(No Model.)

W. TOWNSEND.

BUSTLE.

No. 457,172. Patented Aug. 4, 1891.

Fig. 1.

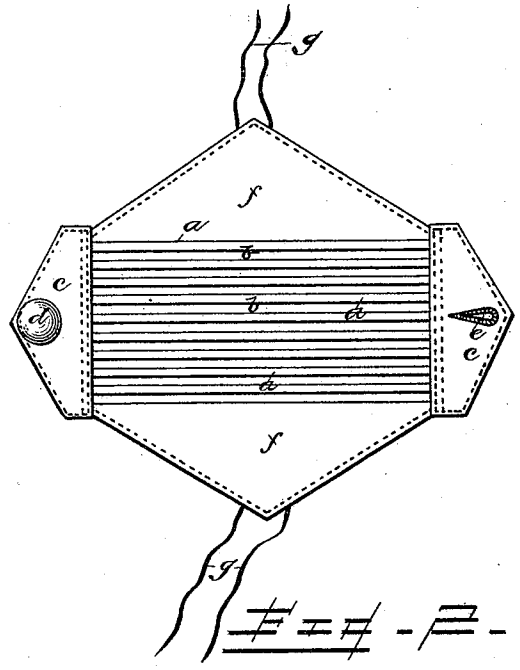


Fig. 2.

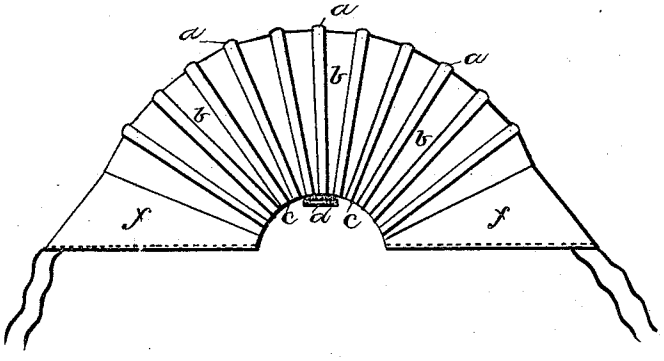
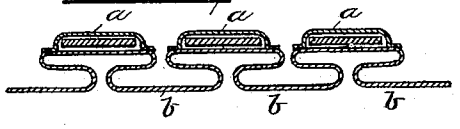


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND, OF LONDON, ENGLAND, ASSIGNOR TO ISAAC B. KLEINERT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 457,172, dated August 4, 1891.

Application filed January 21, 1891. Serial No. 378,505. (No model.) Patented in England October 15, 1889, No. 16,232, and in France April 11, 1890, No. 204,931.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM TOWNSEND, of London, England, have invented a new and Improved Regulative Expansible Bustle or Dress-Improver, of which the following is a specification.

This invention is the subject-matter of Letters Patent of Great Britain, No. 16,232, dated October 15, 1889, and of France, No. 204,931, dated April 11, 1890.

This invention relates to a regulative expansible and reversible bustle or dress-improver; and its object is to produce a bustle capable of being regulated in respect of its size when required to be worn and of assuming a compact shape when not so required, thereby economizing space and expense in packing and transit.

In order that my invention may be clearly understood, I will proceed to explain the same with the aid of the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan of my said bustle when not in use. Fig. 2 is a plan thereof when the same is ready for use. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view of a portion of the bustle.

In carrying my invention into effect I prepare a fabric of woven or other suitable material of a rectangular shape. Across this fabric I form a series of parallel pockets or cases *a*, equidistant from each other, such pockets or cases being preferably narrower than the intervening bands *b* of the fabric. A flat strip of any suitable material, which (by virtue of its natural elasticity) is capable of returning to its original flat position after its two ends have been approached, is fitted into each slot or case. I do not confine myself to any particular material; but I mention busk-steel as one eminently adapted to accomplish the purpose of this part of my invention, although whalebone or horn or cane or featherbone may be used therefor. After each pocket or case is fitted with its spring-strip all such pockets or cases are brought together side edge to side edge, so that the area of the fabric is diminished by the folding up upon themselves of the intermediate bands *b*, as shown in Fig. 3; or any other equivalent method of incorporating the spring-strips with the fabric may be adopted. A tab *c* is then sewed or attached in any convenient way across the ends of the pockets at each end of the fabric after said fabric has been folded or gathered as aforesaid, and both of said end tabs *c* are provided with any suitable joining device whereby they can be brought and joined together and easily released. Such joining together will necessarily have the effect of bending the spring-fitted fabric into the form of an arch, the terminal points of which are connected by a straight line—namely, the two tabs *c*. The joining device may be of any convenient character. For example, it may consist of a stud or button *d* on one tab and one or more stud-holes or button-holes *e* in the other tab, or a buckle and strap may be used. At each side the fabric is provided with a suitable side tab *f*, parallel with the spring-strips, and furnished with a string *g* or other equivalent device by which the bustle can be fastened or attached to or at the wearer's waist. The tabs *f* and strings *g* constitute extending devices for extending the springs.

When the bustle is to be worn, the end tabs *c* are joined together, so that the ends of all the spring-strips will be held in two parallel lines. The side tabs *f* are then pulled away from each other with the result of stretching or extending the spring-strips as far apart (at their centers) as the intermediate bands or fabric *b* will allow, thereby bringing the bustle into its proper shape for wear, as shown in Fig. 2. It is then ready for being fixed in position on the wearer's waist by the device *g*, provided for that purpose.

It will be noted that owing to the fact that the springs are joined together at their ends, whereas they are not joined together at their centers, the stretching of the bustle by means of the side tabs causes the springs to spread apart at their centers. Consequently when the bustle is in use, as in Fig. 2, it is arched or curved in two directions.

This bustle is reversible—that is to say, it may be sprung to shape and worn either side outward.

I wish it to be distinctly understood that my invention does not confine me to any particular method of producing the fabric with its four tabs.

When the end-joining devices *d e* are released or unfastened, the bustle assumes its original compact flat shape, as shown in Fig. 1, and it may be either rolled up with the tabs *c* and *d* inside and the strings *g* wound around it apronwise or left in its normal flat shape. In either case it can be conveniently packed into a very small compass without injury thereto.

I claim as my invention—

A bustle comprising a cloth strip having a series of parallel pockets formed therein, the said pockets inclosing elastic spring-bands, the edges of the pockets being brought together, whereby intermediate folds are produced, the ends of the cloth strip being provided with joining-tabs *c c* and the sides thereof with means for fastening the bustle to the person of the wearer, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND.

Witnesses:
HENRY HARRIS LAKE,
JOHN THOMAS KNOWLES.