UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CHILD'S GARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—80)

This invention relates to improvements in children's garments, and it relates particularly to improvements in overalls, play suits, trousers and the like for young children, especially those from one to six years old.

The rapid growth of children, particularly boys, has always resulted in ill-fitting clothes. Usually when a properly fitted pair of overalls or a pair of trousers having a bib portion is purchased for the younger child, only a few months elapse until the garment gives the appearance of having shrunk. The legs of the garment appear to be, and are too short, the bib is below the chest of the child and the waistband is nearer the hips than the waist. Unless the garment is purposely too large when originally purchased, about the only thing that can be done at this stage, which usually arises when the garment is still in good condition, is to discard it or save it for a younger child, and replace it with a new garment. This sometimes entails several complete replacements of clothing a year, if the clothing is to fit reasonably well when it is new. Needless to say, if the garment is originally too large, it never presents a good appearance for when it attains the proper fit it is in a condition fit only to be discarded.

The clothing problem and its solution, as outlined above, has always left something to be desired, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a simpler and less expensive solution and substantial additional advantages.

The principal object of the invention is to provide trousers, overalls and the like which may be adjusted easily to compensate for the growth of the child, without loss of the proper fit as the child grows and without being too large when originally purchased, as is usually the case when an attempt is made to anticipate the normal growth of the child.

Another object of the invention is to provide children's garments, particularly children's overalls, trousers, play suits and the like which may be washed readily and which may be ironed with a minimum of difficulty either with a hand iron or an ironing machine.

In accordance with the present invention, I have provided garments, for example, overalls, trousers and the like which are made up principally of two pieces of fabric, these pieces being substantially mirror images and being joined along portions of their edges and secured by fasteners along other edges so that the garments may be opened up and laid out flat with the two pieces superimposed. When so opened up, the garment can be press ed in a flat condition by means of a hand iron, a flat plate or a roll type ironer.

More particularly, in accordance with this invention, the chest and waist covering portions of the garments are modified substantially from conventional designs. In the new overalls, for example, the bib or front portion is made considerably longer or higher than is customary in conventional overalls so that the bib and the sides of the garment are close to the collar and the armpits of the wearer when the garments are new. To compensate for the "higher rise" and to provide a neat fit around the waist and chest of the wearer, short waistband straps or resilient panels may be provided to take up excess fullness in these portions of the overalls. Inasmuch as the torso length and the girth of the younger child tends to increase more rapidly than the length of his legs, compensation for growth can be had by merely letting out the shoulder straps and the waist straps so that when the child, at last, has worn the garment out, the bib and the waist portions are in about the same relation to the child's torso as the bib and waist portions of a conventional similar garment when new. Thus, over a greatly prolonged period, usually two to three times as long as with the usual similar garment, my new garments have the appearance of being, and actually are, properly fitted.

I have found, also, by providing the shoulder straps with a suitable curvature and by locating the ends of the straps properly at the back of the garment, that their tendency to slip off the child's shoulders is substantially reduced.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will become more apparent from the following description of a typical garment embodying the present invention.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a typical pair of overalls embodying the present invention with the wearer's neck and shoulders shown in dotted lines therein;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the overalls shown in fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side view of the overalls with the legs and crotch thereof open and with the overalls shown in dotted lines thereon when the leg portions are fastened together;

Fig. 4 is a side view of the overalls, illustrating the adjusting straps; and

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary side view of the gar-
ments showing an elastic or resilient insert in the place of the waistband straps.

The form of the invention chosen for purposes of illustration consists of a child’s overalls. It will be understood, however, from the following description, that certain features of the invention are equally applicable to play suits, trousers and other garments from the standpoint of attractive fit and long useful life. Thus, one of the important features of my new garments is that the bib portion is cut much higher than with ordinary overalls so that it comes up close to the collar when the garment is first fastened to the child. Also, the edge 26 of the waist portion is much higher than with the ordinary overalls and extends several inches above the waist of the child, which may be defined, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, by the waistband strapes 27 and 28 which are provided in order to draw the sides of the garment snugly around the waist of the child. The waist measurement of the garment is purposely made several inches longer than usual in the same age size of the conventional overalls. The waistband strapes 27 and 28 are adjusted to take up this excess of length as the garment lies flat, as shown in Fig. 3 and thereby makes it easy to iron. It will be understood, of course, that the bib that is, until the waistband length has become too small. At this stage the upper edge of the waistband or are set at a perpendicular to portion can be omitted if short or long trousers 75 the waistband.

As the child grows, the waistband strapes 27 and 28 may be loosened, or, if desired, completely removed, so that the garment settles down farther to compensate for the growth of the child.

In the same way, the bib is lowered by letting out the shoulder straps 29 and 30 which are four or five inches longer than normal. The advantage of these several elements, therefore, is such that the garment appears well and fits well until the garment has actually been outgrown by the child. That is, until the waistband length has become too small. At this stage the upper edge of the waist and the upper edge of the bib are in about the position of the corresponding portions of ordinary overalls when they are new and properly fitted. In this way, overalls embodying the present invention can be worn two or three times as long by a child during normal growth as the usual overalls without at any time giving the impression that they are too large or too small for the child.

Still another feature of the invention is the provision of a novel type of shoulder strap construction which overcomes to a large extent any tendency for the shoulder strapes to slip off the child’s shoulder. As shown in Fig. 2, the shoulderstraps 30 and 31 are secured about one inch apart at the back of the waist portion of the garment and are adapted to be crossed, passed over the shoulders of the child and buttoned or otherwise secured to the bib of the garment. I have found that by providing the waistband strapes 30 and 31 with portions 32 and 33 curved in the direction of crossing and in the direction of the shoulder opposite to the point of connection of the strapes, they will not cross and at the same time will not slip off the shoulders readily. It would be expected that such a curve would tend to cause the shoulder strapes to slip off the shoulders, but I have found quite unexpectedly that the curved strapes have less tendency to slip off than the usual straight strapes which either are set on at an angle to the waistband or are set on perpendicular to the waistband.
It will be understood that the garments are susceptible to considerable modification. For example, as shown in Fig. 5, the waistband straps may be replaced by elastic panels or inserts and that side vents may be used instead of the rear vent shown in Fig. 2.

From the preceding description, it will be apparent that I have provided garments for children which are designed to compensate for and to conform to the growth of the child, thereby prolonging the useful life of the garment. These garments are much more easily ironed than prior garments of the same general type without sacrifice of appearance and fit. It will be understood that these garments may be made of many different types of materials such as wool, cotton and synthetic fiber fabrics in many different patterns thereby making them highly attractive for "dress up" occasions as well as for play clothes. Changes may be in the shape of the parts depending upon the age of the child and his stature and weight and that various types of ornamentation may be applied thereto, all without departing from the invention. Therefore, the form of the invention disclosed herein should be considered as illustrative and not as limiting the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. Children's overalls comprising two substantially identical flat pieces of material, one having portions adapted to cover the right side of the lower torso and the right leg of the wearer and the other having portions adapted to cover the left side of the lower torso and the left leg of the wearer, said lower torso covering portions being connected together by front and rear seams at the front and rear of the overalls, respectively, each of said pieces adjacent to said front seam being formed with a bib extension, said extensions being joined by said front seam to form a bib adapted to extend up to the neck of the wearer, the pieces having substantially straight upper edges on each side of the bib forming an upper back edge on the overalls adapted to extend in substantially a straight line around the sides and back of the wearer, said upper back edge being located above the waistline of the overalls and adapted to cover portions of the torso of the wearer above the waistline thereof, adjustable tabs on each side of the overalls at its waistline and spaced below the upper back edge of said overalls, adjustable shoulder straps extending from adjacent the middle of said upper back edge to the upper end of said bib, the leg covering portions of said pieces having free side edges and lower ends, said free side edges of each piece being connected together along a line extending from said lower end of said piece up to the upper ends of said side edges to form the legs of the overalls and a crotch therebetween, and said line of connection incorporating a slide fastener extending from the lower end of one leg up to the crotch and down the other leg to its lower end.

2. Children's overalls comprising two substantially identical flat pieces of material, one having portions adapted to cover the right side of the lower torso and the right leg of the wearer and the other having portions adapted to cover the left side of the lower torso and the left leg of the wearer, said lower torso covering portions being connected together by front and rear seams at the front and rear of the overalls, respectively, each of said pieces adjacent to said front seam being formed with a bib extension, said extensions being joined by said front seam to form a bib adapted to extend up to the neck of the wearer, the pieces having substantially straight upper edges on each side of the bib forming an upper back edge on the overalls adapted to extend in substantially a straight line around the sides and back of the wearer, said upper back edge being located above the waistline of the overalls and adapted to cover portions of the torso of the wearer above the waistline thereof, adjustable tabs on each side of the overalls at its waistline and spaced below the upper back edge of said overalls, adjustable shoulder straps extending from adjacent the middle of said upper back edge to the upper end of said bib, the leg covering portions of said pieces having free side edges and lower ends, and said free side edges of each piece being connected together along a line extending from said lower end of said piece up to the upper ends of said side edges to form the legs of the overalls and a crotch therebetween.

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