March 27, 1928. 1,663,573

C. H. THARP

GARMENT HOLDING FORM

Filed Aug. 18, 1924

Fig. 1.

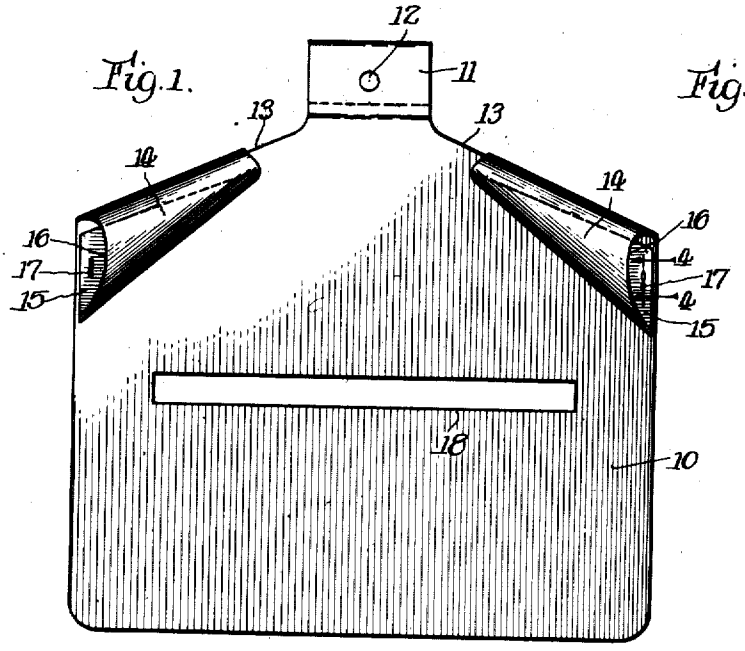


Fig. 2.

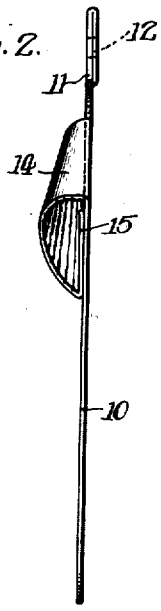


Fig. 3.

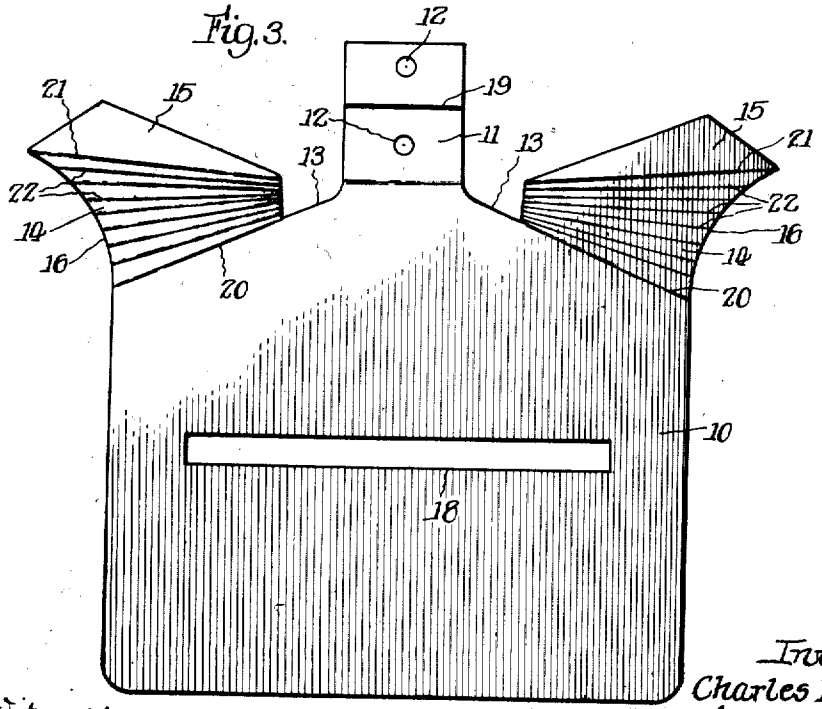
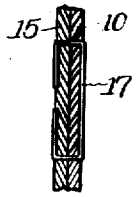


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. THARP, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO MONTGOMERY WARD & COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

GARMENT-HOLDING FORM.

Application filed August 18, 1924. Serial No. 732,597.

The present invention has to do with that type of garment holding forms used for the shipment of articles of apparel, such as suits of clothes, dresses, etc., and employed by mail order houses for preserving the shape of the garments while the latter are in transit to their purchasers.

A variety of such forms previously has been devised and used. Ordinarily they are constructed from cardboard and the like to permit their ready manufacture and convenient storage. In adapting the same for use they are folded to provide the requisite supporting contour, and suitable means employed for holding the same in the folded or assembled position. But because of the temporary character and use of these forms economy in manufacture and assembly, both as to labor and material, is an essential desideratum, and is particularly necessary when the forms are used in large quantities, as in mail order houses.

The present invention aims to provide a garment holding form of the type above referred to which will have the desired strength and stiffness to resist folding and crushing, which is designed to avoid catching on garments of light material and which possesses characteristics which enable its being cheaply and easily manufactured. These objects are accomplished by improvements in the arrangement for supporting and securing the folded portions of the form in assembled position, and by construction which is very economical in both material and the labor necessary for its manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent as the nature of the improvements is better understood, the invention consisting substantially in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and finally pointed out in the appended claims.

A practical embodiment of the invention is disclosed herein illustrative of the adaptation of the invention to the uses for which it is intended, but this disclosure is merely to indicate the application of the invention, and is not to be considered in a restricting or limiting sense.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a face elevation of a garment holding form constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an edge elevation thereof;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the blank from which the form of Figs. 1 and 2 is constructed;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view on the line 4—4, Fig. 1.

Referring now in detail to the accompanying drawings, the numeral 10 designates the body of the hereindescribed garment holding form. It is essentially rectangular in general configuration and is constructed of cardboard or similar material, such as is used in the manufacture of these forms of this type. At the mid-portion of the body 10, and at that edge thereof which constitutes the upper edge when the form is suspended in vertical position, there is provided a suspending tab 11 having an opening 12 for receiving a hook or other support from which the form is hung. Preferably the tab 11 is of double thickness of the material, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the tab 11 being of sufficient length to be folded upon itself, and thereby to provide the double thickness in question.

At the sides of the suspending tab 11 the body 10 inclines or slopes to the edge portions of said body, as at 13, at the marginal portions of which inclined or sloping areas are located oppositely disposed tapering shoulder pads 14 of arched formation. Being arched, the shoulder pads 14 possess an inherent strength which insures the proper support of the shoulder portions of the garment without liability of the pads collapsing, and also eliminating the use of fastening devices, except to a minimum extent, for holding the supporting pads 14 in their folded position with respect to the body 10.

Connected to each of the shoulder supporting pads 14, at the edge thereof which is free before being folded into assembled relation with respect to the body 10, is a fastening flap 15. Each of these fastening flaps 15 is of generally triangular configuration when folded under the shoulder pad will lie against the front of the body portion with the broad or basal portion adjacent to one edge of the latter, the fastening flap tapering therefrom towards the inner end of the shoulder pad. The form of the pad is such that in its folded position its outer end sets

back from the adjacent edge of the body 10. This exposes a substantial area of the outer or broad end of the fastening flap 15, whereby to facilitate the application of a suitable tool for effecting fastening of the flap 15 to the body 10. The tool, therefore, may be inserted into the cut away end of the pad, after the latter has been folded into position with respect to the body 10, and thus permit the application of the fastening device 17 for securing the pad to the body 10. Preferably, the fastening device 17 is a staple. It penetrates the body 10 and the fastening flap 15, its ends being turned into engagement with the material through which they have penetrated. Due to the tapering or conic form of the arch pad, the single fastening at the outer end of the attaching flap 15 is all that is required to retain the pad 14 in its arched or folded form. Thus I avoid weakening the body portion by slots or the like and the inner end of the pad 14, though left free, is maintained in proper folded relation to the body 10 to insure the pad effectually supporting the shoulder portions of the garment which has been placed upon the form. As thus assembled, there are no corners or edges left exposed in position such as to catch the fabric of a garment as it is placed on or removed from the form.

The form is provided with a transverse slot 18 the length of which is sufficient to permit the leg portions of a pair of trousers to be introduced therein, and the trousers suspended from the form.

In Fig. 3 is disclosed the construction of the blank from which the form is produced. The suspending tab 11 is scored on a transverse line 19 to permit it to be folded back upon itself, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The line of fold of each of the shoulder pads 14 with respect to the body 10, is on a line of scoring 20, said lines being prolongations of the inclined or sloping edges 13. The line of fold of the fastening tab 15 of each of the pads 14 is on a line of scoring 21, and to facilitate the arching of the pads 14 that face of each of the same, which becomes the inner face thereof in the folded or assembled relation of the pads to the body, is scored on radial lines 22. The scoring lines 22 penetrate the pads 14 only sufficiently to facilitate the arching thereof, and thus do not mar the outer surfaces of said pads, nor are they visible from the outer surface when the pad is folded, although they may cause it to take a polyhedral or pyramidal form instead of a regular curve.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the present invention provides a garment holding form which may be manufactured with the highest degree of economy both in point of material and labor employed. There is but a single fastening, in the form of the staple 17, for each of the shoulder pads, to hold the latter in supporting relation with respect to the body of the form, and the cut away ends 16 of the pads 14, together with the shape and configuration of the fastening tabs 15, enable the staples 17 to be quickly and easily applied. The pads are very rigid and present no projecting corners or edges to catch the material.

I claim:

1. In a garment holding form of the class described, a body portion, an arched shoulder supporting pad folded to overlie the body portion, a fastening flap connected to the shoulder supporting pad and folded at an angle thereto to lie in contact with the body portion, the outer end of the fastening flap being exposed at the front beyond the outer end of the shoulder supporting pad, and fastening means applied to the exposed end of the fastening flap and the body portion to hold the shoulder supporting pad in arched relation to the body.

2. In a garment holding form of the class described, a body portion, a shoulder supporting pad folded in tapering arched form over the surface of the body portion, a tapering fastening flap connected at the free edge of the shoulder supporting pad and lying in contact with the body portion, and means at the broader end of the fastening flap for securing the latter to the body portion to retain the shoulder pad in arched form.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name.

CHARLES H. THARP.

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 1,663,573. **Granted March 27, 1928, to**

CHARLES H. THARP.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction as follows: Page 1, line 101, after the word "configuration" insert the word "and"; page 2, line 54, for the word "surfaces" read "surface"; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with these corrections therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 1st day of May, A. D. 1928.

M. J. Moore,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.

(Seal)

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