Feb. 28, 1956 J. L. WYNER 2,736,031

BODY GARMENT

Filed Sept. 24, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

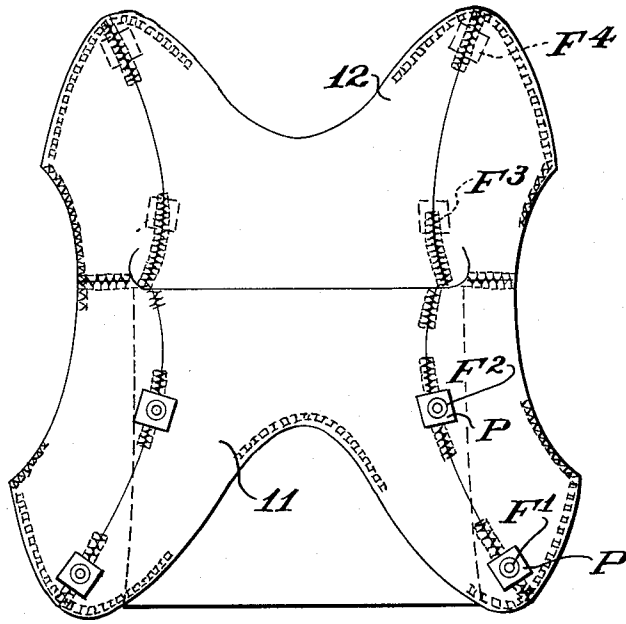


Fig. 4

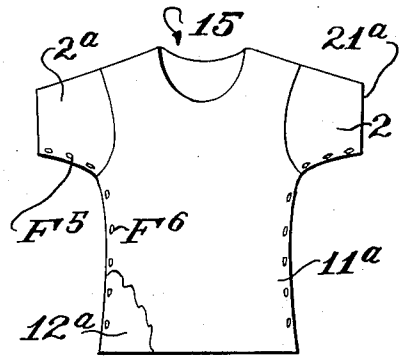


Fig. 5

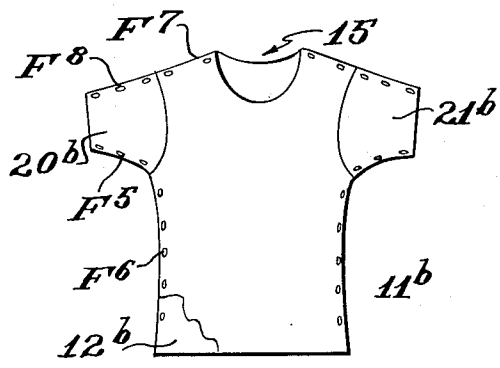


Fig. 6

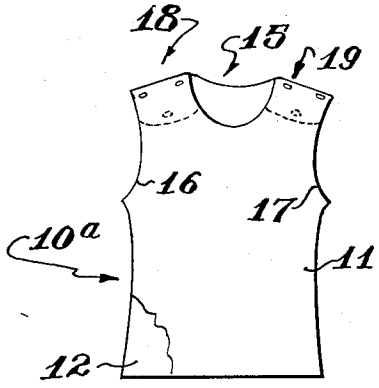


Fig. 7

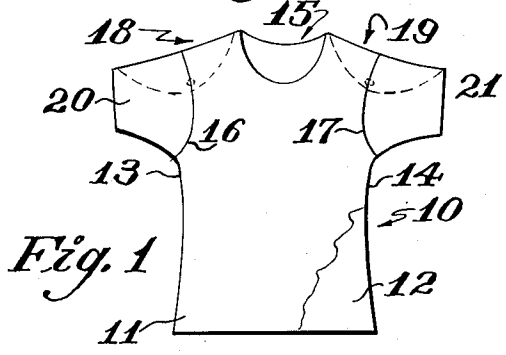


Fig. 1

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BODY GARMENT

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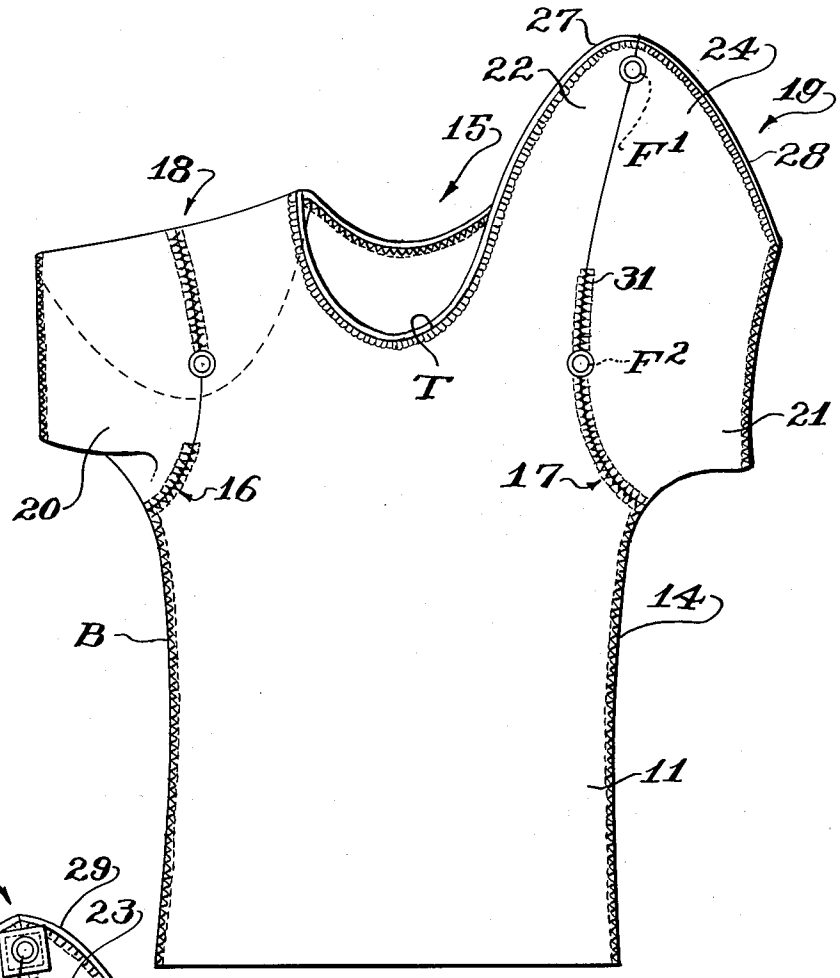


Fig. 2

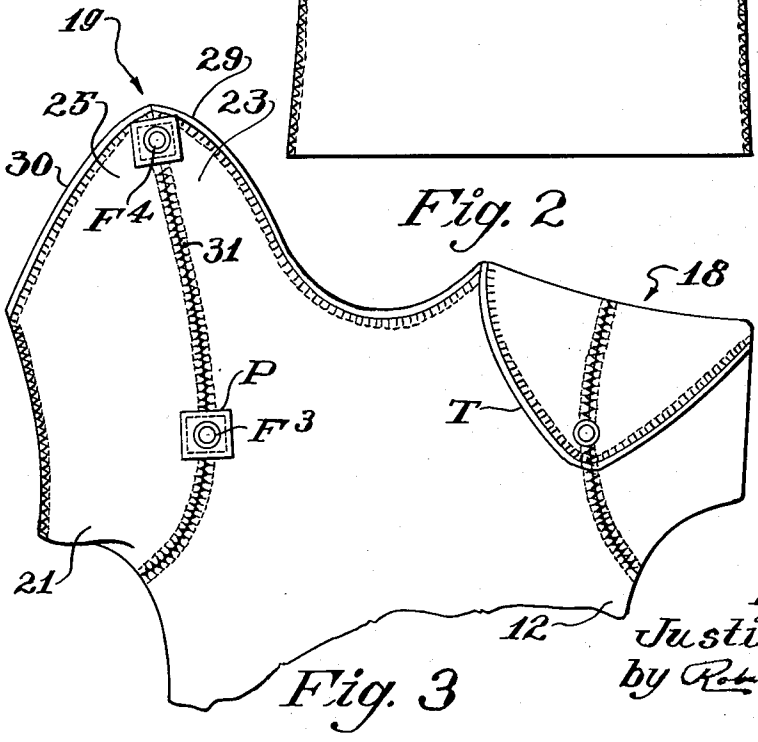


Fig. 3

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2,736,031

BODY GARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—111)

This invention relates to a garment having a neck opening, armscyes and usually sleeves and is of a type of which knitted undergarments are representative, the invention being particularly useful when embodied in an undershirt or similar garment for infants wear.

Any one who has attempted to dress an infant is aware of the difficulty of getting the child's arm into the sleeves of the usual undershirt. While one arm may be inserted in its sleeve without too much difficulty, it is necessary, in preparing to insert the other arm into its sleeve, to bend the arm sharply at the elbow and to twist it more or less in getting the child's fist through the armscye. Attempts have been made to remedy this difficulty, for example, by making the neck opening of the garment unduly large so that the garment may be slipped sidewise to shift the armscye away from the body, but this expedient does not by any means overcome the difficulty, and the provision of an abnormally large neck opening interferes with the proper fit of the garment and reduces the protection which the garment is intended to afford at points where it is most essential that such protection be provided.

In accordance with the present invention, a body garment, for example an undershirt having a neck opening, armscyes and shoulder portions intervening between the neck opening and its armscye and which is usually provided with sleeves and which is intended to be donned by drawing it upwardly over the wearer's feet, is so constructed that the shoulder portions and sleeves, if the latter be used, comprise separable parts which may be separated to admit the shoulder and arm and then wrapped about the shoulder and arm and united so as to provide a well fitting garment of generally customary appearance. While it is preferable to construct both of the shoulder portions and both of the sleeves, if sleeves be employed, so as to provide parts which may be wrapped about the shoulder and arms, reasonably good results may be obtained if only one shoulder portion and the corresponding sleeve be so constructed since, as above noted, the introduction of one arm into an armscye is not especially difficult, the real difficulty being experienced in introducing the other arm into its armscye. Somewhat similar results, with respect to ease of donning of the garment may be obtained by separably uniting the front and back portions of the garment by the use of appropriate fastener means along lines extending from the lower edge of the garment up to the respective armscye and then, if sleeves be employed, by dividing each sleeve along a line extending from the lower part of the armscye to the end of the sleeve and providing fastener elements for securing the separable portions of the sleeves after the garment has been put in place. With such an arrangement the head of the wearer is passed through the neck opening, the sleeves are wrapped about the arms and then the fastener elements are manipulated to close the sleeves and to unite the front and back portions of the garment at the sides.

In accordance with a further arrangement, the entire

back of the garment including the backs of the shoulder portions and the backs of the sleeves may be made separate and independent of the front portion of the garment (with the corresponding parts of the shoulder portions and sleeves) and appropriate fastener means may be provided for uniting these front and back portions. With such an arrangement the infant will be laid upon the back portion of the garment, the front portion will then be laid over the infant, and the fasteners manipulated to join the front and back portions at the shoulders and the sleeves and along the sides of the garment.

While the invention is particularly useful, as above suggested, when embodied in an infant's undershirt, its utility is not necessarily limited to that particular type of garment since it may be embodied in infants' bands, shirts (whether having short or long sleeves or whether the shirt be of the slip-on type, or of the double breasted type); it may be embodied in nighties and sacques, polo shirts, pajama tops and so forth. Any desired type of fastener may be employed for uniting the parts after the garment has been applied, such for example as snap fasteners, buttons and buttonholes, hooks and eyes, slide fasteners, tie-tapes or safety pins. Not only does the invention provide for the easy donning of the garment but it is also of value when, for example, the child wets both diaper and undershirt but not the outer wear. Under such circumstances it is merely necessary to separate the normally united parts of the undershirt at the shoulders and sleeves and to pull the garment down over the feet without removing the outer wear.

Objects of the invention are to provide a body garment having a neck opening and armscyes which may be donned without necessitating the bending of the arms in getting them through the armcyes; to provide a body garment having a neck opening of normal size, armscyes and sleeves, and so devised that the garment may be donned by drawing it upwardly over the feet and so that the arms may be passed through the armcyes and sleeves without requiring that the arms be bent at the elbows; to provide an undergarment, having a neck opening, armscye, shoulder portions and sleeves, which may be removed by pulling it down over the feet without removing outer clothing; to provide a body garment having shoulder portions, at least one of which comprises parts which are united only by fasteners and preferably though not necessarily having the fasteners so located that the child will not lie upon the fasteners whether he be placed upon his back or on his stomach. A further object is to provide a sleeved undershirt which may be donned by pulling it upwardly over the feet and which has shoulder portions intervening between the neck opening and the sleeves, the shoulder portions and sleeves at one side at least of the garment comprising flaps which normally wrap over the shoulder and arm and which are held in normal position by separable fastener means. Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be pointed out in the following more detailed description and by reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic front elevation illustrative of a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation to much larger scale than Fig. 1, and showing the same embodiment of the invention in detail but with the shoulder portion and sleeve at one side of the garment opened to admit the shoulder and arm of the wearer;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view of the garment as shown in Fig. 2 but viewed from the rear;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the garment of Figs. 2 and 3 but showing the shoulder portions and sleeves at both sides of the garment opened out to facilitate donning the garment;

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic front elevation to the same scale as Fig. 1, showing another embodiment of the invention; and

Figs. 6 and 7 are similar views illustrating further embodiments of the invention.

Referring to Fig. 1 the numeral **10** designates a body garment in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the garment illustrated being an infant's slip-on undershirt having a body portion comprising the front panel **11** and the rear panel **12**, these panels being united by the side seams **13** and **14** respectively. The garment has the neck opening **15** of usual and normal size, the armscyes **16** and **17**, the shoulder portions **18** and **19** intervening between the neck opening and the respective armscye, and the sleeves **20** and **21** secured in the respective armscyes. For convenience, the parts **11** and **12** are herein referred to as front and rear "panels" and as suggested they may be separate parts united at the sides of the garment by seams. However, the body portion of the garment may be of seamless, tubular construction if desired. In such a garment, those portions which extend between vertical fold lines running from the lowest part of each armscye to the bottom of the garment may be considered to constitute the front and rear "panels" respectively. Moreover, while the garment, as here shown, is of the slip-on type it may be of other type, for example, such a double breasted garment as is disclosed in the patent to Wyner et al., 2,643,386, June 30, 1953.

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the front panel **11** of the body portion of the garment has an upward integral extension **22** at its shoulder portion **19** while the rear panel **12** (Fig. 3) has a similar extension **23**. Likewise, the sleeve **21** (Fig. 2) has an upward extension **24** at its front and a similar upward extension **25** (Fig. 3) at its back. The extensions **22** and **24** have free marginal edge portions **27** and **28** respectively, and the extensions **23** and **25** have the free marginal edges **29** and **30** respectively. The extension **22** is united to the extension **24** by a seam **31** which extends down along the armscye and beneath the sleeve **21** and thence upwardly to unite the extensions **23** and **25**, as shown in Fig. 3.

In accordance with the preferred construction, the shoulder portion **18** of the garment (Fig. 1) at the other side is of the same construction as the shoulder portion **19** just above described. The united extensions **22** and **24** form a front flap, while the united extensions **23** and **25** form a rear flap. In the preferred arrangement, such as illustrated in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, the front flap overlies the rear flap when the garment is in use. However, the reverse disposition of these flaps may be employed, if desired, with a proper rearrangement of the fastener elements now to be described. Moreover, while in the preferred construction, both front and rear flaps are provided, it is contemplated that either the front or rear flap may be omitted and the free margin of the remaining flap may then be detachably secured directly to the panel which has no extension. In accordance with customary practice the neck opening **15** is defined by a binding tape T, (Fig. 2) suitably sewn to the material of the garment body and in accordance with this invention this binding tape is carried along the marginal edges **27** and **28** to provide a suitable finish for the flaps. As here illustrated (Figs. 2 and 4) one element of a snap fastener F1 is secured to the interior of the front flap (of which the extension **22** forms a part) near the free margin of the flap and preferably in the region of the seam **31**, the seam providing a substantially non-stretching point of anchorage for the fastener element. Desirably, the fastener element is mounted on a short piece P (Fig. 4) of woven tape of the like which in turn is sewn to the material of the garment. A second fastener element F2 (Fig. 4) is secured to the garment, preferably at a point on the seam **31** and by the use of an anchoring tape P. This second fastener element F2 is located below the extension

22, and as here illustrated, (Fig. 2) by way of example, at about the horizontal level of the lowest point of the neck opening, thus being united to the front panel proper of the garment. To the exterior of the rear flap, at the same side of the garment, fastener elements F3 and F4 (Fig. 3), complementary to the fastener elements F1 and and F2 are attached, these fastener elements F3 and F4 being likewise preferably attached at the location of the seam **31** and with anchoring tapes P, and at locations corresponding to the locations of the fastener elements F1 and F2, respectively. It will be understood that the front and rear flaps at the opposite side of the garment will be similarly provided with fastener elements.

In donning the garment, the flaps at opposite sides are unfastened and opened out to the position shown in Fig. 4. The garment may then be drawn upwardly over the feet of the infant or pulled down over his head if desired, the armscyes being disposed immediately beneath the infant's armpits. The rear flaps are then folded forwardly over the shoulders and about the arms and the fastener elements F4 are engaged with their complemental fastener elements F2. Then the front flaps are folded rearwardly over the rear flaps, and the fastener elements F1 are engaged with the fastener elements F3. With the parts thus positioned the garment fits snugly about the infant, with a double thickness of the material over the shoulders and over the upper parts of the arms, and with the seams **31** extending beneath the arms and up over the shoulders, thus providing a very good support for the garment which will not substantially stretch during use. In removing the garment it is merely necessary to disengage the fastener elements at each side whereupon the garment may be pulled downwardly if desired without removing outer clothing.

While the arrangement just described is preferred, that is to say an arrangement in which the garment is of like construction at both shoulder portions, nevertheless, if desired the construction making possible the opening of the shoulder portion and sleeve as above described may be confined to one side of the garment, the shoulder portion and sleeve at the other side being of any usual construction.

A slight modification is illustrated in Fig. 7, wherein the garment **10*a*** is sleeveless but has the neck opening **15**, the armscyes **16** and **17** and the shoulder portions **18** and **19**. In this garment the front and rear panels **11** and **12** have integral extensions, such as the extensions **22** and **23** of the garment previously described and these extensions are provided with fastener elements for uniting them in overlapping relation across the shoulder, all as above described, but since no sleeves are provided there are no extensions such as the extensions **24** and **25**, above referred to, to form parts of the front and rear flaps. In this arrangement the fastener elements would usually be located somewhat differently from the fastener elements illustrated in Figs. 2 to 4 inclusive, their exact location depending upon the particular shapes of the flaps and being well within the skill of the designer of such garments.

In Fig. 5 a further modification is illustrated wherein the front and rear panels **11*a*** and **12*a*** are permanently united at the shoulders, either integrally or by the provision of usual shoulder seams, but are separable from each other from points at the lower edge of the garment along lines at each side respectively of the garment up to the respective armscye. Likewise, the sleeves **20*a*** and **21*a*** respectively, are divided, beneath the arms, from their outer ends to the armscyes and suitable fasteners F5 and F6 are provided for securing the parts in operative position. With this arrangement the parts **11*a*** and **12*a*** will first be disconnected and the fasteners F5 beneath the sleeves will be separated and the garment will then be slipped over the infant's head so that the head passes through the opening **15**. The fasteners F5 will then be united to cause the sleeves to encircle the arms

and the fasteners F6 will be united to connect the front and rear panels.

In the arrangement illustrated in Fig. 6, the front panel 11*b* and the rear panel 12*b* are separable along the sides of the garment as in the arrangement just described, illustrated in Fig. 5, and may be connected by fastener devices F6 and the sleeves 20*b* and 21*b* are likewise arranged to be opened beneath the arms, the parts of the sleeves being normally connected by the fasteners F5. However, in this arrangement the shoulder portions are also constructed to have separable parts united by the fasteners F7 and the sleeves 20*b* and 21*b* are also constructed to be opened at their upper portions and to be connected by the fasteners F8. With this arrangement the entire front and rear portions of the garment are separable from each other and in donning the garment the infant may be laid down upon the rear portion; the front portion placed over him and then the front and rear portions connected by the various fastener elements F5, F6, F7 and F8.

While certain desirable embodiments of the invention have herein been illustrated and described by way of example, it is to be understood that the invention is broadly inclusive of any and all equivalent constructions and embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A body garment designed to be donned by drawing it upwardly over the feet of the wearer, said garment having armscyes and sleeves and a neck opening of usual and normal size, the garment comprising a front panel and a rear panel, both front and rear panels having integral upward extensions at their right and left shoulder portions respectively, each extension tapering upwardly in width and having a curved, free marginal edge forming a smooth continuation of the edge of the central part of the neck opening, each sleeve also having an upward extension at its front and rear respectively, each upward extension of each sleeve having a free marginal edge which joins the free marginal edge of the corresponding extension of the front or rear panel respectively, in a smooth, upwardly convex curve, a seam uniting the inner edge of each upward extension of each sleeve to the outer edge of the upward extension of the corresponding panel, said seam extending from the junction of the free marginal edge of the front upward extension of the sleeve and the upward extension of the front panel downwardly along the armscye and then upwardly to the junction of the free marginal edge of the rear upper extension of the sleeve with the upward extension of the rear panel, the united front and rear extensions of each sleeve with the upward extensions of the front and rear panels respectively, constituting front and rear shoulder flaps, one of said flaps overlying the other flap to form a double thickness of material over the shoulder of the wearer when the garment is in use, one element of a separable fastener being secured to the interior of each of those flaps which is to be the overlying flap, said fastener elements being located close to the free marginal edge of each of said overlying flaps and adjacent to the seams which unite the sleeve and panel extensions, one element of a second separable fastener being secured to the interior of each of said overlying flaps near the seam which unites the sleeve to the corresponding panel extension and at about the horizontal level of the lowest point of the neck opening, the complemental elements of the separable fasteners being arranged at the exterior of the underlying flaps at locations corresponding to those of the first-named separable fastener elements, the upward extensions of each sleeve overlapping when the garment is in use.

2. A body garment designed to be donned by drawing it upwardly over the feet of the wearer, said garment having armscyes and sleeves and a neck opening of usual and normal size, the garment comprising a front panel and a rear panel, the front and rear panels each having an integral upward extension at one shoulder portion at least of the garment, each extension tapering upwardly in width and having a curved free marginal edge forming a smooth continuation of the edge of the central part of the neck opening, the sleeve at said one shoulder portion, at least, of the garment also having an upward extension at its front and rear respectively, each upward extension of said sleeve having a free marginal edge which joins the free marginal edge of the corresponding upward extension of the front and rear panel respectively, in a smooth, upwardly convex curve, a seam uniting the inner edge of each upward extension of said sleeve to the outer edge of the upward extension of the corresponding panel, said seam extending from the junction of the free marginal edge of the front upward extension of the sleeve and the upward extension of the front panel downwardly along the armscye and then upwardly to the junction of the free marginal edge of the rear upper extension of the sleeve with the upward extension of the rear panel, the united front and rear extensions of said sleeve with the upward extensions of the front and rear panels respectively, constituting front and rear shoulder flaps, one of said flaps overlying the other flap to form a double thickness of material over the shoulder of the wearer when the garment is in use, one element of a separable fastener being exposed at the inner surface of that flap which is to be the overlying flap, said fastener element being located close to the free marginal edge of said overlying flap and adjacent to the same which unites the sleeve and panel extensions, one element of a second separable fastener being exposed at the inner surface of said overlying flap near the seam which unites the sleeve to the corresponding panel extension and at about the horizontal level of the lowest point of the neck opening, the complemental elements of the separable fasteners being exposed at the exterior surface of the underlying flap at locations corresponding to those of the first-named separable fastener elements, the upward extensions of said sleeve overlapping when the garment is in use.

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