Nov. 27, 1951 P. G. SIEGEL 2,576,812

INFANT'S GARMENT

Filed Aug. 9, 1950

FIG. 1

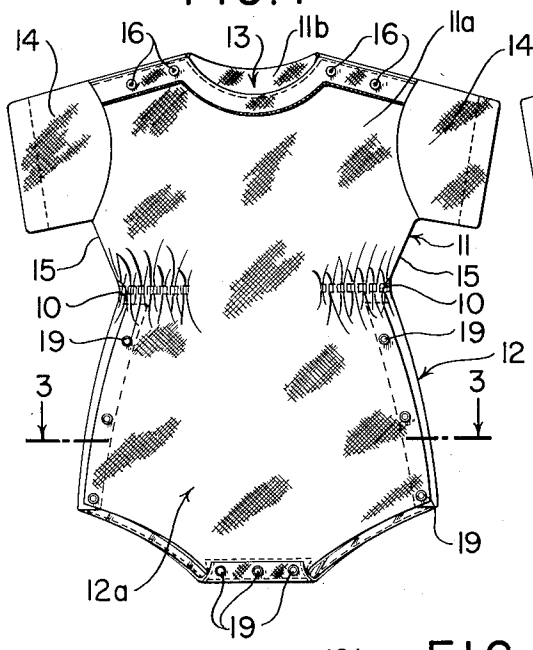


FIG. 2

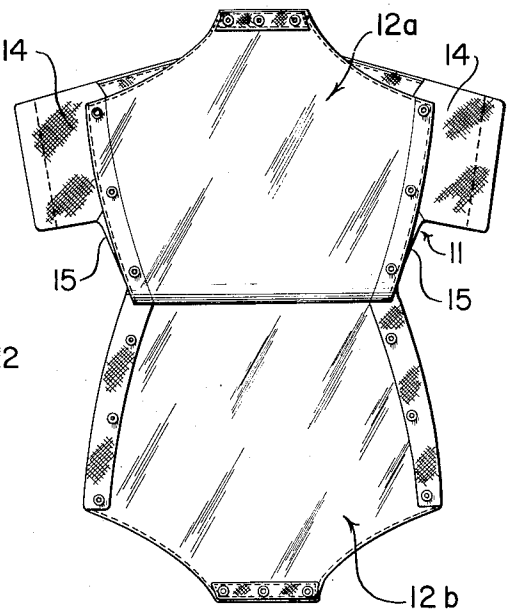


FIG. 3

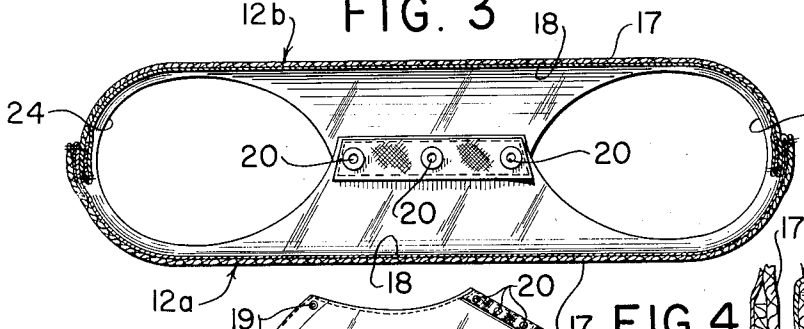


FIG. 4

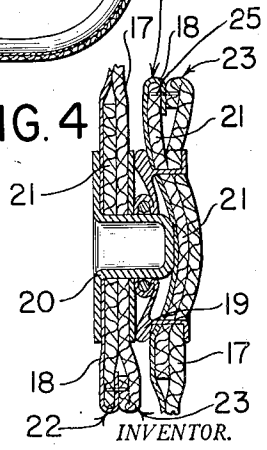
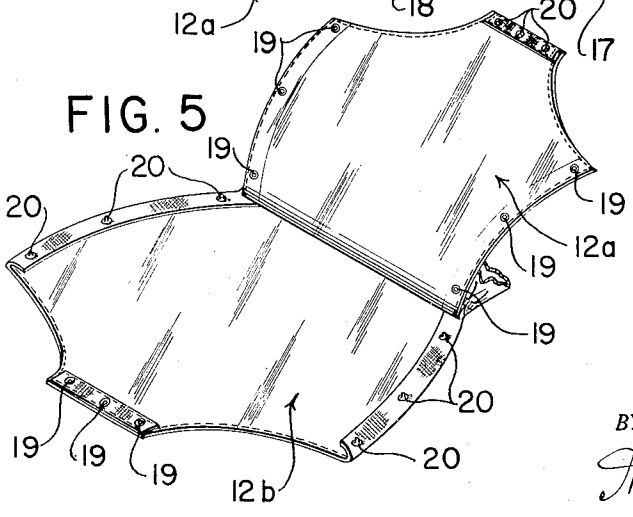


FIG. 5



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INFANT'S GARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—80)

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The present invention relates to an infant's garment and more particularly to a garment having a moistureproof pants portion.

It is well known that infants lack sufficient control to make it necessary for reasons of health and comfort to change their diapers frequently during the course of the day. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a garment which has a moisture proof pants portion which fits over the diaper and which can be readily opened without removal of the garment from the infant, providing quick and easy and complete access to that portion of the child's body covered by the diaper.

Since it is necessary, as pointed out above, to change an infant's diaper many times during the course of the day, the features of speed and ease of access are highly important attributes of a garment of this type in order to alleviate some of the time consuming and unpleasant aspects of caring for an infant or small child. It will be readily apparent to any parent that a garment embodying the invention herein will greatly facilitate the burdensome task of keeping the child clean and dry.

It is one of the primary objects of the present invention to provide a garment which permits complete access to that portion of the child's body covered by a diaper. In garments of the type herein involved, heretofore in use, complete access to that portion of the child's body covered by the diaper has been difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Since infants do not lie inert when being diapered, but squirm and thrash about, and since it is customary to secure the diaper by the usual safety pins, the diapering process without easy and complete access not only is exceedingly difficult, but is also dangerous. Without complete and ready access, there is a great likelihood that one of the two people involved in the diapering operation will be jabbed with the pin.

In diapering a child, the more layers of clothing that must each be separately removed, the more difficult and time consuming the task. It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide in one garment a moisture proof covering and an outer covering, both of which can be readily removed by undoing one set of fastening elements.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a garment that is in its entirety easy to put on and take off, thus greatly simplifying the task of dressing and undressing the child.

It is another object of the present invention

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to provide a garment that is simple to manufacture and yet has all the above mentioned advantages along with the advantage of being of sturdy construction. A garment embodying the present invention will withstand repeated laundering and the seams, especially in the lower portions thereof, are so constructed that they will not readily part.

The seams in the lower portion of the garment also have the advantage of being waterproof and very smooth. This latter advantage is extremely important to prevent chafing or any irritation to those parts of the body of the child that might come into contact with the seam.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily apparent from the following description and drawing of one specific embodiment of the present invention, in which drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front view of an infant's garment embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view thereof with the front flap in the open position;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 on Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of one side edge of the garment as shown in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 5 is a broken-away perspective view, showing the front flap in the open position.

The specific garment shown in the drawings, which embodies the present invention, has a gathered waist portion 10 separating the upper portion 11 from the lower portion 12. The gathering extends from the position shown in Fig. 1 of the garment around to a similar location in the back of the garment. Elastic inserts may also be used in the waist portion. The upper portion 11 is provided with a neck opening 13 and sleeves 14 and consists of two sections, the front section 11*a* and a back section 11*b*. Both sections 11*a* and 11*b* are secured to the sleeves 14 and are secured together along side seams 15. However, the two sections 11*a* and 11*b* are not permanently fastened together along the upper shoulder seams but are rather held in the closed position by buttons 16. Thus, the whole top of the garment may be opened from one sleeve seam to the other, and this combined with the provision for complete opening of the lower portion 12 permits the garment to be easily placed on a child.

The lower portion 12 of the garment consists of a front flap 12*a* and a back flap 12*b*. The two flaps 12*a* and 12*b* are made up of two layers, the outer layer 17 being constituted of any

fabric customarily used for this type of garment and the inner layer 18 being constituted of some moisture proof material preferably a plastic. These two layers are secured together along the peripheral edges of the flaps 12a and 12b and at the waist line are secured together only where the garment is gathered.

The two flaps 12a and 12b are in the embodiment shown, adapted to be releasably secured together by snap fasteners. Of course any other conventional type of fastener may be used such as buttons or a slide fastener. Along the sides of the garment the female members 19 of the snap fastener are secured to the front flap 12a and male members 20 are secured to the back flap 12b. In the crotch portion the female members 19 are secured to the back flap 12b and the male members are secured to the front flap 12a. The fasteners are applied so that the engaging portion female members 19 are on the inner side of the inner layer 18 and the engaging portion of the male member 20 is on the outside of the outer layer 17. Thus where the flaps 12a and 12b meet a smooth juncture at the point of overlap is formed.

The manner in which the peripheral edges of the lower flaps 12a and 12b are secured together is shown most clearly in Figs. 3 and 4. A reinforcing tape 21 is secured between the inner layer 18 and the outer layer 17 along the sides and crotch of the garment where the snap fasteners are located. The edge of the inner layer 18 is bent around the tape 21 as shown at 22 and the edge of the outer layer 17 is bent under as shown at 23. Thus the edges are rounded and smooth. It also should be noted that the stitching 25 does not pierce through the outer parts of the bent over inner layer 18 and outer layer 17. Thus insuring against any leakage due to this piercing or roughness that would be caused by the stitching. Similarly rounded edges are provided around the leg openings 24.

As shown most clearly in Fig. 5, the front flap 12a and back flap 12b can be completely swung away from each other, pivoting about the waist line of the garment. It can thus be seen that ready and full access to a garment, such as a diaper, worn under the garment here considered is provided.

While it has been emphasized that the present invention is especially adaptable for use in a garment having both an upper or shirt portion, and a lower or pants portion, and the particular embodiment described is of that type, it is to be noted that this is not to be considered a limitation on the scope of the invention. The invention is readily adaptable for use in a garment without the upper or shirt portion. The pants or lower portion could be provided with the structure described without having the shirt or upper portion secured thereto.

It should also be noted that while it is preferable to use a garment having a moisture proof lining directly secured thereto, this is not necessary, for the practice of the invention. The flap structure as described could readily be provided in a garment in which there was no moisture proof lining.

Although the embodiment shown does not include the feature of concealed fastening elements, it is readily apparent that this feature could be incorporated in the garment. By folding under the edges of the flap 12a and securing the fastening member 19 to the folded over portion, no part of the fastening members 19 and 20 would be visible from the outside of the garment. The same could be done with the fastening member 19 on flap 12b. This has the advantage of providing a garment of neater appearance; the fastening elements being completely concealed.

I claim:

1. A child's garment comprising an upper, shirt portion and a lower, pants portion, vertical slits in said lower portion, said vertical slits being located in both lateral sides of said garment and extending from the lower edge of the garment upwardly substantially to the waistline, forming flaps, and means for releasably securing together the flaps of the lower portion formed by said slit, said lower, pants portion having an inner layer and an outer layer, said inner layer being constituted of a moistureproof material, a reinforcing member located along the side edges of said flaps and positioned between said inner layer and said outer layer, the peripheral edge of said inner layer being folded over one edge of said reinforcing member and the peripheral edge of said outer layer being folded over, on itself, and stitching passing through the reinforcing member and the folded over portions of the inner and outer layer for securing together said layers and said reinforcing member.

2. A child's garment comprising an upper bodice portion and a lower pants portion, said lower pants portion having leg openings therein, vertical slits in each lateral side edge of the lower portion of the garment, said slits extending upwardly from the leg openings substantially to the waistline of the garment and a transverse slit in the crotch of said garment, said last mentioned slit extending from one leg opening to the other of said leg openings, said slits forming the lower portion of the garment into a front flap and a back flap, means for releasably securing together said flaps along said slits, said upper portion forming at the waistline of the garment a non-separable, body encircling band and each of said flaps comprising integral extensions of said upper portion.

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