

Jan. 22, 1946.

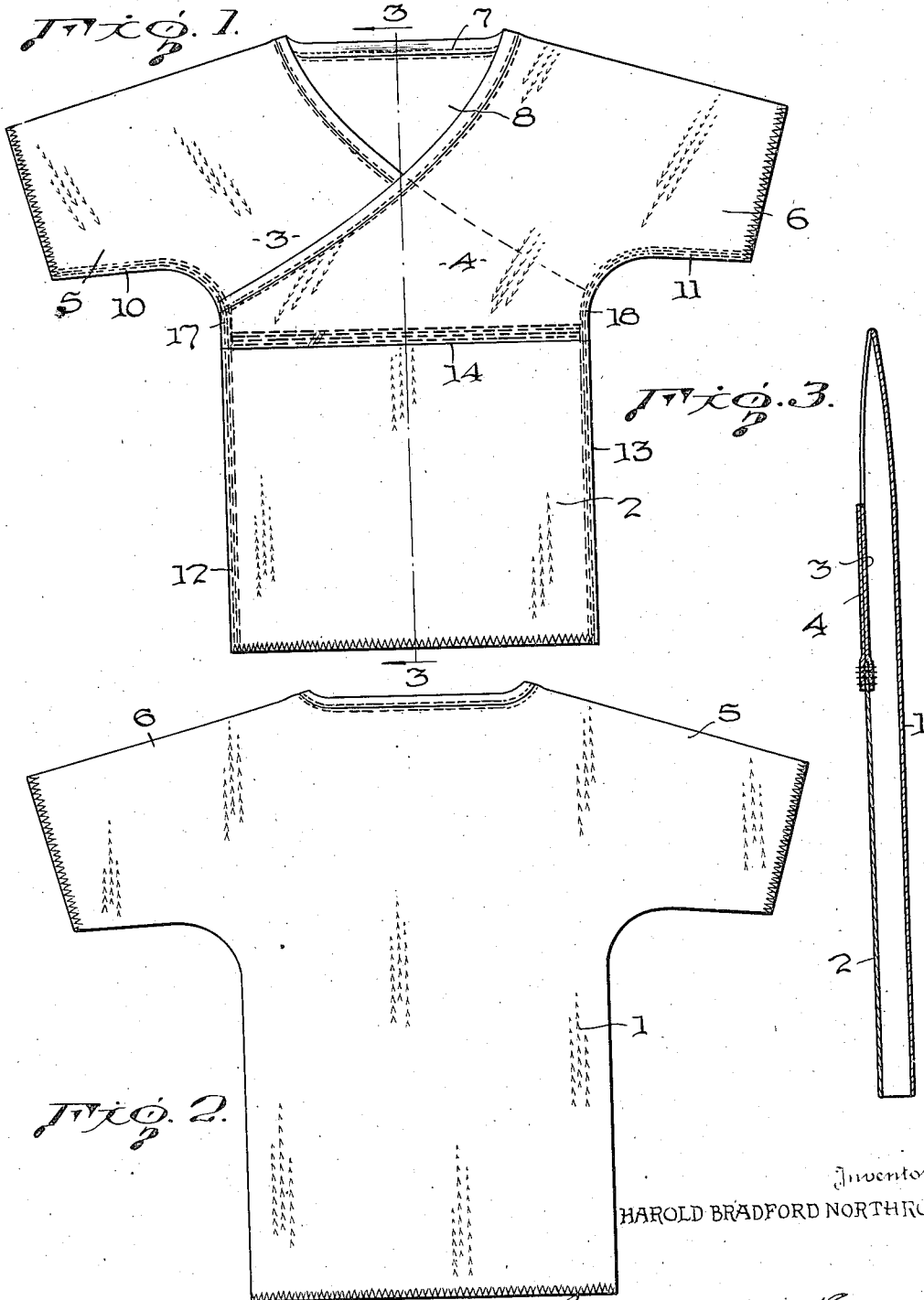
H. B. NORTHRUP

2,393,259

GARMENT

Filed Oct. 19, 1944

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor
HAROLD BRADFORD NORTHRUP

By *Leanne Davis Warren Richmond*

Attorneys

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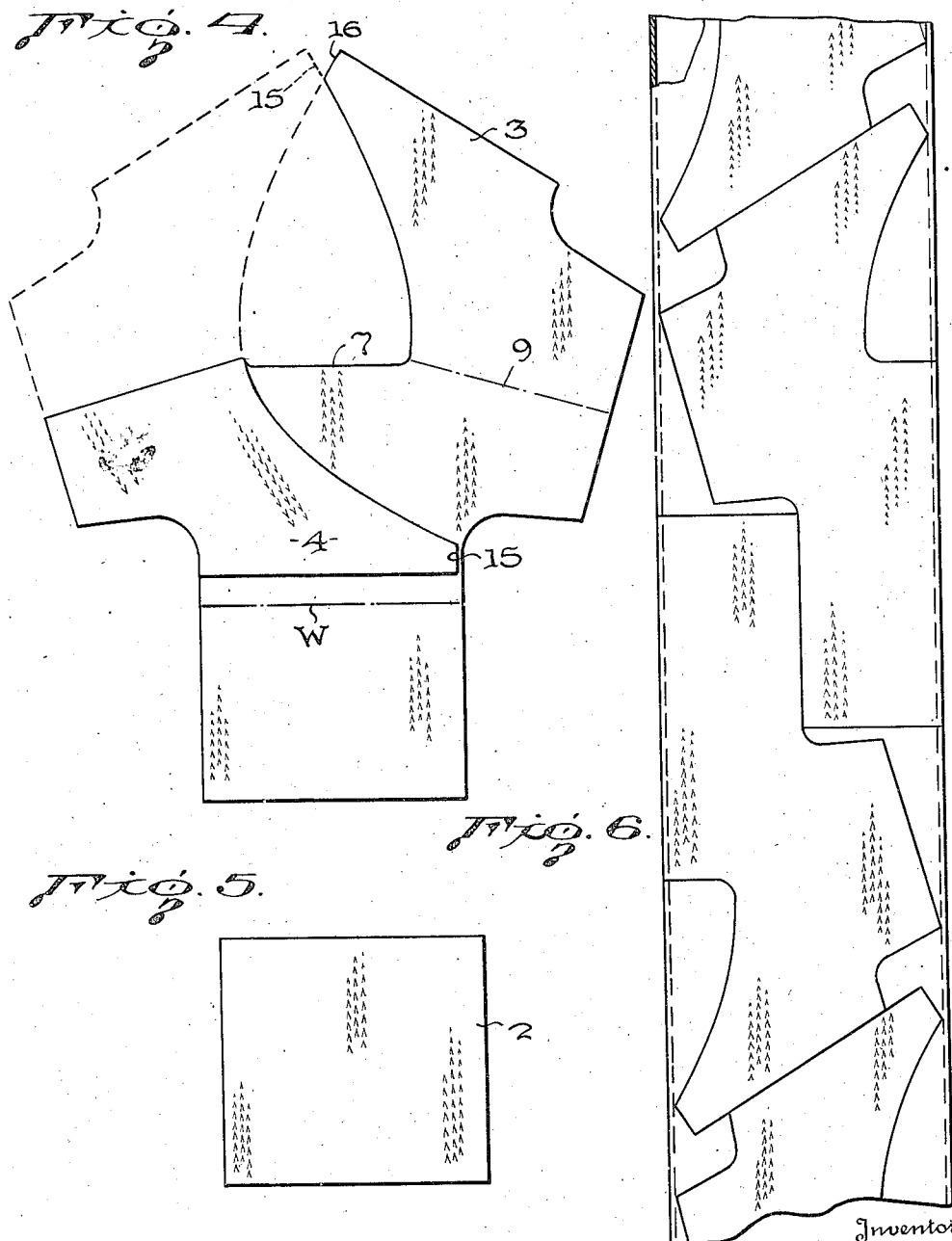
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GARMENT

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Inventor
HAROLD BRADFORD NORTHRUP

By *Reuben Sam Martin Edwards*

Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,393,259

GARMENT

Harold Bradford Northrup, Johnstown, N. Y.

Application October 19, 1944, Serial No. 559,444

11 Claims. (Cl. 2—111)

This invention relates to an improvement in knitted garments such as infants' shirts, night-gowns and the like. While not so limited, it is particularly directed to that type of garment in which the upper portion of the front section consists of two overlapping pieces which extend, respectively, from the shoulders downwardly and diagonally across the garment to the opposite side edges thereof, whereby overlapping portions are provided which form a double thickness across the chest of the infant.

Garments of the above type, as heretofore proposed, have consisted of a number of sections, including separate sleeves, which are cut from knitted material and sewed together to form a complete garment. It is an object of the present invention to provide a knitted garment of the type referred to above, in which the component pieces can more readily be cut from knitted goods and sewed together to form the garment with a minimum amount of labor and stitching.

Among other objects of the invention are the provision of a knitted garment which will drape better on the wearer, provide a minimum of resistance to his normal movements, and in which the neck opening and the sleeves will better retain their original shape.

In accordance with the above objects I provide a garment in which the entire back, the top front sections and the sleeves are of one piece of material, thereby making it necessary to use only, additionally, a lower front section in order to complete the garment.

In forming the garment, the single piece to form the back, the overlapping sections and the sleeves is cut from knitted material so that the wales in the back section run vertically. When that piece is so cut and subsequently folded, as will hereinafter more fully be described, the wales in each upper front section will extend in a direction diagonally towards the shoulders from which the respective sections extend, and the wales in the sleeves will extend in a direction parallel to those in its adjoined front section, with the result that the open end of the sleeves will lie in planes more nearly parallel than normal to the direction of the wales in the sleeves.

By having the overlapping front sections and the adjoined sleeves formed from a single piece with the wales running in a direction generally normal to the top of the sleeves and the shoulder portions, the garment is readily stretchable in a direction along the shoulders and the upper portions of the arms, so that it will drape better

on the wearer and give greater freedom of movement of the shoulders and the arms.

As the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally towards the shoulders, there is relatively little if any stretch to the free edges of those sections. Hence, the neck opening retains its original shape and does not stretch and become baggy to present an unsightly appearance. Also, as the end of the sleeves lie in planes more nearly parallel than normal to the direction of the wales in the sleeves, there is practically no stretch to them, particularly if they are over-stitched to prevent fraying of the material, as is customary in such garments.

The invention will be further described in connection with the accompanying drawings, but it is to be understood that such further description is by way of exemplification and that the invention is not limited thereto except to the extent defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a garment embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a back view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a view of the piece of material which forms the back, the sleeves and the overlapping front sections, with one of the front sections being folded to the position which it assumes in the completed garment;

Fig. 5 is a front view of a piece of material which forms the lower front portion of the garment; and

Fig. 6 is a view showing how a series of the pieces to form the back, sleeves and overlapping front sections of the garment may be cut from a piece of tubular knitted material.

Referring now to the drawings, and first to Figs. 1-3 inclusive, the garment comprises a back 1, a front including a lower section 2 and overlapping upper sections 3 and 4, and sleeves 5 and 6. The upper portions of the free edges of the overlapping front sections 3 and 4 cooperate with the upper free edge portion 7 of the back to form a closed neck opening 8. All parts of the garment are made of knitted material which, if desired, may be napped or brushed.

The entire garment except for the lower front section 2 is made from a single piece of material of the shape of the blank shown in Fig. 4.

The blanks may be cut from tubular knitted material in the manner shown in Fig. 6. As shown in that figure patterns for the blank of Fig. 4 are folded along a line extending longitudi-

nally of the center of the back and placed on the flattened tubular knitted material so that the fold line of the pattern coincides with one edge of the flattened tubular material. In order that there shall be a minimum of waste, the patterns of adjacent blanks are laid in opposite directions with their fold lines coinciding with the opposite edges of the flattened material. When so positioned on the flattened material the patterns can more or less nest with one another, in pairs, with the lower portion of the back of one blank in the space beneath the sleeve portion of the other blank of the pair, so that there is relatively little waste material when the blanks are cut. As all of the patterns are placed with the center line of the back coinciding with one of the side edges of the flattened tubular material the wales throughout the blanks will extend parallel to the longitudinal center of the back.

After the patterns have been laid out as described above the flattened material is marked along the outline of the patterns and then cut into individual pieces and unfolded to give a blank of the shape shown in Fig. 4, in which the portions to form the sleeves extend outwardly and upwardly from the upper opposite sides of the back section, and in which the portions to form the overlapping front sections extend upwardly and inwardly from the upper inner portions of the sleeve sections.

The blanks shown in Fig. 4 are folded along lines 9 extending inwardly from the midpoint of the outer ends of the sleeve sections to a point adjacent the free edge 7 of the upper portion of the back section. The left hand portion of the blank of Fig. 4 is shown in its folded position and it will be noted that the two parts of the sleeve section overlap one another and that the upper portion of the front section extends downwardly from the shoulder and diagonally across the garment to the other side thereof at a point above the waistline W of the garment and slightly below the point where the sleeve joins the back section. When the other section is folded along the line 9 the sleeve at the right hand side of the garment will be formed and the upper front section 4 will overlap the section 3, as shown in Fig. 1.

After the blank has been folded as described above the lower edges of the sleeves are stitched together, as indicated at 10 and 11. The lower front section 2 is placed in position and stitched to the back section along the side edges 12 and 13 thereof, and to the lower edges of the overlapping upper front sections 3 and 4 along a horizontal line 14. The ends 15 and 16 are stitched to the edges of the back section at 17 and 18 to the opposite sides thereof to complete the garment.

In order to prevent fraying the lower open part of the garment and the outer ends of the sleeves may be overstitched, as is common in garments of the type shown.

Due to the fact that the blank is cut as shown from a single piece of knitted material with the wales running parallel to the longitudinal center of the back, the wales in the upper front sections when they are folded into final position will run in a direction diagonally towards the shoulders from which those sections extend, and the wales in the sleeves will run in the direction shown in the drawings and more nearly parallel than normal to the open ends of the sleeves.

By having the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally towards the shoulder from

which those extensions extend the free edges of those sections will extend in a direction generally parallel to the wales of the material so that there will be relatively little stretch to them and the garment will retain its original shape and not become baggy and present an unsightly appearance. Also the top of the shoulders and the tops of the sleeves of the garment will extend in a direction substantially normal to the wales so that the garment will possess substantial resiliency lengthwise of the shoulders and the arms and thereby better drape on the wearer and afford a minimum of interference to the normal movements of the wearer.

With the wales extending more nearly parallel than normal to the free ends of the sleeves there will be relatively little resiliency at those ends so that they will have relatively little stretch and will retain their original size and shape.

If desired in order to further reinforce the free edges of the overlapping front sections and the free upper edge of the back, those edges may be reinforced with a tape or strip of material which may be knitted and which has the wales thereof extending parallel to the edges.

From the aforesaid it will be seen that the present invention provides a garment which affords double protection over the chest of the infant and which can be manufactured with a minimum of sewing operations. It also provides a garment in which the various parts will retain their original shape so that the garment will maintain a slightly appearance on the wearer. However, by having the wales run as described in the several sections stretch of the garment at several places where it is desired is afforded so that the garment will properly drape on the wearer and provide a minimum of interference with the natural movements of his arms and shoulders.

I claim:

1. A body garment of knitted material comprising an upper portion including a back, front sections and sleeves, the front sections having free edges which cooperate with a free edge at the upper portion of the back section to form a neck opening, said upper portion being of a single piece of material folded and sewed so that the wales in the back section run vertically, the wales in the front sections run diagonally towards the shoulders from which said sections, respectively, extend, and the wales in the sleeves run more nearly parallel than normal to the outer ends of the sleeves.

2. A body garment of knitted material comprising an upper portion including a back, overlapping front sections and sleeves, the overlapping front sections having free edges the upper portions of which cooperate with a free edge of the back section to form a neck opening, said upper portion being of a single piece of material folded and sewed together so that the wales in the back section run vertically, the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally toward the shoulders from which said sections, respectively, extend and the wales in the sleeves run parallel to the wales in the overlapping front sections.

3. A body garment of knitted material comprising a back, a front, and sleeves, the back being of a single piece of material extending the full length of the garment, the front including a lower section and upper sections extending from each shoulder and having free edges which cooperate with a free edge at the top of the back portion to form a neck opening, the back, the upper front sections and the sleeves being of a single piece of

material folded and sewed so that the wales in the back section run vertically and the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally toward the shoulders from which said sections, respectively, extend.

4. A body garment of knitted material comprising a back, a front, and sleeves, the back extending the full length of the garment, the front having a lower section and overlapping upper sections which extend from the shoulders, said upper front sections having free edges, the upper portions of which cooperate with a free edge at the top of the back section to form a neck opening, the back, the upper front sections and the sleeves being of a single piece of material folded and sewed so that the wales in the back section run vertically, the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally toward the shoulders from which said sections, respectively, extend, and the wales in the sleeves run more nearly parallel than normal to the outer ends of the sleeves.

5. A body garment of knitted material comprising a back, a front, and sleeves, the front including a lower section and overlapping upper sections which extend from the shoulders, the overlapping upper front sections having free edges, the upper portions of which cooperate with a free edge at the top of the back section to form a neck opening, the back, sleeves and overlapping front sections being of a single piece of material folded and sewed so that the wales in the back section run vertically and the wales in the overlapping front sections run diagonally toward the shoulder from which said sections, respectively extend.

6. The method of forming blanks for the manufacture of body garments which are symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal center line which comprises laying out one-half of the blank on knitted material having connected upper and lower folds in which the wales run substantially parallel to the line connecting the folds, with the longitudinal center of the blank coinciding with the edge connecting the folds and with connected front and sleeve sections extending in directions diagonal to the direction in which the wales in the folds run, and cutting the superposed folds along the lines defining said one-half of the blank, other than the edge connecting the superposed folds.

7. The method of forming blanks for the manufacture of body garments which are symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal center line which comprises laying out one-half of the blank on flattened tubular knitted material, with the longitudinal center of the blank coinciding with the edge at one side of the tubular knitted material and with connected front and sleeve sections extending in directions diagonal to the direction in which the wales in the material run, and cutting the superposed folds along the lines defining said one-half of the blank, other than the edge coinciding with the longitudinal center of the blank.

8. The method of forming blanks for the manufacture of body garments which are symmetrical with respect to a longitudinal center line which comprises laying out a plurality of halves

of such blanks on flattened tubular knitted material, with the longitudinal center of the blanks coinciding with the sides of the flattened material and with connected front and sleeve sections extending in directions diagonal to the length of the material, successive blanks having their longitudinal center lines coinciding with opposite side edges of the flattened tubular material and with portions of the blanks to form parts of the garments below the sleeves lying opposite one another, and cutting the superposed folds along the lines defining said half blanks, other than the edge coinciding with the longitudinal center of the blank.

9. A one-piece blank for forming a knitted garment comprising a central section adapted to form the back, sleeve sections extending upwardly and outwardly from the opposite upper sides of said back section, and front sections extending upwardly and inwardly from the upper inner portions of the sleeve sections, the wales in all of said sections running in a direction parallel to the longitudinal center of the back section.

10. The method of making a garment of knitted material having a back section, overlapping front sections and sleeves which comprises forming a one-piece blank for the upper portion of the garment having a central back section, sleeve sections extending upwardly and outwardly from the opposite upper sides of said back sections and front sections extending upwardly and inwardly from the upper inner portions of the sleeve sections with the wales in all of said sections running in a direction parallel to the longitudinal center of the back section, folding each sleeve and connected front sections on a line extended inwardly from substantially the center of the outer end of the sleeve sections so that the front sections overlap one another and the sleeves are formed, sewing the over-folded sleeve sections together along their lower edges, and sewing together the bottom edges of the overlapping front sections.

11. The method of making a garment of knitted material having a back section, overlapping front sections and sleeves which comprises forming a one-piece blank for the upper portion of the garment having a central back section, sleeve sections extending upwardly and outwardly from the opposite upper sides of said back section and front sections extending upwardly and inwardly from the upper inner portions of the sleeve sections with the wales in all of said sections running in a direction parallel to the longitudinal center of the back section, folding each sleeve and connected front sections on a line extended inwardly from substantially the center of the outer end of the sleeve sections so that the connected front sections overlap one another and the sleeves are formed, sewing the over-folded sleeve sections together along their lower edges, and sewing a lower front section to the lower edge of the overlapping front sections and to the side edges of the lower portion of the back section.

HAROLD BRADFORD NORTHRUP.