Nov. 7, 1950 M. C. CLAYTON 2,528,639

COLLAPSIBLE HOOP SKIRT

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FIG. 2



FIG. 1

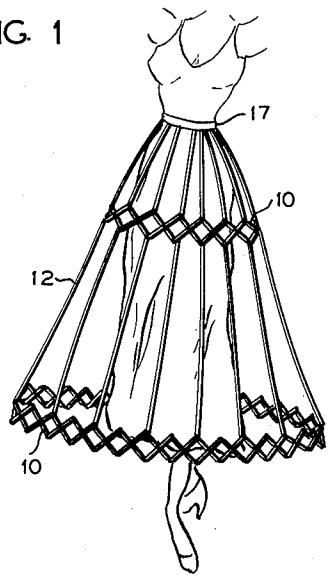


FIG. 3

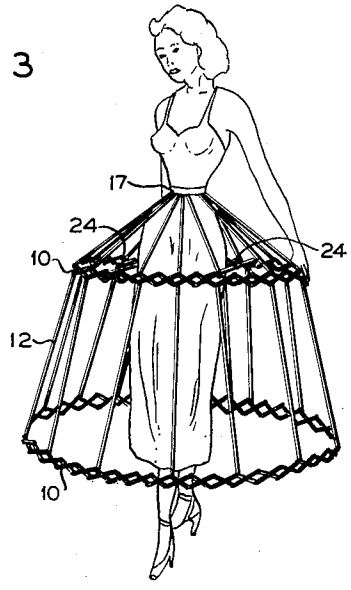
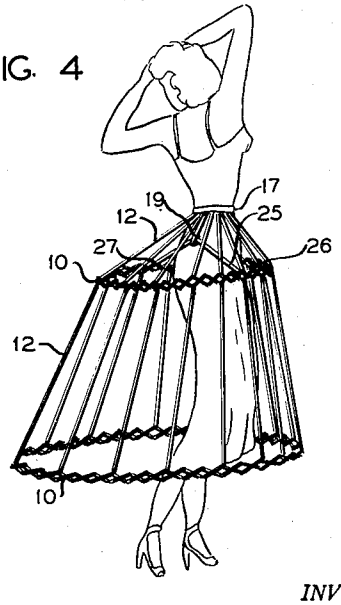


FIG. 4



INVENTOR.
MARY C. CLAYTON

BY K. Wilson Foster

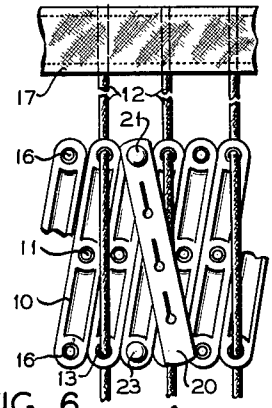
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FIG. 6



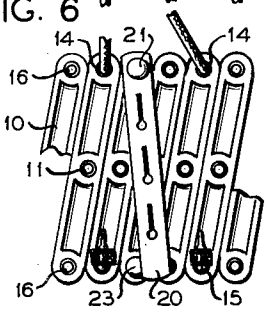


FIG. 7

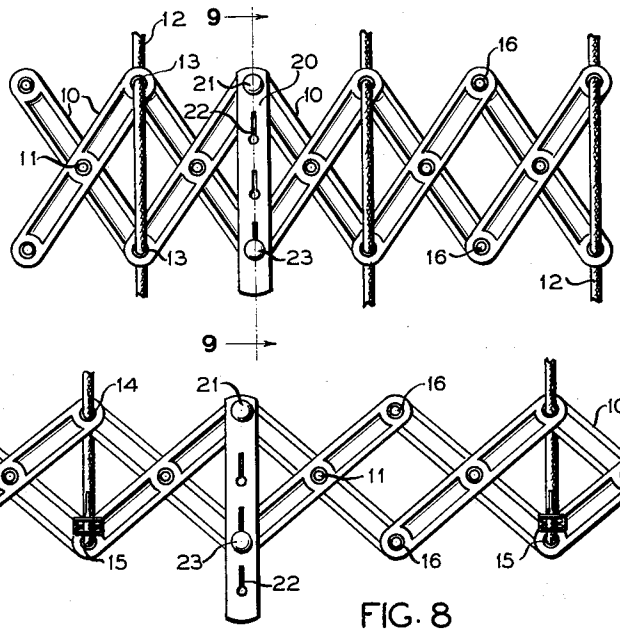


FIG. 8

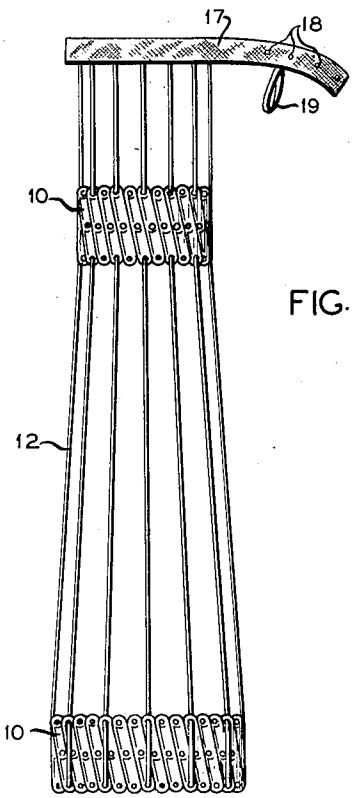


FIG. 5

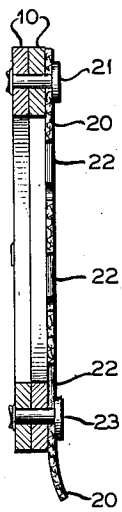


FIG. 9

INVENTOR.
MARY C. CLAYTON

BY J. Wilson Lorden

ATTORNEY

Patented Nov. 7, 1950 2,528,639

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,528,639

COLLAPSIBLE HOOP SKIRT

Mary C. Clayton, Decatur, Ga.

Application August 12, 1948, Serial No. 43,922

13 Claims. (Cl. 2—216)

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This invention relates to feminine attire, and more particularly to a new and improved, collapsible hoop skirt.

For many years in this country, and particularly in the southern part thereof, it has been customary for women to wear at formal functions what is known as hoop skirts, these consisting essentially of a very wide and full garment supported by a series of circular hoop-like members, increasing in their over-all diameter from the top down, and extending the material of the skirt away from the body of the wearer in a picturesque and pleasing manner.

An obvious objection to garments of this type lies in the fact that they are quite bulky, and hence difficult to pack or transport.

Another objection lies in the fact that conventional hoop skirts are heavy, which factor is accentuated in the case of elaborate costumes as are often used on the stage and screen.

Another objection arises because the hoops of these skirts are usually relatively rigid, making it difficult to sit down, as for example in an automobile when wearing such, and even creating a problem in some cases in passing through doors or narrow passageways.

An object of my invention is to provide a collapsible hoop skirt that may be readily packed in a small container and easily transported.

Another object is to provide a collapsible hoop skirt that is readily adjustable into several different forms.

Another object is to provide an instrumentality of the instant type which is easily cleaned.

A still further object is to provide lightness and buoyancy in such a device.

Another object is to provide simplicity of construction in a collapsible hoop skirt.

Another object is to make possible ready adjustability of such a device to the waist of a wearer.

Another object is to provide economy of manufacture in such a device.

Another object is to make possible facile and positive adjustment in a collapsible hoop skirt.

These and other objects are achieved by my invention, a full and complete understanding of which is facilitated by reference to the drawings herein, in which:

Fig. 1 is a view substantially in perspective showing my device adjusted to a wearer, preparatory to receiving a covering skirt;

Fig. 2 shows the outer garment in place and illustrates the over-all effect thereby attained.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modification or adjustment whereby what is known as the "Farthingale" effect is attained.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to that of Figs. 1 and 3, in which a bustle or train effect is achieved;

Fig. 5 is a side view of the instant device in collapsed form;

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Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail view, fragmentary in part, showing the structure of Fig. 5, together with the locking device;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged view showing the upper structure of Fig. 6 expanded, and the locking device in place;

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 7, showing the lower portion of Fig. 6 expanded and locked; and

Fig. 9 is an enlarged view of the locking arrangement, in vertical section taken along the line 9—9 of Fig. 7, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawings, Figs. 1, 5, 7 and 8, it will be seen that my collapsible hoop skirt is formed with a plurality of identical strips 10, fabricated from plastic or other suitable material, and pivotally united at their center portions by means of brad-like elements 11, thereby providing a continuous articulated structure in generally circular form.

In the upper hoop assembly a series of tapes 12 are passed through suitable holes 13 in oppositely disposed and adjacent ends of elements 10 at suitable intervals, and a somewhat similar arrangement exists in the case of the lower or bottom hoops where tapes 12 are initially passed through openings 14 in the adjacent ends of criss-crossed elements 10, and then securely anchored in conjunction with apertures 15 at the lowermost points when elements 10 are joined. At points where tapes 12 do not pass through openings such as 13, 14 and 15, and in both the upper and lower hoops, brad elements 16 are employed to secure ends of 10 in such a manner that the assembly may be opened or closed, a reasonable snugness of fit being desirable at these points.

Tapes 12 extend upwardly to a waist band 17, where they are securely anchored. Said waist band may be formed of any suitable flexible material, and has as a feature, a series of securing points such as snaps 18, which provide for adjustability in the garment and make it adaptable to any size waist. A loop 19 is likewise secured to belt 17, for a purpose explained hereafter.

It will be noted that tapes 12 are free to slide in openings 13 of the upper hoop assembly which means that this hoop may be lowered or raised as desired.

Attention is now directed to the locking means which I have provided for the purpose of securing the hoops in fixed position, once they have been extended to a desired point. This means consists of a pliable tab-like element 20, secured to adjacent ends of criss-crossed elements 10, as by means of a metallic fastener 21, and extending vertically downward. Element 20 has formed therein, a series of openings 22 preferably of a shape suggestive of an inverted keyhole, which openings are calculated to engage a securing element 23 anchored to adjacent lower ends of ele-

ments 10, it being apparent that when the locking device is thus in place, further articulation of the hoop assembly in either direction is precluded until element 20 is released. It is likewise apparent that by virtue of a plurality of spaced openings 22, an appreciable degree of adjustability is made possible, with reference to the points at which the hoop assembly may be locked. The foregoing arrangement is applied to both the upper and lower hoops.

Attention is now directed to the features made possible by the structure illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, the first being for the purpose of producing what is known as the "Farthingale" effect, which is in substance a hoop in the nature of an ellipse, such being desirable when a somewhat flattened front and rear contour is desired, as for example when dancing. To attain this effect, I provide a pair of tapes 24, which are snapped onto or otherwise secured to opposite sides of the upper hoop assembly, thereby drawing in the hoop and forming the desired shape, said elements 24 being of a suitable length to attain this result.

When it is desired to produce a bustle or train effect, I employ another tape-like element 25 (Fig. 4), which is passed through loop 19, and in turn secured at opposite sides of the upper hoop assembly as at 26 and 27. This serves to draw the composite structure rearwardly, and with appropriate adjustment of tapes 12 to provide increased length in the rear, and thereby place the upper hoop on a suitable plane, a foundation is provided to receive a wedding dress or similar garment having a train. Or, a simple bustle effect may be attained in the case of other garments.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the operation of my collapsible hoop skirt will be obvious, it only being necessary to expand the upper and lower hoops in the desired manner, step into the assembly, secure the waist band at a point corresponding to that of the waist measure of the wearer, preferably fasten locking tab 20 in place, and then put on the outer garment over the foundation thus provided.

It is further apparent that my device composes itself nicely for sitting, either with the hoops fully expanded, or if desired, such may be pushed together so that they conform to any space at a given time. If thus collapsed, they may be opened upon arising and the desired effect again achieved. It is further apparent that the top and the bottom hoops may be manipulated to any circumference independently of each other, and that the upper assembly may be raised or lowered on tapes 12, as desired.

Adaptations for producing the "Farthingale" and train effects have been described heretofore.

It may be further noted that my device folds into an eight inch round box, and as produced at present, weighs less than two pounds in such a box; is capable of expanding to a circumference of ninety inches, and replaces five crinoline petticoats. Of course, larger or smaller versions may readily be created in keeping with the exigencies of a given situation.

My device is light in weight, economical of manufacture, easily cleaned, attractive in appearance, adjustable both at the waist and in the hoops themselves both horizontally and vertically, is provided with a simple but effective locking means, and altogether is thoroughly adapted for its intended purposes.

While I have described in considerable detail

one form of my invention herein, it is apparent that various changes, modifications, alterations, reconstructions, transpositions, and other expedients such as providing inflatable hoops, may be resorted to without departing from the scope of the instant claims, which are to be fairly construed in keeping with my contribution to the instant art.

I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of identical strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, an identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, pliant tape means connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and a waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

2. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, pliant tape means connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

3. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, locking means for said hoop assemblies, pliant tape means connecting said assemblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

4. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, adjustable locking means for said hoop assemblies, pliant tape means connecting said assemblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

5. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of identical strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, an identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, adjustable pliant tape means connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and a waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

6. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, locking means for one of said hoop assemblies, pliant tape means connecting said as-

semblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

7. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a collapsible lower hoop assembly, adjustable locking means for said hoop assemblies, pliant tape means connecting said assemblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

8. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly of greater potential circumference than said upper assembly, locking means for said hoop assemblies, pliant tape means connecting said assemblies, means connecting opposite front and rear portions of the upper hoop assembly whereby same assumes an elliptical contour, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

9. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly, means connecting opposite front and rear portions of the upper hoop assembly whereby said assembly assumes an elliptical contour, pliant tape means connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and a waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members.

10. In a device of the character described, a collapsible upper hoop assembly comprising a plurality of strips, means pivotally uniting said strips at their center portions, means pivotally joining oppositely disposed adjacent ends of said strips, a substantially identical lower hoop assembly, tape means connecting said assemblies, an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tape members, a loop secured to the rear center of said band, and tape means passed through the loop and fastened to opposite sides of the upper hoop in such a manner as to pull such rearwardly and thereby produce a train effect when a garment is placed over the composite assembly.

11. In a device of the character described, an articulated upper hoop assembly, an articulated lower hoop assembly, a plurality of flexible tapes connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and a waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tapes.

12. In a device of the character described, an articulated upper hoop assembly, an articulated lower hoop assembly, flexible means connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and a waist band secured to the upper extremities of said connecting means.

13. In a device of the character described, an articulated upper hoop assembly, an articulated lower hoop assembly, a plurality of flexible tapes connecting said upper and lower assemblies, and an adjustable waist band secured to the upper extremities of said tapes.

MARY C. CLAYTON.

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