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GARMENT WITH DETACHABLE SHOULDER PAD

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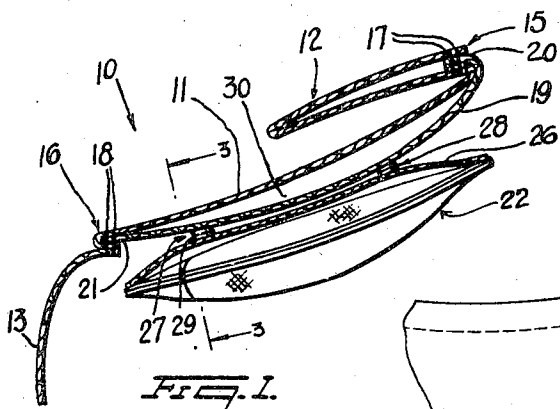


FIG. 1.

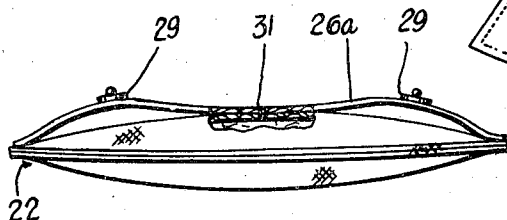


FIG. 4.

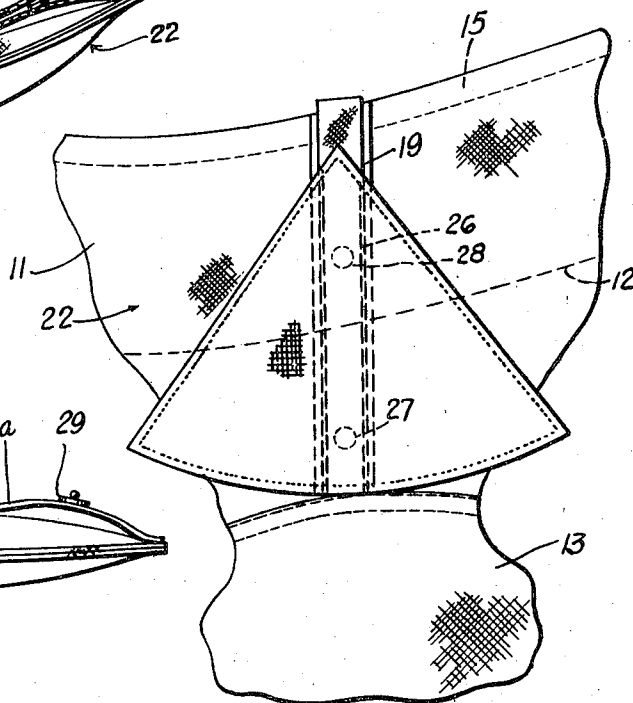


FIG. 2.

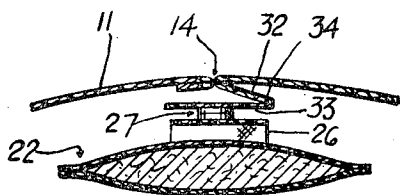


FIG. 5.

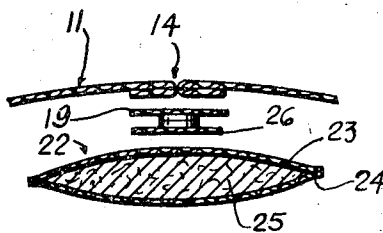


FIG. 3.

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GARMENT WITH DETACHABLE
SHOULDER PAD

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—268)

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This invention relates to garments having shoulder pads.

One object of the invention is to provide a garment of the character described having improved means for detachably mounting a shoulder pad.

Heretofore shoulder pads have been a source of considerable difficulty, particularly in the laundering of washable garments such as dresses, nurses' uniforms, blouses, sportswear, and the like. In fact, the usual practice was to rip off the shoulder pads before laundering and thereafter to re-sew them in place.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a garment of the nature set forth having improved means avoiding the difficulties mentioned.

I have discovered that the provision of detachability for a shoulder pad involves many problems from a production standpoint if the structure is to be sufficiently inexpensive in character to warrant its general use. The structure must be such that the handling of the parts in quantity production must be rapid and greatly facilitated by the parts utilized and by the arrangement involved. Furthermore, the stitching of certain of the parts must not show on the outside of the garment and should not require extra seaming or sewing at points that are difficult of access. Preferably, the arrangement in construction should be such that parts of the shoulder pad mounting can be secured in place in course of manufacture of the garment as a whole. Finally the arrangement of the detachable fastener means should be such that they are convenient to get at so that they can be easily opened and closed without requiring excessive pull entailing possible tearing of the garment or of the shoulder pad.

It is accordingly another object of the invention to devise a garment of the type mentioned having improved means for avoiding the difficulties mentioned and for accomplishing the advantages indicated.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention comprises the novel features, combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated in the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary sectional view, with

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a shoulder pad in elevation, showing a garment embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Figure 1.

Fig. 4 is a view of the detached shoulder pad with parts removed and other parts in section.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a modification of the invention.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined, but useful embodiments may be produced involving less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing a preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes a garment embodying the invention. The same includes a section of the garment comprising a shoulder portion 11, a collar portion 12 and a sleeve portion 13. This garment section is provided with one or more of the normal or usual fabricating seams such as a shoulder seam 14 extending longitudinally of the shoulder portion 11, a seam 15 for the collar 12 and an armhole seam 16 for the sleeve 13. Without being limited thereto, the collar 12 may consist of a single piece of folded fabric into which an edge of the shoulder portion may be inserted and secured by lines of stitching 17 to form any suitable well-tailored seam. The armhole seam 16 comprising the lines of stitching 18 is also indicated as representative of any conventional garment joint. The garment may consist of any suitable material such as cotton, silk, artificial fibre or the like or mixtures thereof, and it is intended to be illustrative of various types of garments constructed in various ways and for different purposes. Certain of the seams may be omitted within the scope of the invention defined in the appended claims.

Extending longitudinally of the shoulder portion 11 and connected to a seam of the garment section shown is a strip member 19 which is preferably of a strength superior to the fabric of the garment section. This strip member 19 may consist of a braid or tape of a neat and decorative character, and it is secured to or into one or more of the seams of the garment section, desirably in such a manner that no stitching or tacking shall show on the outer surface of the garment. Preferably the strip member 19 is connected at its op-

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posite free ends 20, 21 into the seams 15 and 16 to be thus secured by the respective stitching 17 and 18.

This affords a mounting which is obtained in course of fabrication of the main body of the garment and this requires no extra sewing or tacking operations, and the result achieved is neat and workmanlike.

A conventional shoulder pad 22 may include an envelope 23 having a marginal seam 24 and containing suitable padding 25. This shoulder pad may be of generally triangular shape, but the form thereof may be varied to suit. Preferably this shoulder pad is arranged along the center of the shoulder portion 11 in symmetrical relation thereto, and with its point directed toward the collar, that is, the apex angle region of the triangular shaped pad extends toward the collar and the mid portion of the base side of said pad opposite the apex angle region extends along the armhole seam as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Connected to the shoulder pad 22 at said apex angle region and said mid portion base side thereof is a strip member 26 which may be like that at 19 except that it may be somewhat shorter in length. Between the members 19 and 26 are located the detachable fasteners 27, 28 spaced from each other lengthwise at the shoulder portion 11. These fasteners 27, 28 may be of any suitable type, but I prefer to employ conventional snap fasteners. The female elements of these fasteners are connected to the strip member 19, and the male elements 29 thereof are connected to the strip member 26 inwardly of the ends thereof. Accordingly if the shoulder pad 22 is removed, the laundering of the garment is facilitated without any particular obstruction by fastener elements since the female portions are relatively thin and flat. It will be noted that the strip member 26 may be connected to the shoulder pad by tacking or by securement by the stitching 24 thereof. The strip members 19 and 26 may be produced by securement of fastener elements at regularly spaced intervals, of long bands which may be cut into pieces to provide the members referred to with the free ends of said strip 19 extending beyond each of the fastening means.

It will be perceived that the member 19 is free of the shoulder portion intermediate of its ends so that the operator can readily insert her fingers into the space 30 between this member and the shoulder portion 11 to facilitate engagement and disengagement of the snap fasteners. Thus it is unnecessary to exert any pull on the garment which might wrinkle or crease it. Preferably the strip member 26 is likewise free intermediate of its ends so that the operator may readily insert her fingers between this member and the shoulder pad to facilitate accurate registering of the fastener elements in quickly and conveniently mounting the shoulder pad. If desired, and as more particularly shown in Fig. 4, the member 26 here designated as 26a may be tacked to the shoulder pad envelope as shown at 31 for more accurate location of the shoulder pad while at the same time leaving the portions of the strip member 26 free adjacent to the fastener elements 29.

In Fig. 5 is shown a modification of the invention wherein the shoulder pad 22 is detachably mounted at the seam 14 of the shoulder portion 11. This seam may comprise the usual oppositely folded portions. To one of these portions 32, a strip member 33 like that at 19 may be secured

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by a line of stitching 34 longitudinally of the seam 14. This strip member 33 may or may not be connected into the seams 15 and 16 and if preferred it may terminate adjacent to these seams. In other respects the mounting of the shoulder pad may be like that shown in Figure 1. This modification has the advantage of affording a substantial continuous support for a strip member such as 19, but in production it involves more labor.

According to the invention, the strip members such as 19, 26, and 33 are produced in a length to fit the average shoulder length, and the invention may be utilized with advantage in factory production and also in the making of garments at home. The utility of the invention is so substantial that it is desirable for use even with permanently attached shoulder pads. For laundering, the operator merely detaches the shoulder pad and after the garment has been washed and ironed, re-engages the snap fasteners, thereby completing the garment.

It is thus seen that I have provided an improved shoulder pad, an improved garment section, and an improved combination thereof, fulfilling the objects of the invention and being highly advantageous in use.

I claim:

1. An article of manufacture in garment construction comprising a substantially triangular shaped shoulder pad formed with an apex angle region opposite a base side thereof, an elongated tape extending to overlie an upper surface of said pad from said apex angle region to the mid-portion of said base side, spaced fastening means detachably connecting said pad upper surface to the overlying tape with the free ends of the tape extending beyond the fastening means, said free tape ends being of sufficient length for permanently attaching one end to a neckline seam and the other end to an armhole seam of said garment construction, said pad having two spaced angle regions terminating said base side constructed and arranged to be free for conforming the shape of the shoulder pad.

2. An article of manufacture in garment construction comprising a substantially triangular shaped shoulder pad formed with an apex angle region opposite a base side, an elongated strip member having one end thereof connected to a portion of the pad at said apex angle region and the other end thereof to a mid-portion of said base side, an elongated tape similar to said strip member extending over the latter, spaced fastening means detachably connecting said strip member to said tape, said tape having opposite free ends extending beyond the fastening means for permanent attachment of one of said free ends to a neckline seam and the other of said ends to an armhole seam, of said garment construction, said pad having two spaced angle regions terminating said base side constructed and arranged to be free for conforming the shape of the shoulder pad.

3. In a garment construction the combination comprising an armhole seam, a neckline seam at the shoulder portion of the garment and a substantially triangular shaped shoulder pad formed with an apex angle region opposite a base side thereof, an elongated tape extending to overlie an upper surface of said pad from said apex angle region to the mid-portion of said base side, spaced fastening means detachably connecting said pad upper surface to the overlying tape with the free ends of the tape extending beyond the

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fastening means, said free tape ends being permanently attached to the garment structure on one end to said neckline seam and on the other end to said armhole seam, the spaced regions of the pad terminating the opposite ends of the base side being free to conform the shoulder pad to the garment structure.

4. In a garment construction the combination comprising an armhole seam, a neckline seam at the shoulder portion of the garment and a substantially triangular shaped shoulder pad formed with an apex angle region opposite a base side thereof, an elongated strip member having one end thereof connected to a portion of the pad at said apex angle region and the other end thereof to a mid-portion of said base side, an elongated tape similar to said strip member extending over the latter, spaced fastening means detachably connecting said strip member to said

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tape, said tape having opposite free ends extending beyond the fastening means for permanent attachment of one of said free ends to said neckline seam and the other of said ends to said armhole seam, said pad having two spaced angle regions terminating the base side construction and arranged to be relatively free for conforming the shape of the shoulder pad to the garment structure.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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Number	Name	Date
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