April 11, 1967 M. I. GLASS ETAL 3,313,044

DESIGN KIT

Filed Nov. 9, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

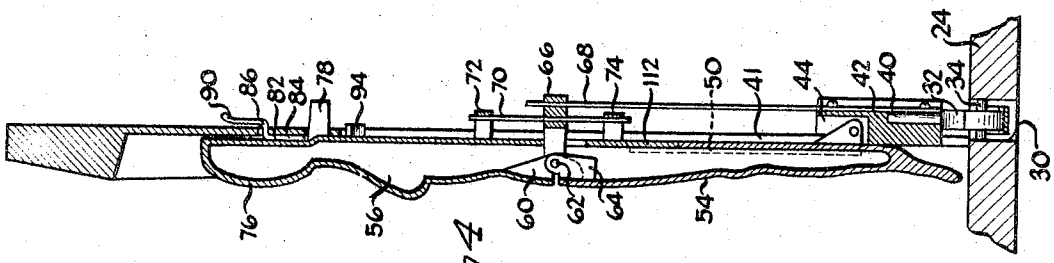



Fig 4

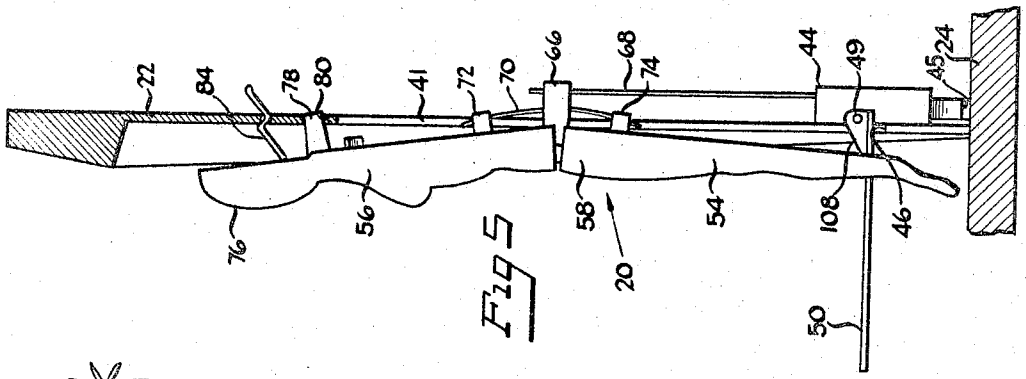



Fig 5

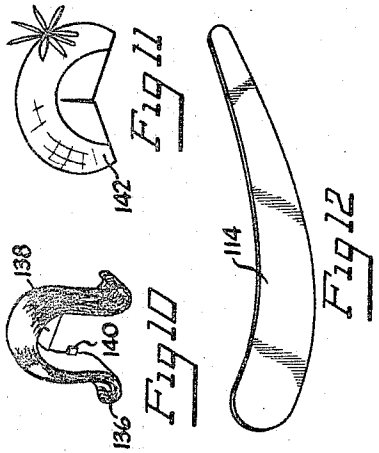



Fig 11




Fig 12




Fig 10

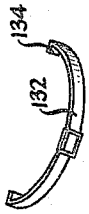



Fig 9




Fig 8

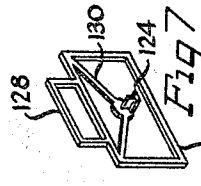



Fig 7

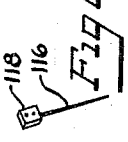



Fig 6

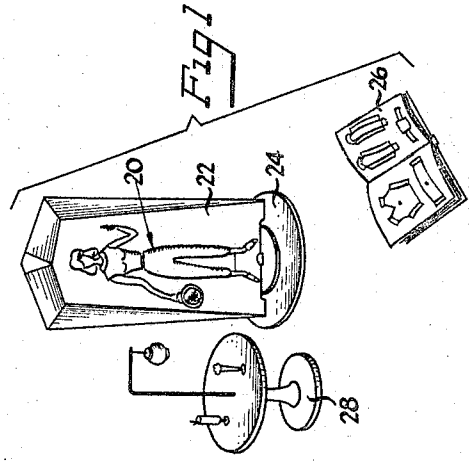



Fig 1


Inventors
MARVIN I. GLASS
BURTON C. MEYER
NORMAN T. McFARLAND

By James D. Coffee Atty

April 11, 1967 M. I. GLASS ETAL 3,313,044

DESIGN KIT

Filed Nov. 9, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

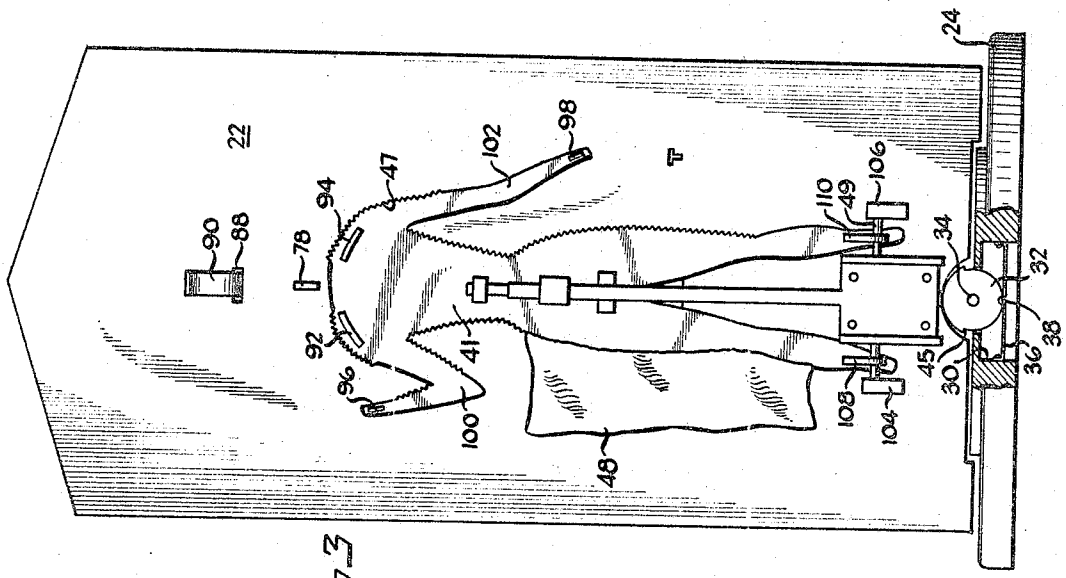



Fig 3

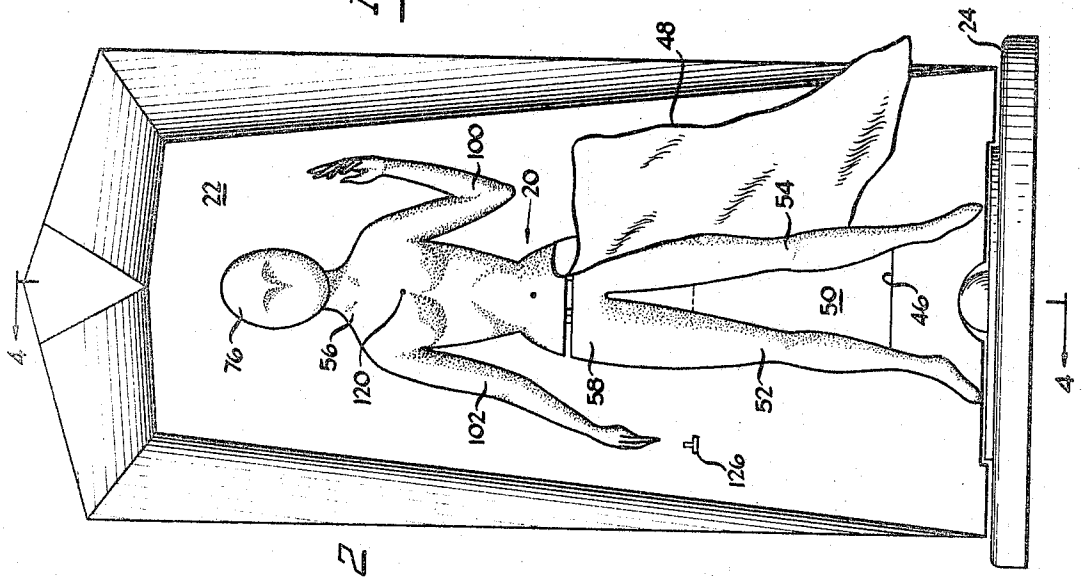



Fig 2


Inventors
MARVIN I. GLASS
BURTON C. MEYER
NORMAN T. McFARLAND

By James D. Coffee Atty

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3,313,044

# DESIGN KIT

Marvin I. Glass and Burton C. Meyer, Chicago, and Norman T. McFarland, Mayview, Ill., assignors to Marvin Glass & Associates, Chicago, Ill., a partnership

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8 Claims. (Cl. 35—56)

The present invention relates to a dress designers model or manikin of a type which is particularly adaptable for use in a toy dress designer kit. In the use of dolls as toys, the furnishing of a variety of clothes for the doll can become a substantial item, both in the amount of effort involved in the making of them, and financially, if the clothes are purchased. In the present invention, a doll or manikin is arranged before an opening in a back-up panel so that plain pieces of fabric can be draped about the figure, pulled back through the opening and clamped by engagement of the figure with the margins of the opening, so as to stay in place and simulate a dress or other article of clothing.

It is the principal object of the invention to provide a doll or manikin of the type indicated, which is provided with means whereby it may be readily draped with fabric; which will retain the fabric in place in the manner in which it is draped; and which when so draped, will simulate a person dressed in such fabric.

The manner in which these objects are accomplished is fully set forth in the following specification and illustrated in the annexed drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view, taken from the front, and including certain appurtenances;

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged front elevation of the figure and back-up panel;

FIGURE 3 is a rear elevation of the structure illustrated in FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of FIGURE 2;

FIGURE 5 is a side elevation of the parts shown in FIGURE 4, with the back-up panel broken away, and with the parts in a different position;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of a pin;

FIGURE 7 is a perspective view of a simulated purse;

FIGURE 8 is a perspective view of a shoe;

FIGURE 9 is a perspective view of a simulated belt;

FIGURE 10 is a perspective view of a wig or coiffure;

FIGURE 11 is a perspective view of a hat; and

FIGURE 12 is a front elevation of a tucking tool.

Similar reference characters have been applied to the same parts wherever they occur throughout the drawings and specification.

As seen in FIGURE 1, the device comprises a standing manikin **20** in the form of a bas-relief figure carried by a backing or back-up panel or plate **22**, the latter being supported on a base **24**. In this way a stable support for figure **20** is obtained. The outfit may include an instruction book **26**, and properties such as the table **28** to furnish a somewhat realistic setting for manikin **20**. The same may be of any desired size, and serve as a doll, or it may be life size, within the contemplation of the invention, so as to serve as a demonstration device to display fabric samples as they would appear made into a garment. The fabric would be draped and tucked about the figure and held in place by engagement of the figure with the fabric, the latter being clamped between the figure and the backing panel.

Base **24** supports panel **22** in such a way that the panel may be inclined to facilitate dressing of the manikin. For this purpose an opening **30** is provided, preferably at the center of the base, and a sphere-like bearing or mount **32** is disposed in the opening and pivoted thereto



on a pin **34** carried on base **24** so that bearing **32** may swing from side to side. A detent spring **36** is supported in opening **30** and has a portion **38** engaged in a notch in bearing **32** to tend to maintain the latter in a predetermined position. Bearing **32** has a pintle **40** which, in the position maintained by detent portion **38**, extends substantially vertically.

A sleeve **42** fits rotatively about pintle **40** and has a box-like portion **44** permanently united with panel **22** resting on bearing **32** so that the panel is supported in an erect position from base **24**. In the position shown, panel **22** may not tilt from side to side because of engagement of its bottom edges with base **24**, and it cannot tilt forward or backward because of engagement of pin **34** with base **24**. However, if panel **22** is turned a quarter-turn about pintle **40**, it will lie in a plane parallel to pin **34**, and panel **22** may then be tilted forward or backward until one of the stop faces **45** on bearing **32** strike the edge defining the opening in the center of the platform **24**.

Panel **22** has an opening or hole **41** following generally the outline of manikin **20**, but preferably, although not necessarily slightly smaller, and extending from about the region of the neck to a ledge **46** at about the level of the ankles, the opening following the outer contour of the legs. The edges of opening **41** are preferably serrated or roughened as at **47** to aid in holding a fabric-piece **48**. Hinged on a pivot **49** is an auxiliary panel or crotch-piece **50**, contiguous to ledge **46**, extending upwardly, and conforming generally with the inner contour of the legs. Crotch-piece **50** is so dimensioned that it may swing forward between leg portions **52** and **54**, which constitute what may be termed the lower portion of manikin **20**, and project forwardly in a substantially horizontal position as seen in FIGURE 5.

Figure **20** also has an upper portion comprising the chest, arms, neck and head, generally designated as **56**, the lower or hip portion being designated as **58**.

Portion **56** has hinge elements **60** united by a hinge pin **62** with hinge elements **64** on portion **58**, there being sufficient clearance between portions **56** and **58** so that they may both swing forwardly at once, as best seen in FIGURE 5, the parting between portions **56** and **58** being somewhat below the waist section of the figure so as to be hidden when the figure is draped. A lug **66** engaged with hinge pin **62**, projects rearwardly through panel **22**, and is urged backwardly with substantial force by a leaf-spring **68** anchored in the present instance to box **44**. While figure **20** is thus urged forcibly against panel **22**, it may be readily pulled forward so that fabric-piece **48** can be draped about figure **20** and tucked between it and panel **22**, the unused portion extending through the opening or hole **41**.

The above contemplates the bodily displacement of figure **20** from panel **22**, but, by virtue of hinge pin **62** and portions **60** and **64**, upper portion **56** or lower portion **58** may be displaced forwardly independently of the other, but the portions are yieldably maintained in position flat against panel **22** by another leaf spring **70**, also engaged with lug **66**, as well as with lug **72** extending rearwardly from upper portion **56** about lug **66**, and with a lug **74** extending rearwardly from lower portion **58** below lug **66**. Spring **70** tends to keep figure **20** straight, but portions **56** and **58** may be inclined forwardly by overcoming spring **70** as shown best in FIGURE 5, to facilitate tucking a fabric-piece about figure **20**.

Means is provided for temporarily maintaining figure **20** spaced from panel **22** as shown in FIGURE 5. A head portion **76** extends upwardly of opening **41** before a solid portion of panel **22**, and, preferably opposite the neck of figure **20**, a lug **78** extends backwardly through a guide opening **80**, so that figure **20** is prevented from

being inadvertently displaced from in front of opening 41. Spring 68 also serves a similar guiding function.

The back surface of head portion 76 has a groove 82 in which is enclosed a detent strip 84 which acts as a strut or brace to maintain upper portion 56 tilted forwardly. Strip 84 has an offset portion 86 which normally extends through an opening 88 (see also FIGURE 3) and a grip portion 90 which may be grasped for manipulating strip 84. If grip 90 is swung downwardly from the position in FIGURE 4, head portion 76 will be pushed away from panel 22, and offset portion 86 can be readily engaged with the margins of opening 88, as shown in FIGURE 5, so that upper portion 56 is held spaced forwardly to facilitate tucking a fabric-piece thereabout.

Lugs 92 and 94 extend backwardly from the shoulders of figure 20, to assist in holding a fabric-piece in this region, and lugs 96 and 98 extend backwardly from near the extremeties of the arms 100 and 102 of figure 20.

Pivot 49 on crotch-piece 50 is supported in brackets 104 and 106 projecting backwardly from panel 22 beneath opening 41, and has fixed thereon cam portions 108 and 110 which engage the backs of leg portions 52 and 54 when crotch-piece 50 is swung down, pushing the legs forward and tilting lower portion 58 about hinge pin 62, thus making it convenient to drape a fabric-piece about the legs and to tuck it in through opening 41. When the fabric is in place crotch-piece 50 may be again raised, whereupon it will engage the fabric and finish the draping process to simulate a pants-type garment. At the same time the legs will be released to press against panel 22 by the force of springs 68 and 70. The pressure of legs 52 and 54 against cams 108 and 110 yieldingly maintains crotch-piece 50 in its raised position. Crotch-piece 50 is prevented from swinging backwardly beyond the plane of panel 22 by means of a stop piece 112 fixed to the backs of legs 52 and 54.

If a skirt is to be simulated, legs 52 and 54 may be pulled forward by hand, leaving crotch-piece 50 in place between the legs, and draping the fabric around the outer margins of the legs. Crotch-piece 50, if exposed at all, will appear to be part of panel 22, being finished to match the latter.

To facilitate the tucking operation, especially in the case of a small manikin or doll, a tucking tool 114 may be furnished, comprising a flat elongated piece of thin stiff material such as plastic, curved or otherwise shaped as desired.

A pin 116, FIGURE 6 is furnished, and which may have an ornamental head 118. Figure 20 is preferably provided with openings as 120 to receive pin 116, but it is also contemplated that the figure may be made of a material soft enough to receive pin 116 anywhere and repeatedly.

A purse frame 122, FIGURE 7 may be covered with fabric, matching or contrasting with that draped on the figure, and has a lug of irregular cross section, 124, which fits in an opening 126 in panel 22 in the region of the lower extremity of arm 102. Frame 122 has a handle portion 128, and a part 130 which carries lug 124 and simulates the edge of the cover or flap of the purse. When lug 124 is engaged in opening 126, the figure will appear to be carrying the purse. It is contemplated that other sizes and types of purses will be furnished.

A belt 132, FIGURE 9 is made of resilient material and has inturned ends 134 engaging the back of the figure, so that belt 132 may be snapped on in the region of the waist, and will stay in place by virtue of its resiliency.

FIGURE 10 shows a coiffure 136, which has a back panel 138 which may be engaged behind head portion 76. One or more lugs 140 may also engage behind head 76 to aid in stabilizing the hair-do.

A hat 142, FIGURE 11, may be placed on head portion 76, and it is contemplated that a simulated hat may be provided to fit on coiffure 136.

Boots 144, FIGURE 8 may be fitted on the lower extremities of legs 52 and 54, and complete the costuming of the figure.



The operation of the invention is thought to be clear from the above, but it is pointed out that opening 41 in panel 22 makes it possible to drape whole pieces of fabric 48 about the figure and to have them held in place by the pressure of the figure against the margins of the opening. The figure may be held spaced in front of the panel to make this easy, but readily released to press back against the panel by reason of the springs engaged with the back of the figure. Various accessories may be placed on the figure, for amusement or instruction, and, made in large sizes the device would be useful in displaying fabrics, to show how they might look made up into garments.

Pin 116 may be inserted to give the effect of a brooch, and it is also useful to hold the fabric temporarily while it is being tucked about figure 20. The pin may then be removed if desired; or it may remain in place as an ornament.

The device may be folded into small compass when not in use by removing panel 22 from pin 40.

Variations will doubtless occur to those skilled in the art, and it is intended that the invention shall not be taken as limited to what is illustrated and described, or in fact in any manner except as defined in the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A dress designer device comprising a backing panel including means defining an opening generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs and generally complementary to the opening and positioned on one side of said panel, yielding means connected to said panel and to said body portion and positioned to urge said body portion toward said panel, and spacer means engaged with said panel and with said body portion, positioned to maintain said body portion spaced in front of said panel when desired, said spacer means being shiftable into another position wherein said body portion is free to engage said panel.

2. A dress designer device comprising an upwardly directed backing panel providing a hole generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs complementary to and at least as large as the hole and positioned on one side of said panel, spring means connected to said panel and to said body portion and operable to urge said body portion toward said panel, said body portion comprising upper and lower portions hingedly connected together and associated with said spring means so that the upper portion of said body portion may be shifted away from said panel and so that said lower portion may be shifted away from said panel, with each body portion being movable independently of the other.

3. A device as specified in claim 2 including spacer means engaged with said upper portion and with said panel for maintaining said upper portion spaced away from said panel, and spacer means engaged with said lower portion and with said panel for maintaining said lower portion spaced away from said panel, each of said spacer means being shiftable into another position wherein its respective body portion is free to engage said panel.

4. A dress designer device comprising an upwardly directed backing panel providing a hole generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs complementary to and at least as large as the hole and positioned on one side of said panel, yielding means connected to said panel and to said body portion and positioned to urge said body portion toward said panel, a lug on said body portion disposed outside the boundaries of said hole and projecting backwardly from said body portion, and said panel providing a guiding opening in which said lug is slidably engaged to guide said body portion and maintain alignment thereof with said hole.

5. A dress designer device comprising a backing panel

providing a hole generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs complementary to and at least as large as the hole and positioned on one side of said panel, yielding means connected to said panel and to said body portion and positioned to urge said body portion toward said panel, two of said limb portions simulating legs, spread apart in a standing position, and a crotch-plate in the shape of the space between said leg portions, smaller than said space, and means pivotally attaching said crotch-plate to said backing panel for movement between said leg portions, said crotch-plate including a cam portion movable into engagement with said limb portions, whereby said crotch-plate is movable forwardly to cam said limb portions away from said backing panel.

**6.** A device according to claim **5** including hinge means attaching said crotch-plate to said backing panel in the neighborhood of the lower extremities of said leg portions, whereby said crotch-plate may swing forwardly between said leg portions for a fabric-piece to be draped about said leg portions, said crotch-plate being swingable backwardly between said leg portions to pick up the fabric and carry it between said leg portions to simulate a pants-type garment.

**7.** A dress designer device comprising an upwardly directed backing panel providing a hole generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs complementary to and at least as large as the hole and positioned on one side of said panel, yielding means connected to said panel and to said body portion and positioned to urge said body portion toward said panel, spacer means engaged with said panel and with said body portion and positionable to maintain said body portion spaced in front of said panel, said spacer means being shiftable to another position wherein said body portion is in a position to engage said panel, a base portion, pivot means connected with said base portion and with said panel and supporting said panel from said base portion for rotation relative to said base.

**8.** A dress designer device comprising an upwardly directed backing panel, a base on which said panel is supported, said panel providing a hole generally in the shape of a human torso and limbs, a body portion in the form of a human torso and limbs, at least as large as said hole, and positioned on one side of said panel, a hinge piece at the hip region of said body portion having a pivot pin extending in a direction transverse to the length of said body portion and entirely on the same side of said panel as said body portion, said body portion being divided in the region of said pivot pin into an upper portion pivoted to said pivot pin and a lower portion pivoted to said pivot pin, whereby said upper and lower portions are pivoted together, said hinge piece extending rearwardly through said hole, spring means engaged with said backing panel and with said hinge piece and positioned to bias said hinge piece toward the rear of said backing panel, and spring means engaged with said upper portion and with said lower portion and positioned to bias said upper and lower portions toward alignment in a standing position, whereby said body portion is yieldingly pressed backwardly against the boundaries of said hole so that any fabric draped about the front of said body portion will be held in place by contact with the body portion and with the edges of said hole to give the effect of clothing on said body portion.




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EUGENE R. CAPOZIO, *Primary Examiner.*

S. SKOGQUIST, *Assistant Examiner.*