Aug. 9, 1960 E. DONATH 2,947,993

GARMENT HAVING SET-IN INVERTED BOX PLEAT STRUCTURE

Filed Oct. 8, 1957 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

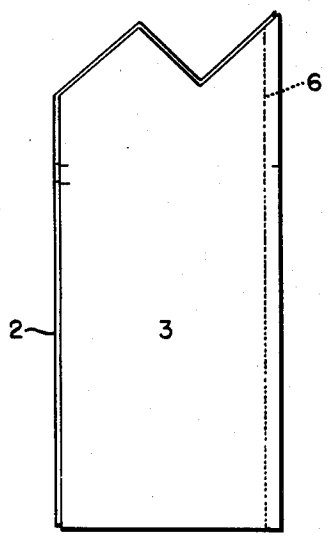
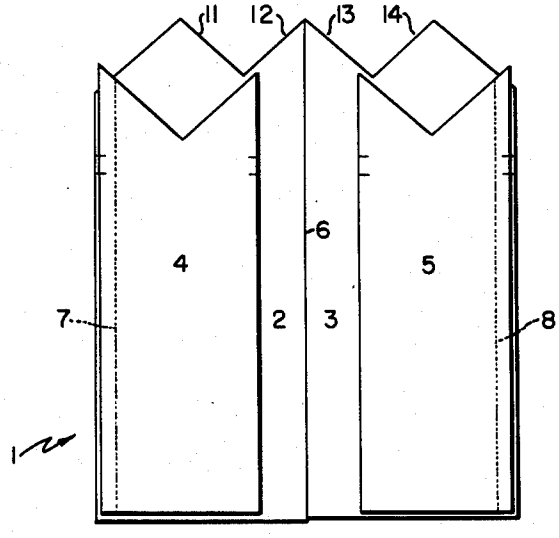


Fig. 2



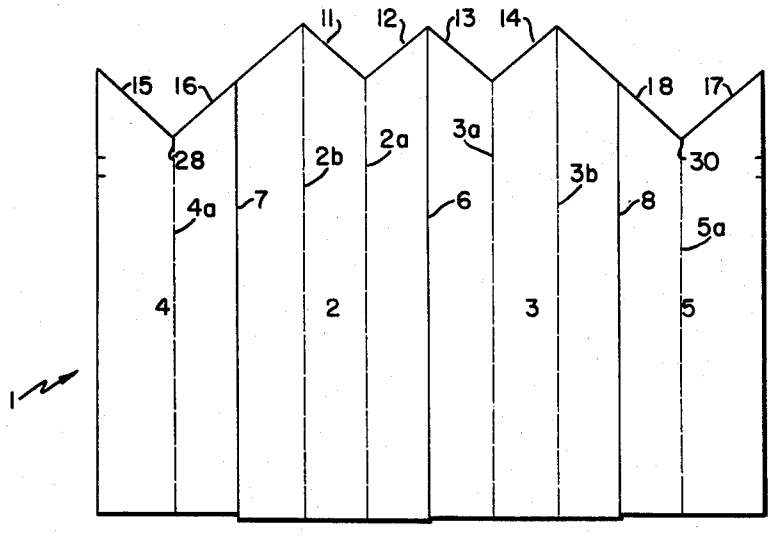


Fig. 3

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Filed Oct. 8, 1957

3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 4

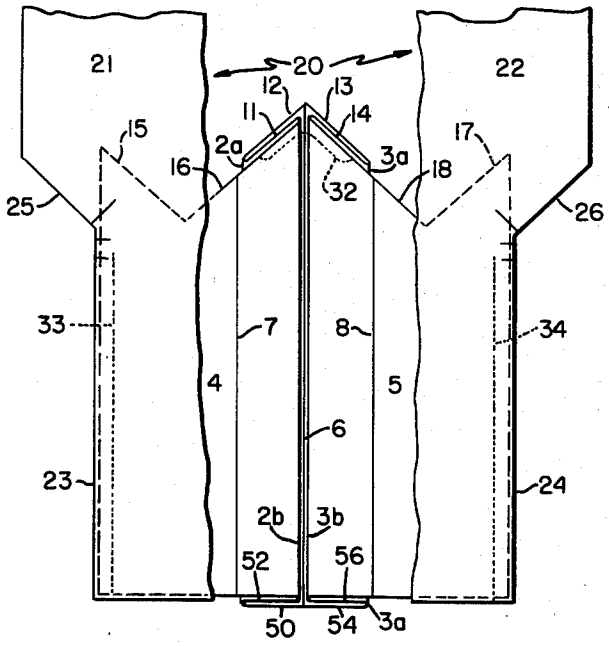


Fig. 5

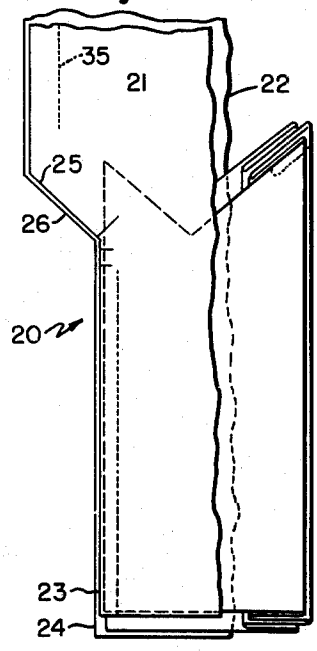
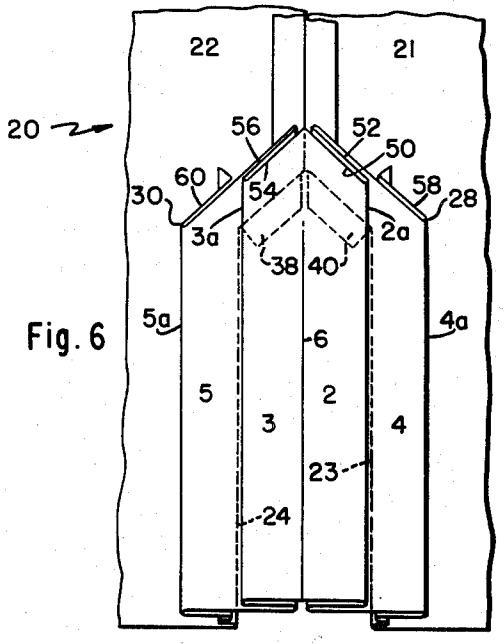


Fig. 6



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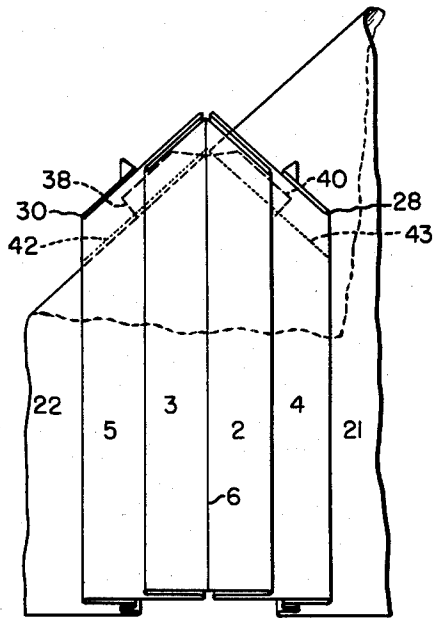
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Aug. 9, 1960 E. DONATH 2,947,993

GARMENT HAVING SET-IN INVERTED BOX PLEAT STRUCTURE

Filed Oct. 8, 1957 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 7



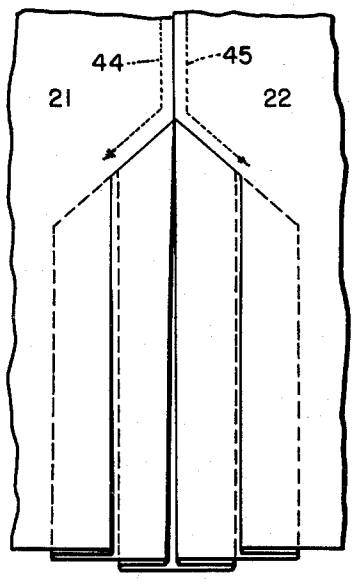


Fig. 8

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GARMENT HAVING SET-IN INVERTED BOX PLEAT STRUCTURE

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Filed Oct. 8, 1957, Ser. No. 688,970

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—243)

This invention relates to a pleated article of wearing apparel, particularly a skirt or the like, and the principal object of the invention is to provide a novel and attractive pleat.

Further objects will be apparent from a consideration of the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a face view of the superposed elements constituting the central part of a pleat section;

Fig. 2 is a face view of the elements constituting the end portions of the pleat section superposed on the elements of the central pleat;

Fig. 3 is a face view of the parts shown in Fig. 2 stitched together before being pleated;

Fig. 4 is a plan view showing the central elements pleated and tacked together at their upper ends, the parts being interposed between the marginal portions of the skirt panel to which the pleated elements are to be attached;

Fig. 5 is a plan view showing the right hand part of Fig. 4 folded on the center line of the pleat section preparatory to stitching the two sections of the panel together;

Fig. 6 is a rear view of the constituent elements after being stitched together and positioned for attachment to the inner section of the skirt panel;

Fig. 7 is a rear view, similar to Fig. 6, but showing the pleated elements stitched to the panel sections; and

Fig. 8 is a face view showing the finished pleat.

In accordance with the present invention I provide a novel pleat, hereinafter described, one or more of which may be formed or incorporated in an article of wearing apparel such as a woman's skirt, dress or jacket. If, for example, the pleat is to be formed in a skirt, it may be located at the front and/or the rear and/or both sides and extend downwardly from approximately midway between the waistband and the lower edge of the skirt. In any event the number and arrangement of such pleats will depend upon the style and desired fullness of the skirt.

The pleat comprises a panel section which may be an integral part of a skirt or other article of wearing apparel, and a pleat section, which may be a single piece of textile material or pieced-together parts. The pleats are formed in the pleat section either before or after attaching to the panel section. In the preferred pleat and method of making it the panel section is formed from two identical parts and the pleat section is formed from several parts appropriately cut to shape and stitched together in the manner presently to be described.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 3, the pleat section **1** comprises a pair of central portions **2** and **3** and end portions **4** and **5**, the central portions being stitched together to form a seam **6** (Fig. 1) which defines the center line of the pleat section and the end portions **4** and **5** are stitched to the central portions **2** and **3** by seams **7** and **8** (Fig. 2). The seams **6**, **7** and **8** permit the pleat section to be formed from several smaller portions of material rather than a single large piece with a consequent saving of material. More important, however, these seams which are parallel to the fold lines in the finished pleat cause the pleat section to tend to hang neatly, thus insuring the return of the pleat section to its folded position if it is extended during wear. For this purpose the central portions **2** and **3** and side portions **4** and **5** should include a fairly generous seam allowance. Before being stitched together the inner or upper edges **11—14** of the central portions are cut to define a W-shaped contour and the inner edges **15** and **16** of the outer portions and the adjacent edges of the central portions are cut to define an inwardly tilted L-shaped contour adjoining the outer edge of the W-shaped contour, as shown in Fig. 3.

The panel section **20** (Figs. 4 to 6) comprises two identical parts **21** and **22** which are cut to provide spaced parallel longitudinal edges **23** and **24** extending from the lower end of the skirt upwardly to approximately midway between the waistband and the lower end, and the inner ends of these edges converge, as indicated by the numerals **25** and **26** (Fig. 5), to form an inverted V-shaped contour. The distance from the re-entrant parts of the L-shaped contours (points **28** and **30** in Figs. 3 and 6) to the lower edge of the section should be equal to the length of each of the edges **23** and **24** of the panel section and the length of the inner legs **16** and **18** should be equal to the length of each of the legs of the inverted V-shaped edge of the panel section.

After having prepared the two sections as above described, the central portions **2** and **3** are pleated. Pleating is accomplished by folding the left-hand portion of the panel over along the fold line **2***a* and back along the fold line **2***b* and similarly along the fold lines **3***a* and **3***b* to form the central pleated portion shown in Fig. 4. This pleating forms two expansible portions on each side of the center seam **6**, the expansible portions on the left side of the seam **6** as seen in Fig. 4 being designated by the reference numerals **50** and **52**, while those on the right side of the seam **6** are designated by the numerals **54** and **56**. The two parts of the panel section are then superposed on the pleat section as shown in Fig. 4. The margins of the outer portions **4** and **5** are then stitched to the panel section inwardly of the edges **23** and **24** by seams **33** and **34**, after which the parts **5** and **22** are folded about the center seam **6** so as to overlay the parts **4** and **21**, as shown in Fig. 5. The parts of the panel section are then stitched together by a seam **35** (Fig. 5) which terminates inwardly of the apex of the inverted V-shaped end so as to provide stitching allowances **38** and **40** (Figs. 6 and 7).

The assemblage is then reversed and the outer parts **4** and **5** are pleated by folding along parallel lines **4***a* and **5***a* extending from the points **28** and **30** to the lower edge of the section, as shown in Fig. 6. This additional pleating forms two more expansible portions **58** and **60** lying on each side of the center seam **6** and under the edges **23** and **24** of the panel section. Thus, three expansible portions are formed on each side of the center seam **6**, one of which lies under the edges of the recess formed in the garment. The W- and L-shaped inner ends of the pleated section are then positioned so as to overlie the margins of the inverted V-shaped portion of the panel section and are secured thereto by rows of stitching **42** and **43**, as shown in Fig. 7.

The pleated assemblage is then reversed and decorative stitching **44** and **45** may be applied, as shown in Fig. 8, after which the skirt may be pressed or otherwise appropriately finished in accordance with conventional dressmaking practice.

While I have shown and described one desirable em-

bodiment of the invention it is to be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A garment having a box pleat, said garment including a panel having a recess formed therein defined by spaced parallel edges which extend to one edge of said garment, said pleat being formed by a pleat section having a plurality of pleated portions, said pleat section including a center seam joining two central portions and two parallel side seams symmetrically disposed with respect to said center seam joining end portions to said central portions, said pleat section being folded along fold lines parallel to said seams to provide at least six expansible portions, three of said expansible portions lying on each side of said center seam, said side seams not lying on any of said fold lines, means attaching said pleat section to said garment along the parallel edges of said recess with said seams and said fold lines parallel to said edges,

and with those expansible portions of said pleat section outermost from said center seam lying behind the portion of said garment adjacent the parallel edges of said recess.

2. The combination defined in claim 1 in which said central portions are folded to form two of said expansible portions, and said end portions are folded to form a single expansible portion.

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