Dec. 1, 1942. P. FRIEDMAN 2,303,536

GARMENT

Filed June 13, 1940

FIG. 1

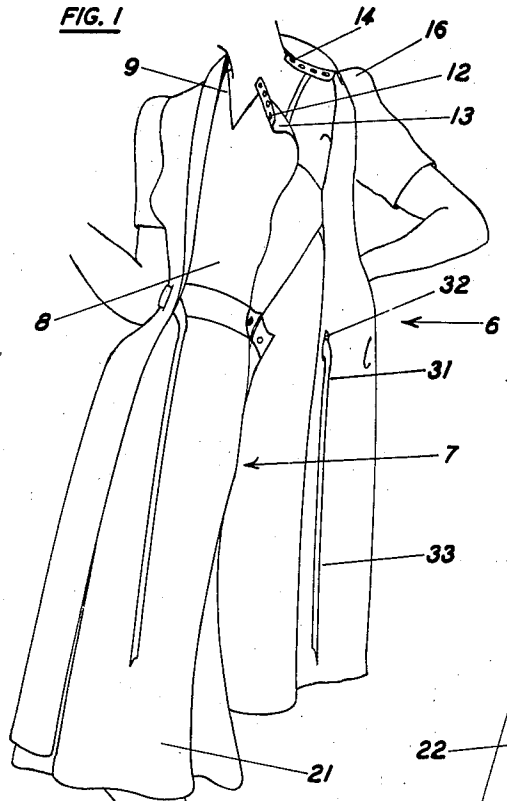


FIG. 3

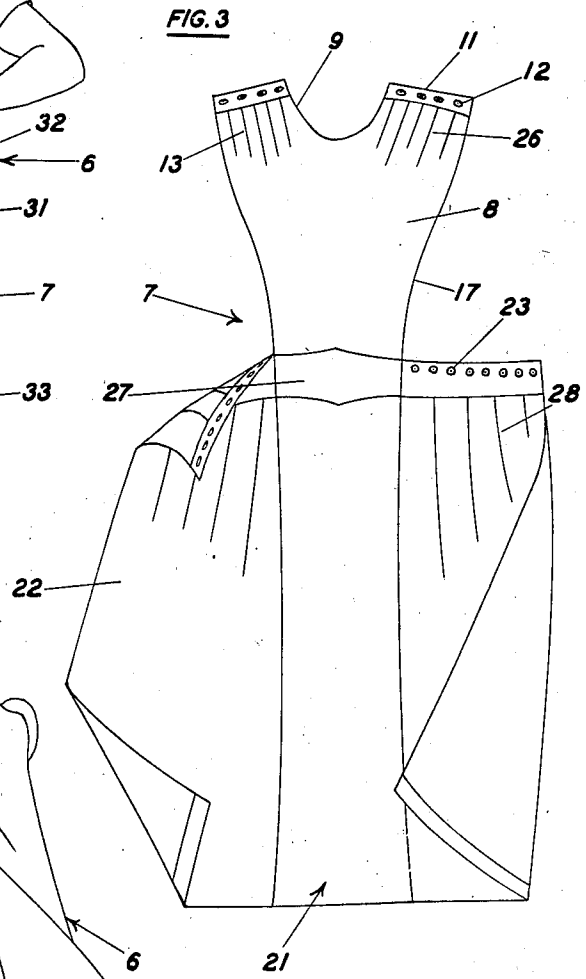
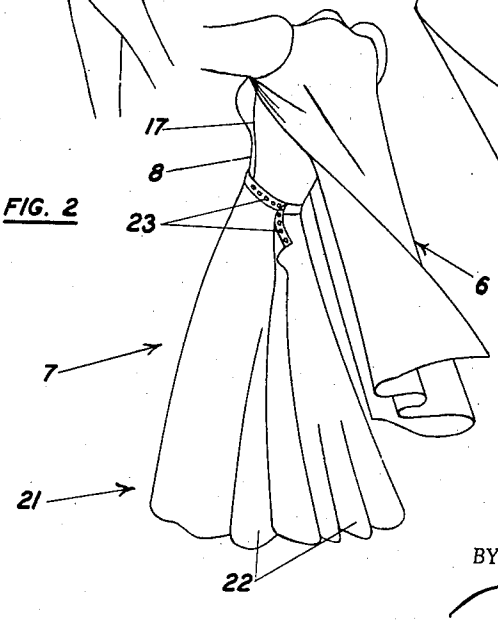


FIG. 2



INVENTOR.
PAULYN FRIEDMAN

BY Stuart W. Mauer

ATTORNEY.

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GARMENT

Paulyn Friedman, Los Angeles, Calif.

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—74)

This invention relates to apparel, and more particularly to ladies' body garments.

An object of my invention is a provision of a combination outer garment for ladies' wear in the form of a coat, preferably of the type generally known in the trade as a "street coat" in that it is not of the type of garment generally regarded as being intended for intimate or informal wear in one's own home, and a dress portion releasably attached thereto in a manner which avoids the necessity of providing a back for the bodice or waist portion of the dress.

Another object is to provide a combination coat and dress of the character described wherein any one of a plurality of dress portions can be worn with the coat; and inasmuch as the design, according to which the dress portion of the garment is formed, is a very simple and accordingly inexpensive construction, this feature facilitates the acquisition of a wardrobe possessed of a large amount of variety at low cost.

A further object is the provision of a combination coat and dress of general character indicated, the waist measurement of which is subject to wide variation, thus providing a garment of wide adaptability inasmuch as each garment can be worn by persons of various waist measurement. This feature causes the garment to lend itself with particular adaptability for use as a maternity gown, inasmuch as the waist measurement of the garment can be expanded with the utmost facility as the body girth increases.

It is a further object of my invention to provide a combination garment of this general character which will be relatively simple and inexpensive in construction, highly attractive in design, and susceptible to construction in a wide variety of patterns so as to enlarge its general field of adaptability, and which will be generally superior in efficiency and serviceability.

The invention possesses other objects and advantageous features, forms of which, with the foregoing, will be set forth in the following description of the preferred form of my invention which is illustrated in the drawing accompanying and forming part of the specification. It is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the showing made by the said drawing and description as I may adopt variations of the preferred form within the scope of my invention as set forth in the claims.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a combination garment embodying the principles of the present invention. One of the shoulder-covering portions of the dress element is shown released from the coat, the better to reveal the manner of their assembly.

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1, but in rear elevation, the coating being drawn back to reveal the manner of joining the overlapping flaps of the skirt to fit the waist.

Figure 3 is a view in plan of a dress portion which is the same in principle as that of Figures 1 and 2, but the specific design of which is sufficiently different to lend a variety to the wardrobe.

In terms of broad inclusion, the garment of the present invention comprises a combination coat and dress, the latter, however, instead of being a combination garment susceptible to being worn without the coat, contains only a bodice front above the waist, reliance being placed upon the coat to cover the back and sides not protected by the dress portion. Means are provided for releasably attaching the top of the bodice front, i. e., the ends of those portions which extend over the shoulders, to the inside of the shoulders of the coat. The skirt portion of the garment is provided in the form of laterally extending flaps adapted to encircle the hips and legs of the wearer and to be fastened together in the rear, preferably in such a manner as to be expansible and thereby providing a large number of different waist sizes for each garment, which feature is particularly valuable when the invention is embodied as a maternity dress. However, inasmuch as the dress portion is of very simple construction and contains a minimum of material, its cost is relatively low, a feature which is of importance for the reason that it makes it feasible for a person owning one of the coats to provide herself with a variety of dress portions and thereby add variety to her wardrobe at low cost.

More specificially described, the garment of the present invention comprises a coat portion **6**, and a dress portion **7**. Preferably the coat **6** is of the type known in the trade as a street coat inasmuch as it is intended for wear in public; and whereas the coat is adaptable for construction according to a large variety of different designs and patterns, it is preferred that the coat **6** be of substantially knee length or at least extend to a material distance below the hips of the wearer.

The present invention contemplates the provision of several of the dress portions **7**, for each coat **6**. This is a commercially feasible proposition for the reason that the dress portions **7** are relatively inexpensive as compared not only with the coat **6**, but as compared with dresses of

conventional design for the reason that the dress portion 7 of the present invention is so designed that it contains considerably less material than the conventional dress. A factor which contributes towards this end is that instead of being formed with a complete bodice, or waist portion, the dress portion 7 of the present invention is provided with only a bodice front 8, wide enough to cover the bosom and extend downwards therefrom to the waist line, no back and sides being provided. A suitable opening is provided for the neck by forming a notch 9 of any desired shape in the upper edge 11 of the bodice front, which is adapted to be supported in wearing position through the expediency of preferably a plurality of fastening devices such as conventional snap fasteners 12 secured along the upper edge of each shoulder covering portion 13 and adapted to cooperate with complementary fasteners 14, secured to the coat 6 inside the shoulders 16 thereof; or speaking more precisely, extending in a row from the shoulder toward the neck. The width of the bodice front 8 is such that it is capable of covering the front of the wearer's body, reliance being placed, however, upon the coat to conceal the lateral edges 17 and thereby concealing the fact that the bodice 8 does not completely encircle the upper body.

The skirt portion 21 of the dress is provided by flaps 22 extending laterally from each side of the front, from the waist line down. Preferably these flaps 22 are considerably longer (measured horizontally) than necessary to encircle the wearer's waist, the purpose being to enable the flaps 22 to overlap each other materially in the back, as best shown in Figure 2. Consequently it is expedient to provide a plurality of fasteners 23 spaced at equal intervals along the upper edge of each flap 22, the fasteners 23 of one flap being complementary to those of the other, so that the two flaps can be releasably fastened together in overlapping relationship in any one of a large variety of waist measurements. Whereas this feature adapts each garment for wear by women of different girth, its principal function is to adapt the garment for wear as a maternity gown.

Various expedients can be resorted to to alter the appearance of the several different dress portions 7 without departing from the general principle according to which it is constructed; for example, pleating 26 may be added adjacent the upper edge of the bodice front 8, and a belt 27 may be simulated by stitching, or if desired, an actual belt may be provided for the dress portion 21. Furthermore, pleating 28 may be provided extending downwards from the belt 27. Obviously various other details of construction can be resorted to, to say nothing of the wide variety of cloth patterns which may be employed to lend variety to a wardrobe consisting only of one of the coats 6 and several of the dress portions 7.

The coat 6 also may be provided with a belt 31; and the belt 31 cooperates with particular effectiveness with the combination coat and dress of the present invention, if instead of extending all the way around the wearer's waist, externally of the coat, only that portion of the belt which extends across the person's back be exposed on the outside of the coat. This is accomplished by providing openings 32 in the sides of the coat through which the ends 33 of the belt pass, enabling them to be tied or otherwise inter-engaged in front of the wearer and inside the coat. This manner of wearing the belt 31 assures that the front of the coat will remain in position so that the lapels and side panels of the coat conceal side edges 18 of the bodice front 8, even though the front of the coat be permitted to remain unfastened.

I claim:

1. In a combination garment of the character described, a dress portion comprising a bodice front of a width to cover the bosom and extending upwards far enough to dispose its upper edge substantially at the uppermost line of the shoulders, said upper edge of said bodice front substantially corresponding in length to the width of the wearer's shoulders and being medially notched to provide a neck opening, and a skirt portion, the front of said skirt portion comprising a continuation of said bodice front and the back and sides of said skirt portion comprising flaps extending laterally from said skirt front to dispose the upper edges of said flaps in waist-encircling relation and overlapping in the rear in any of several optional waist sizes, means for releasably attaching said overlapping flaps together in selected waist size, and releasable attaching means disposed throughout the length of said upper edge; and a coat portion over said dress portion and comprising shoulders concealing said upper edge of said bodice front and fastening means inside said shoulders and complementary to and co-operative with those of said bodice front whereby said skirt portion is supported from the shoulders of said coat throughout the entire width of said bodice front.

2. In a combination garment of the character described, a dress portion comprising a bodice front of a width to cover the bosom and extending upward far enough to dispose its upper edge substantially at the uppermost line of the shoulders, said upper edge of said bodice front substantially corresponding in length to the width of the wearer's shoulders and being medially notched to provide a neck opening, releasable attaching means disposed at spaced intervals throughout the length of said upper edge for supporting said bodice front from the inside of the shoulders of a coat worn over said dress portion, and a skirt portion, the front of said skirt portion comprising a continuation of said bodice front and the back and sides of said skirt portion comprising flaps extending laterally from said skirt front to dispose the upper edges of said flaps in waist-encircling relation and overlapping in the rear in any of several optional waist sizes.

PAULYN FRIEDMAN.