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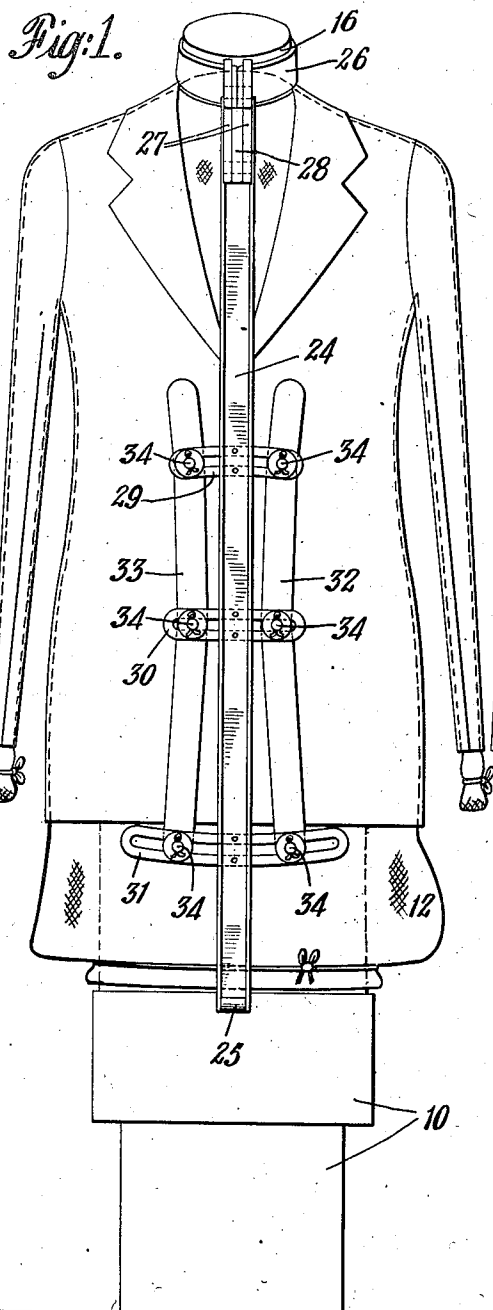
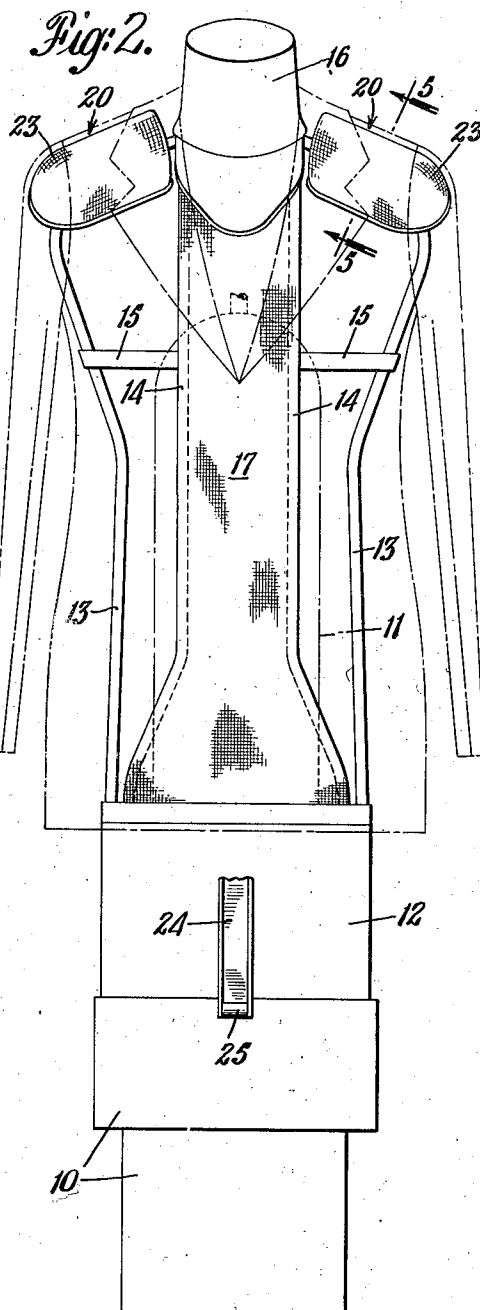
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2,361,045

GARMENT PROCESSING APPARATUS

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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GARMENT PROCESSING APPARATUS

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9 Claims. (Cl. 223—68)

This invention relates to apparatus for steaming and drying garments such as coats, jackets and the like.

In apparatus of this nature, it is desirable to provide a form on which a coat or similar garment may be supported and held in a properly supported position. While thus supported and secured in place, the steam, hot air or other media may be forced outwardly under pressure through the fabric of the garment to bring out the nap, dry the garment, or otherwise improve its appearance.

It is important in apparatus of this nature to provide a form which can be readily adapted and adjusted to different sizes and styles of coats or similar garments, since it is frequently desirable to process such different garments one after another in rapid succession.

In my copending application Serial No. 340,217, filed June 12, 1940, and issued January 11, 1944, as Patent No. 2,338,776, I have described one example of a suitable form together with apparatus for supplying steam or hot air to the garment. My present invention is concerned more particularly with the garment supporting means and is not limited to any special manner of supplying steam, hot air or other suitable media to the garment.

It is an object of this invention to provide a readily adjustable form of simple construction but which may be easily and rapidly adapted to garments of different sizes and styles.

Another object of the invention is to provide such garment supporting apparatus with means for clamping the front portion of the garment in a closed position, said means being adjustable to accommodate readily either single breasted or double breasted coats.

A further object of the invention is to provide apparatus of the kind specified with a resilient clamping means for holding the front of the garment in closed position during the processing operation.

A further object of the invention is to provide a garment form having adjustable supports for the shoulder for the garment, together with resilient means for clamping the front of the garment in properly adjusted position.

Other objects will be apparent and will be described in connection with a preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the apparatus with a fabric bag cover and showing a single-breasted coat in position for processing.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the apparatus without a fabric bag cover and with the clamping means broken away and the coat shown in dot-dash lines.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the apparatus with the coat shown in dot-dash lines, and the clamping means illustrated in two different positions.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal cross sectional view of one of the shoulder supports, taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a transverse cross sectional view of one of the shoulder supports, taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

In the drawings, numeral 10 indicates a base or support which may contain a steam generating apparatus, a steam separator, or a hot air generator with suitable controls as described in my said Patent No. 2,338,776. Above the base 10 may be supported a steam dome 11 with its lower end surrounded by a shield 12, as described in my said patent.

Supported on the shield 12 is a rigid framework comprising the side members 13, 13 and front members 14, 14 which are connected together intermediate their ends by the horizontally curved strap 15. The upper ends of the side members 13, 13 and front members 14, 14 converge towards each other and are attached to a neck form 16. Between the two front supports 14, 14, there may be secured and supported a vertically extending foraminous support 17 of suitable width. This foraminous support may consist of galvanized wire cloth of very open mesh, or any other suitable foraminous support through which steam or other gaseous medium will readily pass.

Near the points where the members 13 join the neck form 16, there are clamped on each side of the neck form the brackets 18 which have pivotally secured thereto complementary brackets 19. The upper ends of the brackets 19 are attached to shoulder supports, indicated generally at 20, and composed of pairs of curved frame members 21 joined by longitudinal straps 22 and covered by a suitably curved section of wire cloth 23 or other suitable foraminous material.

Clamping means are provided for holding the front of the garment in adjusted position. This means may comprise the vertically extending frame member 24, consisting of a piece of channel iron, or other frame member, hinged by means of the pin 25 to the base 10. A collar 26 may be secured around the top of the neck form 16 and pivotally connected to the toggle links 27 and 28, the latter of which is pivotally connected to the top of the frame member 24. This provides

a convenient and simple means for moving the frame 24 back and forth into clamping or released position with respect to the form.

The frame 24 has fixed thereto in any suitable manner the horizontally disposed straps 29, 30 and 31, each one of which is provided with a suitable longitudinal slot. The vertical straps 32 and 33 thus may be resiliently and adjustably supported by means of the pins 34, together with suitable washers and cotter pins, with the pins 34 extending through the slots in the horizontal straps 29, 30 and 31. Each of the vertical straps 32 and 33 may be composed of single pieces, or of separate links as shown in Fig. 3 for greater adjustability. Compression coil springs 35 between the vertical straps 32, 33 and the horizontal straps 29, 30 and 31 hold these vertical straps by friction in adjusted position while permitting movement of the straps 32, 33 laterally of the garment. In addition, when the toggle links 27, 28 are closed, the springs 35 are compressed and the vertical straps 32, 33 are resiliently pressed against the front of the garment to be processed.

The entire form including the shield 12 and the upper portion of the base 13 may be mounted for rotation, if desired, or this form may be fixed in place. Also, the form may be used with or without a fabric bag cover 13a, as described in my said patent.

In the operation of this device, it will be apparent that the shoulder pieces 20 are virtually automatically adjustable to different slopes of shoulders of different garments placed over the form. After the garment is draped over the form, the front of the garment is pulled into closed position and may be buttoned, if desired, after which the toggle links 27, 28 are closed to force the vertical straps 32, 33 resiliently against the front of the garment and hold this front portion of the garment against the foraminous support 17.

The steam, hot air or other gaseous medium is then turned on inside of the garment and by reason of the fact that it is under pressure is forced out through the garment fabric. During the operation, the garment is held securely in proper position for shaping. As soon as the operation is completed and the steam or hot air is turned off, the garment may be quickly removed by simply releasing the toggle links 27 and 28. If desirable, of course, the vertical straps 32, 33 may be made of foraminous material, or they may be covered with a suitable soft fabric to avoid damage to the garments, as will be understood by those skilled in the art.

While I have described a preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention. The internal construction of the form and steam or hot air generating means may be varied and the apparatus can be designed for use with or without internal bags for supplying the medium to the body or sleeves of the garment.

The terms and expressions which I have employed are used as terms of description and not of limitation, and I have no intention, in the use of such terms and expressions, of excluding any

equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, but recognize that various modifications are possible within the scope of the invention claimed.

I claim:

1. Apparatus of the class described comprising a form for supporting a coat or like garment including angularly adjustable shoulder supports and a foraminous support for the front of such a garment, a fabric bag covering said support for inflation inside the garment to shape and condition the garment, and clamping means for holding the front of a garment against said support, said means being adjustable laterally of the front of the garment.

2. Apparatus of the class described comprising a form for holding a coat or like garment with front panels thereof overlapped, a closed fabric bag covering said form, means for inflating said bag with steam inside the garment, supporting means for said front panels on the inside of said garment, and resilient clamping means for holding said panels in position against said supporting means, said clamping means being hinged near its lower end for application to or release from said holding position.

3. Apparatus of the class described comprising a form for holding a coat or like garment with front panels thereof overlapped, supporting means for said front panels on the inside of said garment, a closed fabric bag cover for said form arranged to be inflated inside the garment, and resilient clamping means for holding said panels in position against said supporting means, said clamping means being adjustable laterally of the front of the garment to cover a wider or narrower portion thereof.

4. Apparatus as defined in claim 2 in which the clamping means is hinged at its lower end and secured by a toggle near the upper end.

5. Apparatus as defined in claim 2 in which the clamping means comprises laterally adjustable vertical straps resiliently supported on a frame and disposed to press against the front panels of a garment on each side of the center line thereof.

6. Apparatus of the class described comprising a form for holding a coat or like garment with front panels thereof overlapped, adjustable supports for the shoulders of such a garment, supporting means for said front panels, a fabric bag cover for said form that is expanded by fluid discharged inside the form, and resilient means for clamping the front of said garment in properly adjusted position against said supporting means.

7. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 in which the clamping means comprises vertical members adjustable laterally.

8. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 in which the clamping means comprises vertical members adjustable laterally of the garment and resiliently supported on a frame.

9. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 in which the clamping means comprises upright members that are adjustable laterally and angularly relative to each other for adaptation to garments of different sizes and shapes.

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