A. D. BAILEY.

DRESS FORM.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 17, 1912.

1,102,711.

Patented July 7, 1914.

Fig. 2.

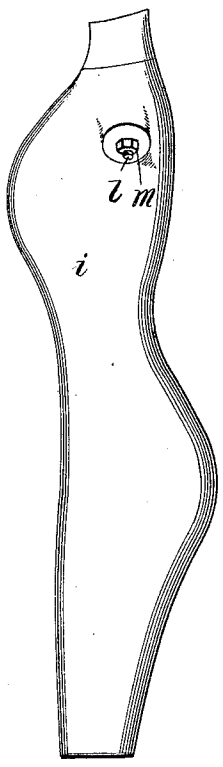


Fig. 1.

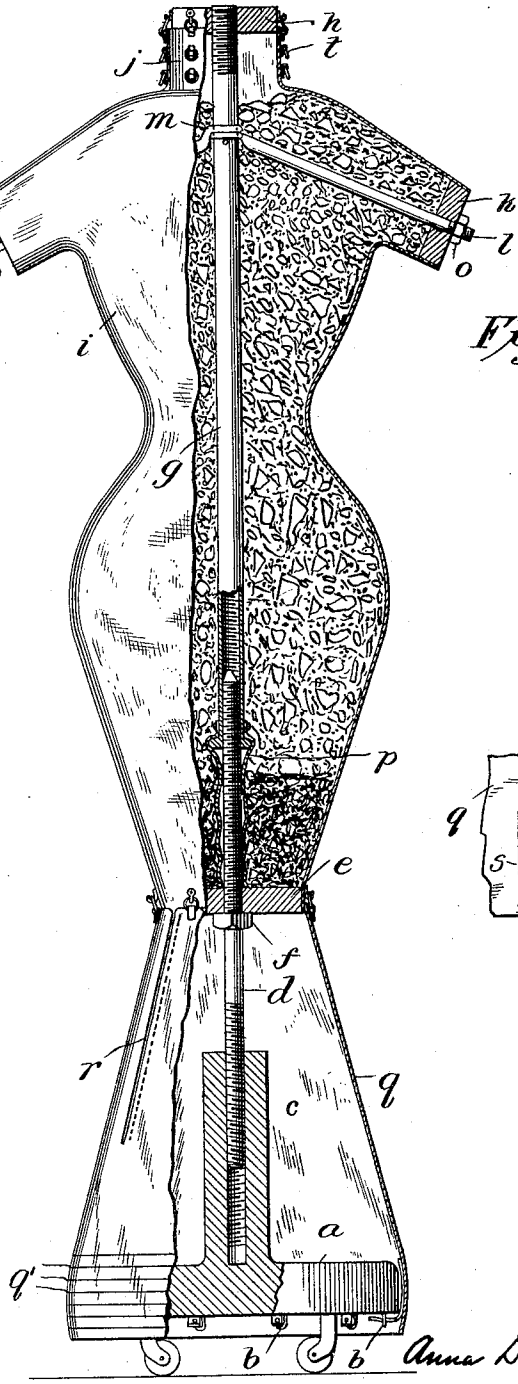
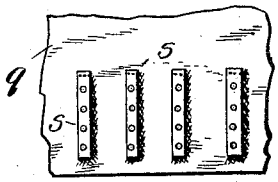


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

Jr. J. Collins

H. F. Ruth

Inventor

Anna Drane Bailey

By Davis & Davis

Attorneys

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANNA DEANE BAILEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

DRESS-FORM.

1,102,711. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 7, 1914.

Application filed August 17, 1912. Serial No. 715,674.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANNA DEANE BAILEY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, county of New York, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dress-Forms, of which the following is a full and clear specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved form or dummy complete; Fig. 2 a side elevation of the form or dummy detached from its pedestal and skirt form; and Fig. 3 a detail view of a part of the inner face of the skirt form detached.

The object of this invention is to so construct the dummy that it shall approximate the human figure and also that each dummy or form shall be capable of a wide range of adjustability not only as to height but also as to transverse dimensions, whereby it is possible by selecting a dummy or form most nearly approaching the figure of the person whose gowns are to be fitted thereto to adjust the dummy in various directions to thereby make it conform very closely if not exactly to the vertical as well as horizontal dimensions of the person in question. By thus providing for a wide range of adjusting capacity in each dummy it will be possible to put my invention on the market in a less number of sizes than is possible with the forms or dummies now on the market and it will also be possible to make the dummy conform more nearly to the special dimensions of the figure the dummy is intended to be a facsimile of, as more fully hereinafter set forth.

In the drawing *a* designates a base plate or board mounted on suitable castors and provided on its under side with a series of hooks *b* and on its upper side with a central internally threaded post *c*. Screwed into this post *c* is a rod *d* whose upper part is threaded in a direction opposite to the lower extremity which screws into the post *c*. The upper part of this rod is inserted through a central opening in a plate or block *e*, a squared part *f* being formed or fastened on the rod to enable it to be readily turned. The upper extremity of this rod *d* is screwed into a hollow rod *g*, and on the extreme upper end of this rod *g* is screwed or otherwise adjustably mounted a circular block *h*.

A textile fabric casing *i* surrounds the rod *g* and the part of rod *d* above the block *e*, this casing being connected at its upper end to the top block *h*, and at its lower end to the bottom block *e*. This casing is so made that when it is filled out or inflated it approximates the human figure from the top of the neck down to the knees, including a small portion of the arms adjacent to the shoulders. This casing is filled with granulated cork up to a point at or near the base of the tubular neck portion *j* of the casing. The filling material is preferably granulated cork but it is possible to use other material having the same capacity, and this material is packed into the casing with sufficient compactness to firmly but not rigidly fill out the casing. Each arm stump is closed by a block *k* to which the fabric is fastened, and each block *k* is connected by a rod *l* to the central rod *g*, the connection being preferably by means of an eye *m* formed on the rod *l* and both rods *l* being preferably inclined upwardly. Nuts *o* are threaded on the projecting ends of the rods *l*, for a purpose hereinafter set forth.

A loose tubular fabric *p* connects the lower end of the rod *g* to the block *e* and surrounds the upper end of the rod *d*, whereby the rod *d* may be removed from the block *e* for the sake of compactness in shipping and reinserted when the figure is erected or assembled without serious interference by the granulated filling material, this tubular fabric serving to not only hold the rod *g* in the center of the figure but also to guide the threaded rod into the rod *g* when it is reinserted. A tubular apron *q* connects the block *e* to the base *a*, a slit *r* being provided from its top edge downwardly to enable it to be slipped off and on over the base *a*, this base *a* being considerably larger in diameter than the block *e*. The upper edge of this apron is detachably connected to the block *e* by suitable rings and hooks and detachably connected to the base *a* by means of a series of flexible tabs or tapes *s* which are attached to the inner face of the apron *q* and are adapted to hook over the hooks *b* on the under side of the base *a*, each tab *s* being provided with a series of eyeleted holes to provide for vertical adjustment. The block *e* is to be so located as to be approximately in line with the knees and is so dimensioned as to approximate the diameter of the figure at the knees while the base *a* is of a diameter to approximately cover the

circular space within which the feet of the person are located when standing in a natural position. To accommodate persons of different heights the rod *d* may be screwed into or out of the tubular post *c* and the tabs *s* may be adjusted accordingly, so that this downwardly flaring apron *q* may be drawn approximately taut. This apron *q* is of a suitable fabric that will readily receive pins, and its purpose is to form an annular support against which the skirt of the gown may rest in draping the gown and in locating folds and plaits and determining and ascertaining their appearance when the gown is actually worn by the person for whom it is intended.

By employing granulated cork or similar material as a filling substance and by leaving an empty space at the top of the casing and by employing a suitable fabric as a material for the casing, I am enabled to make wide range of adjustments as to vertical and lateral dimensions of the body portion of the dummy. Granulated cork, (*i. e.* small pieces of cork of irregular dimensions) I have ascertained by experiment, has the peculiar capacity, so to speak, of staying where put, provided the casing be of the character hereinbefore set forth, namely, muslin or other flexible textile fabric. This covering or casing has the capacity of yielding within reasonable limits but is not springy or elastic in the sense that it tends strongly to return to a normal position, and the particles of cork have such great frictional qualities that when the mass is locally shifted by pressure or manipulation of the hands the particles will remain in the positions they are shifted to even though there be a slight tendency on the part of the fabric to pull them back to the original position. For these reasons it is possible with my device to vary the transverse dimensions of the figure at any point between the two blocks *e* and *h* by simply shifting the cork by a sort of massage operation on the exterior of the figure; for instance the waist dimension can be increased by forcing some of the cork particles up into the waist portion of the figure or from above downwardly into that portion and likewise with respect to the bust and hip dimensions. In other words, this flexible fabric casing and the filling of frictional yielding particles such as cork gives to the body portion of the dummy a sort of plastic nature in that within the yielding limits of the fabric employed the figure may be changed from its factory shape without dismantling it, to make it accord with the special and perhaps abnormal or unusual dimensions of the figure of the person who is to wear the gowns. At the knee portion of the figure I have shown the cork particles packed tighter than at the remaining part of the figure since it will be seldom, if ever, necessary to shift the particles at the knee portion of the figure.

The leaving of the upper part of the casing empty gives a wider range of adjustment in that it permits a portion of the cork filling to be shoved up into the neck when the transverse dimensions of the figure at points lower down are to be considerably reduced. The rods *l* together with their threaded nuts *o*, assist in narrowing the dummy at a point above the waist line. By screwing up the nuts *o* the mass of cork across the top of the figure will be partly compressed and partly shoved up into the empty neck portion, and in this way the shoulder measurement may be narrowed and the back may be bulged or flattened and the upper part of the figure otherwise reshaped to suit the peculiarities of the special individual whose figure-facsimile the dummy is intended to approximate.

To vary the length of the neck of the figure it is simply necessary to adjust the block *h* up and down on the central staff; and to take up the surplus material in the neck of the casing if the neck be shortened, I provide a series of rings *t* on the exterior of the neck which are adapted to engage in hooks located at intervals around the edge of the block *h*. This adjustable neck block *h* together with the adjustable connection between the rod *d* and the rod *g* enable the vertical length of the body portion of the dummy to be varied within the capacity of the figure and when the body of the figure is thus varied the cork filling may be manually shifted about within the casing to get the proper transverse dimensions at all points throughout the length of the figure. It will thus be observed that I provide for a practically universal adjustment of the dummy or form and it will be observed also that throughout the length of the figure it is possible to pin the garment to the figure and thus assist in fitting and draping the garment; and it will be observed that the pins may be inserted in the body portion of the dummy in the manner of tacks, that is, forced their full length into the body of material, so that it is possible to actually tack the gown to the figure at any point from the knee line to the neck of the figure.

A feature of importance, it will be observed lies in the fact that from the neck to the knee my form or dummy can be readily made to very closely approximate the figure of the owner and it is believed that this capacity is a novel one, and that it is an exceedingly advantageous one will be apparent to those skilled in the art of fitting garments since the great objection to the dress forms now on the market is that hanging or draping of the garment

cannot be actually determined or ascertained until the garment is tried on the wearer.

It will be obvious that my invention is best carried out by the use of a form considerably longer than the ordinary dress form now in use. I prefer employing a form which approximates the length of the human body from the neck to a point well below the hips, preferably to the knee as in that way I provide an extensive mass of filling material, which gives a wider range of adjustment by local displacement and makes the manipulation of the filling to obtain the adjustments easier.

With my improved dress form, experiment has shown me that I can cover the usual range of adjustments provided for in the forms now on the market by a considerably less number of "sizes", it being possible, I believe, to provide for this wide variety in the dimensions of human figures by placing on the market three sizes which, to the trade would be known as numbers 36, 39 and 42.

It will be understood that variations in the details of construction of this appliance may be resorted to by me without departing from the spirit of my invention. It will be understood also that the apron q may be used as a guide for marking and cutting the lower edges of skirts by providing the same with a suitable gage such as a series of annular lines q'.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a device of the class set forth, a dress form shaped approximately to the human body from the neck to the knee, a base plate and means for supporting the form on said base plate, said base plate having a diameter greater than that of the lower end of the form, a tubular fabric apron detachably connected to the lower end of the form and slitted vertically for a portion of its length, and means for detachably connecting the apron to the edge of the base plate, for the purpose set forth.

2. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a support, a dummy or lay figure supported thereon and embodying an exterior textile fabric casing and a filling of comminuted frictional packing material, said casing being flexible and said filling material being packed to firmness only and being capable of local permanent readjustment by exterior manual manipulation in the manner of plastic material, and a standard extending through the mass of packing material and serving as an interior support therefor.

3. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a support, a dummy or lay figure supported thereon and embodying an exterior textile fabric casing and a filling of comminuted frictional packing material, said casing being flexible and said filling material being packed to firmness and being capable of local readjustment by exterior manual manipulation in the manner of plastic material, and an extensible supporting rod within the dummy whereby the height of the dummy may be varied.

4. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted cork, said filling being capable of local permanent displacement and readjustment by exterior manual manipulation, said cork filling being packed to firmness only.

5. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure, said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted frictional material capable of local displacement and readjustment, a supporting rod embedded in the packing material, a removable screw rod entering the bottom of the form and engaging the lower end of said rod, and a flexible protecting tube for said screw rod.

6. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure, said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted frictional material packed to firmness so as to be capable of local displacement and readjustment, and means for positively contracting or squeezing the form in the line of the shoulders.

7. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure, said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted frictional material packed to firmness so as to be capable of local displacement and readjustment by external manual manipulation, a space being provided between the upper extremity of the casing and the top of the filling or packing material within the casing.

8. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure, said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted frictional material packed to firmness and capable of local displacement and readjustment by external manual manipulation, a space being provided between the upper extremity of the casing and the top of the filling or packing material within the casing, and means being provided for shortening the neck portion of the form or dummy.

9. A dress-fitting form consisting of a support and a dummy or lay figure attached to and supported thereon and consisting of an exterior casing of fabric and a filling of comminuted frictional packing material packed to firmness only to give plasticity to the mass and thus render it capable of local permanent displacement by exterior manipulation.

10. An apparatus of the class set forth, comprising a base, a standard attached thereto, and a dummy or form affixed to and surrounding said standard, said dummy approximating the exterior shape of the human form from the neck to a point below the hips and consisting of a flexible fabric casing and a filling of comminuted frictional material packed into the casing to firmness only, the filling material and casing extending the full length of the dummy, said filling material being capable of local permanent readjustment by exterior manipulation to thereby permit the diameter and contour of the dummy to be varied at points along the length of the dummy.

11. In a device of the class set forth, a base, a dummy mounted thereon and shaped approximately to the human body from the neck to the knee, means for adjusting the dummy vertically with respect to the base, and a fabric apron connecting the lower end of the dummy to said base, means being provided for varying the effective length of the apron in accordance with the adjustment of the dummy with respect to the base.

12. In a device of the class set forth, the combination of a base, a dress form supported thereon and approximating the human figure, said form consisting of an outer casing of textile fabric, a filling of comminuted frictional material packed to firmness so as to be capable of local displacement and readjustment, and means for positively contracting or squeezing the form in the line of the shoulders, said means embodying a member centrally arranged within the dummy and a pair of rods connected to said member and extending upwardly to the respective shoulders of the dummy, screw means being provided for tightening or loosening the parts.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ANNA DEANE BAILEY.

CHARLES D. DAVIS,

CHARLES LOWELL HOWARD.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."