

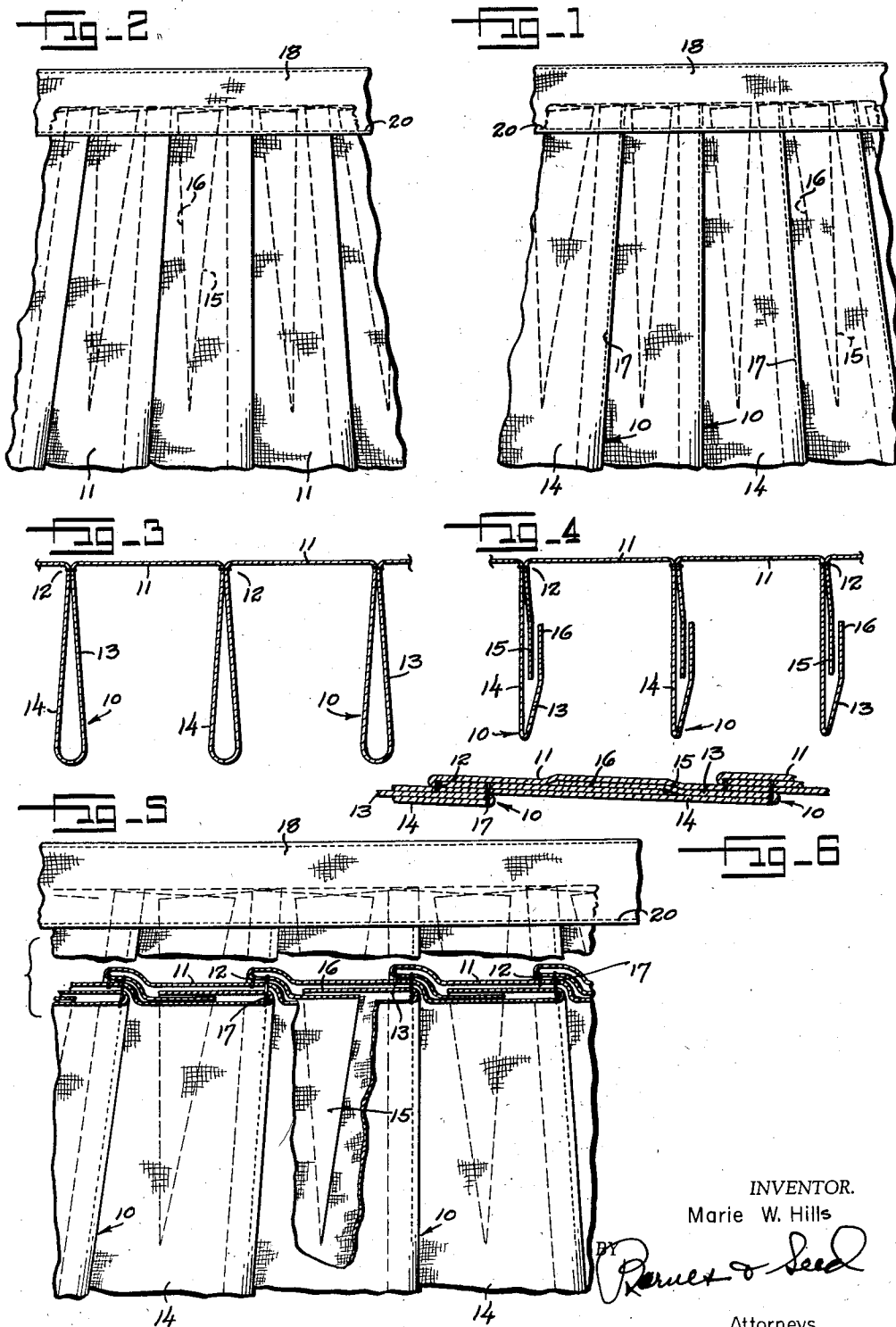
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WAISTED WEARING APPAREL HAVING PLEATS

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WAISTED WEARING APPAREL HAVING PLEATS

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This invention relates to waisted wearing apparel, particularly waisted wearing apparel having pleats and wherein such pleating is performed in a manner producing an attractive and finished appearance upon both sides thereof so that the garment can be worn with either such side exposed, in other words producing a garment which admits of being reversed. Reversing a garment of this nature perforce enables the wearer to choose between either of two patterns where the material employed is such that the two sides of the garment present different patterns. A garment which is made reversible is furthermore advantageous from the standpoint of allowing the wearer, should a garment become spotted, to reverse the same until facilities for cleaning are available.

The present invention pertains especially to that portion of a pleated garment, skirts in particular, extending from the approximate hip line to the waist, and namely that portion in which the pleats are stitched. These stitched pleats are necessarily narrowed above the hip line in order that the garment will properly fit the waist, and the procedure in accomplishing this narrowing, heretofore, has been one of "easing" the pleats. While "easing" is moderately successful in removing puckering, there nevertheless remains a certain degree of bunching. The object of the present invention is to provide an improved means and method of forming stitched pleats, and particularly stitched pleats on a reversible garment, so as to obviate bunchiness without recourse to the time-consuming and, at best, only moderately successful "easing" procedure.

The present invention consists in the novel construction, adaptation and combination of parts, and in the new method of construction, hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary view of the front of the skirt having pleats produced in accordance with the preferred teachings of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of the back of said skirt.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view showing the garment in the initial stage of forming the pleats, and namely producing successive loops and sewing the two flanks of these loops together at the root ends.

Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view portraying a following step which is performed upon the garment, and namely the step of slitting the inside flank of each loop longitudinally and lapping the edges of the slit.

Fig. 5 is a view showing the final step of construction in which the loops are laid back and stitched in place, the figure being a fragmentary view essentially in elevation with a median portion broken away. For maximum clarity it is assumed that the part broken away has been cut on the slope so that the several thicknesses along the upper edge of the lower portion will be visible and thus permit the same to be shown in section, the overall effect being to suggest somewhat of a perspective showing. In the actual garment the exposed flank of each loop is substantially planar from the root to the apical extremity

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rather than, as would appear in this view, having an intermediate jog. The final line of stitching is, moreover, a tight rather than the loose stitching here shown, the loose stitch being illustrated in order that spaces will appear between the web, the flank, and the fly components of each of the pleats and thus render these components more easily distinguishable; and

Fig. 6 is a horizontal sectional view drawn to a scale giving to the pleats a greater width than that of the preceding sectional views and thus permitting an illustration more true-to-life than that of Fig. 5.

In producing the pleated garment according to the teachings of the present invention the first step is to form a succession of the pleats by folding the material in the manner portrayed in Fig. 3 into multiple loops, and namely so that each loop 10 is separated from the next adjacent loop by a web 11. Each loop, considered from its root end to the apex, has a length approximately the same as that of the web from substantially the lower edge of the garment to the hip line. Within this area the loops remain as loose folds, being devoid of any connecting stitch lines. Above the hip line the root ends of each loop's flanking faces are connected by stitching 12, and this stitching is applied along converging lines so that the length (transverse span) of the webs progressively decreases from the hip line toward the waist proper, thus giving the garment in the region of the waist the narrowing size which is perforce needed if the same is to mold itself to the body of the wearer. This narrowing of the webs perforce results in a progressive increase in the length of the loops.

It is here pointed out that these several loops, in the later step of producing the garment, are laid back so that one flank 13 of each loop overlies the web. For ease of description this flank 13 will be hereinafter termed the inner flank while the other flank, denoted by 14, will be termed the outer flank. For maximum clarity in an understanding of the invention I have shown the loops as being slit at this stage of the operation, and namely after the root ends have been stitched at 12. I wish to here point out that while the invention can of course be performed by following this procedure it is my finding, in actual practice, that it is preferable to perform the slitting before the pleats are sewed. The slits occur along the substantial center line of the inner flank and extend longitudinally from the extreme upper edge to approximately the low limit of the stitch lines 12. Thus each inner flank becomes divided into two sections or flies 15 and 16. The next step is to lap these flies while coincidentally laying such lapped flies back against the related web, whereupon, a line of stitching 17 corresponding or approximately corresponding in length to the stitch lines 12 is applied along the bight or apex of each loop, making such apical edge fast to the web. This stitching 17 passes through four layers of material, to-wit: (1) the outer and (2) the inner flank of the concerned loop immediately adjacent the apex, (3) the underlying web 11, and (4) the root fly 15 of the next adjacent loop. The stitch lines 12 and 17, while they are or may be spaced apart at the upper limit of the stitched pleats, converge and substantially merge at the lower or hip-line limit of the stitched pleats.

The garment, or that portion thereof with which the present invention is concerned, is completed by applying thereto a waist-band 18. This waist-band is composed of a strip of material folded upon itself along its longitudinal center line, and the two flies thereby produced overlie the front and back faces of the garment along the upper edge, depending somewhat below said edge and having a line 20 of stitching applied so as to pass through the stitched pleats together with both folds of the waist-

band. It will be apparent that this stitching 20 locks the lapped flies 15 and 16 of the slit flanks 13 against disarrangement.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that a garment is produced in which no bunchiness occurs in the stitched area of the pleats and one which may be worn with either side exposed with little difference in general appearance. The lines 17 of stitching are exposed while the stitch lines 12 are blind. This, however, adds to rather than detracts from the desirability of the garment in that it creates the impression of a different garment, as of course do garments in which the type of material used produces a different pattern upon one side than upon the other.

The skirt of the present invention, in accordance with the usual practice of reversible skirts, employs a double-headed zipper, and namely one having pull-tabs upon each of its two sides.

The invention is thought to be clear from the foregoing detailed description of my now-preferred illustrated embodiment. Minor changes in the details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention, and it is accordingly my intention that no limitations be implied and that the hereto annexed claims be given a scope fully commensurate with the broadest interpretation to which the employed language admits.

What I claim is:

1. A waisted garment having stitched pleats extending from approximately the hip line to the waist limit thereof with said stitched pleats comprised of a succession of loops separated by connecting webs and characterized in that said webs progressively diminish in width toward said waist limit, the loops being all folded back in a corresponding direction so as to overlie the adjacent web and being of a length, considered from the root end to the apex, such that the apex of each loop laps the root end of the next adjacent loop, the inner flank of each loop of said stitched pleats providing an open-end slit extending longitudinally on the approximate center line of the flank from the waistline limit to approximately the hip line of the garment and having the two flies which lie at opposite sides of said slit lapped so as to reduce said length of the loop progressively from the closed to the open end of the slit, the stitching for each pleat being in two lines one of which lies at the root end and passes through both flanks and the other of which lies adjacent the apex and passes through both flanks together with the underlying outside flank of the adjacent lapped loop and the root fly of the inner flank of said last-named loop.

2. The garment of claim 1 having a folded waist band into the fold of which the upper or waist end of the stitched pleats is inserted, and having a horizontal line of stitching passing through said folds of the waist band and the inserted material of the stitched pleats to secure the waist band in place and additionally lock the lapped flies against disarrangement.

3. A garment according to claim 1 in which the first-named line of stitching is concealed from view both from the front and from the back of the garment.

4. A waisted garment having stitched pleats extending from approximately the hip line to the waist limit thereof with said stitched pleats comprised of a succession of loops separated by connecting webs and characterized in that said webs progressively diminish in width toward said

waist limit, the loops being all folded back in a corresponding direction so as to overlie the adjacent web and having a length, considered from the root end to the apex, at least as long as the transverse span of the webs, the flank of each loop which lies to the inside being slit longitudinally on the approximate center line of the flank from the upper or waist line edge to approximately the hip line limit and having the two flies which lie at opposite sides of said slit lapped so as to reduce said length of the loop progressively from the closed to the open end of the slit, the stitching for each pleat being in two lines one of which lies at the root end and passes through both flanks and the other of which lies adjacent the apex passing through both flanks together with the material of the garment which underlies said apex.

5. A waisted garment having stitched pleats extending from approximately the hip line to the waist limit thereof with said stitched pleats comprised of a succession of loops separated by connecting webs and characterized in that said webs progressively diminish in width toward said waist limit, the loops being all folded back in a corresponding direction so as to overlie the adjacent web and having a length, considered from the root end to the apex, at least as long as the transverse span of the webs, the inner flank of each loop of said stitched pleats presenting an open-end slit extending longitudinally on the approximate center line of the flank from the waist-line limit of the garment for a substantial portion of the length of the flank and having the two flies which lie at opposite sides of said slit lapped so as to reduce said length of the loop progressively from the closed to the open end of the slit, the stitching for each pleat connecting the root ends together and additionally securing the apical end to the material of the garment which underlies said apex.

6. The garment of claim 5 having a folded waist band into the fold of which the upper or waist end of the stitched pleats is inserted, and having a horizontal line of stitching passing through said folds of the waist band and the inserted material of the stitched pleats to secure the waist band in place and additionally lock the lapped flies against disarrangement.

7. The method of producing stitched pleats in the waist section of a skirt, comprising folding the material of said waist section into a succession of loops separated by connecting webs and stitching the root ends of the two flanks of each loop together along stitch lines so placed that the intervening webs progressively diminish in their transverse span toward the waist limit of the skirt and are no wider at their widest point than the shortest length of the loop considered from the said stitch line to the apex, slitting a like flank of each loop longitudinally along the approximate center line thereof from the waist-line edge to a point approaching the low limit of the stitch line and lapping the flies which are provided at opposite sides of said slit so as to reduce said length of the loop progressively from the lower to the upper end limit of the stitched loop, laying the slit flank of each loop back against the adjacent web, and stitching the apical end of said loops to the underlying material so that the same are held fast thereto.

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