A. FUERST.

ADJUSTABLE GARMENT.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 14, 1917.

1,251,996.

Patented Jan. 1, 1918.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig 1.

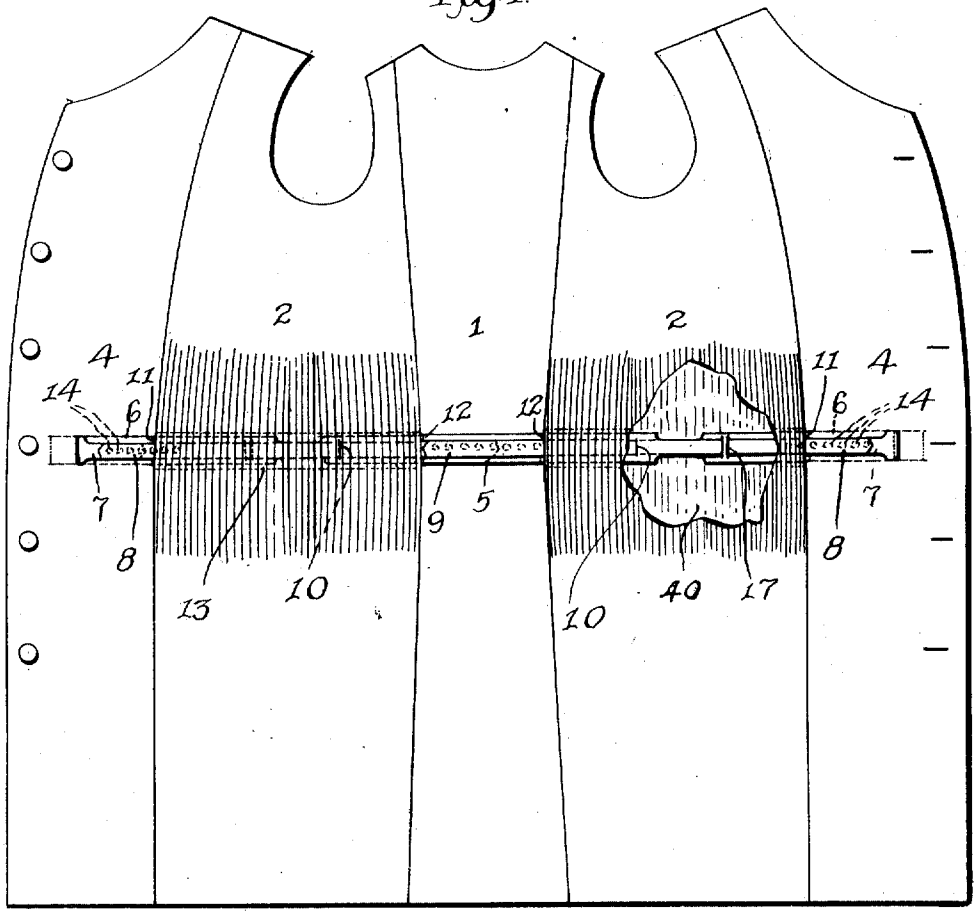
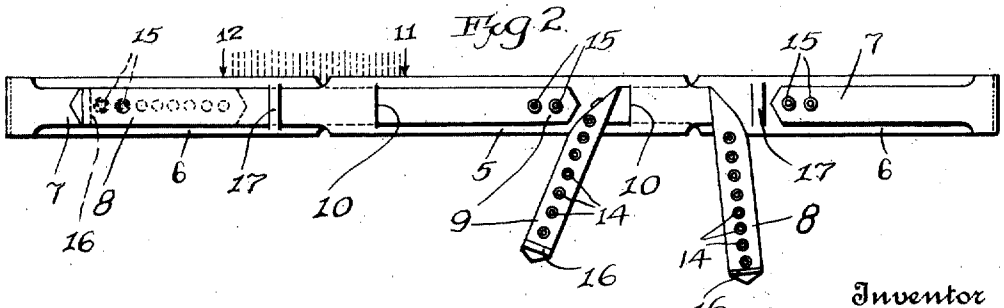


Fig 2.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

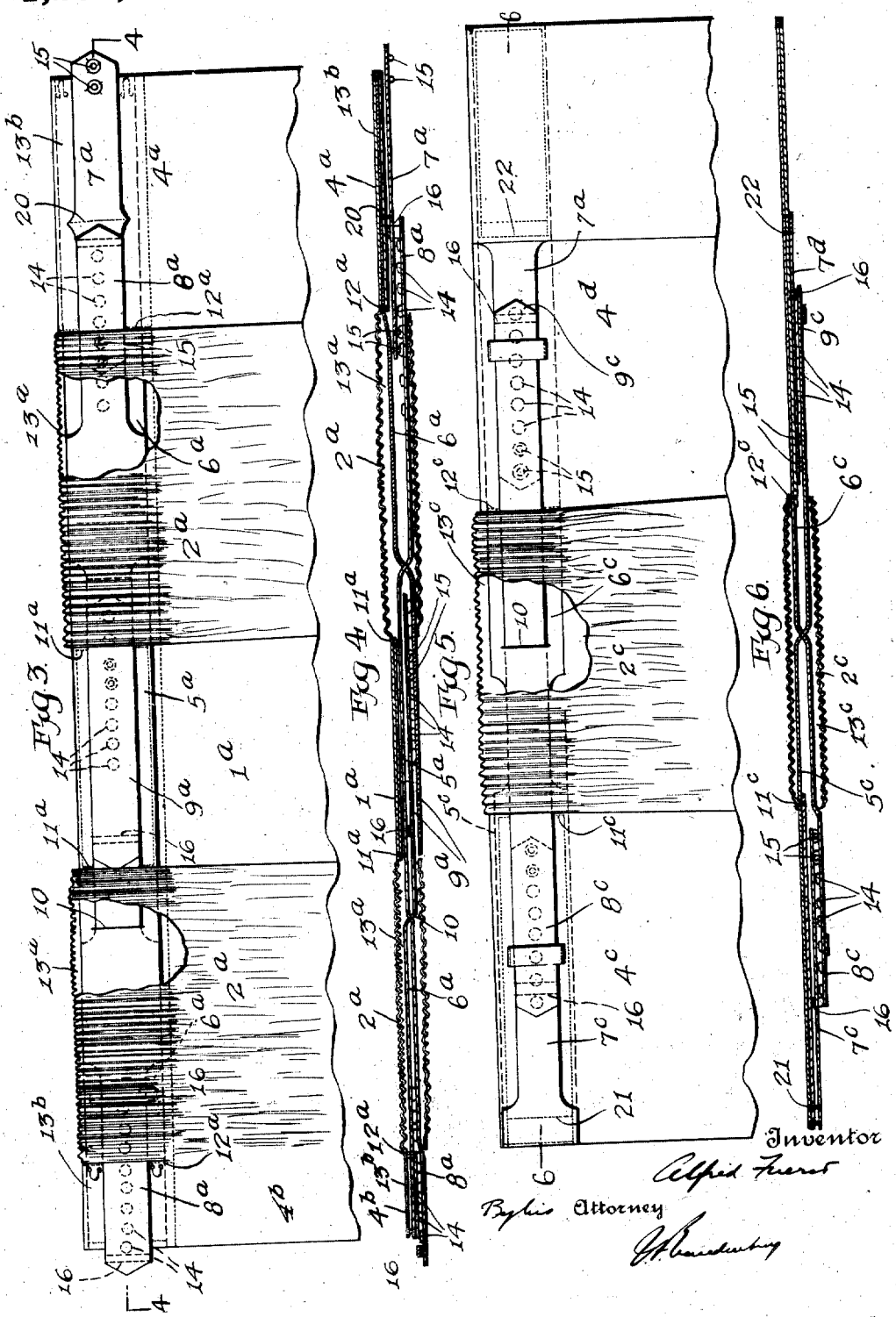


Fig 3.

Fig 4.

Fig 5.

Fig 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ADJUSTABLE GARMENT.

1,251,996. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 1, 1918.

Application filed April 14, 1917. Serial No. 161,960.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED FUERST, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the borough of Manhattan, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Adjustable Garments, of which the following is a specification.

The object of the invention is to provide improved means for letting out and taking up women's garments circumferentially, without alteration and in such manner as to secure good fit and comfort and to permit freedom of movement at all times. This is accomplished by a combination of extensible and inextensible garment sections and a waistband including overlapping or overlying, relatively movable strips secured to remote portions of the extensible section or sections and provided with means for fastening their end portions in successive positions, the whole being constructed and operating substantially as indicated by the preferred forms hereinafter described.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is an outside view of a coat, spread out, with the invention embodied therein, a portion of the fabric of the garment being torn away to show parts behind;

Fig. 2 is a face view, on a larger scale, of the waistband alone, with some of the ends unfastened. This view illustrates a shorter adjustment than Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a face view of the upper part of a skirt spread out, portions torn away, illustrating another form of the waistband;

Fig. 4 is a section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing still another construction; and

Fig. 6 is a section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

Figs. 1 and 2 show a coat embodying the invention. The garment has an inextensible back section 1, extensible and contractible side sections 2, having fullness, as indicated, and inextensible front sections 4.

In this instance the waistband comprises three main strips 5, 6 and 6 and two short strips or tab ends 7 and 7. The strip 5 is here a middle or double member. It extends across and in both directions beyond the inextensible back section 1, its outer portions crossing the extensible sections 2, and terminating beyond them in free end portions 8, which have sliding engagement with the tab ends 7. Each of the strips 6 is sewed or otherwise secured at its outer end to one of the front sections 4, preferably between the same and its lining 40, passes inward across the adjacent adjustable section 2, and terminates in a free end 9, which has sliding engagement with the end 9 of the other strip 6. These ends 9 overlap each other in the region of the back section 1. The tab ends 7 are preferably sewed to the outer end portions of the strips 6 between the front sections 4 and their linings, and emerge through slits in the one or the other, depending upon whether the adjustable portions of the waistband are upon the outer or the inner side of the garment.

The free end portions 9 of the strips 6 cross through slits 10 in the strip 5. This brings the adjusting end portions 8 and 9 of the strips 5, 6 and 6 at the same side of the waistband.

Considering either of the extensible sections 2 of the garment, it will be perceived that the strip 5 and the corresponding strip 6 may be regarded as extending in opposite directions and in overlapping relation across such section. These two strips are secured, respectively, by sewing 11 and 12, to the remote lateral or edge portions of such puckered section, and are elsewhere free from the section, the result being that drawing upon the free ends 8 and 9 of these two strips will shorten the section, while shifting them in the opposite direction will let it out. This action will be readily understood by referring to Fig. 2, wherein the arrows 11 and 12 indicate the points at which the strips 5 and 6 are sewed to the opposite lateral edges of the left-hand adjustable garment section 2. This garment section is indicated by the dotted lines between the arrows 11 and 12. Thus, pulling upon the ends 8 and 9, pertaining to this section, will cause the points 11 and 12 to approach, while movement in the reverse direction will permit them to separate. In the first instance the transverse length of the section 2 will be shortened, and in the second case will be lengthened.

The strips 5 and 6, where they cross the extensible sections 2, preferably pass through pockets 13 formed by lines of stitching unit-

ing said sections with their linings 40. The adjusting ends 8 and 9 and the tab ends 7 are exposed and accessible, and, as stated, at the same side of the waistband. They may be brought outside of the garment, as a belt, or they may be located inside, as desired.

The means for fastening the free ends of the strips in successive positions comprise rows of concealed fastener members 14 on the under side of the ends 8 to coöperate with one or two complementary fastener elements 15 toward the extremity of the tab ends 7, and a similar row 14 beneath the outer of the two ends 9 coöperating with one or two elements 15 on the other end 9. The sliding engagement of the coöperating ends 7 and 8, 9 and 9 is secured by slide loops 16. For additional guidance the end portions of the strip 5 may pass through loops or double slits 17 on or in the strips 6.

With such a garment and waistband a symmetrical adjustment is secured by making corresponding displacements at the three fastener regions. This adjustment may be in the direction either of a lengthening or a shortening of the waist-line. The construction is such that pulling in opposite directions upon the ends 7 and 8 at opposite sides of an adjustable section 2 draws such section together, producing a puckered or gathered effect and shortening the circumferential extent of the garment, whereas pulling in the same directions upon the adjacent body portions of the same strips extends the section. Before this can occur, of course, the fasteners must be shifted for letting out.

Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a manner of applying the invention to a skirt having a side-front placket. In this skirt there is an inextensible back section 1^a, extensible and contractible gathered side sections 2^a, and inextensible front sections 4^a and 4^b. Because the placket is not directly in front, one of these front sections is narrower than the other. The narrower section 4^b need not constitute a separate gore, but may be merely an ungathered extension of the adjacent puckered side portion 2^a. The relations of the waistband strips 5^a, 6^a and 6^a are substantially as in the garment just described. The strip 5^a is sewed to the inner lateral portions of the gathered sections 2^a at the points 11^a. The strips 6^a are sewed respectively to the outer margins of these sections at 12^a. The outer portions of the strips 6^a are sewed to the garment sections 4^a and 4^b at opposite sides of the placket, where they are preferably concealed in pockets 13^b. The sections 2^a are also provided with waist-line pockets 13^a, wherein the contained portions of the strips 5^a and 6^a between the points of attachment 11^a and 12^a are free to slide. The strips 6^a cross through slots 10 in the strip 5^a in the manner heretofore described. The ends 8^a emerge from the outer ends of the pockets 13^a for engagement with a double tab 7^a. The free ends 9^a of the strips 6^a emerge through the inner ends of the same pockets, overlap in front of the middle of the strip 5^a and are adapted to be connected at successive adjustments by concealed fasteners 14 and 15. The ends 8^a connect by similar fasteners with the double tab 7^a. This tab is secured to the garment and to the underlying strip 6^a by stitching 20 at its middle, both ends being free. Guide loops 16 are provided at the extremities of the ends 8^a and of one of the ends 9^a as in the other construction. In this particular instance it will be observed the adjustment fastenings connecting one of the ends 8^a with the double tab 7^a must be undone and fastened together when the garment is taken off or put on.

In Figs. 5 and 6 there is shown a skirt having the side-front placket and a single adjustable section 2^c, which is located centrally at the back. Extending from opposite sides of this section to the placket are inextensible sections, those at one side of the back being designated generally 4^c and those at the opposite side 4^d. The adjusting waistband in this construction consists of two main strips 5^c and 6^c. The outer ends of these strips are secured by sewing to the waist-line portion of the garment at opposite sides of the placket, and their body portions may also be sewed to the garment throughout part or all of the circumferential extent of the sections 4^c and 4^d. One strip crosses through a slit 10 in the other strip, as heretofore, and their overlapped portions pass loosely through a pocket 13^c in the extensible section 2^c between respective points of attachment 11^c and 12^c. The free end portions 8^c and 9^c of these strips emerge from the ends of said pocket upon the outside or inside of the skirt, as preferred, and connect by the same arrangement of concealed adjusting fasteners with tab ends 7^c and 7^d. One of these tabs is sewed at 21 at its outer end to the garment and to the outer end of the strip 5^c. The other tab 7^d may be sewed at 22 to the garment and to the strip 6^c at a substantial distance from the placket. In this form of the invention the principle is the same as before, the main difference being that there are only two points of adjustment.

In any of the forms of the invention, the garment can be readily enlarged or contracted according to conditions and without alteration, and such adjustment is symmetrical, derangement of any portion of the garment being avoided. Because of the manner of securing the adjustment the garment cannot cause discomfort or present an ungainly appearance or impede the free movement of the wearer, and at all times the garment will hang in correct position. It is

to be understood that the invention may be embodied in garments of various kinds, such as coats, skirts, dresses, and waists.

What I claim as new is:

1. The combination with a garment comprising transversely extensible and inextensible sections, the extensible part being gathered, of an adjusting waistband comprising overlapping strips adapted to be displaced longitudinally with respect to each other, two strips being secured respectively to the opposite lateral portions of the same extensible gathered section and extending reversely across the same and terminating in end portions, drawing upon which contracts the extensible section while shifting them in the opposite directions lets it out, one of said strips crossing through the other so that both said end portions are positioned at the same side of the waistband, and means for fastening these end portions to other portions of the waistband in successive and corresponding positions.

2. The combination with a garment comprising transversely extensible and inextensible sections, the extensible part being gathered, of an adjusting waistband comprising overlapping strips adapted to be displaced longitudinally with respect to each other, two strips being secured respectively to the opposite lateral portions of the same extensible gathered section and extending reversely across the same and terminating in end portions beyond said section, drawing upon these ends contracting the section while shifting them in the opposite directions lets it out, the said extensible gathered section having a pocket therein through which the overlapping portions of the said strips may slide, their end portions being accessible and at the same side of the waistband, one of the strips being crossed through the other, and means for fastening the accessible end portions of the said strips in successive corresponding positions.

3. The combination with a garment comprising transversely extensible and inextensible sections, of an adjusting waistband comprising overlapping strips adapted to be displaced longitudinally with respect to each other, two strips being secured respectively to the opposite lateral portions of the same extensible section and extending reversely across the same and terminating in end portions, drawing upon which contracts the extensible section while shifting them in the opposite directions lets it out, one of said strips crossing through the other so that both said end portions are positioned at the same side of the waistband, other strips with which said end portions are slidably engaged, and rows of concealed fastenings for connecting said end portions with the cooperating strips.

ALFRED FUERST.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."