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A. H. EVANS
SEPARABLE GARMENT
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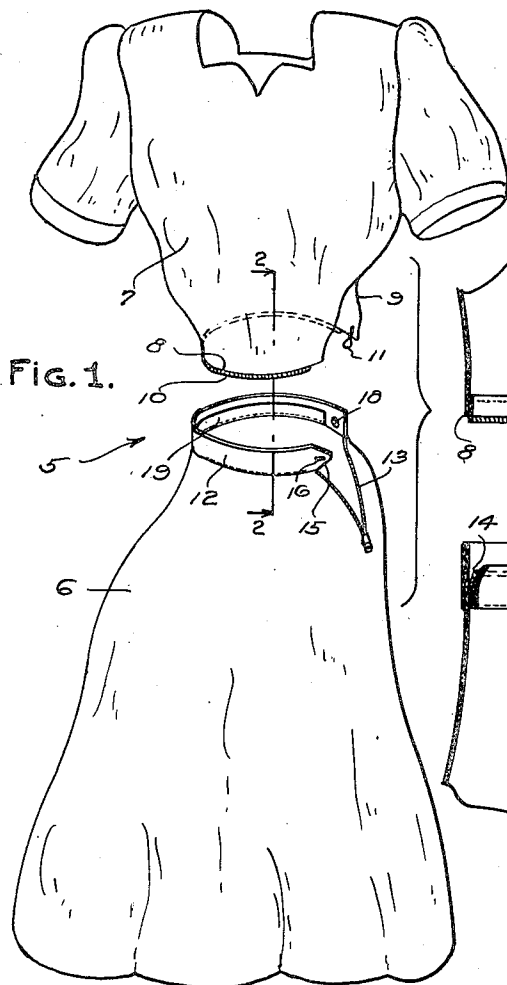


FIG. 1.

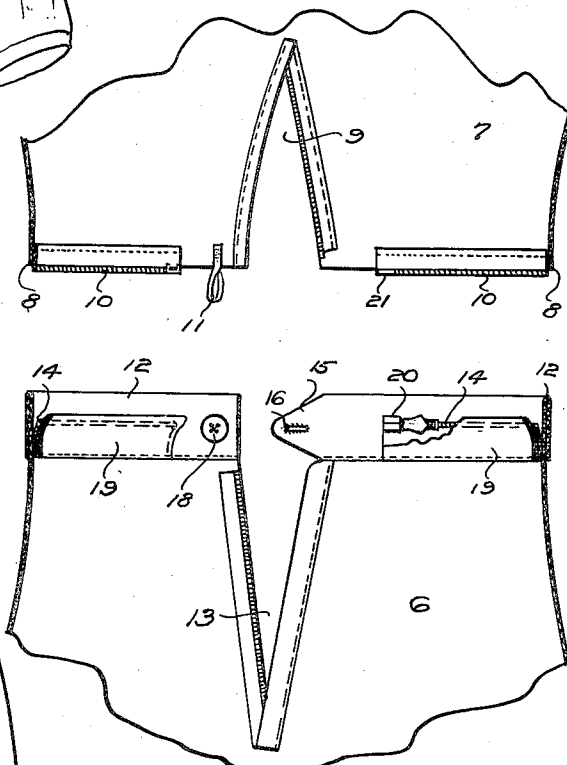


FIG. 2.

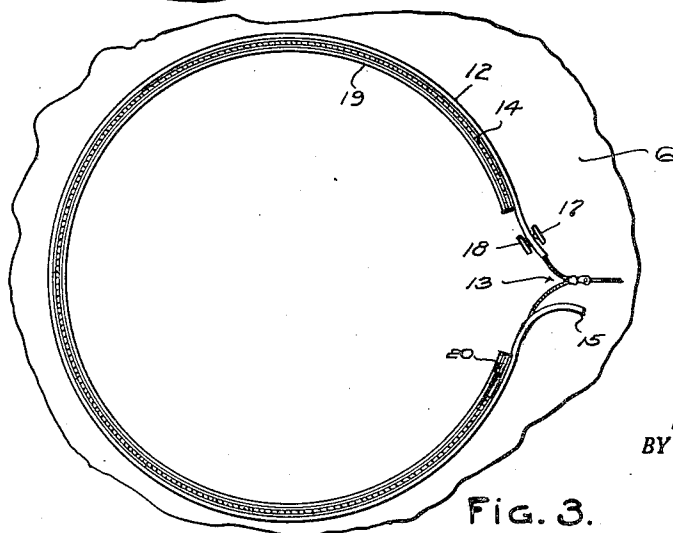


FIG. 3.

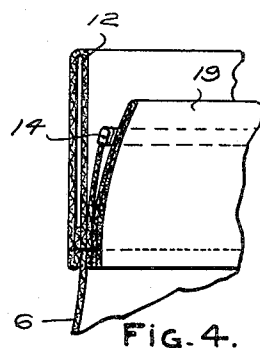


FIG. 4.

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SEPARABLE GARMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2-70)

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This invention relates to separable and interchangeable garments and is a continuation in part of my co-pending application, Serial No. 31,011, filed June 4, 1948, and resulting in United States Patent No. 2,515,082, issued July 11, 1950.

It is an object of the present invention to provide garments in two sections, such as a skirt and blouse and so constructed as to be assembled in use, as a unitary garment.

A further object of the invention resides in providing a plurality of separable garments, all provided with identical male and female separable slide fasteners, thus permitting the interchanging of garments for purposes of obtaining various style and color combinations.

Another and very important object of the invention resides in providing a pair of garments, such as a waist and a skirt, having a waist hem and a skirt band, with the hem and the band provided with matching male and female slide fasteners, with the male fastener on one garment and the female fastener on the other garment, with each garment provided with the usual side or placket openings and the separable fastener sections extending around the major circumference of the hem and the band and with each terminal end of each fastener section terminating short of the placket openings to provide an area for alterations of the garments without disturbing the slide fastener sections at the waist line.

A further object of the invention resides in the novel manner of mounting the slide fastener section within the skirt band whereby the wearer is protected against chafing contact with the fastener.

Another object of the invention resides in providing means upon the garments whereby any tendency to separate in that area between the terminal ends of the slide fastener is obviated.

The novel features of construction will be more clearly pointed out by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein has been illustrated a preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein like characters of reference are employed to denote like parts throughout the several figures.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a complete separable garment, spaced apart for purposes of illustration,

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical section of the waist band sections of the garments, taken on line 2-2 of Figure 1 and with the garments separated,

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the skirt waist band, prior to assembly, and

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Figure 4 is a fragmentary enlarged section through the skirt waist band.

Referring specifically to the drawings, the numeral 5 designates a complete separable garment as a whole, embodying in the present instance, a skirt section 6 and a waist section 7. The waist and skirt may be of any desirable style or material, with the waist terminating in a waist hem 8 and with one side of the waist provided with the usual placket opening 9, extending entirely through the hem 8. Secured around the waist hem 8, for its major circumference, as by stitching, is a companion section of a completely separable slide fastener 10. As clearly shown in Figure 2, the opposite ends of the fastener section 10 terminates short of the placket opening 9, for a purpose to be presently described. A flexible and preferably textile loop 11, is secured to the hem 8 adjacent one side of the placket opening 9, for a purpose to be described. The placket opening 9 may be provided with any desirable closure means, such as a separable slide fastener, snap fasteners or the conventional hooks and eyes.

The skirt 6 embodies a relatively wide waist band 12, terminating at one side of the skirt in the usual placket opening 13, as is customary. The placket opening 13 is provided with any desirable closure means, such as the conventional slide fastener, snap fasteners or hooks and eyes. The waist band 12 is provided with a companion slide fastener section 14, for interlocking connection with the fastener section 10 of the waist hem. The section 14 is secured to the inside circumference of the waist band 12, as by stitching and extends around the major inner circumference of the band 12, with the terminal ends of the fastener section 14 terminating short of the placket opening 13. As clearly shown, the slide fastener section 14 is positioned below the top marginal edge of the waist band 12 so that, when the garments are in assembled relation with the sections 10 and 14 fully engaged, the fastener will be completely hidden from view and a neat fitting garment having the appearance of a one piece dress will be presented. It is highly important, that the male and female sections 10 and 14 of the slide fastener be identically arranged on all garments of a particular size for interchangeable use, since to shift the arrangement, will result in an improper engagement of the fastener sections.

One terminal end of the waist band 12 is provided with a projecting tongue 15, having a button hole 16, for detachable overlapping connection with a button 17, secured to the outer side

of the opposite end of the band 12. At an identical point upon the inner side of the band 12, a button 18 is provided, for detachable engagement by the loop 11.

Means has been provided to protect the wearer from chafing contact with the slide fastener, consisting of an inner band 19, that is co-extensive with the slide fastener and of a width to extend above the engaging teeth of the fastener. The band 19 is preferably stitched to the waist band 12 coincident with the stitching in place of the slide fastener section 14.

In the use of the garments illustrated, the operator, having put the waist and skirt on, grasps the slide 20 of the fastener and engages it with the pilot pin 21 upon the terminal end of the fastener section 10, shifting the slide 20 around the waist to the terminal ends of the sections 10 and 14, after which the slide is locked in the usual manner. In this interlocked engagement, the slide fastener is entirely positioned below the marginal edge of the waist band 12, completely hidden from view and lying entirely between the band 12 and the inner band 19.

The primary purpose of terminating the sections 10 and 14 short of the placket openings 9 and 13, is to leave sufficient exposed area of the garment for alterations, without disturbing the fastener sections 10 and 14. It is intended, that garments of any particular size, shall be equipped with slide fasteners for that particular size and, since an individual will obviously purchase a garment of a size best fitted to her waist measurement, it follows, that any alterations will naturally be relatively small and the exposed area of the waist band 12 and hem 8 will be adequate for such alterations. Where alterations are not necessary, there is a possibility that there may be a tendency for the connected garments to pull apart in that area between the terminal ends of the fastener sections. To avoid this contingency, the loop 11 is engaged over the button 18, prior to the closing of the plackets and the tongue overlapped with the opposite end of the band 12 and engaged with its button 17, presenting a smooth closure at this point.

The invention is particularly desirable for use on the so-called sun dresses, employing a skirt and a bra top. A jacket or dress top with peplum or a bolero could be used with this combination and various outfits combining different colors or patterns would be interchangeable, thus providing a considerable variety of outfits. The invention is further highly desirable for use upon one or two toned slip combinations, for instance, a white top and a black bottom or, two complete slips may be purchased, one white and one black and the combinations possible equal four different garments. For instance, a dark skirt would require a dark slip, while a white waist would require the white top. The separable feature is particularly desirable from the standpoint of washing or cleaning, enabling the light and dark sections to be separately washed without danger of the dye running, as is the case with the well known black and white slips now in use. The bottom sections of the slips could also be used separately as a petticoat.

The invention is also adaptable for use on shorts, slacks, playsuits, etc., with blouse and bra top interchangeable. Aside from women's apparel, the invention readily lends itself to men's wear, since the slide fasteners can be easily secured around the inner side of the waist band

of trousers and a lower marginal hem formed upon a shirt.

Considerable savings can be effected by persons who from necessity must budget their clothing expenses since, as pointed out, the purchase of two complete garments of different design and color, will enable an interchange of the waists and skirts to provide four combinations of dresses. As an example of the money saving in a wardrobe, a person could purchase 2 dresses, 2 sun dresses, 1 blouse, 1 skirt, 1 slacks and 1 shorts and with the many interchangeable combinations possible with such a wardrobe, a considerable saving in clothing costs would result over the cost of a comparable number of garments.

The assembled garments presents a neat waist band, free from bulges or wrinkles, so noticeable in the conventional skirt and waist combinations where the waist carries the usual tail section that must be stuffed under the skirt band. The separable slide fastener eliminates the objectionable waist tail and results in a sizable savings in the cost of material and provides a unitary garment that will not separate or pull apart when in use. The device is a distinct and valuable advance in the clothing art and is highly desirable from the standpoint of economy and perfect fitting garments. The cost of the slide fastener and its assembly upon the garments, is a negligible one as compared to the saving in tail material and the satisfaction derived from perfect fitting garments and the economy in assembling a multiple wardrobe at a minimum of cost.

It is to be understood, that the invention is not limited to any particular combination of garments nor to the particular manner of assembly and attachment of the separable fastener elements, but that it includes within its purview, whatever changes fairly come within either the terms or the spirit of the appended claims.

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

1. Separable apparel that includes an upper and a nether garment, the upper garment having a waist hem and the nether garment having a relatively wide waist band, the garments provided with vertically aligned placket openings, a separable slide fastener including interlocking male and female sections, one section secured around the circumference of the waist hem and the other section secured around the circumference of the waist band at the lower edge thereof, the edges of the placket opening in the said nether garment having co-operating fastening means therefor terminating below the waist band the sections having their opposite ends terminating short of their corresponding placket openings for leaving an area of the garment on each side of the placket opening free for alteration purposes and means for connecting the free portions of the waist band and the waist hem together between the overlapping ends of the slide fastener sections when the slide fastener sections are connected and means for connecting the free ends of the waist band together.

2. Separable apparel that includes an upper and a nether garment, the upper garment having a waist hem, the nether garment having a relatively wide waist band, each garment provided with vertically aligned placket openings, a separable slide fastener including interlocking male and female sections, one section stitched around the major circumference of the waist hem at the lower edge thereof with its terminal ends terminating short of its corresponding placket open-

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ing, the other section stitched around the inner circumference of the waist band at the lower portion thereof for its major circumference with its terminal ends terminating short of its corresponding placket opening, the edges of the placket opening in the nether garment having co-operating fastening means therefor terminating below the waist band the terminations of the slide fastener ends leaving an area of the garments on each side of the placket opening free for alteration purposes, means for connecting the free portions of the waist band and the waist hem together between the overlapping ends of the slide fastener sections when the slide fastener sections are connected, means for connecting the free ends of the waist band together and an inner band stitched around the major inner circumference of the waist band to completely overlap the separable fastener and co-extensive therewith.

3. A combination apparel embodying an upper and a nether garment separable with respect to each other, a waist hem formed upon the upper garment and a waist band formed upon the nether garment, each of the garments provided with a placket opening in alignment with each other, a separable slide fastener formed in two interlocking male and female sections, one section being stitched to the hem of the upper garment for the major circumference thereof and

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one section stitched to the inner side of the waist band of the lower garment below its upper marginal edge and extending around the band for the major portion of its circumference, each of the sections having its terminal ends terminated short of the corresponding placket opening for leaving an area of each garment free for adjustment purposes without disturbing the slide fastener, an inner band stitched around the inner circumference of the waist band and extending above the slide fastener and being co-extensive therewith, connecting means between the ends of the waist band and connecting means between the hem and the waist band in that area left for adjustment purposes.

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