

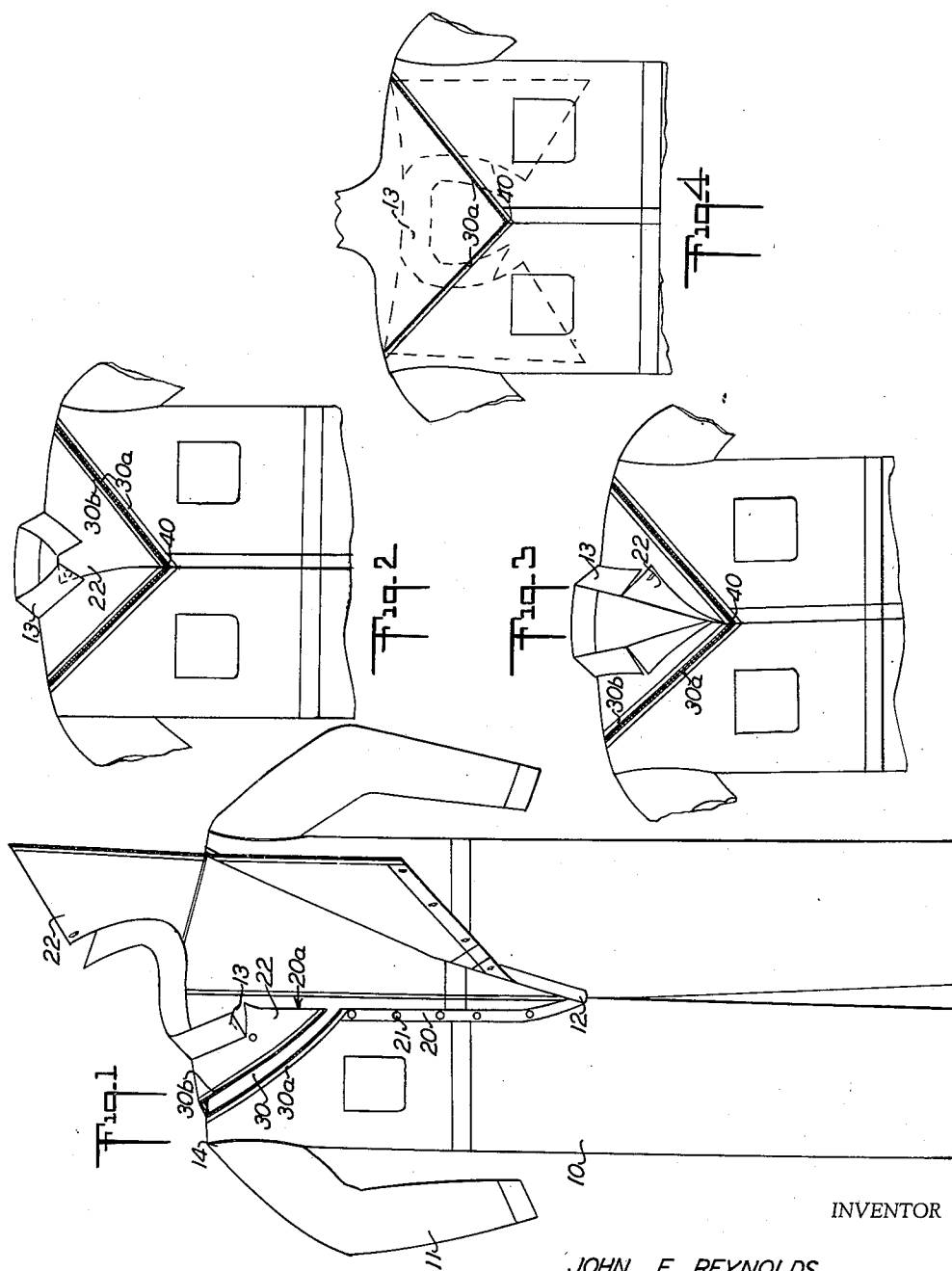
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J. F. REYNOLDS

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UNION OVERALL GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

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INVENTOR

JOHN F. REYNOLDS

BY

Fisher & Christen,

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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UNION OVERALL GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

John F. Reynolds, Grinnell, Iowa

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2-79)

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This invention relates to overall garments of the union type.

It is an object of the present invention to provide means for opening the upper portion of a coverall garment so that it may be more easily donned and removed.

It is also an object of this invention to provide means for opening the upper portion of an overall garment without interfering with the usual upper front and collar construction wherein it is adapted to have an upper neck position closely surrounding the neck of the wearer and a lower or open position exposing the neck and upper chest of the wearer so that the collar and upper front forms a lapel-like structure.

Another object of this invention is to provide a unitary overall garment with means for three wearing positions, one with the collar closed as a dress shirt, one with the collar open resembling a coat lapel, and a third completely open position in which the collar is thrown back to expose the upper chest and back of the neck of the wearer.

These and other objects of the invention will be readily apparent from the specification and drawings.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the garment with the central opening and slits in an open position.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the top of the garment with the slits closed and the collar in the upper or closed position.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the garment with the slits closed and the collar in the lower or open position.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the garment with the collar completely thrown back.

In its broader aspects, the present invention contemplates a unionall which has, in addition to the usual front opening, a pair of slits forming a V at the upper portion thereof, each of which is provided with a separate fastening means so that the garment may be completely open at the top. The enlarged top opening allows one to pass the garment over the shoulders without the body contortions necessary when removing or donning the unionall of conventional construction. A more specific advantage of the instant invention lies in the V-shaped angle formed by the slits, which permits the upper front of the garment to be thrown back over the shoulders, back of the wearer's neck to make an open front which exposes the upper chest. This critical arrangement of the slits has the additional advantage of placing their juncture at or below the lowest

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position to which the neck is opened for wear in conventional garments so that any interference with the normal opening and closing of the garment at the neck is avoided.

5 Less generally, the present invention comprises a unitary garment having a crotch portion, shoulder portions, a collar portion, and a front portion having a vertical closable opening extending from the collar toward the crotch, the improvement which comprises a pair of closable slits in the said front portion extending from the outer apex of each shoulder downwardly and inwardly and meeting along said opening between said collar and said crotch, said slits defining a V-shaped upper border for the front portion below said slits and defining a V-shaped lower border for an upper front portion above said slits, said front portion above said slits being adapted to be placed downwardly behind the back portion of the garment when the slits are open.

15 More specifically, the invention includes the garment as described above wherein said pair of closable slits are each defined by slide fasteners and wherein the front portion above said slits includes overlapping portions along said closable opening, said portions being adapted to be fastened in the closed position of the collar and being adapted to be folded in lapel fashion when the collar and the said vertical opening are open to the juncture of the slits in closed position.

20 Referring to the drawings, there is shown a preferred unitary garment construction with legs 10 and arms 11. A central vertical front opening 20 is provided to extend from a crotch 12 to a collar 13. The opening 20 is provided with a slide fastener or other fastening elements, such as buttons or snap fasteners 21. The upper portion 22a of the front is provided with overlapping portions 22 along the central opening. When the garment is in the closed neck position of Figure 2, the overlapping portions 22 are adapted to fit underneath the collar 13 and be fastened together by a button or the like to serve as a garment front top closure. When the garment is in the open position as shown in Figure 3, the overlapping portions are folded back over the garment front and become the lower points of a lapel, the upper points of which are formed by the collar points. A slit 30 extending downwardly and inwardly from the outer apex of each shoulder 14 to a meeting position 40 along the upper part of the front vertical opening is provided at each side of the garment front so that the slits form a V-shape when the garment is in the closed wearing position as shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Each of these slits is provided with conventional slide fastener elements, zippers, for opening and closing.

The lower portion of the slits defines a V-shape which is the upper extent of the garment front in the wide open neck position shown in Figure 4.

The upper portion 30a of the slits defines the lower extent of a collar carrying portion 30b including the overlapping portions 22, which is adapted to be positioned behind the wearer in the wide open neck position of Figure 4.

The slits serve both the purpose of enabling ease of passing the garment over the shoulders and of providing an additional open position at the neck for the comfort and convenience of the wearer.

The bilaterally symmetrical slits may be positioned to extend from any part of the outer apex of the shoulders. In this preferred form of the invention, the slits extend from just short of the extreme outside of the shoulder apex with only a short shoulder portion beyond it for supporting the garment in the position of Figure 4.

In practice, the limits of the slit positioning with respect to the apex of the shoulder are determined by the practical consideration as to the ease of passing the garment over the shoulders and the slit will normally extend from the outer half of the shoulder apex. It is desirable to have the slit extend from the very apex of the shoulder for maximum convenience in donning and removing the garment. However, the slit may extend from a point either slightly forward or rearward, preferably forward, from the apex to provide additional shoulder support for the garment as shown in Figure 4.

The preferred juncture of the slits is at the bottom of the lapel collar opening along the central front opening as shown in Figure 3. This position has the advantage of making the angle of the slits forming the V-shape lie at an angle of about one quadrant which is attractive to the eye and which meets the practical requirements of convenience and comfort under all conditions. Any raising of the point of juncture interferes with the neck position shown in Figure 3, by having the closure cross the lapel. If the point of juncture is lowered to or below the waist, the neck opening as shown in Figure 4 would be too large to be practical. Any positioning of the point of juncture of the slits between these extremes is within the scope of this invention. The preferred angle also has the advantage of extending the slide fastener along a line which is in the normal arc of an easy arm movement.

While the slide fastener elements shown in the present invention are not necessary to the function of this invention, they are particularly desirable and convenient in the slits at the top of the garment. It may be preferable to utilize buttons or snap fasteners in the vertical front closure inasmuch as buttons may be opened at fly without opening the entire garment; whereas, the slide fastener is not normally provided with structure for opening at the fly only.

Thus it will be seen that the present invention contemplates an improvement in a unitary overall garment having a conventional single vertical front opening which comprises the provision of a pair of closable slits, extending down-

wardly and inwardly from the outer apex of each shoulder to a meeting point along the front opening whereby the garment may have three neck positions varying from a closed collar position to an exposed chest position and whereby the garment may be passed over the shoulders of the wearer without the body contortions required in conventional garments of this type.

Obviously, modifications may be made in the present garment construction by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope of this invention, and it is intended that all such modifications as come within the purview and scope of the present improvement as set forth in the following claims.

I claim:

1. In a unitary garment having a crotch portion, shoulder portions, a collar portion, and a front portion having a vertical closable opening extending from the collar toward the crotch, that improvement which comprises a pair of closable slits in the said front portion extending from the outer apex of each shoulder downwardly and inwardly and meeting along said opening between said collar and said crotch, said slits defining a V-shaped upper border for the front portion below said slits and defining a V-shaped lower border for an upper front portion above said slits, the top of said slits at the apex of each shoulder serving to define the extremities of a fold line across the apex of the garment whereby said front portion above said slits is adapted to be placed downwardly behind the back portion of the garment when the slits are open.

2. The garment set forth in claim 1 wherein the front portion above said slits includes overlapping portions along said closable opening, said portions being adapted to be fastened in the closed position of the collar and being adapted to be folded in lapel fashion when the collar and the said vertical opening are open to the juncture of the slits in closed position.

3. The garment set forth in claim 1 wherein said pair of closable slits are each defined by slide fasteners.

4. The garment set forth in claim 1 wherein said pair of closable slits are each defined by slide fasteners and wherein the front portion above said slits includes overlapping portions along said closable opening, said portions being adapted to be fastened in the closed position of the collar and being adapted to be folded in lapel fashion when the collar and the said vertical opening are open to the juncture of the slits in closed position.

JOHN F. REYNOLDS.

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