Jan. 13, 1959 J. KAYE 2,867,817

MATERNITY GARMENT

Filed Dec. 8, 1955

FIG. 1

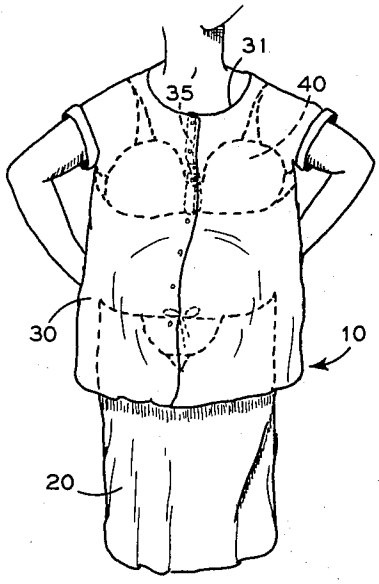


FIG. 4

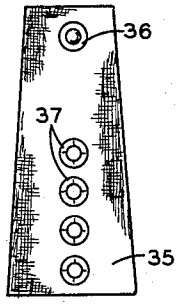


FIG. 6

FIG. 5

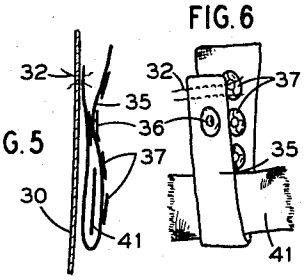
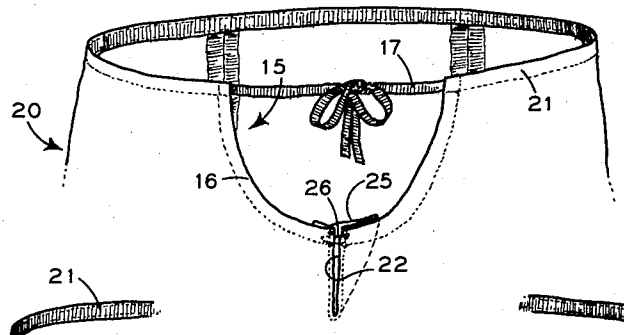


FIG. 2



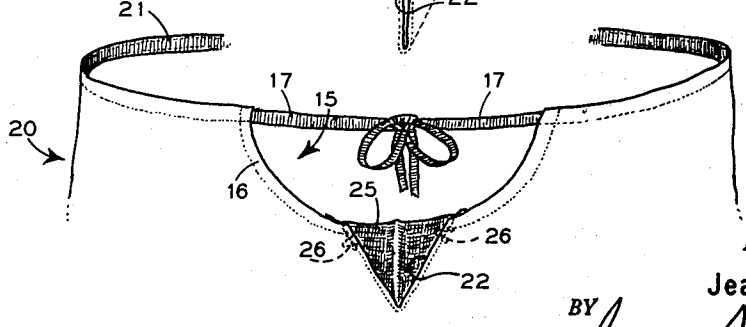


FIG. 3

INVENTOR.

Jeanne Kaye

BY Irving Seidman

ATTORNEY

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MATERNITY GARMENT

Jeanne Kaye, New York, N. Y.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—211)

This invention relates to maternity garments and, more particularly, to a maternity garment incorporating improved girth expansion means and neckline maintaining means.

The skirt portions of many maternity garments are now made with a semi-circular or semi-oval cut-out or recess extending downwardly from the belt or waist line. Tie strings are provided at each of the upper ends of the recess or cut out so that the width of the opening, at its upper edge, may be adjusted to accommodate expansion of the figure during progression of the pregnancy.

This particular construction generally works very well in accommodating, in a comfortable manner, the normal expansion of the figure during pregnancy. However, it has been found that the lower curved margin of the recess tends to exert a restricting effect during the latter part of the pregnancy period, due to its inability to expand or lengthen beyond a set limit.

In accordance with the present invention, it has been found that the effectiveness of the aforementioned cut out, in comfortably accommodating expansion of the abdomen, can be greatly increased by providing one or more gussets extending outwardly from the recess and provided with suitable fastening means whereby the gussets may be "closed" initially and opened as the figure expands.

An objectionable feature of maternity garments is that the blouse portion, due to distortion of the figure as the pregnancy advances, tends to ride up relatively to the bosom. This makes it impossible to maintain the neckline in its usual relation to the throat and to the bosom.

In further accordance with the present invention, such riding up is prevented, and the neckline maintained at a desired position, by novel means. This novel means comprises a relatively elongated tape or strap secured to the neckline of the blouse at substantially the center of the blouse front to depend or hang down inside the blouse. This tape is arranged to be drawn around the narrow, cup-joining portion of a brassiere and is provided with a plurality of cooperable fastening means whereby the portion of the tape looped around the brassiere may be adjustably secured to the portion of the tape fixed to the neckline of the blouse. Thus, the blouse neckline is held in adjustably fixed relation to the brassiere to maintain a fixed neckline.

For an understanding of the invention principle, reference is made to the following description to a typical embodiment thereof as illustrated in the accompanying drawing. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a somewhat pictorial elevation illustrating the invention garment;

Figs. 2 and 3 are partial front elevation views of the skirt portion of the garment, illustrating the expansion gusset in the "closed" and expanded positions, respectively;

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the brassiere engaging tape;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view illustrating the tape in operative position; and

Fig. 6 is an inside perspective view of the tape as looped around a brassiere.

Referring to the drawing, the invention is illustrated as incorporated in a maternity garment **10** comprising

a skirt portion **20** and a blouse portion **30**. Skirt portion **20** is illustrated as of the type having a semi-circular or semi-oval recess or cut out **15** extending downwardly from the upper hem line **21** and having a hemmed border **16**. Tie strings **17** extend from each of the upper corners of the recess or cut out so that the extent of the latter can be readily adjusted to accommodate changes in the figure.

As previously stated, the hemmed border **16** of cut out **15** exerts a limiting constructive effect when the cut out is expanded in its fullest extent. In accordance with the present invention, increased expansion of cut out **15** is provided by a V-shape notch **22** extending downwardly from the cut out and closed by a gusset **25**. While one notch and gusset are shown by way of example, more than one of each may be provided in operative association with recess **15**.

Gussett **25** is formed of any suitable material, and interengageable fastening means, such as snap fasteners, hooks and eyes, buttons and button holes, or slide fasteners are provided along each side of notch **22**, preferably adjacent the upper ends of the notch. Hook and eye fasteners **26** are illustrated by way of example, and are preferably on the inner surface of the skirt portion.

In the initial stages of pregnancy, gusset **25** is "closed," as illustrated in Fig. 2. As the abdomen increases in girth so that all of the expansion provided by recess **15** is utilized, gusset **25** is opened or expanded as in Fig. 3. However, the gusset may be expanded, if desired, before the expansion of recess **15** is fully utilized.

Referring to Figs. 1, 4, 5 and 6, a relatively elongated tape **35** is secured to the inside of the neck line **31**, adjacent the center of the front, by suitable means such as stitching **32**. Tape **35** depends within the blouse, and is adapted to be looped beneath the narrow, cup-joining portion **41** of brassiere **40**. A fastener **36** is secured to tape **35** adjacent its fixed end for cooperation with any one of several fasteners **37** secured in spaced relation along the free end of tape **35**. Thereby, the neckline **31** of blouse **30** may be adjustably fixed relative to brassiere **40** and thus held from "riding up" as the figure changes. Fasteners **36** and **27** are illustrated as snap fasteners, but may be hook and eye fasteners or any other type of fastener.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the invention principles, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

In a maternity garment a skirt portion having an upper hem line interrupted by a relatively wide cut out extending downwardly therefrom at the front center of the skirt and having an upwardly concave lower margin; at least one V-shape notch extending generally downwardly from the lower margin of said cut out; a gusset secured across said notch; and interengageable fastener means on the sides of said notch, whereby said notch may be contracted or expanded within the extent of said gusset to accommodate, in cooperation with said recess, increases in the girth of the abdomen.

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