Dec. 11, 1962 R. JONES 3,067,516

MEASURING CORSETS OR JACKETS

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Fig. 2

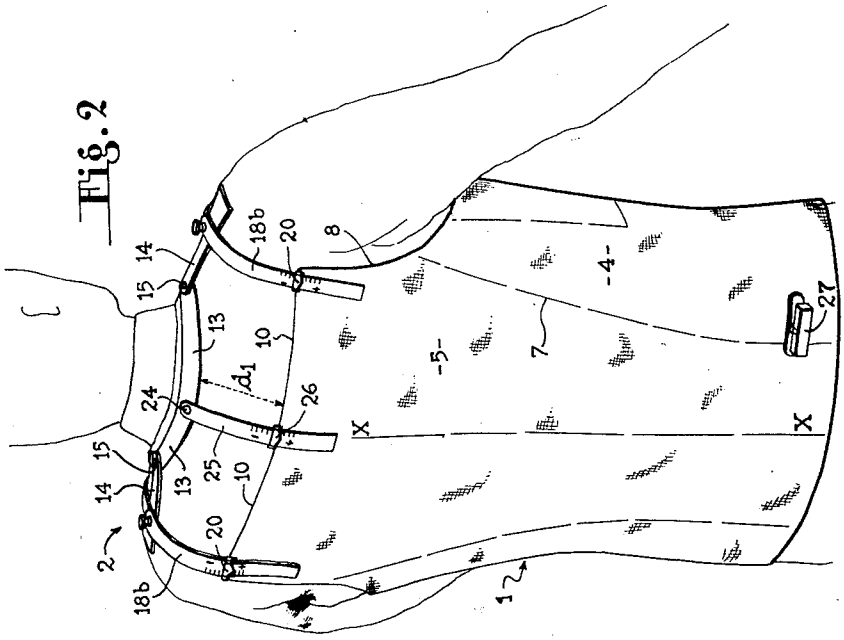
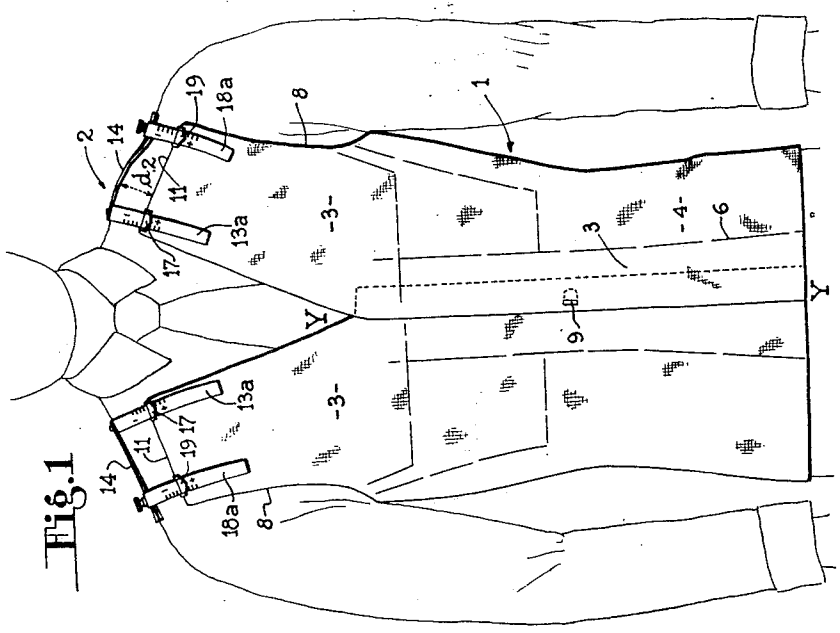


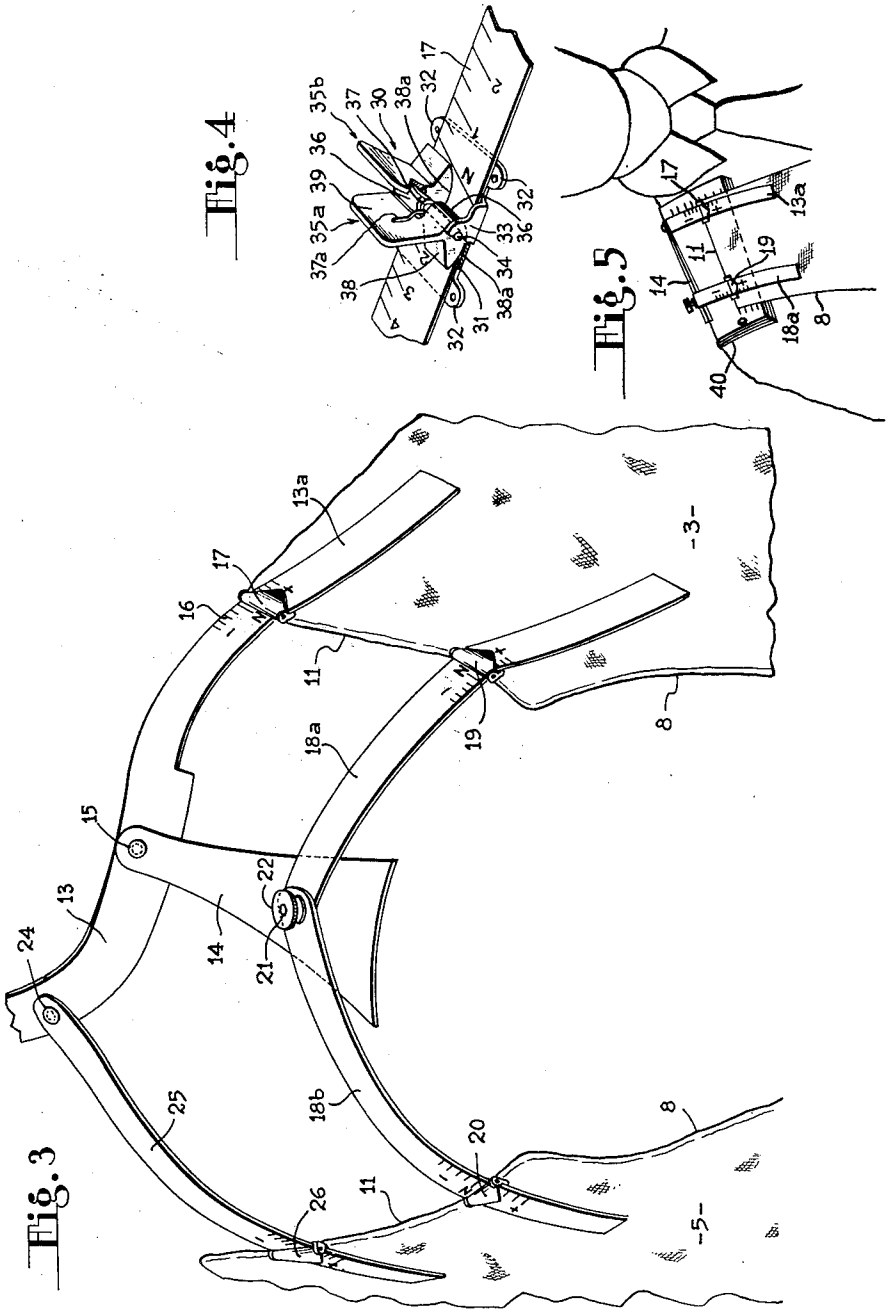
Fig. 1



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MEASURING CORSETS OR JACKETS

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MEASURING CORSETS OR JACKETS

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The present invention relates to measuring corsets used in tailors' workshops for rapidly obtaining in a precise manner numerical or graphical indications necessary in ascertaining the build or line of a person for whom a jacket or like garment is to be made.

The corset according to the invention is characterised in that it comprises a neck and shoulder harness having, on the one hand, a neck and shoulder band which surrounds the rear part of the neck and is extended forwardly respectively by two pliant measuring strips which are connected in an adjustable manner to the upper inner edge of the forward portions of the corset so as to support said inner edge, two shoulder tabs articulated to said neck and shoulder band on the line of the point of the neck and shoulders and extending along the shoulder up to the point of the shoulder, pliant and adjustable measuring strips respectively articulated to the centre of the neck and shoulder band and at the ends of each shoulder tab for supporting the rear portion of the corset, and two pliant and adjustable measuring strips respectively articulated to the end of said shoulder tabs for supporting the upper outer edge of the forward portions of the corset.

According to other features of the invention, the pliant measuring strip articulated to the rear mid-point of the neck and shoulder band is connected to the mid-point of the upper edge of the back of the corset, and the articulated mounting in the middle of the neck and shoulder band constitutes substantially a fixed point for positioning the assembly on the person.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sliding fastener which can be used with said harness and is in this case adapted to be fixed to the edge of the corset and in which is slidable in an adjustable manner the corresponding pliant measuring strip, said sliding fastener being characterised in that it comprises a flat base which has a substantially rectangular general shape and is provided with fixing means permitting it to be fixed to the corset, the longitudinal edges of the base being bent up at 90° and acting as a support for a transverse pin and constituting a passageway for the passage of a measuring strip, and two clamping elements pivotably mounted on said pin and permitting the pliant measuring strip, which is slidable between the base and said cams, to be clamped against or released from said base.

The two clamping elements are identical and are mounted in opposite directions on the pin, each element consisting of a single member comprising: on the one hand, a sleeve whose length is a little less than half the length of the pin, said sleeves being mounted on the pin and defining with said base a space allowing passage of said pliant measuring strip, and, on the other hand, a clamping cam extending transversely along the length of the sleeve, and an actuating ear extending transversely over the entire width of the passageway, the two cams being biased against the measuring strip by the action of a spring mounted on the pin between the two sleeves,

the branches of the spring bearing against the two ears, the latter being in their normal position of rest disposed in the form of a V so that ordinarily the cams have a braking action on the measuring strip in both directions and a pressure exerted on the branches of the V for closing the latter raises the two cams and allows the measuring strip to move in both directions.

Further features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the ensuing description with reference to the accompanying drawings to which the invention is in no way limited.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of a corset according to the invention.

FIG. 2 is a rear perspective view of the same corset;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the right half of the harness,

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a sliding fastener which can be used with said harness, some parts of the elements having been cut away for the sake of clarity, and

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a shoulder portion of a modification of the harness.

In the embodiment shown in the figures, the corset comprises a corset body **1** and a neck and shoulder harness **2**. The corset body **1** has the general shape of a waistcoat consisting of an indeformable strong fabric comprising, for example, on each side of the middle line X—X of the back and the middle line Y—Y of the front a forward piece **3**, a side piece **4** and a back piece **5**, these pieces being assembled by vertical or substantially vertical stitching such as the stitching **6** and **7**. These pieces could be reinforced in the known manner by inner panels in any appropriate fabric.

The pieces comprising said assembly are cut out at **8** so as to form the arm-holes. The front middle line Y—Y is constituted by a line of fasteners, such as the fastener **9** or other detachable connecting means.

According to an essential feature of the invention, the front portion and the back portion are not jointed together on the shoulder line; the back of this corset is limited at its upper end by an edge **10** which is substantially horizontal and is located a distance d_1 from the base of the neck, the distance d_1 being about 1 to 2 decimetres. Likewise, the front pieces are limited at the upper end by edges **11** located at a distance d_2 from the shoulder line; the distance d_2 could be about several centimetres or about a decimetre.

The region of the shoulders is therefore largely uncovered in a zone between the edge **10** and each of the edges **11**.

These front and back parts are interconnected by the neck and shoulder harness **2** from which the corset body is therefore suspended. This harness **2** comprises a neck and shoulder band **13** and two shoulder tabs **14, 14**. The harness is composed of a strong and indeformable but pliant material, such a plastic material or reinforced fabric. The neck and shoulder band and the shoulder tabs could constitute a single member or could be assembled by stitching or an articulated connection, for example by means of a rivet, eyelet or button **15**.

The neck and shoulder band **13** is extended forwardly on each side of the collar in the form of a pliant band **13a** constituting a first measuring strip carrying graduations **16** (FIG. 3).

Each of these measuring strips is fixed in an adjustable manner to the front portion of the corset by means of a sliding clamp or clip **17** (for example similar to the sliding clip of braces) fixed to the upper edge **11** of the front part of the corset.

Each shoulder tab **14** extends from the neck and shoulder band to the point of the shoulders and has an enlarged free end on which are articulated a second measuring strip **18a** and a third measuring strip **18b** which connect the shoulder tab to the forward edge **11** (FIG. 1) and the rear edge **10** (FIG. 2) of the corset, respectively. These measuring strips are connected to the edges **10** and **11** by means of clamps or clips **19** and **20** identical to the clamps **17**. The two measuring strips **18a** and **18b** are separately articulated to each shoulder tab **14** by a common pivot pin **21** (FIG. 3) either permanently or in a detachable manner, for example by means of a tapped and knurled button **22** screwed on the pin **21** which is screw threaded.

A fourth pliant measuring strip **25** similar to the measuring strip **18a** and **18b** is articulated to the centre **24** of the neck and shoulder band and adjustably fixed in the middle of the upper edge **10** of the back of the corset by a clamp **26** similar to the clamps **17** and **20**.

Each of the measuring strips carries a scale similar to the scales **16**, the zero point of which coincides with the point of attachment of this measuring strip in this clamp for a normal build corresponding to the size of the corset. Graduations marked on either side of the zero correspond to positive and negative indications showing the effective length of the measuring strip after adjustment of the corset.

The measuring strips **18a** and **18b** and **25** can be composed of inextensible pliant plastic material or metal, for example spring steel, brass or bronze.

As can be seen, the corset comprises four measuring strips of adjustable length, **18a**, **13a**, **13a**, **18a** (FIG. 1), on the front side, and three measuring strips of adjustable length, **18b**, **25**, **18b** (FIG. 2), on the rear side.

The corset also includes a spirit level **27** sewn onto its lower edge which permits ensuring that this edge is horizontal.

The clamps **17**, **19**, **20**, **26** of known type could be advantageously replaced by sliding fasteners or clamps **30** shown in FIG. 4.

Each of these fasteners comprises a flat base **31** having ears **32** by means of which it is fixed to the corset. The longitudinal edges **33** of this base are bent up at 90° and act as a support for a transverse pin **34** on which are pivotably mounted two blocking or clamping elements **35a**, **35b** which are identical and are mounted in opposite directions on the pin **34**. Each element consists of a member having a sleeve **36** whose length is a little less than half the length of the pin **34** so that a spring **37** can be interposed between these two sleeves. These two sleeves and the base **31** define a passageway through which is slidable a pliant measuring strip such a the measuring strip **17**.

The clamping element also comprises: a cam **38** having the same length as the sleeve and whose part-cylindrical portion **38a** bears against the surface of the measuring strip, and an actuating ear **39** whose width corresponds to the distance between the edges **33**. The portion of the ear **39** which is not directly attached to the sleeve has a radial height which is such that it clears the sleeve of the other clamping element, as can be seen on the left element as viewed in FIG. 4 (a portion of the ear has been cut away from the right element).

The shape of these elements is such that in their normal position of rest, the ears **39** are urged apart by the ends of the spring **37** which bears against the faces of these ears as shown at **37a**. Thus the cams bear against the measuring strip and prevent it sliding in either direction. The wedging effect of the cams is rendered even more

effective if the part-cylindrical face of the cam is provided with transverse ridges.

When the two branches of the V formed by the ears **39** are urged together so as to close this V, the cams pivot about the pin **34** and move away from the surface of the measuring strip which is thus released for movement in both directions.

It will be observed that the ears provide large pressure-applying surfaces for the fingers of the user.

This sliding fastener can thus be easily operated between the thumb and the index finger and furthermore does not damage the surface of the measuring strip.

The corset according to the invention can be constructed in various sizes each of which corresponds to an average build which is adopted as the normal build.

The articulated mounting **24** in the middle of the neck and shoulder band constitutes a substantially fixed point for placing the assembly in position, and the required modifications to said theoretical build in the making up of the garment are effected by taking care that the front and rear parts of the corset carried by the person to be clothed or fitted are vertical, the adjustment being carried out therefore on the neck and shoulder point and on the shoulder point, the extent of the modifications being indicated in value and sign by reading off the graduations in front of the corresponding piece.

The indications furnished can be used either for cutting the cloth of a coat or like garment or for making up a pattern obtained by marking out a contour from a cardboard pattern corresponding to the normal shape of the corset, the marking out being corrected so as to take into account the readings of the scales on the measuring strips. This pattern corresponds to the build of the client to be clothed and can be stored and used for cuting out garments for this client.

The graduations could be eliminated and replaced by photosensitive sheets of paper **40** (FIG. 5) fixed to the harness and covered to a varying extent by the upper edges of the corset; these sheets of paper are printed by exposure to a source of ultra-violet rays thereby automatically recording the positions of the two edges relative to the lines of the shoulders. Photosensitive papers suitable for the use described are well known in the art, for example, the "Ozalid" paper manufactured under a plurality of patents, one of which is U.S. Patent No. 2,560,137.

Having now described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An improved corset assembly for marking out cloths from which a garment is to be made, comprising a corset having a rear portion and two front portions, a neck and shoulder harness; comprising, a neck and shoulder band adapted to surround the back part of the neck and the upper side of the shoulders, and adjustable supporting and measuring means connected to said neck and shoulder band and to the upper edges of said rear and front portions, for adjustably supporting the corset and a sheet of paper, photosensitive to ultra-violet light, fixed to the harness and covered to a varying extent by the upper edges of said corset whereby the relative positions of said corset front and rear portions as thus supported by said harness is indicated on said paper.

2. An improved corset assembly for marking out cloths from which a garment is to be made, comprising a corset having a rear portion and two front portions, and, a neck and shoulder harness, said harness comprising a neck and shoulder band adapted to surround the back part of the neck and the upper side of the shoulders, and adjustable supporting and measuring means connected to said neck and shoulder band and to the upper edges of said rear and front portions for adjustably supporting the corset; a spirit-level fixed onto the lower edge of said corset for adjusting the corset assembly horizontally, and a sheet of paper photosensitive to ultra-violet light fixed to the harness and covered to a varying extent by the upper edges of said corset whereby when said photosen-

sitive paper is exposed and fixed in said positions, the relative position of said corset portions and harness is indicated.

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