

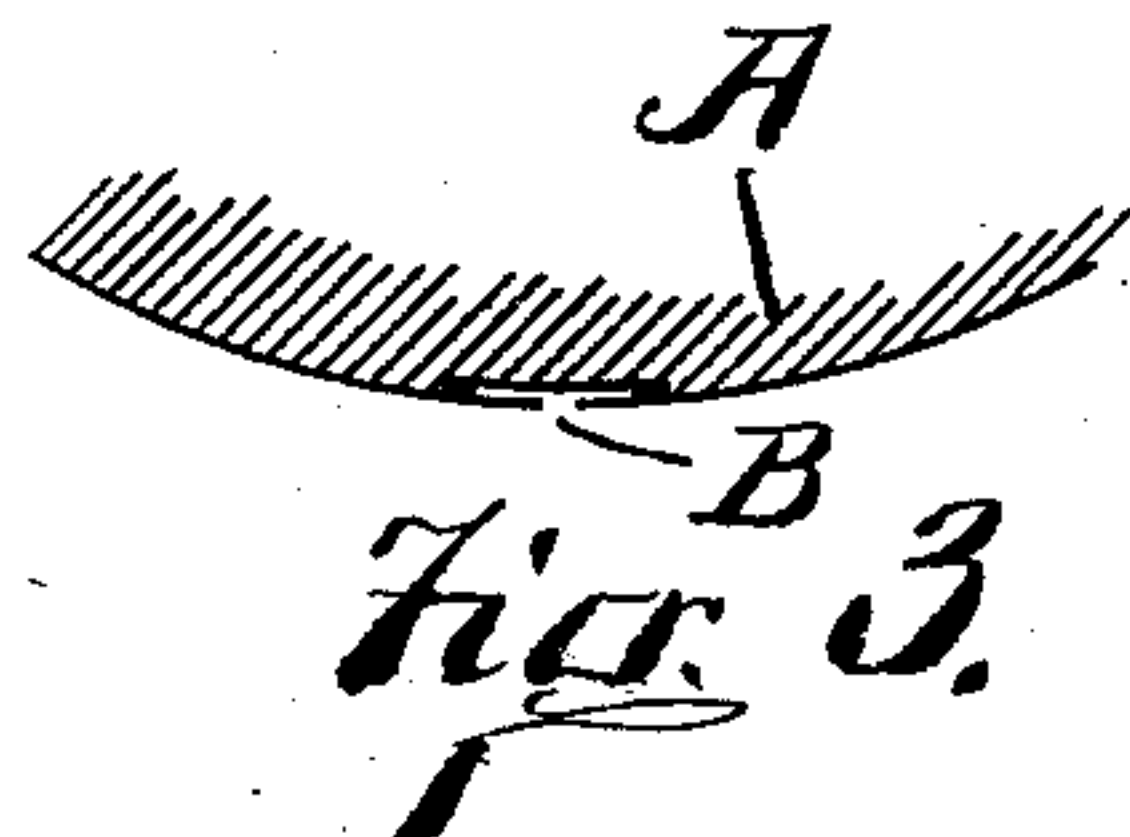
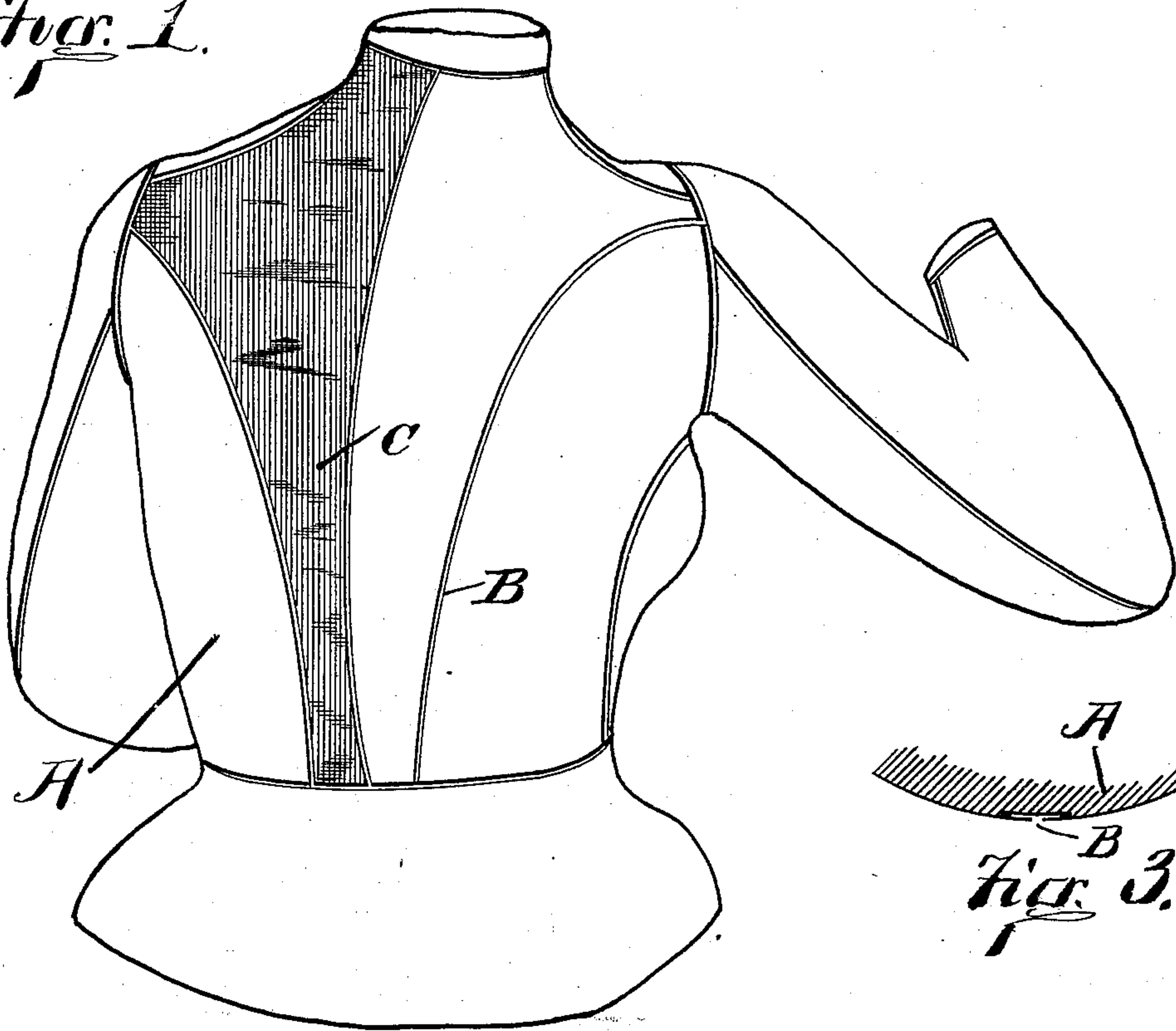
(No Model.)

J. W. SEE.  
DRESS FITTING MODEL.

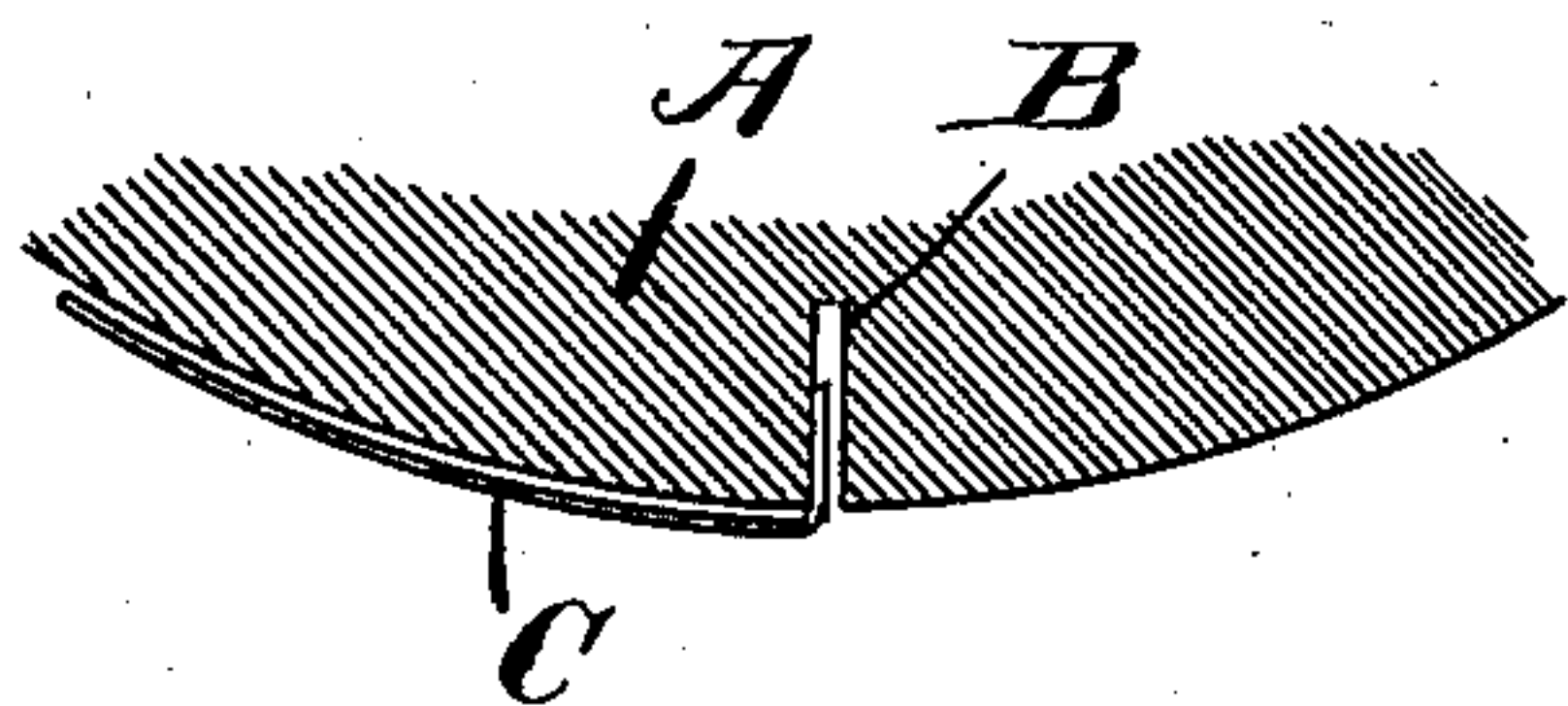
No. 369,080.

Patented Aug. 30, 1887.

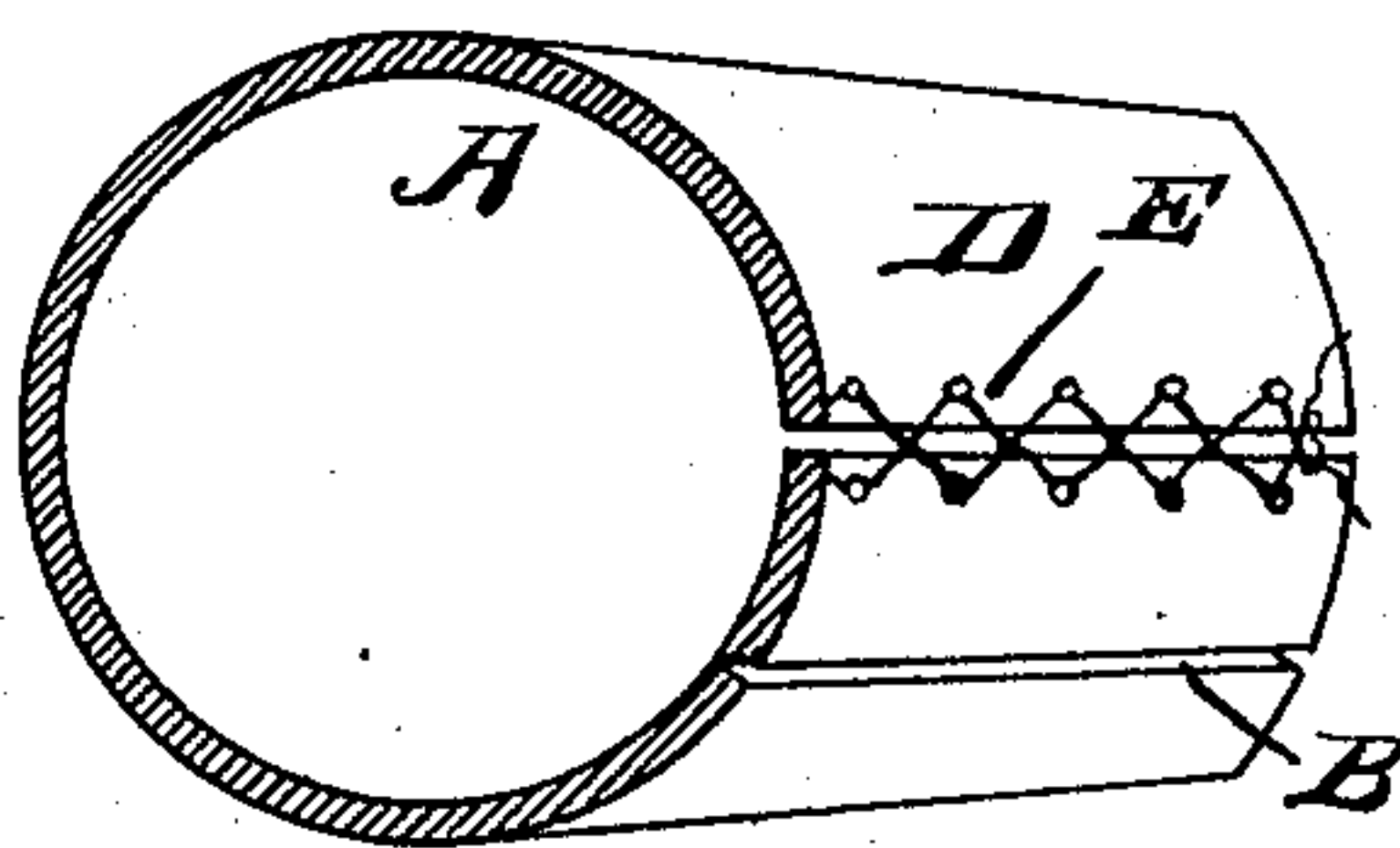
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## DRESS-FITTING MODEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 369,080, dated August 30, 1887.

Application filed July 11, 1887. Serial No. 243,924. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES W. SEE, of Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fitting-Models, of which the following is a specification.

This invention pertains to a device which I have termed a "fitting-model," adapted to serve in the work of fitting coverings to spherical or irregular surfaces, as illustrated, for instance, in fitting a dress to the person.

The usual method of dress-making is to make the dress and then try it on and see if it fits, and if it does not, to then make the proper alterations. The trying on may of course be done upon the person whom the dress is to fit, or, better still, it may be tried on a bust-model identical in form with the person to be fitted. In either case, under the method indicated, the person or the bust form is a mere test for work already more or less completed. The work of dress-fitting is generally started by producing a pattern-sheet from which to cut the goods; but the production of such patterns involves the most advanced science of spherical trigonometry, and in the practical art of dress-making no confidence is ever placed in the patterns, and the trying-on process is finally employed to determine whether or not the patterns are correct.

In the drafting of dress-patterns the usual method is to make measurements and lay these measurements down upon paper and develop the lines therefrom. As before stated, pattern-drafting may be looked upon as simply the experimental step in dress-fitting.

My improvements will be readily understood from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fitting-model illustrating my improvements, the model in this case being intended for dress-fitting purposes; Fig. 2, a horizontal section of the same transverse to one of the tucking-grooves; Fig. 3, a similar horizontal section, exhibiting a modified form of tucking-groove; and Fig. 4, a perspective view of a portion of a fitting-model, illustrating my improvements when the same are to be incorporated into what I will term the "jacket system."

In the drawings, A indicates the body or part of the body to which a dress is to be made to fit, the same being formed of papier-maché, or of properly-covered wire-work, or it may be the human or other body covered with some suitable material; B, tucking-grooves in such body reaching inwardly from the outer surface thereof and having locations and directions corresponding to the intended seam-lines of the garments to be fitted; C, a piece of goods placed upon the fitting-model and held in place by having its edges tucked into the grooves referred to, the tucking being effected by any blade-like instrument; D in Fig. 4, the covering of the body A or a portion of the same, where it is intended that provision shall be made for alteration in the size of the model, this covering being in the form of a jacket of thick material, and E lacing by which this jacket is held in place.

It is preferable that the dress-fitter have a dummy model, such as is illustrated in Fig. 1, of the exact dimension and form of the person to be fitted. The model should be provided with as much of the arms, neck, &c., as is to be fitted. The tucking-grooves B should be located wherever seams are to come in the garments. These tucking-grooves may be variously disposed, so as to represent the seam-lines of different kinds of garments, it being desirable that whatever manner of seam-fitting is chosen for the garment to be fitted tucking-grooves corresponding to such seams may be found in the model. The tucking-grooves should be about one-sixteenth of an inch wide and preferably less than one-quarter of an inch deep. The dress-fitter, being provided with such a grooved model, may hang a piece of paper against the model and then, with a blade-like instrument, like a paper-cutting knife, for instance, press the paper into the top of one of the tucking-grooves and pass the tucking-instrument downward to the bottom or rear to the other end of that groove. The paper thus tucked into the groove will be held against the model by such tucking. In a similar manner, all of the tucking-grooves forming the outlines to the particular garment piece in hand are to be followed. The piece of paper may then be stripped from the model, and it will be found to have taken sharply-defined creases, representing the corner where



the goods turned over the surface of the model down into the groove, and representing, also, the bottom of the groove. If this piece of paper be cut to the first-mentioned creasing, it will form a paper pattern of absolutely correct form to fit the proper place on the fitting-model. There can be no mistake about the correctness of this pattern and no skill is required in its production. Thus it will be seen that my improved fitting-model furnishes means for securing in a simple and rapid manner dress-patterns absolutely correct in shape. The dress-maker, cutting her goods to such patterns and sewing the goods properly together, should secure perfectly-fitting garments; but I much prefer to employ the fitting-model for other purposes than mere pattern-drawing, so to speak. The proper patterns may be made, and, in fact, it is always well to do so, but it is well to cut them at such a distance from their creasings as to leave proper seaming material upon the goods. In other words, goods cut from the patterns will be of proper size to be sewed together in the usual way. After the goods are cut out the dress-fitter is to take one of the pieces and apply it to the fitting-model by placing it over the model in proper position and tucking the edges into the tucking-grooves. A portion of the surface of the fitting-model thus becomes clothed with the goods. The same process is repeated with the other pieces of goods until finally the entire fitting-model is completely clothed. When the model is thus clothed, every seam-line will appear, and so far as appearance goes one would judge that the model was clothed in a regularly-sewed garment, while in fact all of the pieces of goods are held in position by the mere tucking in the grooves. When the model is thus clothed the dress-fitter takes a piece of French chalk and draws it edgewise along each of the groove-lines, thus producing fine chalk-lines near the edges of all the pieces of goods, and representing the exact lines where the sewing is to be done. A few transverse marks should be made at each of the seam-grooves to indicate the endwise adjustment of the pieces in sewing the seams. The goods may be now stripped from the model, and it will be found that each piece presents near its edge a fine chalk-mark representing the precise position for seam-sewing, together with cross-marks for end adjustment of seams. The pieces are then to be sewed together in the usual

manner, and there need be no anxiety about the fit. The garment need not be tried upon the model again.

The most preferable construction of the model is one formed with a papier-maché surface molded to the exact form of the individual whose dresses are to be fitted by this means. The tucking-grooves may be cut into the papier-maché, or they may be formed of channel-shaped metallic strips molded into the paper while the model is being made. Instead of the deep groove illustrated in Fig. 2, an under tucking-groove may be formed by edges of sheet metal presenting themselves, as indicated in Fig. 3.

The model may be formed of a wire frame properly covered and properly shaped, the covering being provided, of course, with the tucking-grooves referred to. Models of this form permit of change in form when desired by the simple process of padding under the covering. In some cases it may be preferable to make the model in the form of a jacket, which may be put on the person like a corset or other garment. In such case the material of the jacket should be thick enough to receive the tucking-grooves, and the jacket should be preferably arranged to be laced up, as indicated in Fig. 4, so that when the jacket-like fitting-model is put upon the person it may be padded out to the dimensions desired. Fig. 4 represents a portion of the sleeve part of such a jacket-model.

It is of course to be understood that where the person of the individual to be fitted is used as a part of the fitting-model a second person is needed to adjust the pieces of goods upon the model and to tuck the edges in, &c. Where a dummy is employed, the second person is of course not needed.

I claim as my invention—

1. A fitting-model consisting of a form provided with tucking-grooves at the seam-lines, constructed and arranged for use substantially as set forth.

2. A fitting-model consisting of a jacket-form provided with tucking-grooves at the seam-lines and with lacings or equivalent for adjustment, constructed and arranged for use substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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