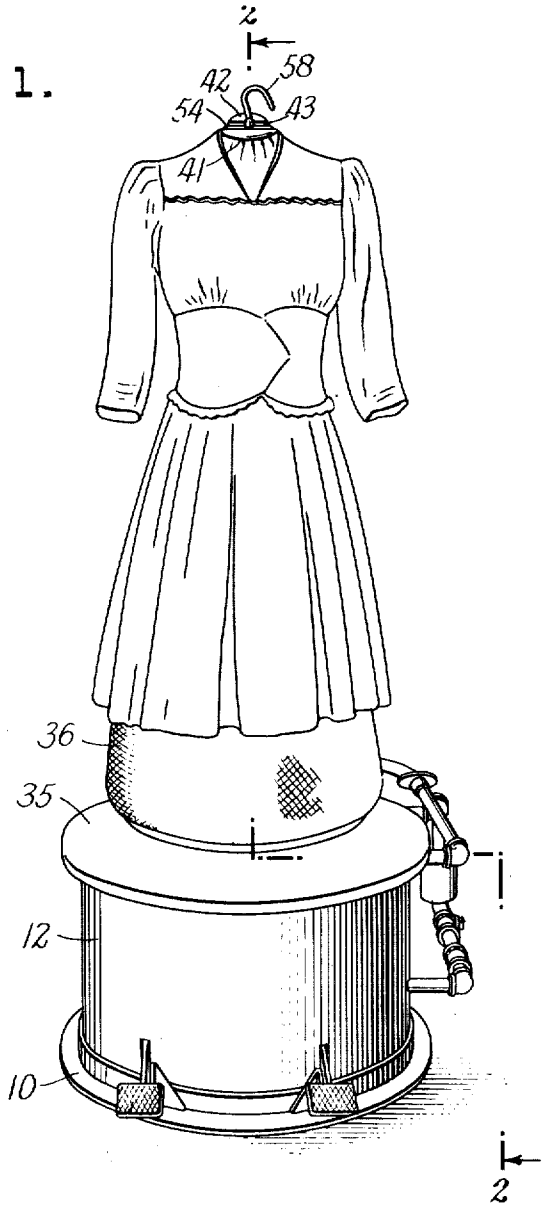
June 13, 1950 J. E. FITPOLD 2,511,796

DRESS FINISHER

Original Filed July 13, 1946 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



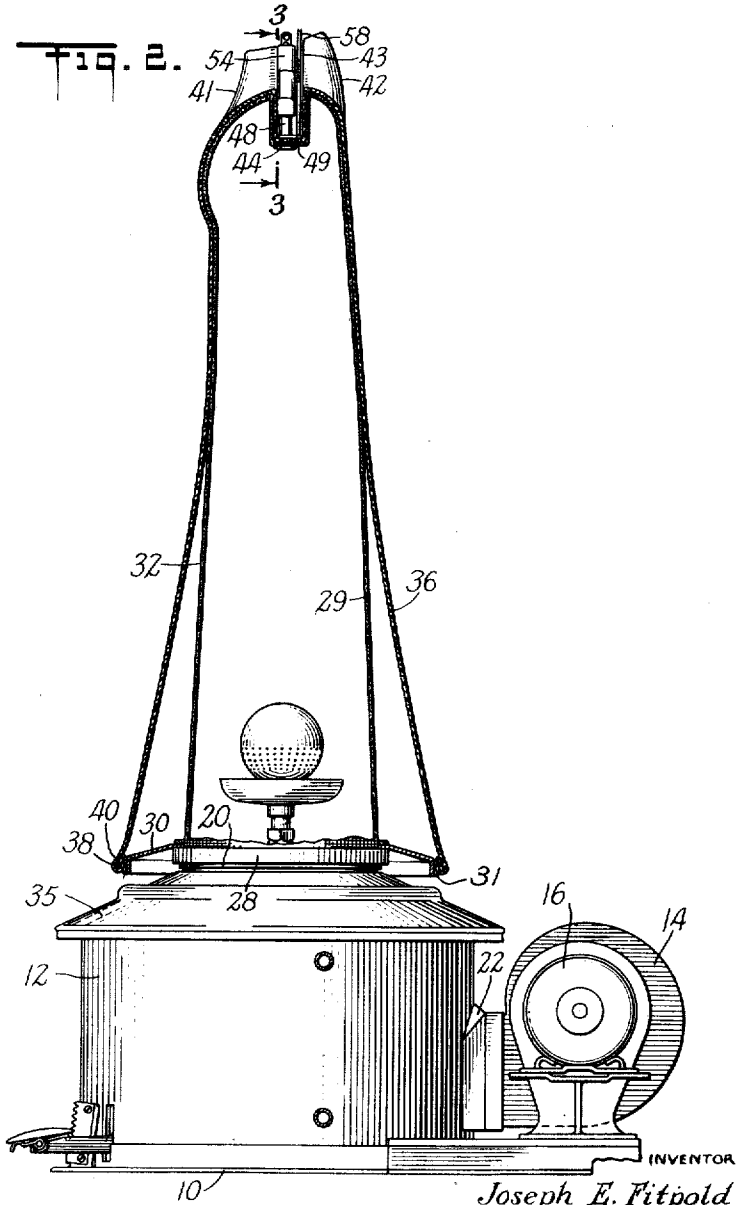
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Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

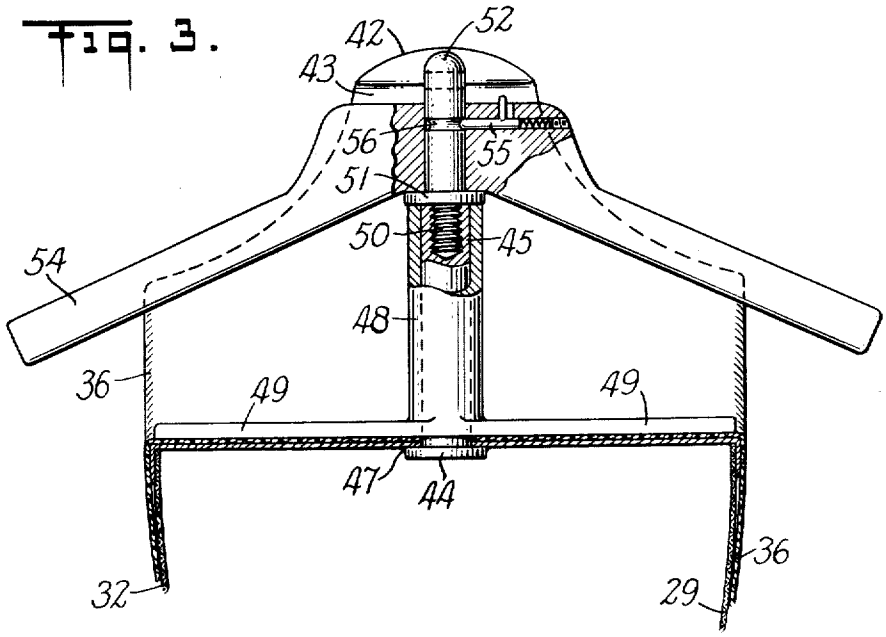
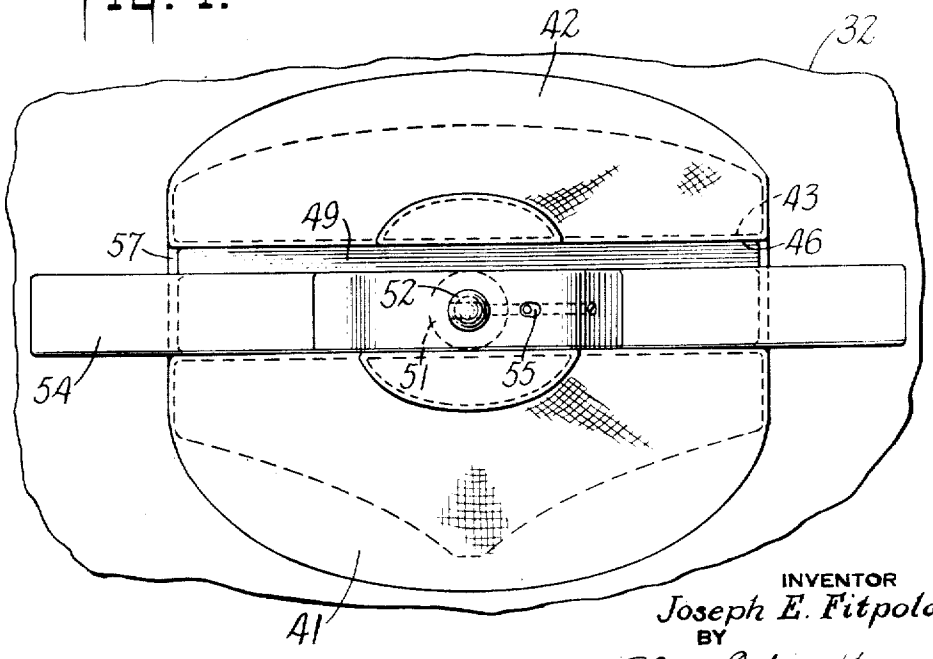


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,511,796

DRESS FINISHER

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Original application July 13, 1946, Serial No. 683,325, now Patent No. 2,443,557, dated June 15, 1948. Divided and this application August 13, 1947, Serial No. 768,397

8 Claims. (Cl. 223—68)

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This invention relates to apparatus for processing an entire dress or other similar garment, by means of steam and heated air, without the application of pressure from any ironing or pressing surface. More particularly the invention relates to apparatus comprising a reticulate or mesh metal form, covered by a baggy, somewhat porous fabric envelope, over which a garment may be placed and held in suitable position while steam and/or hot air or other fluid conditioning medium is blown outwardly through the bag and garment.

Garment finishing apparatus of the foregoing type has been proposed heretofore. The present application which is a division of my application filed July 13, 1946, Serial Number 683,325, Patent No. 2,443,557, relates especially to improvements in such apparatus, which facilitate the placing of dresses and other garments upon the form.

An object of the invention is to provide improved means for securing and supporting a porous bag upon a heating form and also to insure better and more efficient handling of garments while they are being placed upon or removed from the form.

Other objects will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements, and arrangement of parts as will be exemplified in the structure to be hereinafter described and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of the various possible embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a preferred embodiment showing a lady's dress draped upon the form to receive a finishing operation;

Fig. 2 is in part a side elevation and in part a vertical section on an enlarged scale, taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail section, taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a plan view of Fig. 3.

The finishing apparatus shown in the drawings comprises a base 10 upon which is mounted a cylindrical housing 12, a blower 14, with its drive motor 16. An inner shell 20, centrally located

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within the housing, receives air from the blower 14 through an air tunnel 22. The shell 20 extends above the walls of the housing 12 and supports a ball-bearing structure 28, an annular sheet steel ring 30 forming the bottom supporting member of a reticulate metal garment form 32.

The annular ring 30 carries at its circumference, a depending beaded ring 31, about which the bottom of the porous bag 36 is secured by means of a resilient loop of spring wire 38, disposed within the hem 40 of the bag.

A downwardly sloping annular metal cover 35 rests upon the top of the housing 12, and completes the enclosure of the space between the wall of the housing and the inner shell 20.

The body 29 of the garment form 32 is preferably made of flat expanded metal which is brazed or welded at its lower end to the ring 30, and at its top to formed metal neck and shoulder front plate 41 and neck and shoulder back plate 42, see Figs. 2, 3 and 4.

A novel feature of the present garment form is the device by which the bag 36 is supported thereon. By reference to the drawings, it will be seen that the shoulder and neck plates 41 and 42 are shaped to provide a deep recess or notch 43 which separates the front plate 41 from the back plate 42. This notch cuts right down through neck and shoulder from side to side and is of substantial depth from front to back of the recess. The bottom of the recess is flat metal continuous with the front and back walls of the recess.

A bolt or rivetlike member 44 which passes up through the bottom of the recess 43, as shown, is welded or brazed to the metal of the form, as at 47, and extends upwardly therefrom.

The porous bag is made with a notch 46, similar to the notch 43, which when the bag is placed over the form interfits perfectly with the said notch 43, the bottom of the notched portion of the bag being perforated to receive the upstanding shank of the bolt 44. The latter is internally threaded as at 45, and after the bag has been drawn down over the bolt, a sleeve member 48 having oppositely extending horizontal flanges 49 at its base is slipped over the bolt, with its said flanges in engagement with the bottom of the bag notch 46. The sleeve member is held in place

by a stud **50** which threadedly engages the threads **45** of the bolt member. A collar **51** on the stud, engaging the upper end of the sleeve member, holds the whole assembly tightly in position. The said stud extends upwardly above the collar **51** to provide a pin **52** upon which a special garment hanger **54** may be seated within the notch. The hanger may be retained in place in any suitable manner, as by the cooperation of a spring controlled latch **55** with an annular groove **56** in the pin portion of the stud.

The hanger **54** constitutes a permanent although removable part of the apparatus. The notch 46 has a greater dimension from front to back than has the garment hanger in the same direction, and the bolt **44** and stud **50** are forwardly offset from the shoulder center line of the respective notches, whereby a space **57** is left to the rear of the hanger when in place in the garment notch. This space is provided to permit the temporary disposal therein of the ordinary wire hanger, as **58**, commonly used in handling and supporting garments of various sorts during intervals between treating operations in the laundry or dry cleaning plant. On such a hanger dresses awaiting finishing would be carried when needed from any supporting rack to the dress form. As the dress is placed upon the permanent hanger of the form the wire hanger is simply dropped, to rest in the notch until the dress is ready for removal, when by grasping the wire hanger by its hook the dress may be quickly and easily removed from the form without mussing and again hung upon a suitable storage rack, or the like.

The bag **36** is flexible and made of fabric permeable to a fluid medium such as air and/or steam, but woven with sufficient tightness to provide sufficient resistance to the passage of the fluid to effect distension thereof and the maintenance of a certain pressure therein. The important function of the bag is to support and distend the garment under treatment to its normal size, and to provide uniform distribution of steam and/or air to all portions of the garment being treated.

In operation, a dress or other garment, with or without its wire hanger, is placed on the form, over the deflated bag. As the dress form and its regular integral hanger take up the support of the garment, the wire hanger may be dropped to lie loosely within the notch at the neck of the bag and form.

From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to provide means whereby to attain the objects hereinbefore set forth, and accomplish other more or less obvious advantageous results.

As many possible embodiments may be made of the above invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is understood that all matter set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In apparatus of the character described, in combination, a garment form having shaped neck and shoulder portions, means providing a rectilinear reentrant recess separating the back from the front of said portions, an upstanding peg member rigidly mounted at the bottom of said recess centrally with respect to the sides of said form, a sleeve loosely fitted upon said peg member having laterally extending bottom flanges positioned to serve as a clamp within said recess, and means cooperatively associated with said peg member to hold said sleeve in clamping position.

2. In apparatus of the character described, in combination, a garment form having shaped neck and shoulder portions, means providing a reentrant recess separating the back from the front of said portions, an upstanding peg member rigidly mounted at the bottom of said recess centrally with respect to the sides of said form, a sleeve loosely fitted upon said peg member having laterally extending bottom flanges positioned to serve as a clamp within said recess, and means threadedly engaging said peg member to hold said sleeve in clamping position.

3. In apparatus of the character described, in combination, a garment form having shaped neck and shoulder portions, means providing a reentrant recess separating the back from the front of said portions, an upstanding peg member rigidly mounted at the bottom of said recess centrally with respect to the sides of said form, a sleeve loosely fitted upon said peg member having bottom flanges positioned to serve as a clamp within said recess, and a covering for said form having a recessed neck and shoulder portion perforated to receive said peg and adapted to be held down in said form recess by said clamping means.

4. In apparatus of the character described, in combination, a garment form having shaped neck and shoulder portions, means providing a reentrant recess separating the back from the front of said portions, an upstanding peg member rigidly mounted at the bottom of said recess centrally with respect to the sides of said form, a sleeve loosely fitted upon said peg member having bottom flanges positioned to serve as a clamp within said recess, holding means threadedly engaging said peg member to hold said sleeve in clamping position, and a covering for said form having a recessed neck and shoulder portion perforated to receive said peg and adapted to be held down in said form recess by said clamping means.

5. In apparatus of the character described, in combination, a garment form having shaped neck and shoulder portions, means providing a reentrant notch separating the back from the front of said portions, an upstanding peg member rigidly mounted at the bottom of said notch centrally with respect to the sides of said form, a sleeve loosely fitted upon said peg member having laterally extending bottom flanges positioned to serve as a clamp within said notch, holding means threadedly engaging said peg member to hold said sleeve in clamping position and comprising an upstanding pin, and a garment hanger cooperatively associated with said pin for removable support within said notch by said holding means.

6. In apparatus for finishing garments, in combination, a perforate garment form having a reentrant portion extending through the neck and shoulder parts of said form from side to side thereof, and a flexible porous covering for said form having a recessed neck portion corresponding with said reentrant portion adapted to interfit therewith when the covering is placed upon said form.

7. In apparatus for finishing garments, in combination, a perforate garment form having a reentrant portion extending through the neck and shoulder parts of said form from side to side thereof, a flexible porous covering for said form having a recessed neck portion corresponding

with said reentrant portion adapted to interfit therewith when the covering is placed upon said form, and means operable within said reentrant portion of said form to clamp said covering securely to said form.

8. In apparatus for finishing garments, in combination, a perforate garment form having a reentrant portion extending through the neck and shoulder parts of said form from side to side thereof, a flexible porous covering for said form having a recessed neck portion corresponding with said reentrant portion adapted to interfit therewith when the covering is placed upon said form, means operable within said reentrant portion of said form to clamp said covering securely to said form, and garment supporting means removably supported by said clamping means.

JOSEPH E. FITPOLD.

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