Nov. 22, 1955 N. BIERN 2,724,120

LENGTH-ADJUSTABLE READY-TO-WEAR SKIRTS

Filed Jan. 3, 1952 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

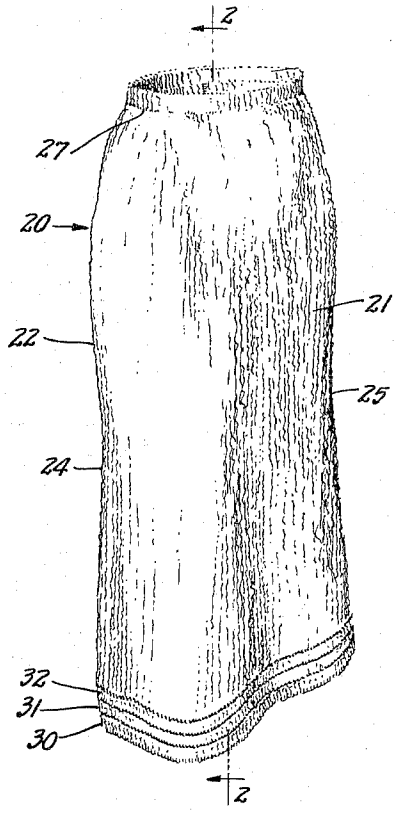


FIG. 2.

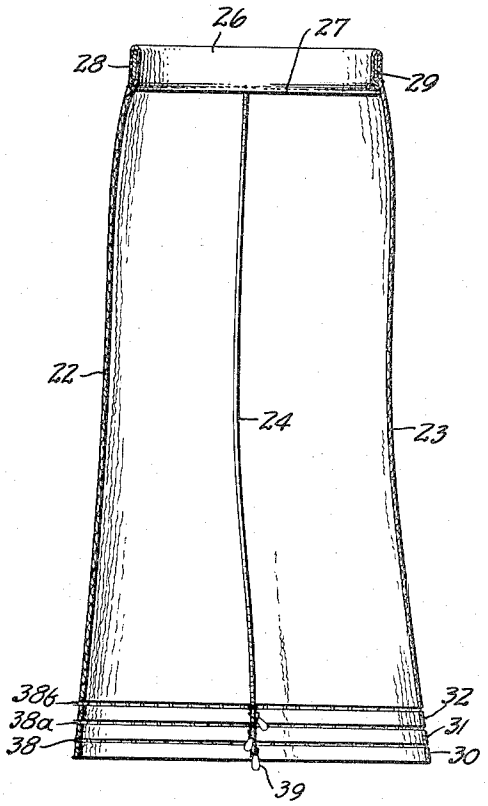


FIG. 3.

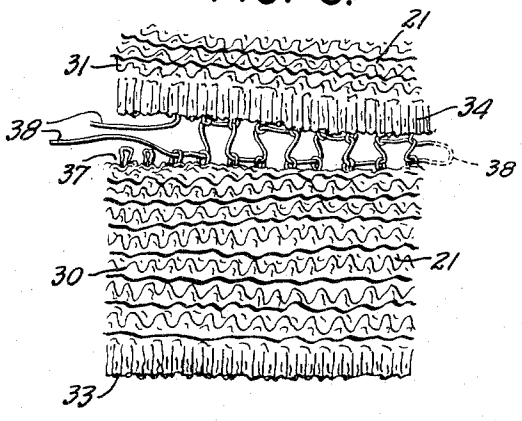
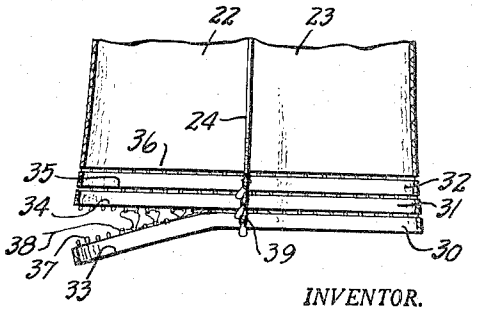


FIG. 4.



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Filed Jan. 3, 1952 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

FIG. 5.

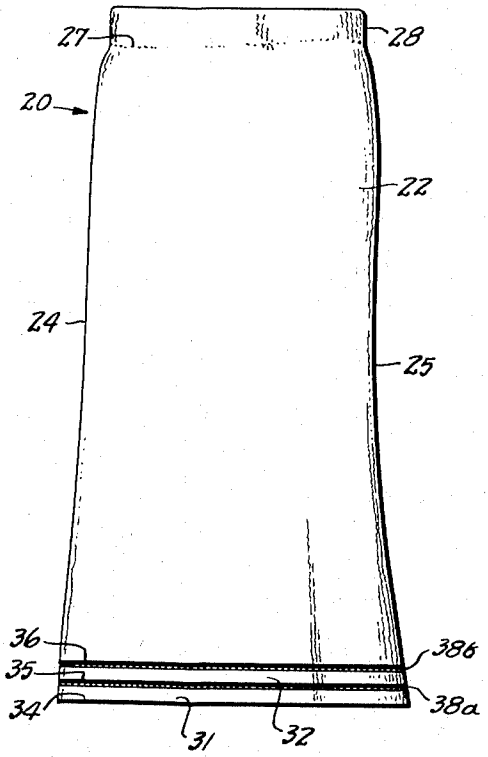


FIG. 7.

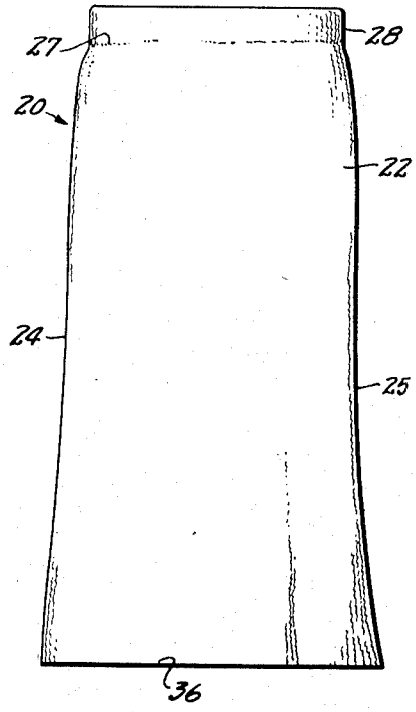


FIG. 6.

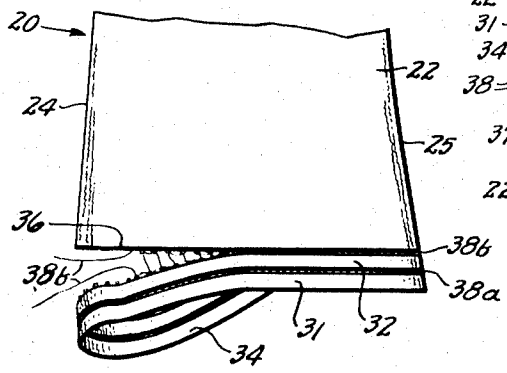
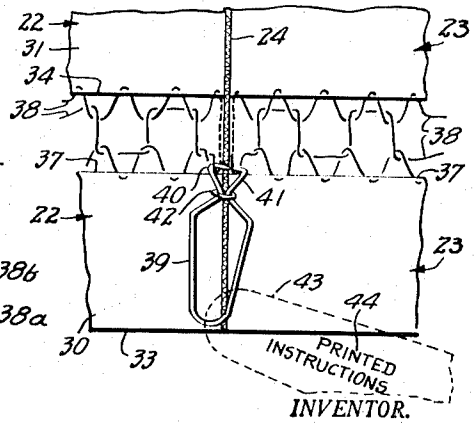


FIG. 8.



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LENGTH-ADJUSTABLE READY-TO-WEAR SKIRTS

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2—211)

This invention relates to a knitted length-adjustable ready-to-wear garment, and more particularly, to a knitted length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt.

Ready-to-wear knitted garments such as skirts are made in fixed lengths and are provided with a selvage edge at the bottom to prevent the knitted fabric from unravelling. Frequently the skirt or other garment is found to be too long, and if the bottom marginal edge is cut off to shorten the garment to fit, a raw edge is left at the bottom which allows the knitted fabric to unravel unless the raw edge is specially refinished to prevent unravelling. Accordingly when a customer buys a knitted suit or skirt which requires shortening to fit, the retailer determines the extent of the alteration and returns the garment to the factory where it is shortened and refinished with a new selvage edge by a skilled operator. This not only entails a delay of several weeks before the factory shortened garment is returned, but refinishing the stortened garment with a new selvage edge is an expensive operation which substantially increases the final cost of the refinished garment. The delay in, and cost of, shortening the garment tends to discourage a customer from buying a knitted suit or a knitted skirt if the garment needs to be shortened to fit the customer.

One object of this invention is a ready-to-wear knitted garment which can easily be shortened and refinished by the customer to effect length adjustment of, and produce a completely refinished and ready-to-wear, knitted garment.

Another object of this invention is a ready-to-wear knitted skirt which can be selectively shortened at will to effect a plurality of different length adjustments which are obtained by removing one or more selvage-edged bands, which bands are knitted into the body of the fabric in parallel spaced relation and form a part of the pattern, each successive selvage edge being effective to prevent the fabric from unravelling when the adjoining selvage-edged band is removed thus exposing the next selvage edge and shortening the skirt to a new finished length which is defined by said newly exposed selvage edge.

Another object is a ready-to-wear knitted skirt which can be selectively shortened by the removal of one or more spaced rounds of stitches defining drawthreads, each drawthread being clearly distinguished from the body of the knitted fabric by a detachable marker which can be selectively operated for removal either with its associated drawthread to shorten the skirt, or without its drawthread if said drawthread is not to be used to shorten the skirt.

Another object of this invention is a ready-to-wear adjustable knitted skirt having removable rounds of stitches paralleling the bottom edge of the skirt in spaced relation, each said removable round of stitches being specifically distinguished by a pull-tab detachably attached to the end of said round of stitches to indicate a drawthread, so that said pull-tab may be operated to initiate the removal of the drawthread with which said

pull-tab is associated if the adjoining edge band is to be removed, or may be detached from the knitted fabric independently of and without disturbing the drawthread with which the pull-tab is associated.

Other objects will appear from the detailed description which follows.

In accordance with this invention the fabric of the skirt (for example), is knitted as in matching panels upon a knitting machine, or in any other manner, so that each matched panel includes a plurality of spaced bands of predetermined depth extending across the bottom of the panel, the lowermost band being provided with a selvage edge defining the bottom edge of the skirt panel, each of the other bands also commencing with a selvage which is knitted to the adjacent band or bands by a drawthread which is knitted into the body of the fabric, so that each drawthread and the knitted selvage to which it is attached form a part of and merge with the pattern of the fabric.

In the drawing comprising two sheets of eight figures, numbered Figs. 1 to 8, both inclusive:

Fig. 1 is a front view of my ready-to-wear adjustable length skirt; Fig. 2 is a vertical cross sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a fragment of two adjoining knitted bands with the drawthread partly withdrawn to separate the bands; Fig. 4 is a vertical cross sectional view of the lower end of the skirt showing how the bottom edge band is removed to effect an intermediate length adjustment; Fig. 5 is a front view of the skirt with the bottom edge band removed from the skirt to complete the intermediate length adjustment; Fig. 6 is a front view of the lower end of the skirt showing how two adjoining edge bands may be removed to effect minimum length adjustment; Fig. 7 is a front view of the skirt adjusted to minimum length and ready to wear, and Fig. 8 is a fragmentary view of the bottom and adjoining edge bands showing the position of the pull-tab.

Like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

The skirt **20** (Fig. 1) is formed of a knitted fabric **21** knitted in matching panels **22** and **23**, which when matched together side edge to side edge and then suitably joined as by sewn seams, form the body of the skirt (or other garment). Each panel **22**, **23** is knitted from the bottom as the starting end of the panel, and it contains a plurality of bands which are knitted in succession in spaced relation across the bottom of the panel. Each succeeding band is knitted beginning with its own starting end, and the starting edge of each succeeding band is knitted as a non-ravelling finished edge. The loops of the uppermost row of stitches in each band (see Fig. 3) are linked to the non-ravelling edge of the next succeeding knitted band by an independent round of stitches which forms a part of the pattern and which can be withdrawn to detach a lower (or outer) band from the next succeeding (inner) band to shorten the panel, and to expose the non-ravelling edge of the said succeeding band as the selvage edge at the bottom of the shortened panel. The independent rounds of stitches may be cotton yarns fast dyed to the same color as the skirt yarn, and so knitted as to form a part of the pattern.

When the panels **22** and **23** are matched up side edge to side edge the knitted bands at the bottom of each panel also match up to encircle the skirts; see Fig. 2 where panel **22** forms the front panel, and panel **23** forms the rear panel of the skirt. The panels **22** and **23** are joined together in the region of the hip lines in any suitable manner as by lines of stitches (not shown), to form the right side seam **24**, and the corresponding left side seam **25**, of the skirt (compare Figs. 1 and 2).

The upper marginal edge **26** is folded double and the

two folded plies of the knitted fabric are joined together by one or more lines of stitches **27** to form the hemmed waist band **28**. The fabric of the waist band **28** may be knitted with a yarn containing elastic, or an elastic band **29** may be threaded through the waist band **28**, to form a waist band which can be stretched to slip over the bust and shoulders when the skirt which normally drapes from the waist line, is put on or taken off.

When the panels **22** and **23** are properly matched up and joined together to form the body of the skirt, the knitted bands at the bottom of each panel **22** and **23** also match up to encircle the skirt and form the adjoined marginal edge bands **30**, **31** and **32** which are knitted one above the other with their respective non-ravelling (finished) edges in alignment and joined together at the side edges of the panels **22** and **23** by the seams **24** and **25**, so that the said non-ravelling (finished) edges of the knitted edge bands **30**, **31** and **32** also encircle the skirt to form the non-ravelling edges **33**, **34** and **35** of their respective knitted marginal edge bands **30**, **31** and **32**. The lowermost non-ravelling edge **33** of the edge band **30** normally constitutes the selvage edge at the bottom of the skirt. Each marginal edge band **30**, **31** and **32** can be detached either one after another or collectively to shorten the skirt from the bottom edge by a predetermined amount, and as the bands are detached, the non-ravelling edge **34** (or **35**) is exposed, and when all of the stitches of the independent round of stitches have been picked off to clean off the exposed non-ravelling edge, the edge thus exposed becomes the selvage edge of the shortened ready-to-wear skirt.

To shorten the skirt to its ready-to-wear minimum predetermined length, all of the marginal edge bands **30**, **31** and **32** are detached from the bottom of the skirt **20**, and the non-ravelling (finished) edge **36** which is thus exposed is cleaned off to form the selvage edge of the ready-to-wear skirt (see Fig. 7) shortened to minimum ready-to-wear length.

As best shown in Fig. 3, the loops of the row of stitches which forms the upper edge **37** of the bottom marginal edge band **30** are linked to the selvage edge **34** of the adjoining marginal edge band **31** by a round of knitting which is separate and distinct from the rounds of knitting which form the balance of the body of the knitted fabric to form a draw-thread **38**. Drawthread **38** may be a cotton thread fast dyed to the same color as the yarn in the garment. When the drawthread **38** is broken, removed and cleaned off, and the stitched seams **24** and **25** which join the front and rear panels **22** and **23** together are cut across between the marginal edge bands **30** and **31**, the non-ravelling edge **34** at the bottom of the intermediate marginal edge band **31** becomes the bottom selvage edge of the skirt (Fig. 5).

Similarly when the round of stitches which forms the double drawthread **38***a* and which links the upper edge of the band **31** to the finished (lower) edge of the band **32** (Fig. 5) is removed and cleaned off, and the stitched seams **24** and **25** are cut between the said marginal edge bands **31** and **32**, the skirt **20** will be adjusted as to another intermediate length, and the finished non-ravelling edge **35** which is knitted as the starting end of the starting edge **32** of marginal edge band **32** now becomes the selvage of the bottom edge of the ready-to-wear skirt **20** as thus finished off and adjusted to the said intermediate ready-to-wear length.

To shorten the skirt and adjust it to minimum length the round of knitting which forms the drawthread **38***b* (Fig. 6) by which the upper marginal edge band **32** is attached to the finished edge **36**, is removed, and the side seams **24** and **25** are cut between the upper marginal edge band **32** and the uppermost finished edge **36** of the shortened skirt so that all of the marginal edge bands **30**, **31** and **32** are removed (Fig. 6) to adjust the skirt to minimum ready-to-wear length, and the selvage edge **36** now becomes the bottom finished edge of the skirt when it is thus adjusted to minimum length.

By this construction a ready-to-wear knitted skirt having one or more removable marginal edge bands **30**, **31**, and **32**, each band having a non-ravelling finished-off or selvage edge **33**, **34** and **35** at the bottom thereof, each of said edge bands being attached to its next adjoining edge band by a separate round of knitting forming the double drawthreads **38**, **38***a* and **38***b* which drawthreads may form a part of the pattern of the knitted fabric of the ready-to-wear skirt **20**, is provided, said drawthreads being readily removable to shorten the skirt from the maximum length at which it is sold to a skirt of some shorter length.

The drawthread **38** is removed to shorten the skirt from maximum length (Fig. 2) to an intermediate length (Fig. 5), or by removing the drawthread **38***b* which is shown generally in Fig. 6, the skirt **20** may be shortened to its minimum length adjustment to form the ready-to-wear minimum length skirt illustrated in Fig. 7.

The removal of any of the rounds of knitting or stitches which form the drawthreads **38**, **38***a*, and **38***b* is a simple operation which may be carried out at will by the customer or by the wearer to shorten the skirt to any of the fixed lengths selected, and when the side seams **24** and **25** are cut at the selected fixed length, one or more of the marginal edge bands **30**, **31** and **32**, as the case may be, is or are removed to produce a skirt which is shortened to the selected length but which is completely finished with a non-ravelling or selvage edge at the bottom edge of the skirt and is ready to wear without hemming or stitching. The skirt **20** may be provided with any preferred number of marginal removable edge bands **30**, **31**, **32** and the edge bands may be knitted in any preferred width. A ready-to-wear skirt provided with two removable edge bands, each edge band being approximately one inch deep so that the skirt may be selectively shortened approximately one inch at a time for a maximum of two inches, gives good results. The drawthreads **38**, **38***a* and **38***b*, may be cotton threads which may be fast dyed to the same color as the yarn which is used to knit the skirt fabric.

As best shown in Figs. 4 and 8, each round or twin row of stitches or drawthreads **38**, **38***a*, **38***b*, by which the last row of stitches of any knitted band is linked to the selvage edge of the adjoining edge band, may be distinctively marked inside the garment as at the seam **24** (Fig. 8), by a spring-clip or pull-tab **39** whose spring jaws **40** and **41** are normally closed under spring tension provided by the looped handle of the pull-tab but which may be forced apart when pressure is applied to the looped handle of the pull-tab **39** to enable the factory hand to thread the jaws **40** and **41** through adjoining loops of the drawthread **38**, **38***a* or **38***b* (see Fig. 8), to distinctively mark and readily distinguish each drawthread from any other thread in the fabric.

To start removal of the drawthread, pull-tab **39** is first pulled to fringe the knitted fabric and stretch the bottom drawthread (Fig. 8) which is then broken off and removed in short lengths to progressively separate the edge band or edge bands below the drawthread from the body of the skirt fabric, until the edge band is held only by the side seams **24** and **25**. The side seams may now be cut along the line of separation to complete the removal of the edge band and produce a new selvage edge forming the bottom of the skirt. The complementary line of stitches of the round of knitting **38**, **38***a* or **38***b*, as the case may be, may be withdrawn and discarded to present a clean selvage. Pull tab **39** is detached when the looped drawthread is broken.

The round of knitting in each drawthread **38**, **38***a*, **38***b* includes a bottom thread and a top thread. When the knitted fabric is fringed, one of these threads, preferably the bottom thread, is gradually picked up and removed by the customer, to gradually detach the edge band and expose a new selvage, and after the edge-band is com-

pletely detached, the top thread of the drawthread may be picked off to clean off and completely finish the newly exposed selvage.

A tag **43** may be attached to the pull-tab **39**, and the tag **43** may carry printed instructions **44** explaining how the pull-tab **39** should be manipulated to effect length adjustment of the skirt, and how said pull-tab may be detached from the round of stitches to which it is secured if its associated round of stitches is not to be withdrawn to effect length adjustment at the line indicated by the said pull-tab.

Any pull-tab **39** which is not used to remove its drawthread may be detached by squeezing the looped handle of pull-tab **39**. This separates the jaw members **40** and **41** which may then be slipped off the loops of the stitches of the associated drawthread. The wire loop **42** serves to limit the spread of the jaw members **40** and **41**.

While the invention is particularly applicable to effect length adjustment of a knitted skirt, it should be understood that the said invention may also be applied to other parts of knitted garments where length-adjustment is desired, as for example, to the sleeve-cuff, and or to the waistband of a sweater or other knitted garment.

In the light of the foregoing disclosure, other adaptations and modifications of my invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, a plurality of bands knitted one above another across the lower marginal edge of each panel in spaced relation and forming a part of the pattern, each band having a non-ravelling edge at its lower end, a round of stitches knitted between adjacent bands and passing through the uppermost row of stitches of the lower band and the non-ravelling edge of the band thereabove to link said bands together, said rounds of stitches also forming a part of the pattern, said bands when matched up panel to panel cooperating to encircle the bottom of the skirt, the lowermost encircling band forming a selvage around the bottom of the skirt, said rounds of stitches which link said bands together constituting drawthreads, markers removably associated with said separate rounds of stitches to visually distinguish them as the drawthreads, each of said drawthreads being selectively and independently removable to partially detach the bottom marginal edge from the skirt thereby shortening the skirt to the line of another non-ravelling edge and converting said non-ravelling edge into a selvage around the bottom of the skirt as shortened, and said partially detached bottom marginal edge being severable at the side edges of the panels to complete the selvage and produce a finished and ready-to-wear skirt shortened to the line of the new selvage.

2. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear knitted skirt, said skirt being knitted from the bottom as the starting end of the knitted fabric and terminating at the finishing end in the region of the waistline of a skirt of a predetermined length, the starting edge of the knitted fabric forming a selvage at the bottom of the skirt, means for variously shortening the skirt from the starting edge comprising bands knitted in succession across the skirt fabric in spaced relation to the bottom of the skirt and to each other to form a part of the pattern of the skirt-fabric, each band being stitched in the fabric by a round of stitches which constitutes a drawthread and also forms a part of the pattern of the skirt fabric, each band having a non-ravelling edge knitted across its starting edge and secured to the preceding band by one of said drawthreads, said drawthreads substantially encircling the skirt when it is formed, pull-tabs detachably attached to each of said drawthreads to mark and visibly distinguish each of said drawthreads from the balance of the pattern of the skirt fabric thereby indicating a line to which the skirt may be shortened by pulling the selected pull-tab, each drawthread being selectively removable under control of its associated pull-tab and independently of the other drawthreads to progressively detach the bottom marginal edge of the skirt from the non-ravelling edge of the next succeeding band in the skirt fabric in the operation of shortening the skirt and of converting the non-ravelling edge from which said bottom marginal edge is detached into the selvage of the shortened ready-to-wear skirt, and each pull-tab being detachable from the skirt fabric independently of its associated drawthread to produce an otherwise finished and ready-to-wear skirt.

3. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, a plurality of bands knitted in spaced relation across the lower marginal edge of each panel and forming a part of the pattern, each band having a non-ravelling edge at its lower end, rounds of stitches knitted between said bands to link the upper row of stitches of each band to the non-ravelling edge of the band thereabove, said rounds of stitches also forming a part of the pattern, said bands when matched up panel to panel cooperating to encircle the bottom of the skirt, the lowermost encircling band forming a selvage around the bottom of the skirt, said rounds of stitches which link said bands together constituting drawthreads, a pull-tab detachably attached to each of said drawthreads to mark and visibly distinguish each of said drawthreads from the balance of the pattern thereby indicating a line to which the skirt may be shortened by pulling the pull-tab, each drawthread being selectively removable under control of its associated pull-tab and independently of the other drawthreads to progressively detach the bottom marginal edge of the skirt thereby shortening the skirt to the line of another non-ravelling edge to expose the said non-ravelling edge and simultaneously convert it into a selvage for the bottom of the skirt as shortened, said bottom marginal edge being separable at the side edges of the knitted panels to fully expose the non-ravelling edge and complete the selvage of the shortened skirt, and each pull-tab being detachable from the skirt independently of its associated drawthread to produce a finished and ready-to-wear skirt.

4. A length-selectable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, a plurality of bands knitted in edge-to-edge non-abutting spaced relation across the lower marginal edge of each panel to form a part of the pattern of the knitting, each band having a non-ravelling edge at its lowermost end, a round of knitting, the stitches of said round of knitting passing through the loops of the uppermost row of knitting of a lower band and through the loops of the lowermost row of knitting of the non-ravelling edge of the band thereabove to join said bands together and to define the spacing therebetween, the stitches of said round of knitting also forming a part of the pattern, said bands when matched up panel to panel cooperating to encircle the bottom of the skirt, the lower edge of the lowermost encircling band forming a selvage around the bottom of the skirt, each round of knitting which joins said bands together constituting a drawthread, each drawthread being selectively removable to partially detach the bottom marginal edge from the skirt in the operation of shortening the skirt to the line of the non-ravelling edge through which said drawthread is knitted thereby converting the non-ravelling edge into a selvage around the bottom of the skirt as selectively shortened, a marker separately associated with each separate drawthread to visually distinguish said drawthread and indicate the line to which the skirt may be selectively shortened by operating the said marker, said marker being selectively operable when the skirt is to be shortened to the line of the drawthread with which said marker is associated to initiate removal of its associated drawthread and

effect partial detachment of the bottom marginal edge of the skirt, and said bottom marginal edge being severable at the side edges of the panels to complete the selvage and produce a finished and ready-to-wear selectively shortened skirt.

5. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, a plurality of bands knitted in spaced relation across the lower marginal edge of each panel and forming a part of the pattern, each band having a non-ravelling edge at its lower end, rounds of stitches knitted between said bands to link the upper row of stitches of each band to the non-ravelling edge of the band there-above, said rounds of stitches also forming a part of the pattern, said bands when matched up panel to panel cooperating to encircle the bottom of the skirt, the lowermost encircling band forming a selvage around the bottom of the skirt, said rounds of stitches which link said bands together constituting drawthreads, each of said drawthreads being selectively and independently removable to partially detach the bottom marginal edge from the skirt thereby shortening the skirt to the line of another non-ravelling edge and converting said non-ravelling edge into a selvage around the bottom of the skirt as shortened, a pull-tab detachably attached to each drawthread to mark and distinguish each drawthread and visibly indicate lines to which the skirt may be selectively shortened by operating the corresponding pull-tab, each pull-tab being selectivley operable when the skirt is to be shortened to the line of the drawthread to which said pull-tab is attached to initiate removal of its associated drawthread, the thus partially detached bottom marginal edge being severable at the side edges of the panels to complete the selvage and produce a finished and ready-to-wear skirt shortened to the line of the new selvage, and each pull-tab being detachable without disturbing its associated drawthread when shortening to the line indicated by said pull-tab is not to be effected.

6. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, a plurality of selvages knitted across the bottom marginal edge of each panel in spaced relation to each other, the lowermost selvage of each panel forming the finished bottom edge thereof, the spaces between said selvages including bands knitted as an integral part of said selvages and in extension thereof, a separate round of stitches knitted to attach the loops of the uppermost row of stitches of a band to the corresponding loops of the selvage thereabove, said separate round of stitches constituting a drawthread, said panels being matched up so that their correspondingly spaced selvages are aligned and encircle the bottom marginal edge of the skirt assembly

and form the finished bottom edge thereof, each drawthread being removable at will to detach its associated band from the selvage thereabove to shorten the skirt and simultaneously expose another selvage edge at the bottom of the shortened skirt, individual pull-tabs detachably attached to each row of drawthreads, each pull-tab being selectively operable to initiate the removal of its associated drawthread and shorten the skirt to the line thereof and for detachment from its associated drawthread when some other length is selected as the finished length of the length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt, and the band which is detached to shorten the skirt being further separable at the side edges of the panels to complete the length-adjusted and ready-to-wear skirt.

7. A length-adjustable ready-to-wear skirt comprising a plurality of knitted panels arranged side edge to side edge, means for securing said panels together along their side edges to form a skirt, each panel having a lower non-ravelling edge constituting a selvage, a knitted band across the lower marginal edge of each panel and forming a part of the pattern, said band having a non-ravelling edge at its lower edge, a round of stitches knitted between the upper edges of said bands and the selvage edge of the skirt panels to link the upper row of stitches of each of said knitted bands to the non-ravelling edge of the panels thereabove, said round of stitches also forming a part of the pattern, the means for securing the side edges of the panels together being extended to connect the ends of the bands, said bands when matched up to the adjacent panels cooperating to encircle the bottom of the skirt, said round of stitches which link said bands and panels together constituting a drawthread, said drawthread being removable to partially detach the bottom marginal edge band from the skirt thereby shortening the skirt to the line of the panels non-ravelling edge, a pull-tab detachably attached to said drawthread to mark and visibly indicate the line to which the skirt may be shortened, the thus partially detached bands being severable from the side edges of the panels at the lower extremity of the panels to complete the selvage and produce a finished and ready-to-wear skirt shortened to the line of the new selvage.

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