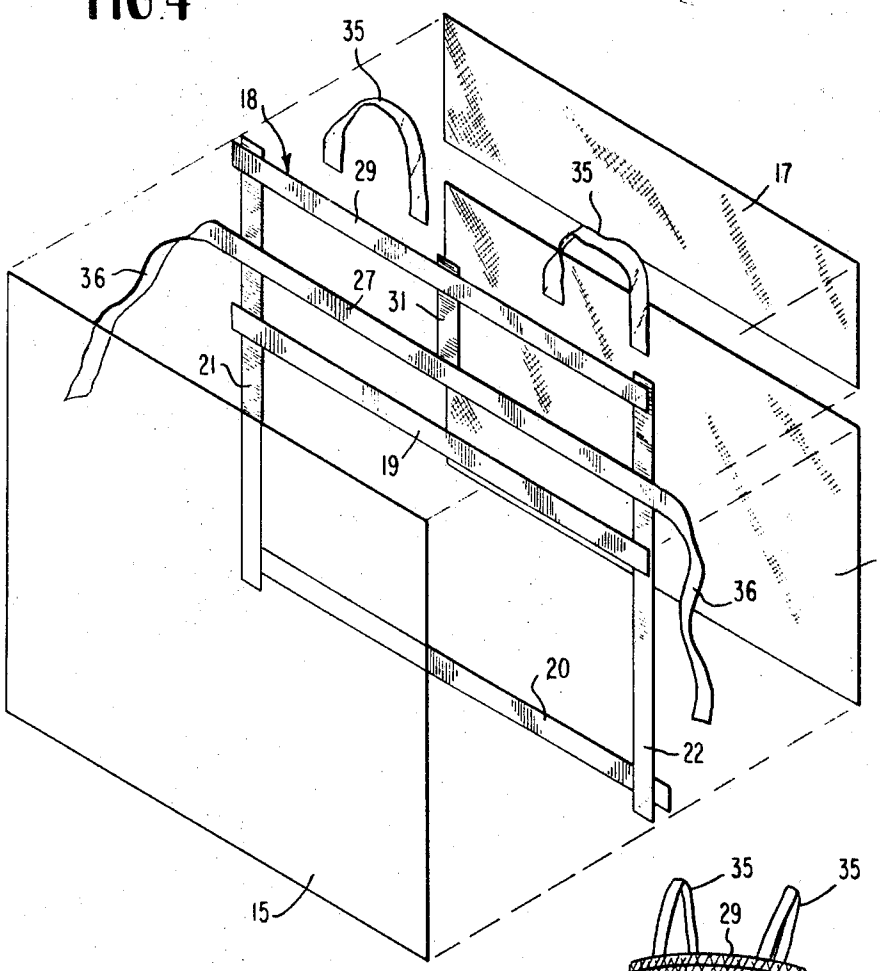
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GARMENT HAVING READILY CHANGEABLE DECORATIVE INSERTS

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FIG. 4



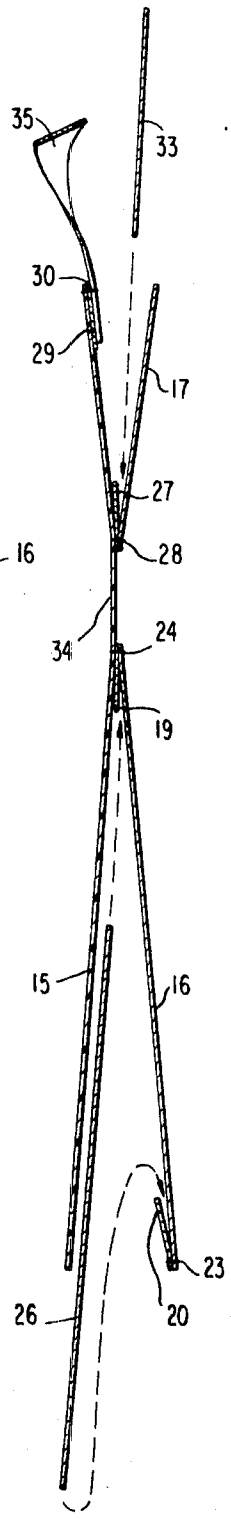


FIG. 6

FIG. 8

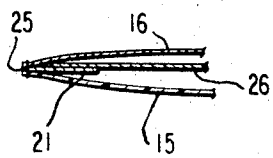


FIG. 9

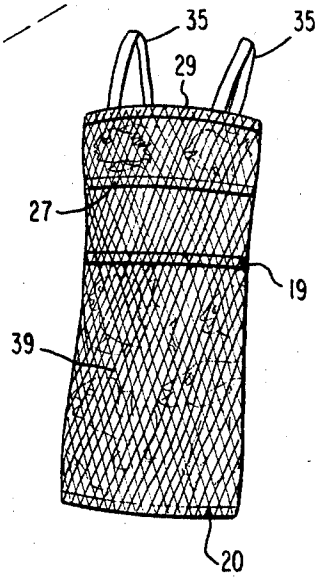
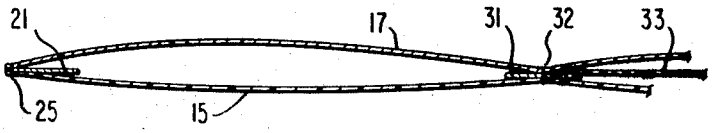


FIG. 7



United States Patent Office 3,582,993 Patented June 8, 1971

3,582,993

GARMENT HAVING READILY CHANGEABLE DECORATIVE INSERTS

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Filed May 9, 1969, Ser. No. 823,387
Int. Cl. A41d 1/22
U.S. Cl. 2—74 8 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A dress or like garment having a transparent outer wall and means forming compartments for readily replaceable opaque decorative inserts behind the transparent outer wall. The decorative inserts span the major portion of the total surface area of the garment.

The objective of the invention is to provide a dress, shift or like body garment which will be appealing to the eye and unique and having provision for quickly and easily changing the color and the design pattern of the garment over substantially its entire area in a very economical manner. In accordance with the invention, a dress or shift is provided whose appearance may be completely and strikingly changed with an almost endless variety of colors and patterns by the mere removal of decorative inserts from pockets or compartments provided in the garment behind a transparent outer wall. Decorative inserts formed of wrapping paper may be readily cut by the user to provide beautiful colors and patterns not readily obtainable by the use of ordinary woven fabrics or printed fabrics. The compartments for receiving the inserts are formed in a very simple and economical manner and the entire garment is characterized by simplicity and economy in materials employed and relative ease of manufacture. The transparent outer wall of the garment adds greatly to its unique appearance and renders the exterior of the garment easy to clean by merely wiping with a damp cloth. The style and overall configuration of the garment and the closure means therefor may be varied as desired.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear to those skilled in the art during the course of the following detailed description.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a garment embodying the invention.

FIG. 2 is a rear perspective view thereof.

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of the garment in a laid out or flat condition, partly broken away.

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of garment components.

FIG. 5 is a fragmentary elevational view showing a portion of the garment body and the manner of placing a decorative insert in a compartment thereof.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged partly diagrammatic and partly exploded vertical section taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is an enlarged horizontal section taken on line 7—7 of FIG. 5.

FIG. 8 is a similar section taken on line 8—8 of FIG. 3.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view showing a modification.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the drawings in detail wherein like numerals designate like parts throughout the same, the numeral **15** designates a single rectangular sheet of transparent plastic or like material constituting the outer layer or wall of the garment. Durable thin sheet plastics are available which are resistant to flame, staining and stretching. Such materials are also quite soft and flexible and may have a high lustre to add to the unique appearance of the garment. If desired, other forms of transparent or nearly transparent material may be used for the garment outer layer.

The garment further comprises an interior layer or lining formed of cloth and preferably formed in two separate rectangular sections **16** and **17**, the cloth section **16** forming the skirt portion of the garment and the section **17** forming the chest or bosom portion of the garment inner wall. Intervened between the inner and outer garment walls is a latticework of ribbon or other similar relatively narrow strip material shown generally at **18** in FIG. 4 and this ribbon latticework, when appropriately stitched to the garment inner and outer walls, coacts therewith to form the compartments or pockets for the readily changeable decorative inserts, to be described.

More particularly, a single main compartment spanning the entire skirt portion of the garment is formed by a pair of horizontal ribbons or strips **19** and **20** and a pair of side vertical ribbons or strips **21** and **22**. Referring to FIG. 6, the lower horizontal strip **20** is stitched to the fabric inner wall section **16** by a horizontal line of stitching **23** along the bottom edges of the elements **20** and **16**. This leaves the upper edge of the strip **20** free from attachment to the cloth section **16** and the lower edge of the transparent front wall **15** is unattached to the elements **16** and **20**, as shown. The ribbon or strip **19** is attached to the elements **15** and **16** by a horizontal line of stitching **24** extending entirely across the width of the flattened garment, as shown in FIG. 3. The lower horizontal edge of the strip **19** remains free or unattached as shown in FIG. 6.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 7 and also FIG. 8, the side ribbons or strips **21** and **22** are similarly stitched along their outer edges to both the interior wall sections **16** and **17** and the exterior transparent wall **15** by continuous lines of stitching **25**. This leaves the inner edges of the strips **21** and **22** free and unattached. It may now be clearly seen that the several strips **19**, **20**, **21** and **22** form a rectangular marginal frame or marginal pocket-forming means for the edge portions of a readily replaceable main decorative insert **26** formed of colored and decorated ornate drapping paper or some similar sheet material which is substantially opaque and sufficiently flexible to be suitable. The insert **26** is in one piece and is rectangular and of a size whereby its marginal edge portions will fit readily behind the strips **19**, **20**, **21** and **22** and be held thereby between these strips and the cloth section **16**, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 8 clearly. No other securing means for the insert **26** is required and the insert remains firmly in place and cannot be shaken out of the garment even by violent agitation mainly due to the supporting action of the lower ribbon or strip **20**. Incidentally, the ribbon latticework may be formed in any suitable blending or contrasting color scheme. It is emphasized that the insert **26** extends over substantially the entire skirt portion of the dress and renders the appearance of this portion of the garment easily changeable so that an almost infinite variety of decorative appearances can be provided by the user.

In this connection, it is felt that one of the more interesting features of the invention, particularly for the young, is that considerable amusement and pleasure can be derived from seeking suitable materials for the decorative inserts, cutting them and fashioning them in some instances with paints and the like, whose individually is desired. Inserts with flowers, figures, printed slogans, comic pictures and the like may be utilized.

Above the strip **19** and parallel therewith is another horizontal compartment forming strip **27** having its

lower edge stitched between the transparent garment front wall **15** and the inner cloth section **17** by a horizontal line of stitching **28** adjacent the bottom of the cloth section **17**. The upper edge of the strip **17** is unattached as shown clearly in FIG. 6. A similar ribbon or strip **29**, chiefly to provide a finished appearance for the top edge of the garment, is attached by a horizontal line of stitching **30** to the front wall **15** along the top edge of the same. The strips **29**, **27**, **19** and **20** are all joined to the side strips **21** and **22** by the vertical lines of stitching **25**. The chest or bosom portion of the garment between the horizontal strips **27** and **29** is preferably divided by a short vertical ribbon or strip **31**, secured at its middle to the front wall **15** and cloth section **17** by a vertical line of stitching **32**, the longitudinal edges of this strip **31** being free and unattached as shown in FIG. 7. The strip **31** is at the transverse center of the garment, FIG. 3.

It may now be seen that the horizontal strips **27** and **29**, the vertical strip **31** and the upper portions of the side strips **21** and **22** form frame-like compartments or pockets for a pair of rectangular decorative opaque chest or bosom inserts **33** which, like the single insert **26**, are easily insertable into and removable from the chest compartments of the garment and are very secure therein. These chest inserts **33** together span the entire chest and back portions of the garment as worn on the body, FIGS. 1 and 2. A relatively narrow midriff section **34** formed by the transparent garment front wall **15** bridges the space between the two horizontal strips **19** and **27**. If desired, the vertical strip or ribbon **31** may be extended downwardly across the midriff area **34** for added strength but this is not essential.

As best shown in FIG. 3, the opaque decorative inserts **26** and **33** have all of their marginal edges inserted behind the holding strips or ribbons of the latticework **18** and the inserts are totally sandwiched in between the transparent from wall **15** and cloth rear wall sections **16** and **17**.

Suitable shoulder suspension straps **35** are applied to the top edge of the composite garment, as shown, and optionally, tie elements **36** may be provided at the elevation of the tape or strip **27**. A conventional zipper closure including elements **37** and **38** is preferably provided at the back of the garment extending for its entire height. Alternatively, snaps, buttons or some other form of closure means may be utilized. Also, if preferred, the zipper elements **37** and **38** may be utilized only for the skirt portion adjacent the insert **26** and the remainder of the back of the garment may be tied or the upper portion of the garment above the waist may be narrowed so that the dress is backless. Various style options are available without departing from the essential concept of the invention which consists in the use of a transparent outer layer or wall with readily changeable pocketed opaque decorative inserts spanning the major surface area of the dress or garment. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the garment is in the form of a simple short length tubular shift, such as might be appropriate in warm weather at summer resorts or the like. However. the garment structure is applicable to a wide variety of uses and environments, even though its form and quality may change somewhat depending upon a particular application.

FIG. 9 of the drawings shows a possible modification of the invention which may be identical in its construction to that already described except for one feature. Instead of the outer garment wall being formed of transparent plastic or the like, as shown at **15** in the previous embodiment, such outer wall may be formed by a rectangular section **39** of wide open mesh, similar to fish netting. In such case, the transparent characteristics of the outer garment layer are essentially preserved and an interesting effect or appearance is obtained when the same changeable decorative inserts and other previously-described features are employed.

Additional variations in appearance are attainable by employing different colors and contrasting designs for the inserts **33** and **26**. Also the large compartment for insert **26** could be divided by an extension downwardly of the strip **31**, in which case two inserts at the skirt region having contrasting designs could be employed instead of a single insert. Quite obviously, a wide range of appearances can be created by the user, adding greatly to the utility of the garment and to the pleasure derived from its use. In effect, a complete dress wardrobe could be created by providing a variety of inserts.

I claim:

1. A dress or the like comprising an initially flat body portion having closure means thereon enabling the body portion to assume a generally tubular form on the body of a wearer, said body portion having an exterior substantially transparent wall and an interior wall, a lattice of strip elements intervened between said walls and attached thereto along certain lines and forming with said walls framed compartments in said dress body portion said compartments open along at least one edge portion thereof, and readily changeable decorative substantially opaque inserts of sheet material mountable in the framed compartments with edge portions of the inserts overlapped by said strip elements of said lattice, said inserts spanning a major portion of the total surface area of said dress body portion, thereby enabling substantially the entire dress to have its appearance changed.

2. The structure of claim **1**, and said body portion, exterior transparent wall, interior wall, framed compartments and decorative inserts being generally rectangular.

3. The structure of claim **1**, and said exterior wall formed of transparent sheet plastic, said interior wall formed of cloth, said strip elements formed of ribbon and said inserts formed of decorative paper.

4. The structure of claim **1**, and said exterior wall formed of wide mesh netting and said interior wall formed of cloth.

5. The structure of claim **1**, and a transparent midriff area portion on the dress body portion formed by the exterior transparent wall, said lattice of strip elements forming a major skirt area compartment and a pair of chest high compartments below and above said midriff area portion.

6. A decorative garment which assumes a substantially tubular form when worn on the body and which is initially flat and substantially rectangular prior to donning comprising an exterior substantially transparent wall, an interior wall of flexible sheet material generally coextensive with the exterior transparent wall, a framework of relatively narrow ribbon elements intervened between said walls and attached thereto to form with the walls framed compartments in the garment for readily interchangeable decorative inserts of sheet material, each compartment having at least one open edge portion to allow entry and removal of an insert, and readily changeable decorative sheet inserts mountable within the framed compartments with edge portions of said inserts overlapped by said ribbon elements whereby the latter position and support the inserts, the inserts collectively spanning the major portion of the total area of the garment so that the garment may have its total appearance changed by changing said inserts.

7. The structure of claim **6**, and said framework of ribbon elements forming on the garment a lower main insert compartment which opens at the bottom and at least one upper chest covering compartment which opens at the top.

8. The structure of claim **6**, and said framework of ribbon elements forming on the garment a lower main rectangular insert compartment spanning substantially the full width of the garment when the latter is flat, said main compartment opening at the bottom edge of the garment,

and a pair of upper top opening separated substantially rectangular chest covering compartments formed by said framework of ribbon elements.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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