April 6, 1948. E. A. SMICKER 2,439,149

SLIP-OVER GARMENT

Filed March 29, 1947 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

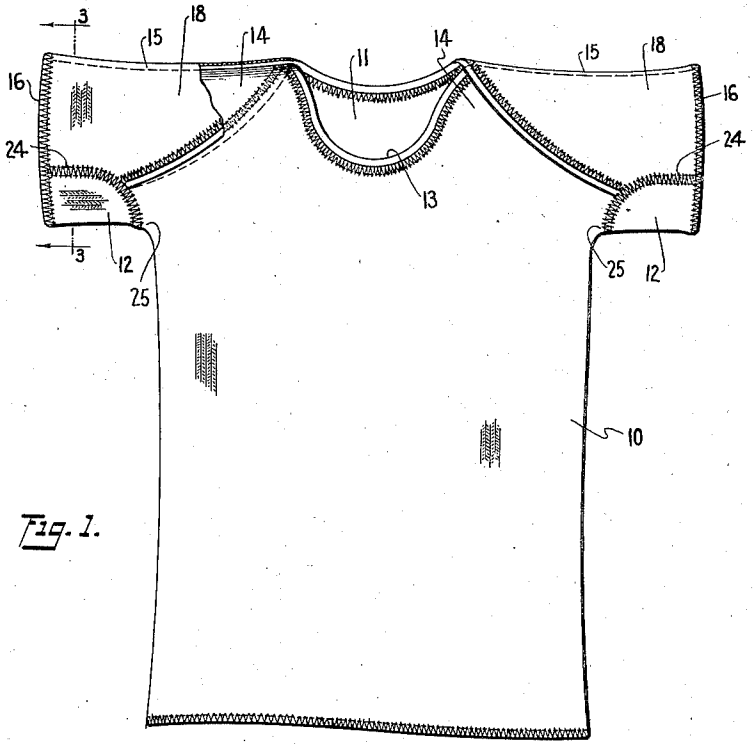


Fig. 1.

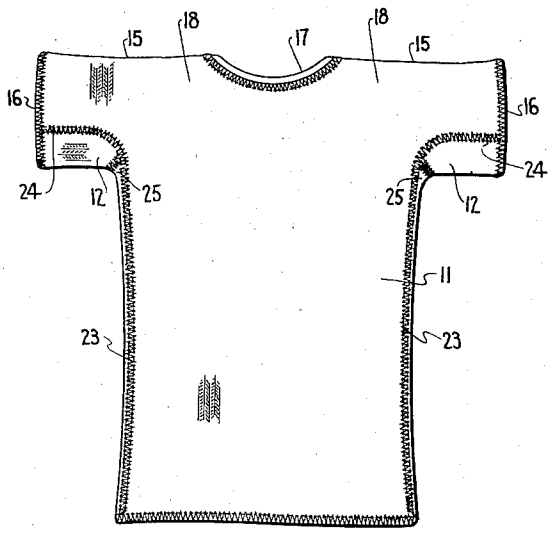


Fig. 2.

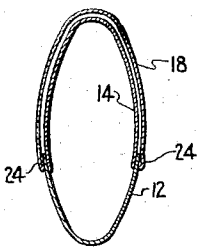


Fig. 3.

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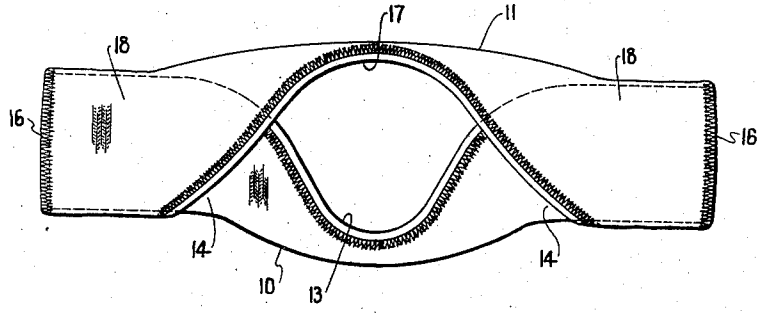


Fig. 4.

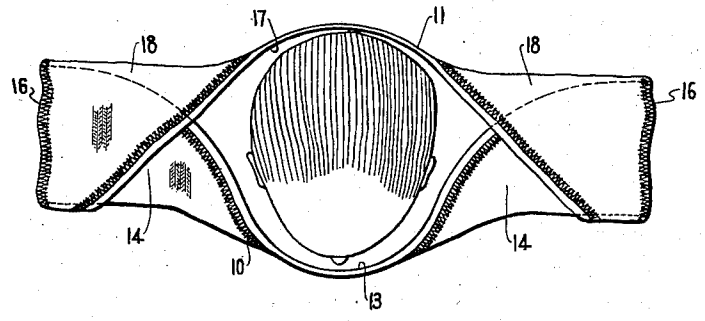


Fig. 5.

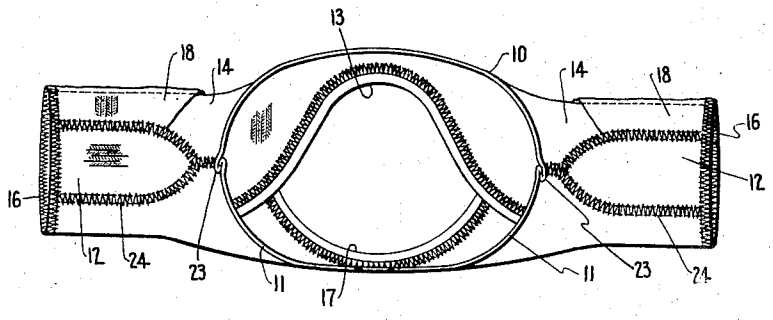


Fig. 6.

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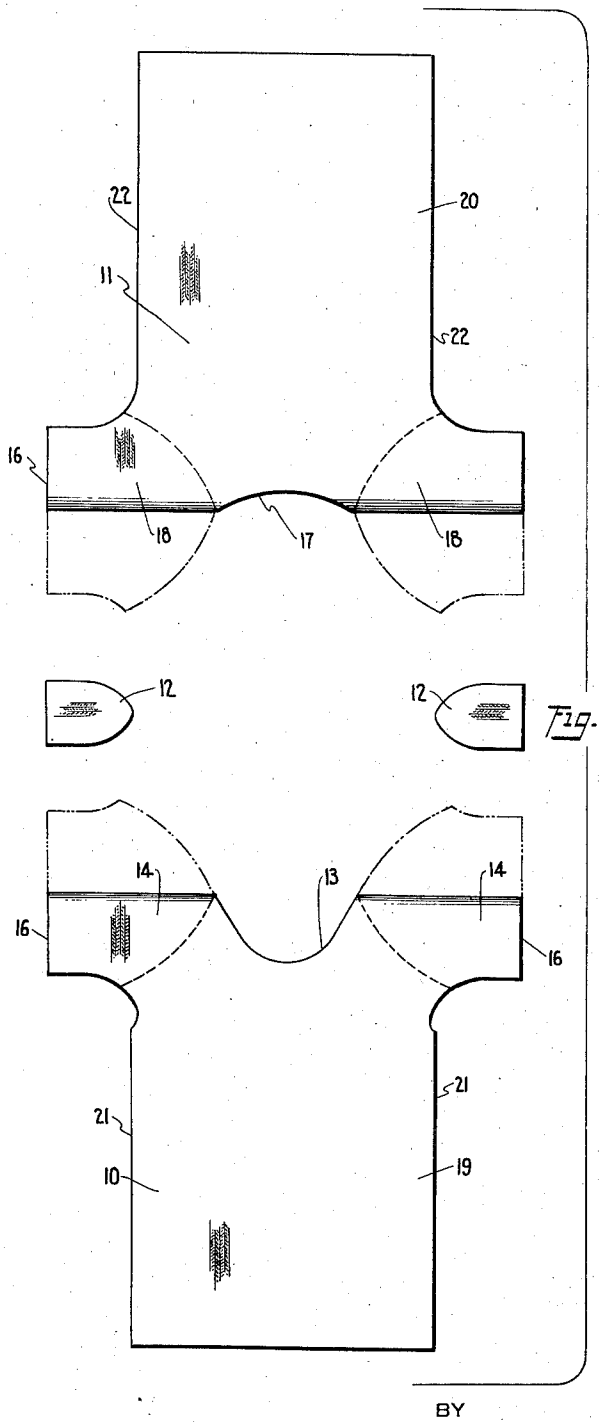


Fig. 7.

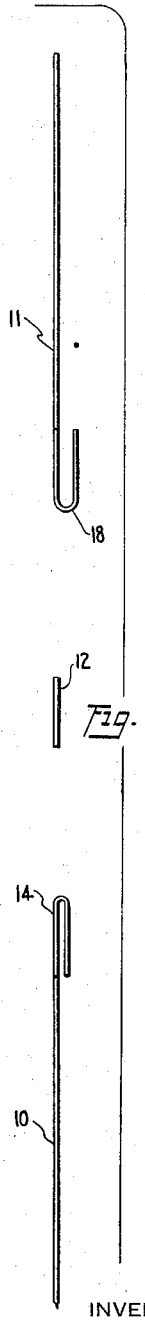


Fig. 8.

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2,439,149

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,439,149

SLIPOVER GARMENT

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Application March 29, 1947, Serial No. 738,049

5 Claims. (Cl. 2—111)

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This invention relates to shirts, particularly to infants' garments with self-adjusting neck openings.

In previous attempts to provide infants' shirts with neck openings adapted to expand while the shirt is being slipped over the head of the infant, the seaming attaching the sleeve to the body and shoulder portion of the garment has always constituted a restricting element limiting the expansion of the neck opening to the region of the seaming. This limited amount of expansion has been an inherent shortcoming in garments of this category, particularly since the maximum possible expansion is desirable to accommodate not only the head, but also the arms of the infant during the operation of slipping the shirt over its body. It is within the contemplation of my invention to eliminate this shortcoming by removing the seaming joining the sleeve to the body and shoulder portion of the garment, thereby permitting a greater expansion of the neck portion. In the preferred method of practicing this invention, this objective is obtained by removing the seaming to the very edge of the sleeve, as will more clearly hereinafter appear.

In certain known garments of this category, in order to effectuate an expansion of the neck portion, it was found necessary to employ separate shoulder straps and sleeve portions, thereby producing a relatively complicated construction. It is another important object of my invention to simplify garments of this category by providing a novel combination sleeve and shoulder portion, an arrangement which requires fewer operations in the assembly of the garment.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a garment of this category with the maximum freedom of movement of the arms, an objective which is obtained by removing the conventional seaming between shoulder and sleeve portions.

A still further object of this invention is to provide, in a garment of this class, sleeves reinforced by a double layer of material along the upper portion thereof, and containing a single layer of material along the lower portion thereof for flexibility.

Other objects, features and benefits will appear from the drawings and the description hereinafter given.

Figure 1 is a front view of a shirt illustrating a preferred form of my invention, a fragment of the shoulder sleeve portion being removed for clarity;

Figure 2 is a rear view of Figure 1;

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Figure 3 is a section of Figure 1 taken along line 3—3;

Figure 4 is a top view of the garment of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a view like Figure 4, but showing an infant's head in place and illustrating a partial expansion of the neck opening;

Figure 6 is a bottom view of the garment of Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a disassembled arrangement of the patterns or component parts constituting the device of Figure 1, the dot-dash lines illustrating the unfolded condition of the sleeve shoulder portions; and

Figure 8 is an end view of Figure 7.

The shirt illustrated in the drawing is preferably of knitted material, and consists of a front member 10, a rear member 11 and two sleeve inserts 12.

Merged with the said front member 10, on opposite sides of the neck portion 13, are two extensions 14, these extending upwardly to the shoulder level 15 then horizontally and rearwardly along the upper shoulder, and then downwardly. The said elements 14 also extend outwardly to the predetermined sleeve edge 16. The rear member 11 also has merged therewith, and at opposite sides of the neck portion 17, the extensions 18, these extending upwardly to the said shoulder level 15, then horizontally and forwardly, and then downwardly. Extensions 18 also extend outwardly to the aforesaid sleeve edges 16.

The front and rear members 10 and 11 are so proportioned that the widths of the corresponding body portions 19 and 20 (Figure 7) are such that they can be seamed together along their lateral edges 21 and 22 respectively to form seams 23; and the proportions of extensions 14 and 18 are such that when they are placed in overlapping relation, particularly as shown in Figures 1, 4 and 6, the lateral extremities will coincide at sleeve edges 16.

The sleeve inserts 12 are preferably U-shaped and are so proportioned that they can be attached, by seaming 24, to the lower edges of the overlapping extensions 14 and 18, and to the adjacent region of the body portion below said overlapping extensions, the length of the insert being such that the outer edges thereof coincide with the sleeve edges 16.

In the form of my invention illustrated, the insert 12 is disposed between the two layers 14 and 18, as clearly illustrated in Figure 3. Seaming 24 extends inwardly from sleeve edge 16, sub-

stantially in a horizontal direction and then downwardly. It will further be noted that overlapping extensions 14 and 18 are seamed together at said sleeve edges 16.

In the shirt constructed in accordance with the above description, the two pairs of overlapping extensions 14 and 18 constitute combination sleeve and shoulder portions; and when they are assembled in the manner illustrated, the overlapping arrangement to provide an expansible neck opening is automatically effectuated, without the need of further cutting or attaching operations other than producing seam edges 16 and 24.

It is further apparent that the neck opening can be expanded substantially to the region of outer sleeve edges 16, inasmuch as there is no obstruction, along the upper part of the garment, to a separation of the two overlapping extensions. Thus, by doing away with seams or stitching intermediate the sleeve edges and neck portion, the aforementioned undesirable restriction to expansion is eliminated.

Since the entire shoulder portion from the neck to the sleeve end is free of stitching or seaming, it is obvious that this garment provides a maximum freedom of movement in the region of the arm. The seaming 24 of the insert 12 does not constitute a restriction to the stretching of the garment, since any stress or pull that would be applied to the seam 24 would merely result in a slight pull only in the region 25 of the body of the garment, and that would be taken up not only by the stretchability of the knitted material, but also by the relative movement of the two overlapping extensions.

My invention also provides a double layer sleeve along the major upper portion thereof, for strength, and a single layer of material (the insert 12) at the bottom of the sleeve for flexibility, thereby providing two desirable qualities for a garment of this category.

In the above description, the invention has been disclosed merely by way of example and in preferred manner; but obviously many variations and modifications may be made therein which will still be comprised within its spirit. It is to be understood, therefore, that the invention is not limited to any specific form or manner of practicing same, except in so far as such limitations are specified in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A shirt comprising a front member, a rear member and two sleeve inserts secured together to form a laterally enclosed body with two shoulders and sleeves; the said front member containing a body section, a cut-out neck portion and two extensions on opposite sides of the neck portion merged with the body section and extending upwardly to the shoulder level and then a predetermined distance rearwardly and downwardly, and outwardly to the sleeve edge; the said rear member containing a body section, a neck portion and two extensions on opposite sides of the neck portion merged with the body section and extending upwardly to the shoulder level and then a predetermined distance forwardly and downwardly and outwardly to the sleeve edge; the said extensions constituting combination sleeve and shoulder portions, the combination sleeve and shoulder portions of the rear member overlapping the corresponding portions of the front member, each pair of overlapping portions forming an upper sleeve section of two layers; each of the said sleeve inserts being substantially U-shaped and being attached to the lower edges of one of said pairs of overlapping portions and to the adjacent body portion, the seam of each of said inserts extending inwardly from the outer sleeve edge horizontally and downwardly.

2. In a shirt of the class described, a body portion, a neck portion, at least one pair of overlapping combination shoulder and sleeve portions extending outwardly from the neck portion to form an upper sleeve section of two layers, and a sleeve insert attached to the lower edges of said overlapping portions and to the adjacent body portion, to form a lower sleeve section of a single layer, said overlapping portions being secured together at their outer edges to form an outer sleeve seam.

3. A shirt comprising a front member, a rear member and two sleeve inserts secured together to form a laterally enclosed body with two shoulders and sleeves; a pair of overlapping extensions on each side of the neck portion extending upwardly from the said front and rear members to the shoulder level and then a predetermined distance downwardly, and outwardly to the sleeve edge to form an upper sleeve section, said sleeve inserts each being attached to the lower edges of one pair of said overlapping portions to form a lower sleeve section, said overlapping portions being secured together at their outer edges to form an outer sleeve seam.

4. A shirt comprising a body portion, a neck portion, two overlapping combination shoulder and sleeve portions forming double-layer upper sleeve sections, and two inserts seamed to the lower edges of the overlapping portions and forming lower single-layer sleeve sections, the inserts being attached between the two layers of the corresponding upper sleeve sections, the said overlapping portions being secured at their outer edges to form outer seams.

5. In a shirt of the class described, a body portion, a neck portion, at least one pair of overlapping combination shoulder and sleeve portions extending outwardly from the neck portion to form an upper sleeve section of two layers, and a sleeve insert attached to the lower edges of said overlapping portions and to the adjacent body portion, to form a lower sleeve section of a single layer, the seam of said insert extending inwardly from the outer sleeve edge horizontally and then downwardly.

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