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3,096,916

ADJUSTABLE DRESS FORM

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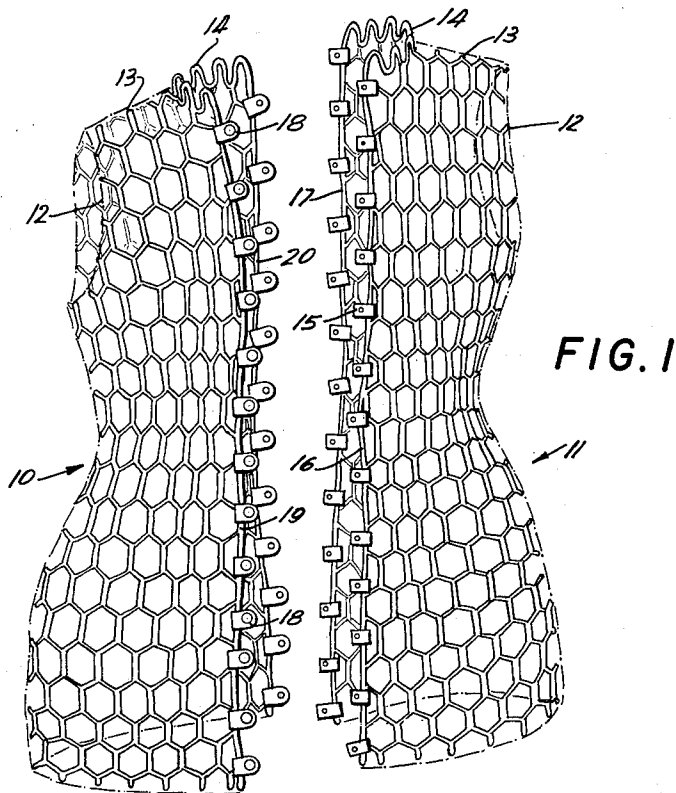


FIG. 2

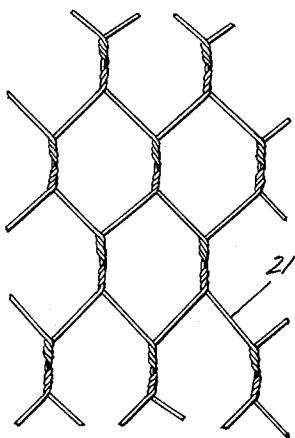
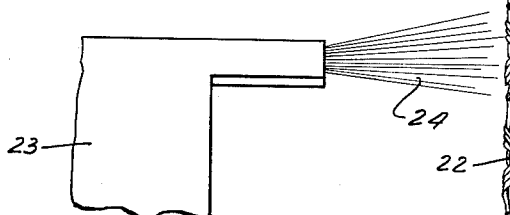
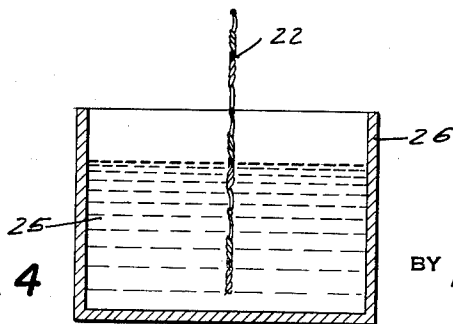


FIG. 4



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ADJUSTABLE DRESS FORM

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4 Claims. (Cl. 223-68)

The present invention relates to adjustable dress forms. More particularly, the present invention relates to that type of adjustable dress form which is made of a material which is sufficiently non-resilient so that the dress form will retain whatever shape it is bent to by the operator. Such dress forms can be shaped to the figure of a particular person, and then later on the same dress form can be re-shaped to a different figure.

Although such dress forms are known, the conventional dress forms of this type have several disadvantages. Thus, the construction of such conventional dress forms is rendered undesirably expensive and complicated by the fact that such dress forms are in some cases made up of lengths of wires which have to be fastened together by a great number of special fasteners. Where non-metallic wire is used, such as plastic filaments, then such filaments must be bent to a desired shape and joined in a costly and complex manner to the other filaments.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide an adjustable dress form of the above type which is of an exceedingly simple and inexpensive construction as compared to heretofore known dress forms of this type.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an adjustable dress form of the above type which requires no special fasteners between a plurality of wires or the like which make up the dress form.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an adjustable dress form of the above type which has a smooth outer surface so that it is incapable of scratching or otherwise injuring either the person to whom the form is molded or the operator who shapes the form and handles it after it has been given the desired shape.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide an adjustable dress form which can be very easily placed on and removed from the person to whom the form is molded.

Also, it is an object of the present invention to provide a simple and inexpensive process for manufacturing an adjustable dress form capable of accomplishing all of the above objects.

With the above objects in view the present invention includes in an adjustable dress form a wire mesh, preferably a chicken wire mesh, made up of wires which are easily bendable and substantially non-resilient so that they retain the shape to which they are bent. In accordance with the present invention this wire mesh is covered at all of its parts by a plastic covering material which may be a rubberized plastic or a vinyl plastic.

The novel features which are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in particular in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best understood from the following description of specific embodiments when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective illustration of a pair of complementary dress form sections which cooperate together to form the complete dress form;

FIG. 2 fragmentarily illustrates a section of a wire mesh used in the dress form of FIG. 1 and illustrated in FIG. 2 in the condition it has before it is covered with a plastic material;

FIG. 3 diagrammatically illustrates a spraying process

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for manufacturing the dress form of the present invention; and

FIG. 4 diagrammatically illustrates a dipping process.

Referring now to FIG. 1, the adjustable dress form of the present invention is made up of a pair of complementary dress form sections 10 and 11 which are mirror images of each other. Each of the sections is composed of a wire mesh which is covered with a coating of a suitable plastic material. Before being coated with the plastic material the wire mesh is cut so as to form the arm holes 12 and edges of the wire mesh are joined to each other along the shoulders 13. Also, a suitable wavy wire 14 is joined to the mesh to form the collar. A plurality of flexible tabs 15 are located along the front edge 16 and the rear edge 17 of the section 11, while a plurality of flexible tabs 18 are located along the front edge 19 and the rear edge 20 of the section 10.

The person to whom the adjustable form is to be molded places both sections on his person by extending his arms through the holes 12, and the tabs 15 carry one-half of a plurality of snap fasteners, while the tabs 18 carry snap fastener elements which cooperate with those carried by the tabs 15, so that with these snap fasteners the two sections are releasably held together on the person, and then the form is shaped to the person.

The wire mesh used for the dress form of the present invention is made of a flexible, easily bendable, substantially non-resilient wire which retains the shape to which it has been bent. It is preferred in accordance with the present invention to use the wire mesh which is commercially known as chicken wire. This mesh is extremely inexpensive and has the desired properties of being easily bendable while being substantially non-resilient so that it retains the shape to which it has been bent. Such a chicken wire mesh can easily be cut and can easily have its wires twisted together so as to form the arm holes 12 and the shoulder connections 13.

A section of such a chicken wire mesh is shown in FIG. 2 before it has been covered, in accordance with the present invention, with a plastic coating. Thus, FIG. 2 fragmentarily illustrates a portion 21 of a conventional chicken wire mesh.

Of course, such a mesh if it were used by itself as an adjustable dress form would have the disadvantage of being uncomfortable to the hands of the operator as well as the person to whom the form is applied, and free ends of the wires might scratch the users of the adjustable dress form. Therefore, according to the present invention, the wires of the mesh are covered with a plastic coating, and the finished form with the plastic coating on the mesh is shown in FIG. 1. In this way, all sharp ends of the wire are covered and the thickness of the mesh is built up by the added thickness of the plastic material. The plastic material which covers each of the sections 10 and 11 is fully continuous in that there is no exposed portion of wire on the complete dress form and the covering for the wire of each section is a single piece of material.

Among the plastics which are suitable for covering the wire of the present invention are vinyl plastics such as polyvinylchloride or rubberized plastics.

As is shown in FIG. 3, in accordance with the present invention, the wire mesh 22 which is diagrammatically shown in FIG. 3 but which has the configuration shown in FIG. 1 for one of the sections 10 or 11 has the plastic material sprayed thereon. Any conventional sprayer 23 may be used, and the plastic material 24 is sprayed from the discharge nozzle of the sprayer onto the wire mesh. In the case of polyvinylchloride, this material is located, for example, in liquid form with a suitable solvent in the sprayer, and the condition of the liquid is such that during the time that it passes through the air and engages the wire mesh the solvent evaporates to the atmosphere leaving

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the plastic material on the wire mesh, and this plastic material solidifies in a relatively short time.

Instead of combining the plastic material with a solvent, a suitable catalyst may be admixed with the plastic material to produce solidification when the plastic material is deposited on the wire mesh by the sprayer 23.

As is shown in FIG. 4, instead of spraying, a dipping process may be used. For example, a bath 25 of a latex solution is located in a suitable receptacle 26, and then the wire mesh section 22 which is either the section 10 or the section 11 of FIG. 1 is dipped in a well known way into the latex solution so that when the mesh is removed its wires are covered with the rubberized plastic.

After the mesh has been covered in this way with the plastic material, the tabs 15 and 18 are provided along the edges 16—20 in the manner described above in connection with FIG. 1. These tabs may take the form of a simple strip of fabric which extends around an edge of the mesh into an opening formed by the mesh, and the fastener element which is carried by this strip serves to hold its free ends together so that an endless tab is provided surrounding a section of the mesh and extending freely therefrom.

It is evident, therefore, that with the process and article of the present invention there is provided an adjustable dress form which is of an exceedingly simple construction, which is exceedingly inexpensive to manufacture, particularly when using inexpensive chicken wire, and furthermore it is free of any rough or sharp surfaces. Moreover, the dress form can easily be placed on or removed from the person.

It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types of dress forms differing from the types described above.

While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied in an adjustable dress form, it is not intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully

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reveal the gist of the present invention that others can by applying current knowledge readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention and, therefore, such adaptations should and are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalence of the following claims.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. An adjustable dress form including portions for a part of the body of a wearer adjacent the neck of said wearer comprising, in combination, a pair of complementary dress form sections each composed of a chicken-wire mesh made up of substantially non-resilient flexible wires twisted together at their points of intersection and capable of holding the shape of a dress form to which they are bent by the user and formed with undulations in the region of the neck; a continuous uninterrupted plastic coating covering the wire mesh and the twisted intersecting portions of each of said sections; and releasable fastening means carried by said sections for releasably fastening the same together.

2. An adjustable dress form as recited in claim 1 and wherein said plastic is rubberized.

3. An adjustable dress form as recited in claim 1 and wherein said plastic is a vinyl plastic.

4. An adjustable dress form as recited in claim 1, wherein said complementary dress form sections are mirror images of each other.

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