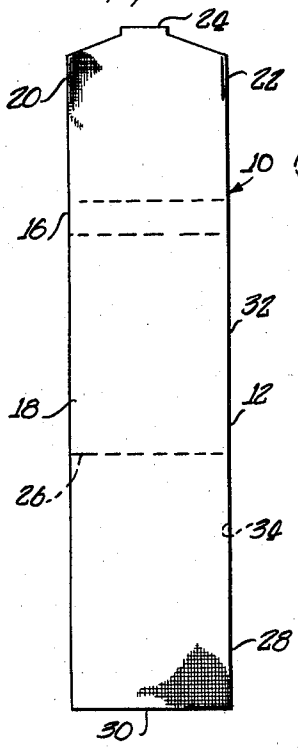
June 28, 1960 A. OVIGYAN 2,942,272

GARMENT WITH A FLOATING HEM LINE

Filed May 28, 1958

Fig. 1.



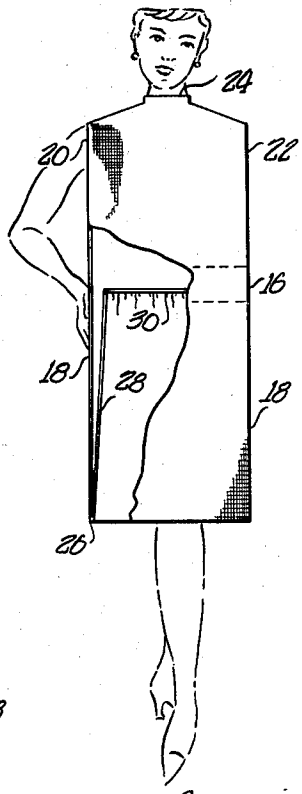


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

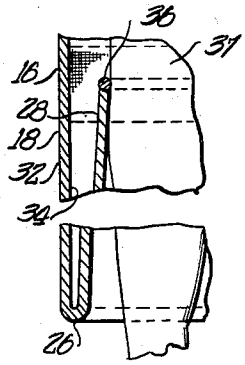


Fig. 4

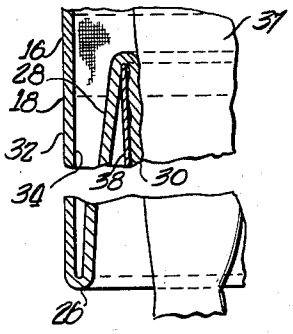
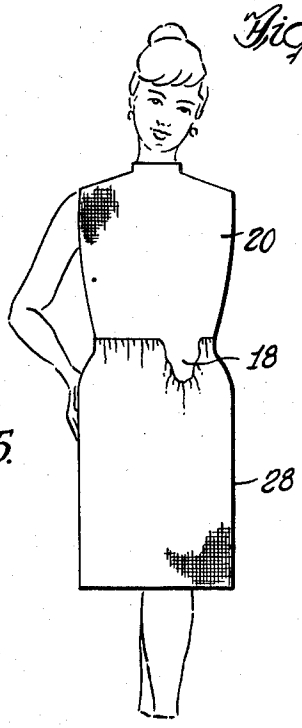


Fig. 5.



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GARMENT WITH A FLOATING HEM LINE

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Filed May 28, 1958, Ser. No. 738,441

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—74)

My invention relates to a garment having a floating or adjustable hem line adapted to be worn by wearers of varying heights and to accommodate style changes.

There is provided, in accordance with the present invention, a garment which is adapted to be worn by wearers of varying heights and to be readily adjusted to contemporary styling dictates. The garment may, for example, be a unitary tubular dress with bodice, waist and skirt portions. The bodice portion has neck and arm openings. The skirt portion is substantially longer than the standard unfitted skirt length prescribed by tailors and has an end opening. The skirt portion is normally of length somewhat in excess of the distance between the waist of the wearer and the feet.

To achieve the correct hem line for the wearer, the open end of the skirt is inwardly intussuscepted, that is, folded up and under the skirt and terminates in the region of the waist of the dress. The length of the skirt is adjusted by tucking more or less of its length under the belt or girdle of the wearer. Alternatively, the open end of the skirt may be provided with an elastic band which fits around the wearer's waist. Garments embodying the floating hem line feature of the present invention can be manufactured at uniform overall lengths and then be fitted to the height of the wearer and the desired hem line without spending long periods of time adjusting and stitching. Also, the garment need not be pressed after washing but merely hung up to allow the wrinkles to fall out.

With this construction a variety of changes of dress styles may easily be accomplished. Some of these styles include drape, sack, jumper, sheath, two-piece look all of which may be adapted from the basic tubular garment.

It is therefore a general object of the present invention to provide a garment having a floating hem line for wearers of varying height and to accommodate style changes.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a garment having a floating hem line which is achieved by inwardly intussuscepting the open end of the skirt and removably terminating same in the region of the waist of the wearer.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a unitary tubular garment having a floating hem line which is achieved by inwardly intussuscepting an elasticized open end of the skirt and terminating the same about the body of the wearer in the waist region.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a garment having a floating hem line which is achieved by inwardly intussuscepting the open end of the skirt and tucking same under the underclothes of the wearer.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide a garment having a floating hem line which is inexpensive to manufacture, capable of assuming a plurality of styles, pleasing in appearance, easily fitted to the contour of the wearer, easy to maintain and adapted to be worn by wearers of varying heights.

The novel features which I believe to be characteristic of my invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. My invention itself, together with further objects and advantages thereof will best be understood by reference to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a garment made in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 shows the garment of Figure 1 with parts broken away;

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view of the broken away portion of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view of an alternative form of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is an elevational view of the dress on the wearer with the skirt turned outwardly, and upwardly to dispose the free end of the tubular member at the waist line. The skirt is shown broken away at the waistline.

There is shown generally at **10**, Figure 1, a garment made in accordance with the present invention. The garment is in the form of a unitary tubular dress **12** which has a bodice or upper portion **14**, a waist region **16** defined generally by the dotted lines and a skirt portion **18**. The bodice **14** has arm openings in the areas indicated by the members **20** and **22** and neck opening at **24**. The portions of the bodice **14** between the arm openings and the neck opening form shoulder strap portions of the bodice. As shown in Figure 1, dotted line **26** indicates generally one hem line for skirt **18**. Elongated panel **28** lies below hem line **26** and is approximately the same length as skirt **18** so that the total length of the garment extends from the shoulders to the feet of the wearer.

Skirt **18** is provided with end opening **30** and with an external fabric surface **32** and internal fabric surface **34**. In order to achieve the floating hem line, end opening **30** is inwardly intussuscepted, that is folded up and under, adjacent the internal surface **34** of skirt **18** as shown in Figure 2. End opening **30** terminates in waist region **16**, depending upon the hem line desired by the wearer. For purposes of illustration, the hem line desired is shown at **26**, Figures 1–4.

As shown in Figures 2 and 3, end opening **30** is removably secured in the waist region **16** by means of elastic **36** which extends around the periphery of the end opening. The elastic **36** fits around the waist of the wearer **37** and is accordingly adjusted until the hem line desired is achieved. The elastic **36** has sufficient tension to prevent elongated panel from moving out of place but yet at the same time does not adversely affect the wearer.

An alternative method of removably securing end opening **30** in waist region **16** is shown in Figure 4. End opening **30** is tucked under the upper lip **36** of girdle **38** worn by the wearer **37**. The extent of the tuck is dependent upon the height of the wearer and the length of the skirt desired. The girdle will insure that hem line **26** will not shift by securing end opening **30** against movement.

With the construction of the garment above described, a dress manufacturer may mass produce dresses embodying the floating hem linen without regard to initially hemming them or cutting them different lengths. The consumer can adjust the hem line interminably and thereby easily follow fluctuations in dress fashions. Also, the dress shop is relieved of the chore of hemming the dress to suit the wear. Additionally, maintenance of the garment is minimal for the garment need only be hung up after washing to allow the wrinkles to fall out rather than pressed.

While I have shown and described specific embodiments of the present invention, it will, of course, be understood that other modifications and alternative construction may

be used without departing from the true spirit and scope of this invention. I therefore intend by the appended claims to cover all such modifications and alternative constructions as fall within their true spirit and scope.

It is contemplated that the lower end of the tubular member **12** may be reversed and turned outwardly and upwardly so as to dispose the said lower end of the member at the waist line as shown in Figure 5, by adjusting the said free end by either raising or lowering it with respect to the waist line and/or folding the free end upon itself and by turning the free end with respect to the waistline different effects may be produced.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A convertible dress comprising a tubular member of substantially uniform width throughout its length and having an upper body covering portion and a skirt forming portion, the said skirt forming portion being approximately twice the length necessary to reach to a position below the knees of the wearer, the lower end of the said tubular member being provided with a constricting means whereby the said lower end may be upturned to a position adjacent the waist of the wearer, and permit the adjustment of the said skirt portion to form a floating hemline, and enable the said constricting means to be adjusted circumferentially of the waist of the wearer to present varying effects.

2. A convertible dress comprising a tubular member of substantially uniform width throughout its length and having an upper body covering portion and a skirt forming portion, the said skirt forming portion being approximately twice the length necessary to reach to a position below the knees of the wearer, the lower end of the said tubular member being provided with a constricting means, said constricting means including a circumferential elastic member whereby the said lower end may be upturned to a position adjacent the waist of the wearer, and permit the adjustment of the said skirt portion to form a floating hemline, and enable the said constricting means to be adjusted circumferentially of the waist of the wearer to present varying effects.

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