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HEM FLARING DEVICES FOR DRESSES AND THE LIKE

Filed Oct. 20, 1958

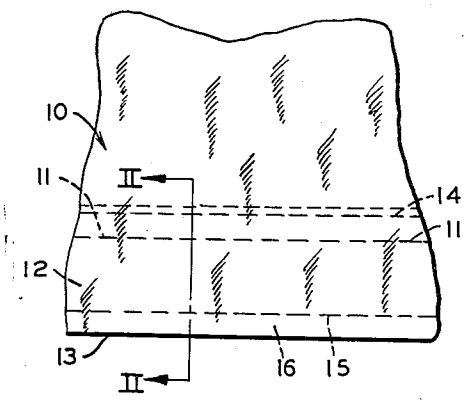


FIG. 1

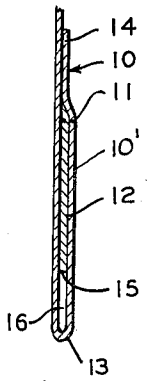


FIG. 2

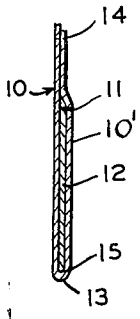


FIG. 3

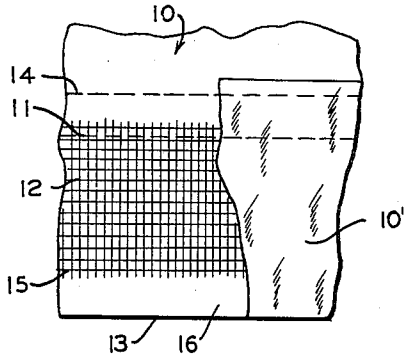


FIG. 4

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HEM FLARING DEVICES FOR DRESSES AND THE LIKE

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This invention relates to skirt hem flaring devices and more particularly to hem flaring devices for dresses and the like, although it may be employed with equal advantage for other purposes.

It contemplates more especially the provision of a reinforcing fabric strip in dress hems to impart thereto a limited flare and body outline without rendering such objectionally rigid and awkward to wear.

This is accomplished with little additional material and labor so that it may be advantageously employed in inexpensive as well as the more expensive apparel. There is no intention of providing a permanent and rigid flare, but a moderate shape defining distender to insure attractive hanging dresses on even the youngest children whose activities would be thwarted by resort to flaring petticoats, crinolines, and hoop attachments that are too limiting and rigid for the younger girls of pre-teen age.

One object of the present invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive hem reinforcing and flaring strip for dresses and the like.

Another object is to provide a reinforcing strip of coarse fabric which has stiffening properties to provide a flaring effect in dresses for pre-teen children for better style and appearance without appreciably changing the cost of the apparel.

Still another object is to provide a normally stiff strip of material such as a coarse weave nylon material in a hem of apparel to impart a limited flare and shapeliness thereto without appreciably increasing the cost of garments for pre-teen and teen-age children.

A further object is to provide a reinforcing fabric strip of normally stiffer material than the dress fabric as a hem reinforcing expedient for imparting a limited flare to dresses for the younger children of pre-teen age.

A still futrher object is to provide a coarse nylon strip of material or the like as an inside hem stiffener to provide flare and shape for childrens' dresses.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the following description of an illustrated embodiment of the present invention.

In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a front fragmentary view in elevation of a skirt or dress garment embodying features of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view in elevation taken substantially along line II—II of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view in elevation similar to FIGURE 2, but with the hem stiffener occupying the entire hem space rather than somewhat elevated as shown in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary view in elevation of a dress hem of FIGURES 1 and 2 as viewed from the interior with parts broken away to clarify the showing.

The structure selected for illustration is not intended to serve as a limitation upon the scope of the teachings of the present invention, but is merely illustrative thereof. There may be considerable variations and adaptations of all or part of the teachings depending upon the dictates of commercial practice.

The present embodiment comprises a dress or skirt **10** of the usual bottom flare or expanse, but which ordinarily will droop or hang shapeless with fabrics of a thin or delicate texture from which children's dresses are usually fabricated. An initial hem stitch line **11** is sewn around the dress lower edge to secure a reinforcing strip such as a coarse nylon normally stiff strip **12**. The lower edge region is then reversely folded as at and along **13** by the inturned ply **10'** to provide a hem that is sewn in position along length control stitch line **14** to suspend the hem and its reinforcing strip **12** above the lower fold edge **13** so that there will be a space **16** below the lowermost edge **15** of the reinforcing strip **12** (FIGURE 2). This space **16** will enable the dress to be shortened or lengthened without disturbing the reinforcing strip **12** and its retaining stitch line **11** along the entire circumference of the dress **10**. This provides an unstitched bottom fold edge **13** which insures that the garment will hang evenly and freely with the desired flare.

In the modified embodiment illustrated in FIGURE 3, the hem fold **13** abuts against the lower edge **15** of the reinforcing strip **12** so that the entire hem between the stitch line **11** and the fold **13** is occupied by the substantially rectangular reinforcing strip **12**. This provides a more uniform appearance from the exterior and will impart a better flare to the dress, but lengthening or shortening is not possible without disturbing the reinforcing strip with this arrangement. It should be noted that any normally stiff material that lends body to the hem may be substituted for the course weave nylon band **12** so long as such is flexible, imparts a flaring tendency to the lower lines of the dress or skirt, and will yield upon impact or obstruction as the wearer proceeds in the normal fashion from place to place without being subjected to the awkwardness of rigid and non-collapsing hoops or equivalent distenders.

With the teachings of the normally yieldable, inexpensive and flare-sustaining hem reinforcing strip **12**, a very inexpensive flaring outline is provided at little additional expense so that even the low priced dresses for children can be made to look fashionable and pleasing in appearance. This strip **12** or its counterpart is inserted at the same time that the dress hem is sewn so that there is an inconsequential labor factor involved and a small material addition not at all out of line with the production costs of even the cheapest dresses for children. The decided improvement in style, shapliness, and appearance is appreciable, however, and the increased demand for such dresses will allow the manufacturer to absorb the minute additional cost of this feature.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of this invention, it must be understood that the invention is capable of considerable variation and modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. We, therefore, do not wish to be limited to the precise details of construction set forth, but desire to avail ourselves to and of such variations and modifications as come within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A skirt-type garment having a bottom hem fold providing an inturned ply, the said garment being of relatively thin material so that the bottom hem is normally insufficient to impart the desired hanging flare to said garment, a course woven normally stiff reinforcing strip stitched to said inturned ply along a line spaced from the peripheral edge thereof to depend downwardly therefrom toward the hem fold which defines the length of said garment, said inturned ply being in turn stitched to said garment at a greater distance from said hem fold than said reinforcing strip stitch line to enable the inturned ply to be varied in depth to control the garment length without interfering with said stiffening strip.

2. A skirt-type garment having a bottom hem fold providing an inturned ply, the said garment being of relatively thin material so that the bottom hem is normally insufficient to impart the desired hanging flare to said garment, a course woven normally stiff reinforcing strip

of single thickness stitched to said inturned ply along a line spaced from the peripheral edge thereof to depend downwardly therefrom toward the hem fold which defines the length of said garment, said inturned ply being in turn stitched to said garment at a greater distance from said hem fold than said reinforcing strip stitch line, said depending reinforcing strip being of lesser depth than said inturned ply to enable the latter to be varied in depth to control the garment length without interfering with said stiffening strip.

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