

May 9, 1950

R. M. SMITH
MATERNITY GARMENT

2,507,463

Filed Oct. 4, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

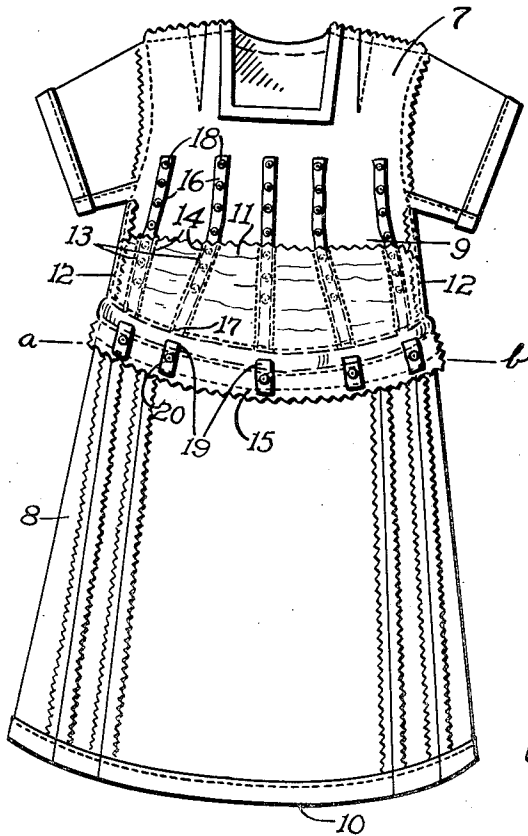
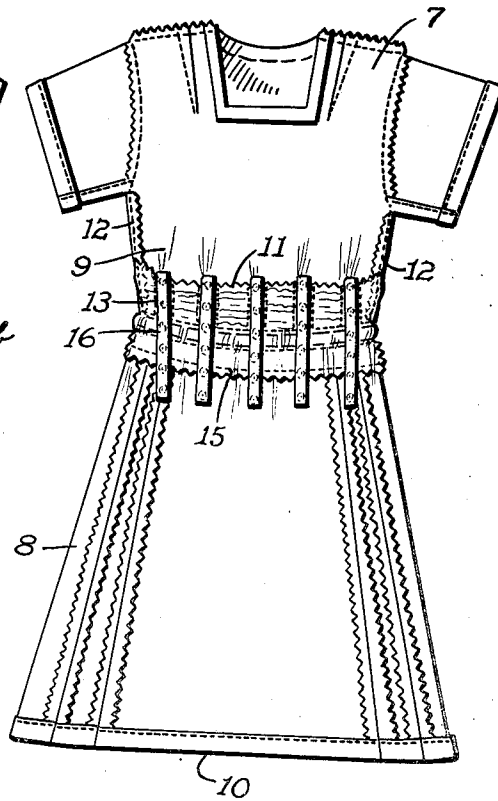


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

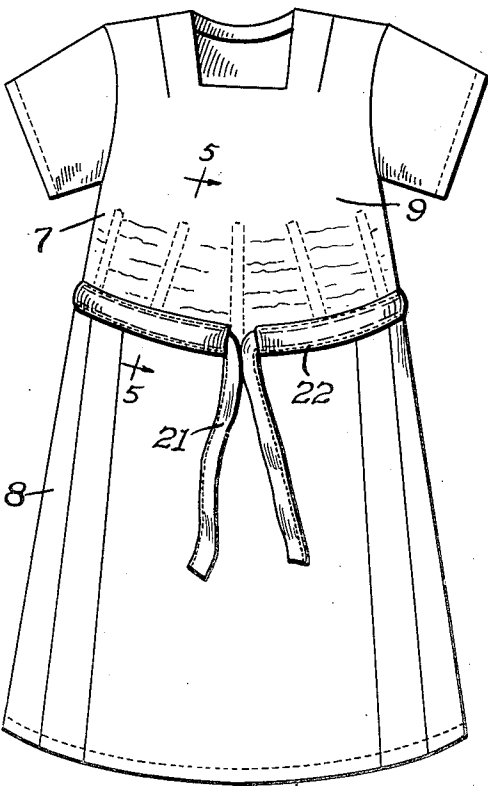


Fig. 4

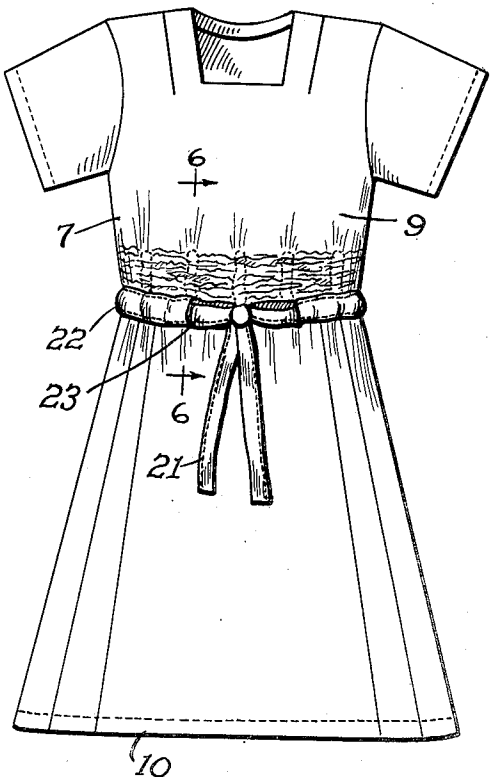


Fig. 5

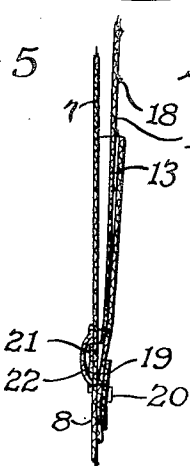
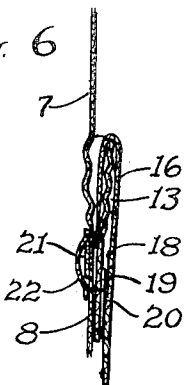


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MATERNITY GARMENT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 2-76)

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This invention relates to a new and improved easily adjustable maternity garment designed to enable keeping the hemline even throughout the entire pregnancy.

I am aware that many garment constructions of a more or less practical nature have been devised for this purpose, but most of those with which I am familiar were rather complicated and expensive and not easy to adjust to the desired nicety, and they presented a poor and rather makeshift appearance. In fact, some of the adjustments were so ill-appearing, they were suitable only for use on slips, not dresses. It is, therefore, the principal object of my invention to provide a maternity dress, or blouse for such a dress, that avoids the objections mentioned, and one which presents a neat and attractive appearance in all stages of adjustment.

A salient feature of the blouse of my invention is the provision of a front, the waistline of which is cut on a downward curve from both sides of the front from the natural waistline to a given depth below the natural waistline at the middle, drawstring tunnels being provided in laterally spaced relation and extending in an up and down direction, approximately radially relative to said curved waistline, individually adjustable drawstrings being provided in said tunnels enabling quick and easy vertical adjustment of the skirt front from time to time to maintain an even hemline throughout pregnancy. The bottom edge portion of the blouse front is sewn to a straight top skirt so that the skirt loses none of its original lines. The gathered material in the front of the blouse gives a shirred effect which is pleasing to the eye, the same having more of an ornamental effect than a utilitarian appearance. A drawstring waistline is at present believed to be most practical with this vertical adjustment, but other forms of horizontal or girth adjustments may be used.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figs. 1 and 2 are front views of a maternity dress, turned inside out, so as to show the specially cut waistline on the blouse and the drawstrings and tunnels provided on the inner side of the blouse front in accordance with my invention, Fig. 1 showing the blouse front expanded to full length, with the drawstrings unfastened, and Fig. 2 showing the blouse front gathered up to a natural waistline, with the drawstrings all fastened;

Figs. 3 and 4 are front views of the same dress turned right side out, Fig. 3 corresponding to Fig. 1 and showing the drawstring on the waist-

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line loose, and Fig. 4 corresponding to Fig. 2 but showing the drawstring on the waistline tied, and

Figs. 5 and 6 are sectional details taken on the lines 5-5 and 6-6 of Figs. 3 and 4, respectively.

The same reference numerals are applied to corresponding parts throughout the views.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly Figs. 1 and 2, the reference numeral 1 designates the blouse of my invention, and 2 a straight top skirt to which the blouse is sewn, the adjustment incorporated in the blouse front 9 in accordance with my invention being designed to enable keeping the line of the hem 10 substantially even throughout pregnancy by quick and simple adjustments made from time to time as the need for it appears.

The waistline of the blouse front is cut on a downward curve as shown at 15 from the ends of the seams 12 at the opposite sides toward the middle starting at the natural waistline level *a-b*, Fig. 1, and curving gradually to a depth of about two and one-half inches below the natural waistline level at the middle, thus giving an extra fullness centrally of the blouse front at the waistline. Facing material 11, of light weight in relation to the material of the blouse front 9 is cut to cover the inside of the blouse front to an elevation about three inches above the natural waistline and is sewn to the sides of the blouse front, at seams 12. Five drawstring tunnels 13 are formed between the blouse front 9 and facing 11 by sewing along substantially parallel lines 14 for each tunnel, the tunnels, however, extending in downwardly divergent and circumferentially spaced lines, more or less closely approximating radii of the downwardly curved waistline 15. The middle one of the five tunnels is on the longitudinal centerline of the blouse front. Drawstrings 16 of narrow cloth tape material are provided, one for each tunnel 13, each at least about twice the length of the associated tunnel. These drawstrings are inserted in the tunnels and sewn at one end to the lower end of the tunnels, as at 17, leaving the free ends extending from the upper ends of the tunnels. Snap fasteners 18 are sewn at $\frac{3}{4}$ " intervals to the free ends of the drawstrings and to within about two inches of the sewn ends 17. Short strips of cloth 19 are sewn to the facing 11 over the lower ends of the tunnels 13 and have mating snap fasteners 20 for the snap fasteners 18 sewn thereon, the loose ends of the drawstrings 16 being fastened by entering the snap fasteners 20 in the appropriate associated snap fasteners 18, according to the depth of downward curvature desired for the waistline 15 at a given time. The blouse front

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is sewn along line 15 to the top of the straight top skirt 8. The skirt obviously loses none of its original lines by reason of my specially designed blouse and will therefore hang properly and have an even hemline when the blouse is correctly adjusted. The fact that the drawstrings 16 are individually adjustable and along lines extending substantially radially relative to the expansible and contractible area of the blouse front insures even shirring of the material gathered in any intermediate stage of adjustment, thus maintaining a nice and really decorative appearance for this portion of the blouse front. The middle string 18 is usually adjusted and fastened first and then the strings on opposite sides are adjusted and fastened one at a time, being sure to keep an even hemline at whatever elevation was first determined by the adjustment and fastening of the middle string. If preferred, the snap fasteners 18 and 20 may be omitted and tie strings used instead, the loose end of a string extending from the upper end of a tunnel 13 being tied to a projecting end portion of the string on the fastened lower end. So much for the "vertical" adjustment.

Turning now to Figs. 3 and 4, a drawstring or belt 21 is shown which encircles the waist inside a tunnel 22 provided therefor. The ends of this drawstring or belt are adapted to be drawn up and tied in a neat bow at the front, as indicated at 23, in Fig. 4, after which the gathers in the material will be distributed more or less evenly around the waist, for a good appearance. While I have shown the tie at the front, it may be at the back, if preferred. This kind of "horizontal" adjustment is at present regarded as the most practical with my improved vertical adjustment, although other forms of horizontal adjustments may obviously be used.

It is believed the foregoing description conveys a good understanding of the objects and advantages of my invention. The appended claims have been drawn to cover all legitimate modifications and adaptations.

I claim:

1. A maternity garment comprising a blouse the front of which is joined to the back by seams at opposite sides and has the waistline portion cut on a downward curve from the natural waistline starting from the ends of said seams and curving gradually to a predetermined extent below the natural waistline to define a fullness area therein, a straight top skirt to which the waistline portion of the blouse just described is sewn all around leaving the fullness in the lower portion of the blouse front, the waistline portion of the skirt having fullness in proportion to the described fullness of the lower front portion of the blouse, means to take up in substantially horizontally extending gathers the fullness in the blouse so as to make the skirt hang with an even hemline, the gathers adding decorativeness to the blouse front, and means to take up circumferentially the fullness in the waistline portion of the skirt.

2. A maternity garment comprising a blouse the front of which is joined to the back by seams at opposite sides and has the waistline portion cut on a downward curve from the natural waistline starting from the ends of said seams and curving gradually to a predetermined extent below the natural waistline to define a fullness area therein, a straight top skirt to which the waistline portion of the blouse just described is sewn all around leaving the fullness in the lower por-

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tion of the blouse front, the waistline portion of the skirt having fullness in proportion to the described fullness of the blouse, drawstring means in laterally spaced relation on the inside of the lower front portion of the blouse to take up in substantially horizontally extending gathers the fullness in the lower front portion of the blouse so as to make the skirt hang with an even hemline, the gathers adding decorativeness to the blouse front, and means to take up circumferentially the fullness in the waistline portion of the skirt.

3. A garment as set forth in claim 2, wherein said drawstring means comprises a plurality of drawstring guide tunnels provided in laterally spaced relation extending up and down the back of the fullness area of the blouse front, and drawstrings extending through said tunnels and arranged to be adjusted in length and fastened to maintain the adjustment.

4. A garment as set forth in claim 2, wherein said drawstring means comprises a plurality of drawstring guide tunnels provided in laterally spaced relation extending in upwardly converging relation substantially radially relative to the curved waistline up and down the back of the fullness area of the blouse front, and drawstrings extending through said tunnels and arranged to be adjusted in length and fastened to maintain the adjustment.

5. For use with the skirt portion of a maternity garment, a maternity blouse constructed for joining at its waistline to the skirt and comprising a front joined to a back by seams at opposite sides and having the waistline portion cut on a downward curve from the natural waistline starting from the ends of said seams and curving gradually to a predetermined extent below the natural waistline to define a fullness area therein, a plurality of drawstring guide tunnels provided in laterally spaced relation extending up and down the back of the fullness area of the blouse front, and drawstrings extending through said tunnels and arranged to be adjusted in length and fastened to maintain the adjustment.

6. For use with the skirt portion of a maternity garment, a maternity blouse constructed for joining at its waistline to the skirt and comprising a front joined to a back by seams at opposite sides and having the waistline portion cut on a downward curve from the natural waistline starting from the ends of said seams and curving gradually to a predetermined extent below the natural waistline to define a fullness area therein, a plurality of drawstring guide tunnels provided in laterally spaced relation extending in upwardly converging relation substantially radially relative to the curved waistline up and down the back of the fullness area of the blouse front, and drawstrings extending through said tunnels and arranged to be adjusted in length and fastened to maintain the adjustment.

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