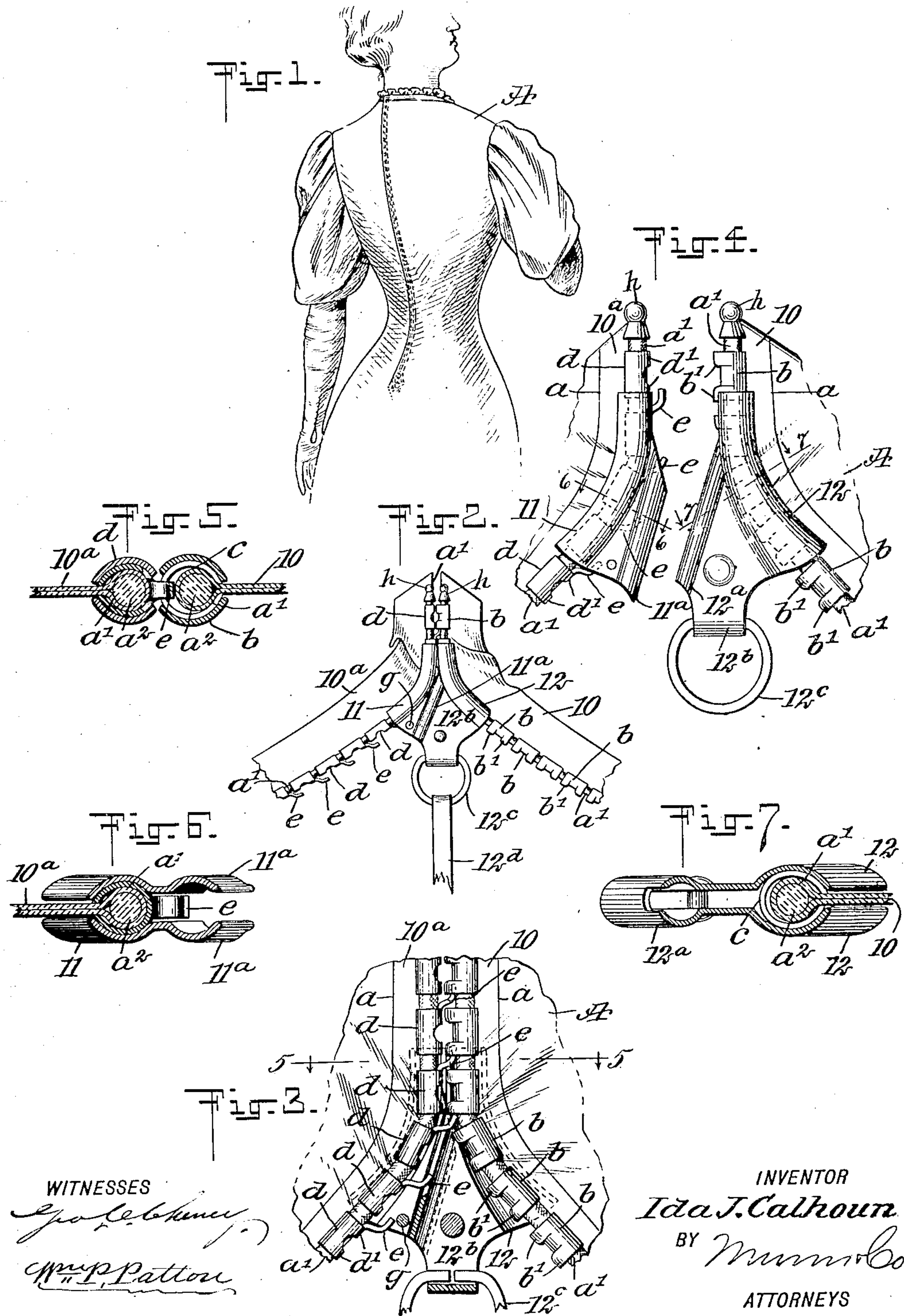


No. 887,586.

PATENTED MAY 12, 1908.

I. J. CALHOUN.  
GARMENT CLOSING DEVICE.  
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 15, 1907.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## GARMENT-CLOSING DEVICE.

No. 887,586.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 12, 1908.

Application filed August 15, 1907. Serial No. 388,591.

**To all whom it may concern:**

Be it known that I, IDA JOSEPHINE CALHOUN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Tampa, in the county of Hillsborough and State of Florida, have invented a new and Improved Garment-Closing Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of this invention is to provide novel details of construction for a garment-closing device, which enable the quick and convenient closing and separation of opposing edges on a body, or waist of a woman's dress, or on any garment that requires a detachable connection of its lapped edges when donned.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and defined in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved closure device, applied for connecting meeting rear edges on a dress body after it has been donned; Fig. 2 is a detached enlarged side view of an upper end portion of the improved closure device; Fig. 3 is an enlarged rear side view of a dress waist in part and a partly sectional rear side view of the closure device, adjusted for partly closing the meeting edges of the back of the waist; Fig. 4 is a rear side view of the improved closure device, showing its two sections separated, and respectively secured on separated portions of a dress body or waist; Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view of details of the improvement, taken substantially on the line 5—5 in Fig. 3; Fig. 6 is a transverse sectional view, substantially on the line 6—6 in Fig. 4, and Fig. 7 is a transverse sectional view, substantially on the line 7—7 in Fig. 4.

The improvement may be applied for closing the lapped or meeting edges of a garment, such as the waist or body of a woman's dress that is open either at the front or rear side thereof. It is more particularly available, however, as a means for the quick and convenient attachment together of the lapped or meeting edges on a dress body or shirt waist that is open behind, as it greatly facilitates such a connection, and enables the wearer of the garment to almost instantly close the rear vertical edges of the same, in a neat and

secure manner, dispensing with the services of another person for such a purpose. Furthermore, the device permits the wearer of the dress body or waist to quickly detach the rear edges thereof that have been connected together by means of the improved closure device, by pulling said edges apart from one end of the closure device toward the other end thereof.

In carrying into effect the features of the invention, two similar flexible strips 10, 10<sup>a</sup> are employed. These mainly flat strips, of a suitable width, and a length corresponding with that of the waist or body A, have one edge *a* of each secured by sewing or other means, upon respective edge portions of the garment. The remaining edges *a'* of the closure strips 10, 10<sup>a</sup> are thickened cylindrically by securing a round cord *a'* thereon or within lapped portions of the same, as indicated in Figs. 5 and 7.

Upon the corded edge of the strip 10 that appears at the right side of Figs. 3, 4, 5 and 7, a plurality of short tubules or clasps *b* in cylindric form, are mounted and affixed in close order.

At each end of each tubular clasp *b* a lateral enlargement *b'* is formed, which leaves an opening at the extremity of each enlargement, and in said enlargements a loop *c* is formed or secured, that in service affords an eye which may be engaged through the opening in the bottom wall of each enlargement *b'*.

A series of tubular clasps *d* is mounted and secured in sequence on the corded edge *a'* of the strip 10<sup>a</sup>, said clasps being substantially similar to the clasps *b* with the exception that from each clasp *d* a hook *e* is projected from the lateral enlargement *d'* that is uppermost thereon, said hooks being bent outward and upward, as shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4.

In arranging the closure device for effective service, it is essential that the strips 10, 10<sup>a</sup> be so secured in place along the opposed meeting edges of a body or waist, that when brought together each hook will enter a complementary eye *c* by passing into the normally lower end of an opposite clasp *b*.

A main feature of the invention resides in the provision of a two-part closer slide, comprising the following details: A nearly tubular and preferably arcuate shaped sleeve 11, of a suitable length, and such a relative interior diameter as will permit, is fitted to slide freely upon the series of loosely disposed



clasps *d* that have the hooks *e* thereon, said sleeve being formed in two half sections that are suitably spaced apart and united together as at *g* in Figs. 2 and 4. Integral with the two-part sleeve 11, a half portion 11<sup>a</sup> of a cylindrical clamp is formed on each half section of said sleeve, and projects laterally or toward the clasps *b* on the strip 10, and it will be seen in Fig. 6, that the hooks *e* on the clasps *d* will pass loosely between the half sections 11<sup>a</sup> of the clamp mentioned, when the sleeve 11 is slid upon the clasps *d*.

Upon the series of clasps *b* wherein are the eyes *c* a laterally curved tubular sleeve 12 is loosely mounted, said sleeve being formed of plate metal that is resilient, the sleeve having a longitudinal opening therein at the concave side for the free traverse thereof on the strip 10 over the clasps *b*.

Integral with the sleeve 12, is a tubular locking rib 12<sup>a</sup> that is formed at a suitable angle of divergence from the sleeve 12, at the side of the latter, which will permit a free insertion of said rib downward into the bisected clamp 11<sup>a</sup>, and it is essential that the latter hold closely clasped said rib 12<sup>a</sup> when it is fully inserted, thus affording a secure coupling. It will be noted, however, that by reason of the resilience of the side walls of the clamp 11<sup>a</sup>, the two engaged sections 11<sup>a</sup> and 12<sup>a</sup> of the closer slide, may be readily disengaged simply by pressing the male and female section of the coupling in opposite directions.

Upon the sleeve 12 a depending flange 12<sup>b</sup> is formed or secured, upon which is mounted a ring 12<sup>c</sup>, from which depends a cord or tape 12<sup>d</sup>, as shown in Fig. 2.

The normal position of the closer slide when the garment has its meeting edges separated is at the neck band of the body or waist, with the sections of said slide arranged directly opposite each other. To dispose said sections thereof at opposite points so that the hook and eye connections on the edges of the dress body may freely engage with each other, knobs *h* *h* are secured upon the upper ends of the corded edges *a'* and the uppermost clasps *b* and *d* are disposed close thereto.

Each half section of the closer slide may be independently slid upon the clasps *b* and *d* and thus moved into proper position when the waist or body is to be donned for wear; and it will be noted that when the two half sections of the closer slide are impinged against the knobs *h*, *h*, the slide will be in position for closing the back edges of the dress body or waist.

After donning the body or shirtwaist having the improvement, of course with the back edges thereof separated, the side sections that are now at the neckband of the body or waist, are connected together by pressing the rib 12<sup>a</sup> down through the clamp

11<sup>a</sup>, which will adapt said sections to move together when drawn or slid downward over the clasps *b* and *d*.

It will be noted that the laterally and oppositely curved shapes given to the sleeves 11 and 12, permits the loose edges of the garment to gap below the closer slide, but upon pulling the tape 12<sup>d</sup> downward, the corresponding downward movement of the slide over the clasps *b* and *d* will force the latter toward each other, and cause the hooks *e* to interlock with the eyes *c*, as the slide is progressively moved, this operation being plainly illustrated in Fig. 3.

When a garment having the improvement and that has been donned, is to be removed from the wearer, the secured lapped or meeting edges of the garment may be instantly released by sliding the rib upward and out of the clamp 11<sup>a</sup>, and then with a simultaneous movement pulling the edges of the garment apart, which will automatically unhook the hooks *e* from the eyes *c* and move the closer slide sections upward, the hooked connection being completely detached when the two sections of the closer slide impinge upon the knobs *h*, *h*.

As already stated the improved closer device is preferably applied for closing the meeting edges on the back of a waist or body of a dress, but I do not desire to restrict its use to such a purpose, as it is apparent it may be employed on other garments such as corset covers, corsets, broad girdles or leggings, and without any change in construction, afford effective service.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In a garment closer device of the character described, the closer slide, comprising two coacting sections, one section having a sleeve and a clamp projected laterally therefrom, and the other section having a sleeve and a rib that fits into the clamp, and when slid therein detachably secures the two sections of the slide together.

2. In a garment closer device of the character described, the two part closer slide, comprising two sections formed of metal, one section having a tubular sleeve slotted at one side and an open jawed clamp on the opposite side thereof, the other section of the slide embodying an open sleeve, and a cylindrical rib disposed opposite the open sleeve and integral therewith, said rib being adapted for a detachable inserted engagement within the open jawed clamp.

3. In a garment closer device of the character described, the two part closer slide, comprising two sections formed of plate metal, one section having a laterally curved tubular sleeve slotted at one side, and an integral open jawed clamp extended from the convexed side of the sleeve, the other section



of the slide embodying an open sleeve curved laterally and oppositely from the other sleeve, a cylindrical rib spaced from the curved sleeve at its concave side, said rib being  
5 adapted for slidable insertion into the open jawed clamp, a depending flange on the section having the rib thereon, and a ring on the flange.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of 10 two subscribing witnesses.

IDA JOSEPHINE CALHOUN.

Witnesses:

FRANCES G. BENDING,  
E. B. DRUMRIGHT.