

Feb. 17, 1953

L. T. SHALDA

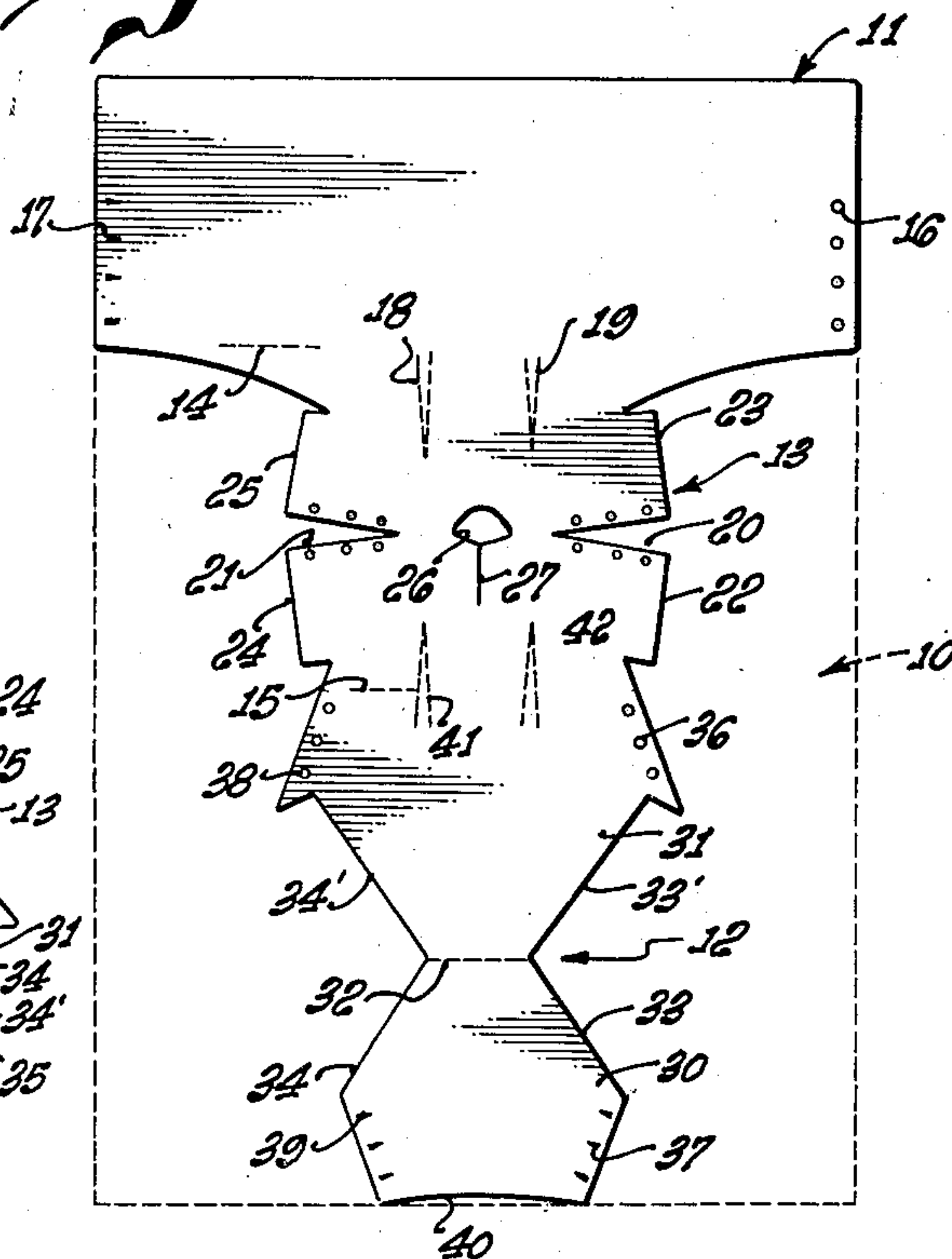
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GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

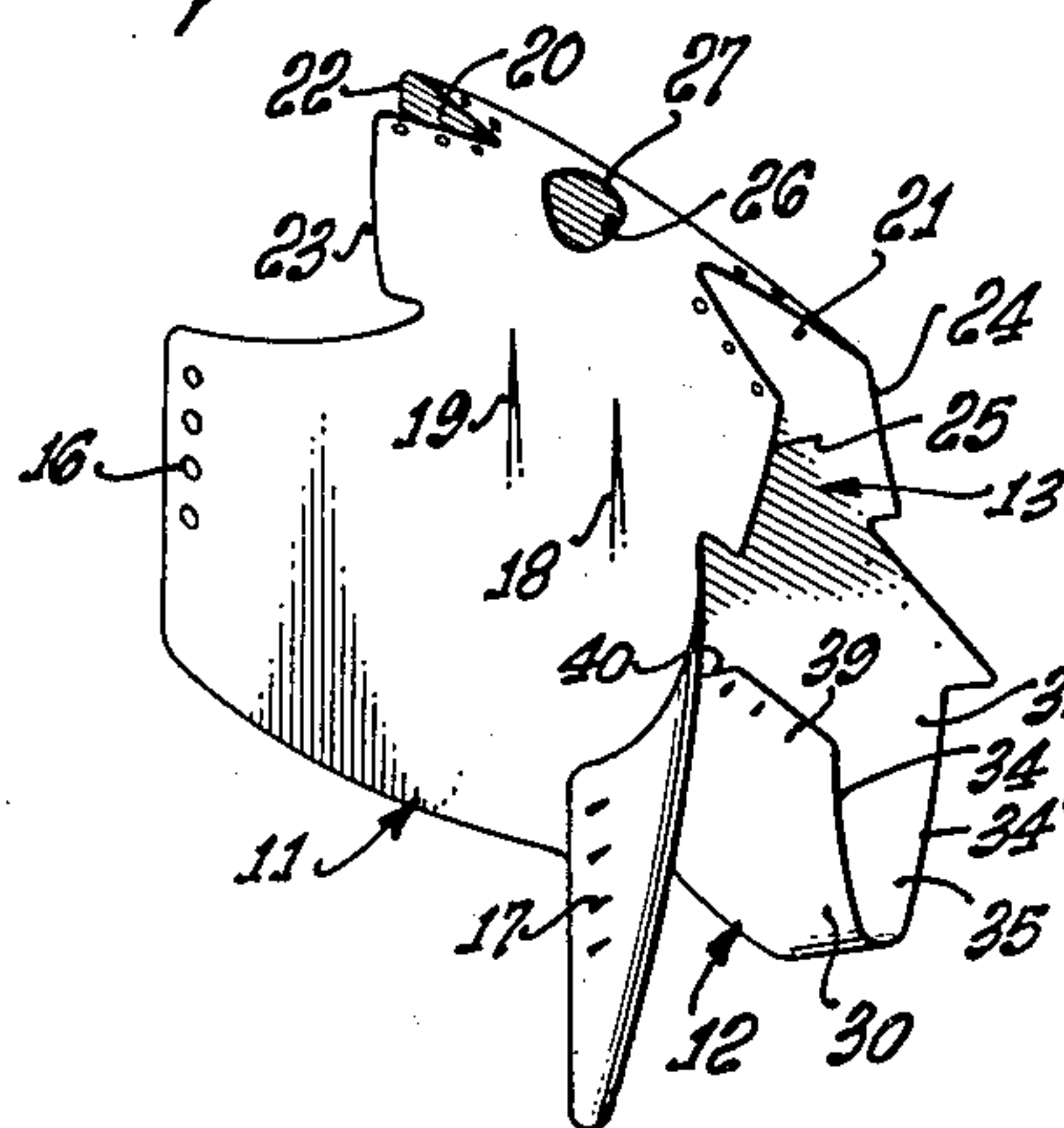
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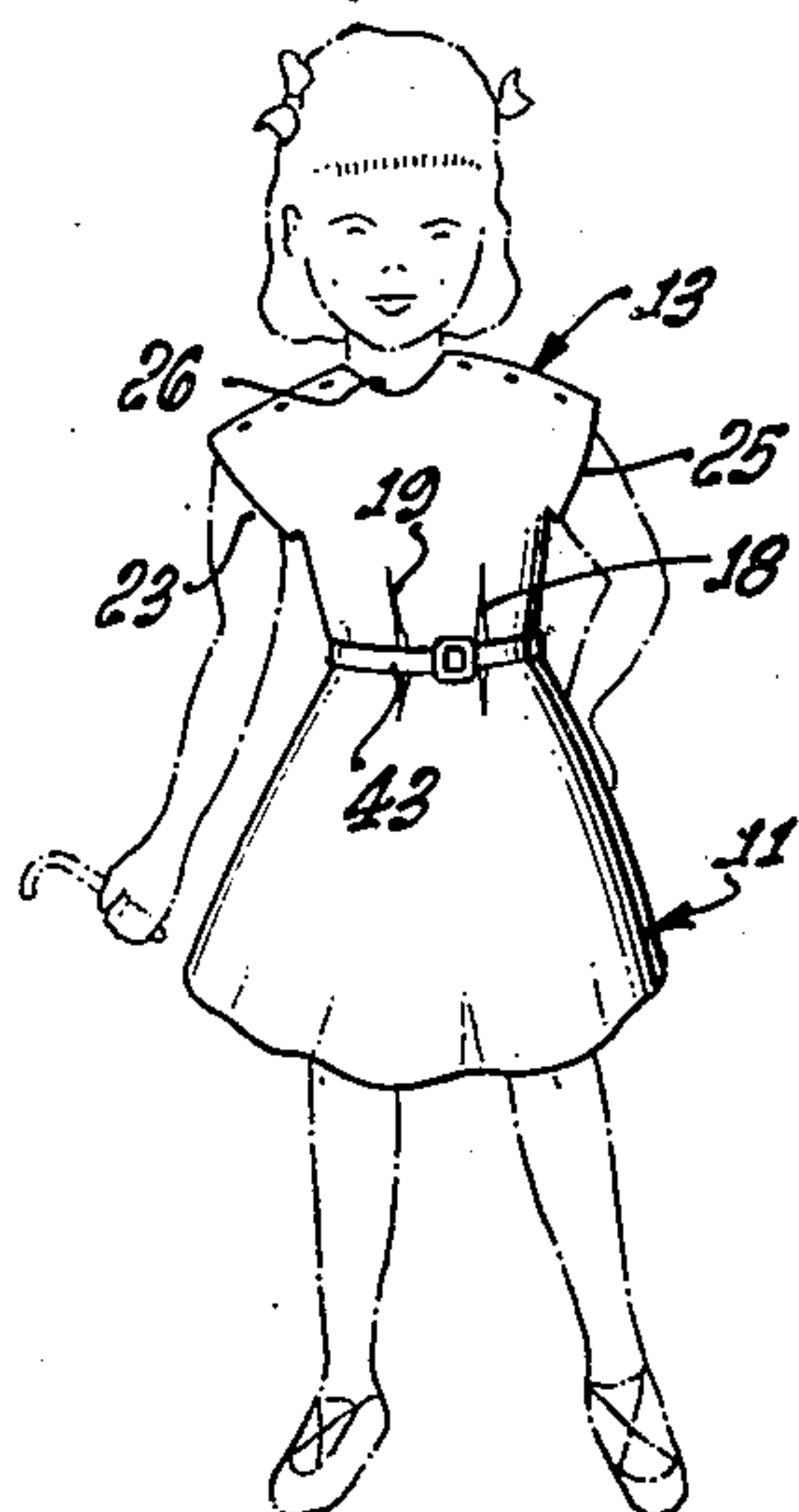
*Fig. 1.*



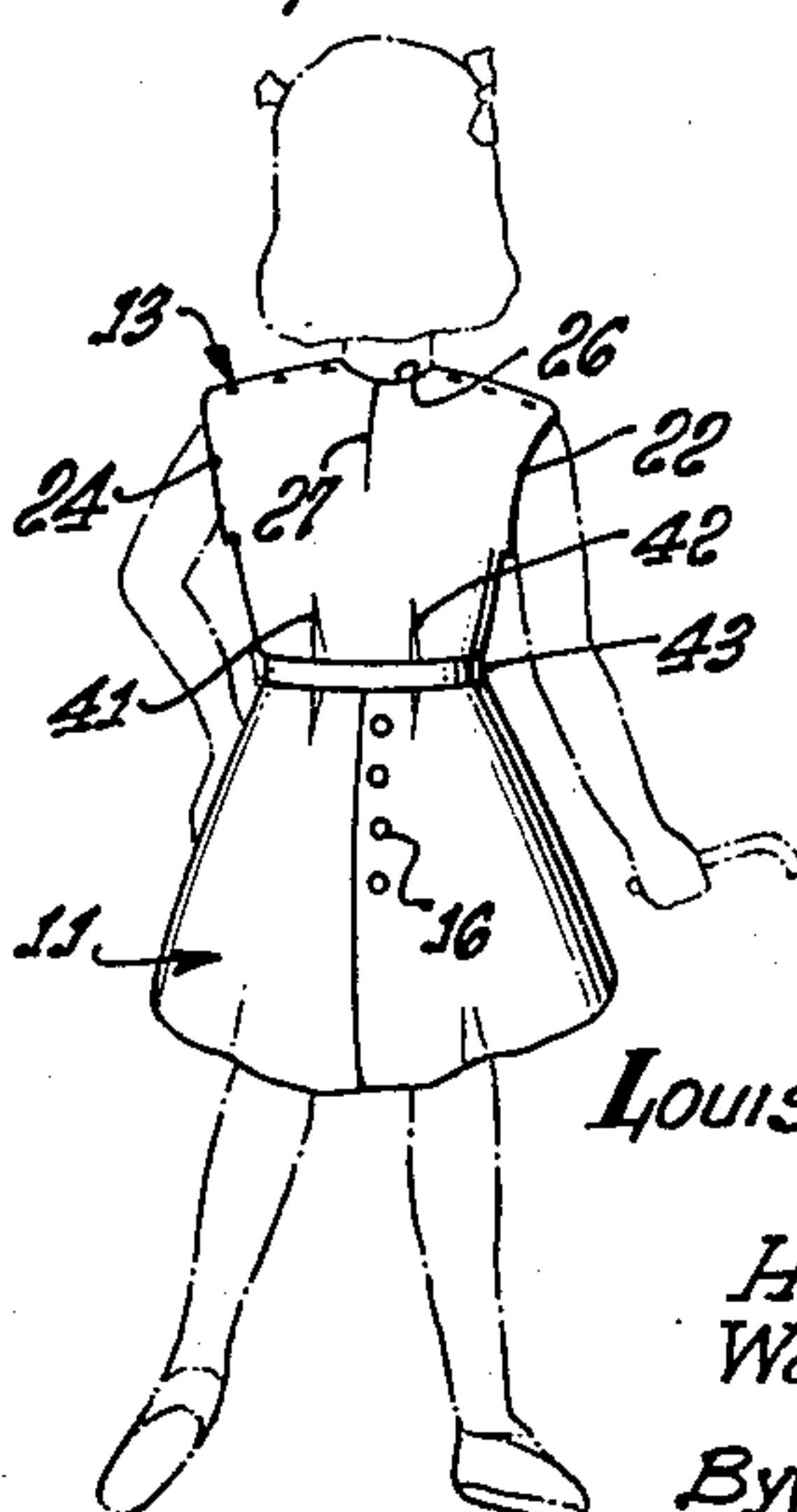
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



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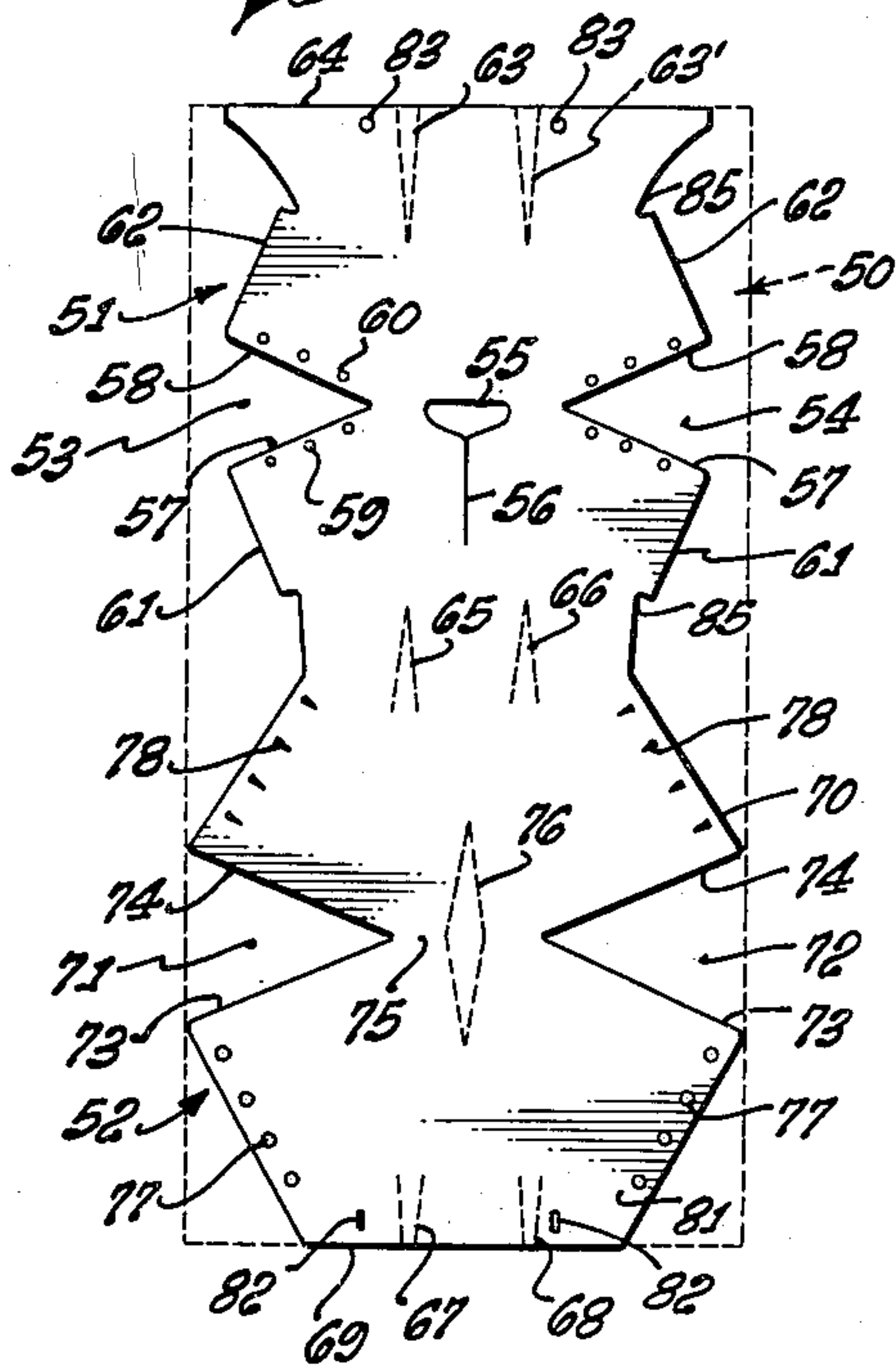
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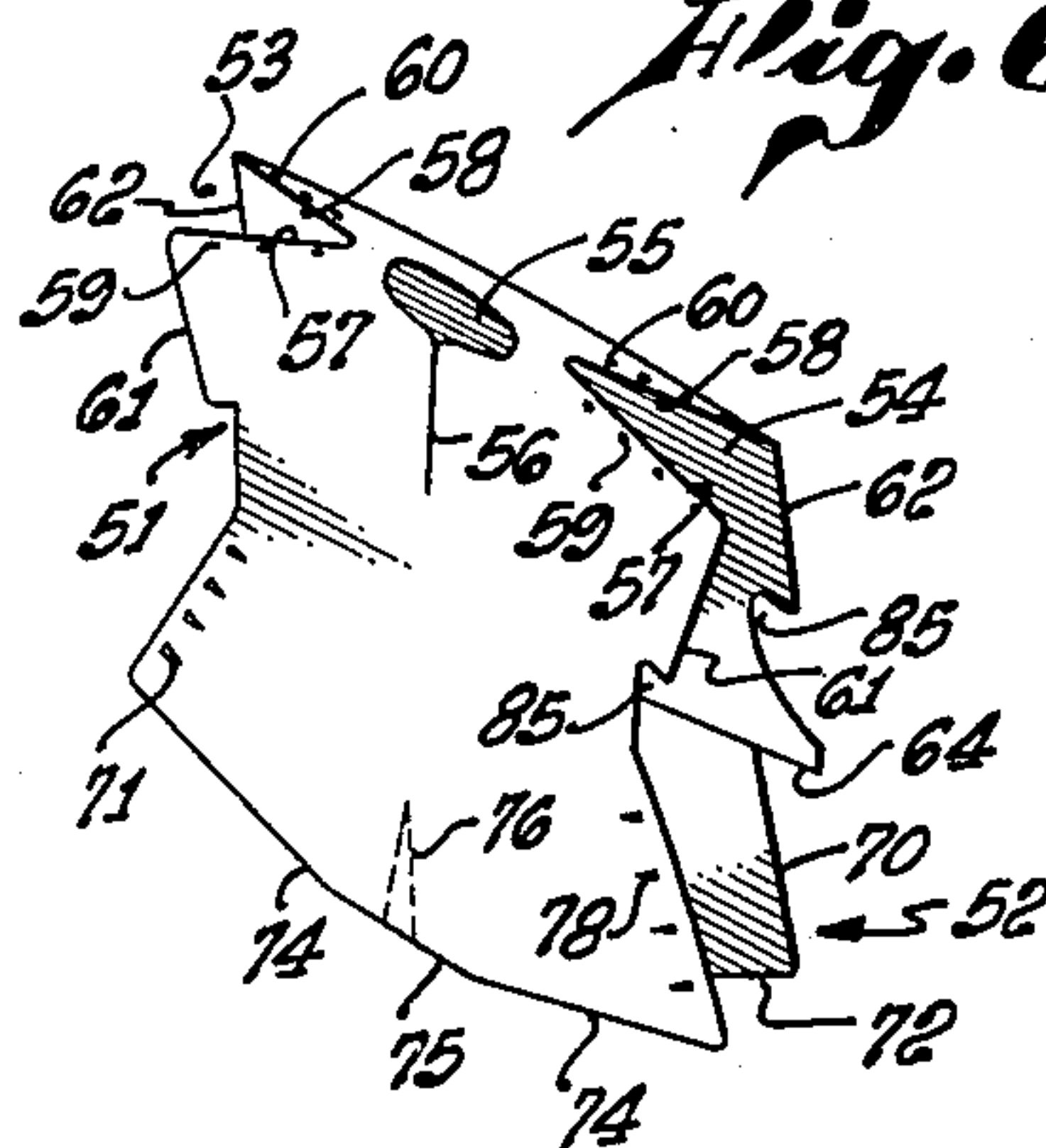
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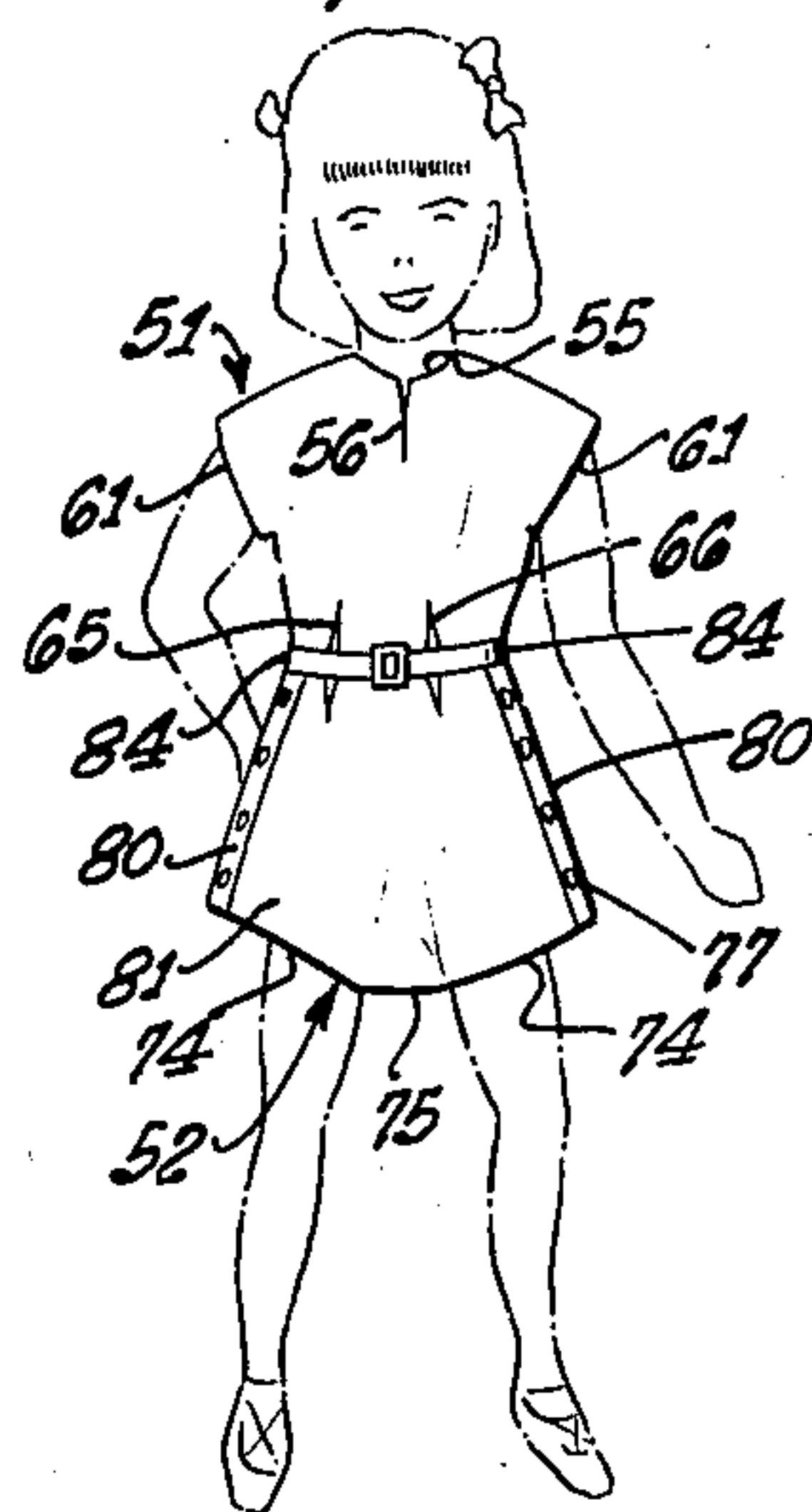
*Fig. 5.*



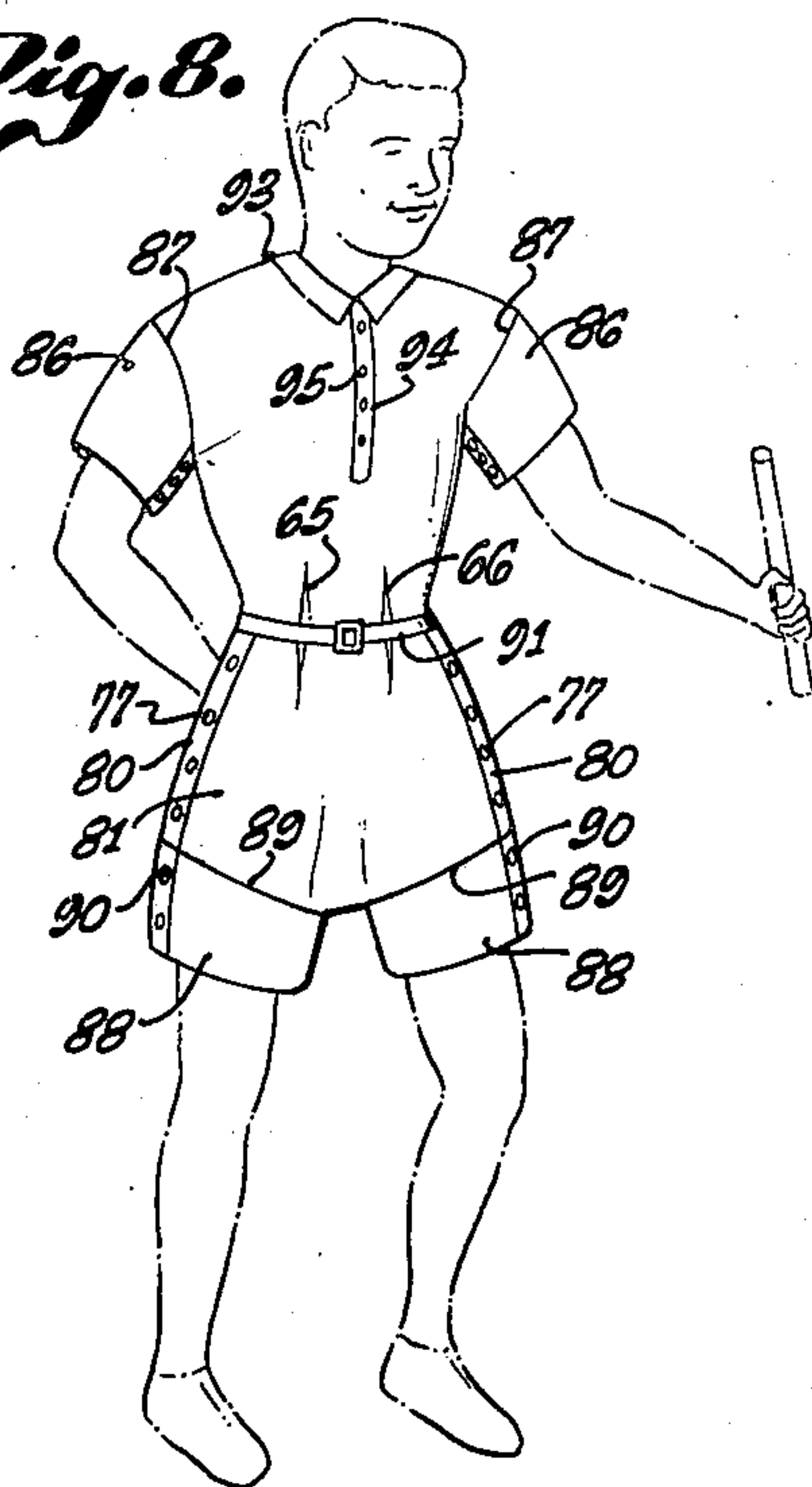
*Fig. 6.*



*Fig. 7.*



*Fig. 8.*



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2-71)

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The invention relates to the construction of garments for children and adults, both male and female. The invention is chiefly concerned with the simplification of garment construction so that the garment can be made economically, so that it can be laundered and ironed conveniently and moreover so that it can be attractively designed and tailored.

The layout of patterns for the cutting of goods to be made into dresses, suits and under garments, is an art long practiced and has long engaged the ingenuity of clothing manufacturers. More recent trends have tended somewhat to the standardization of patterns in the interest of simplified cuts. Even with this trend, however, substantially all garments require a great deal of hand sewing before the pieces defined by the pattern are brought together, first in what might be termed sub-assemblies, and finally into the completed garment. Moreover, even with the trend toward simplification the predominating theme in the construction of garments has been permanency in the stitching and forming of the garments so that once completed in a form designed to fit the wearer, no quick or convenient alteration can be made without ripping and re-sewing seams. Because of the tendency toward styling and decoration, laundering and ironing of garments has remained considerable of a problem. Of apparent little interest to the garment manufacturer is the fact that once the garment is sold the problem of laundering and ironing becomes entirely one for the customer.

Various trends in the pattern of modern living have impressed customers and housewives more and more with the fact that much time can be saved for other things where problems of washing and ironing dresses, trousers, blouses, under-things and other clothing are simplified and minimized.

Some attempts have been made to modify the character of materials by providing such material as "nylon," to the end that garments made of such materials can be hand-washed and hung up to dry without the necessity of spending time in ironing. The tendency to minimize the housewife's effort and time involved in caring for clothing in reality applies as much to the garments of adults as to the more frequently soiled garments of children.

It is, therefore, among the objects of the invention to provide a new and improved garment construction wherein a one-piece garment may be so constructed as to simulate a two-piece garment or a three-piece garment, as the case may be.

Another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved garment construction whereby the pattern for a simulated one, two or three-piece garment may lie in a single continuous

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piece of material which can be cut while flat as to all of its parts and thereafter folded and provided with fastening means to the end that it can be folded and fastened to fit the wearer and thereafter unfastened and unfolded so as to be readily laundered and ultimately ironed as a single flat piece.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a new and improved garment construction equally well adapted to garments for children and adults of either sex, wherein the pattern for the garment may provide for cutting all portions of the garment as a single piece and from a single strip of material, the surplus cutting providing trim and accessory elements, thereby minimizing wastage and scrap, and wherein the cutting may be such that permanent stitching is reduced to substantially a minimum and separable fastening means substituted for most of the stitching so that the separable fastening means can be unmade and remade at will, both for the purpose of adjusting the garment upon the wearer and for opening up the garment upon removal so that it can be conveniently and readily laundered or cleaned and ironed.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of the device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter set forth, pointed out in the appended claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a flat pattern layout for one form of the invention wherein the material is cut and ready for folding into the form of a simulated three-piece garment for children's wear.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the garment shown in Fig. 1, partially folded into a form ready for dress.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view depicting a girl dressed in the garment of Figures 1 and 2, showing the front view.

Fig. 4 is a somewhat similar perspective view showing the rear view of the girl dressed in the garment.

Fig. 5 is another form of the invention showing the garment cut from a single piece of material in a form adapted to simulate a two-piece man's garment adapted for sportswear, to which may be added as accessory, quarter length sleeves and legs.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the garment of Fig. 5 initially folded prior to application to the wearer.

Fig. 7 shows the garment of Figure 6 adapted in size and styling for a simulated two-piece garment for a child.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing the general arrangement of the garment of Fig. 6 to which quarter length sleeves and legs have been



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attached, the garment being styled and sized as a garment for a man.

In the figures above described and in the following description the scheme of the dress construction will be set forth directed to substantially simplify styling, while at the same time having in mind that the basic garment in some one or another of the modifications set forth may be constructed of innumerable kinds of materials, including light cottons or silks and also materials of stiff texture, whether natural or synthetic, depending upon the particular garment desired. The basic garment, as shown and described, is also sought to be presented as one to which innumerable trimmings, lace and other conventional accessories may be added to suit the individual taste, while at the same time taking advantage of a simplified basic garment construction.

As shown in Figures 1 through 4, inclusive, there is suggested a one-piece garment pattern which when finally folded and fastened in place simulates a three-piece garment consisting of a blouse, a skirt and under-pants. As there shown the garment is designed to be cut from a single strip of cloth 10, the outline of which is shown by the dotted lines. The portion of the material cut may be said to comprise one end section 11, another end section 12, and an intermediate section 13. For the purpose of description the end section 11 may be considered as joined to the intermediate section 13 at an imaginary transverse edge 14, whereas the end section 12 may be considered as joined to the intermediate section at an imaginary transverse edge 15. In this particular form of the invention the end section 11 will become a skirt, the intermediate section 13 will become a blouse, and the end section 12 will become a pair of under pants.

For the skirt there is illustrated by way of example buttons 16 adapted to engage button holes 17 in a manner such that the row of buttons and button holes lie vertically in the position the garment will have when worn. Darts 18 and 19 of somewhat conventional design may be provided to assist in fitting the garment in a desired style to the wearer.

The intermediate section although continuous with the skirt section is individually cut so as to provide for the formation of a blouse. One cut 20 extends inwardly from the right-hand side as shown in Fig. 1, and another cut 21 extends inwardly from the opposite side and lies opposite the cut 20. As here shown the cuts are somewhat V-shaped with the points of the V's spaced substantially one from another. As suggested in Fig. 2 the V-shaped cuts provide for the formation of the top of the shoulder on each side of the blouse. Adjacent to cut 20 are edges 22 and 23 which form what might be termed cuffs or hems on edges of the adjacent armhole. Similar edges 24 and 25 appear on the opposite side.

Intermediate the bottoms of the V's or cuts 20 and 21 is provided a neck aperture 26 having a slit 27 at one side to provide a greater opening for the head when the garment is applied to the wearer and which may, if desired, be provided with conventional closure means such as buttons, snaps, a zipper, or similar fastening device, or on the other hand, left open if fastening means are not desired.

The end section 12 is shown patterned so that when cut it can be formed into under-pants, and outer portion 30 of which is adapted to be folded in position opposite an inner portion 31, the por-

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tions being separated by a transverse fold line 32. For this end section V-shaped cuts form edges 33, 33', 34, 34', which are more pronounced and much more greatly divergent than the cuts 20, 21. The edges thereof form the edges or hems of leg openings 35 when the garment is folded in the position assumed for wearing.

To fasten the under-pants there are provided buttons 36 forming a row at one side adapted to engage button holes 37 located in the portion 30. Buttons 38 on the opposite side of the under-pants engage corresponding button holes 39.

When the garment is to be placed upon the wearer the neck aperture 26 may be applied over the head, allowing the end section 11 to hang at the front, and the end section 12 to hang at the rear. The portion 30 is then brought between the legs of the wearer and the buttons 36 and 38 connected to the appropriate button holes 37. This is sufficient to dress the end section 12 upon the wearer in the form of under-pants, a front waist band appearing at 40, and a rear waist band appearing at the imaginary transverse edge 15. When desired, of course, reinforcing may be applied at the location of the waist band. Such other individual reinforcing facing and stiffening may also be applied in the initial fabrication of the garment, as is most appropriate.

When the under-pants have been designed as suggested, the skirt which is formed of the end section 11 may be folded around the sides of the wearer and buttoned at the back by closing the button holes 17 around the buttons 16.

The garment when worn by the wearer is as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. As there shown, darts 41 and 42 have also been formed at the back, in order to gather the bottom of the blouse and the top of the skirt in the same fashion as the darts 18 and 19 of the front. It will be appreciated, of course, that additional darts and gathering may be provided as desired. Also a belt 43 may be applied at the dividing line between the skirt and the blouse. In the interest of simplicity the tops of the shoulders may be left open as in a play suit such as that depicted in Figs. 3 and 4 where the foundation or basic form of the garment has been preserved. If desired, however, some form of removable fastening means may be installed to close the seam at the top of the shoulders temporarily.

In the initial forming of the pattern some accepted practices should be taken into consideration as, for example, providing a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance on all edges and also allowing  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " for hems at edges where hems would normally occur.

Although the garment of Figure 3 is shown darted and gathered so that the skirt is buttoned at the rear, it will be appreciated that as a matter of preference the garment may be reversed so that the skirt buttons at the front. The buttoning of the under-pants may follow such similar changes as will suit different conditions of styling and wear.

In a second form of the invention selected to illustrate how the basic pattern of construction may be varied to accommodate itself to different styling and purposes, there is shown in Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 a pattern for a single piece simulated two-part garment adapted equally well to male or female dress. Here again the garment is cut in a single piece 50 of material shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 5. As there illustrated one end section 51 eventually becomes a shirt or blouse and another end section 52 eventually becomes a pair of shorts or play pants.



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To form the shirt or blouse, cuts 53 and 54 respectively, are made on opposite sides of the pattern layout for the garment, the cuts being made so that the bottoms thereof lie on opposite sides of a neck aperture 55 and spaced therefrom. The neck aperture may be provided with a slit 56 to enlarge it for application over the head of a wearer. The cuts 53 and 54 have side edges 57 and 58 which, if desired, may include some closure means such as a row of snaps 59 on one side and complementary snaps 60 on the other. Lateral edges 61 and 62 form the edges of armholes. Darts 63 and 63' may be provided adjacent a transverse line 64 forming the bottom edge of the shirt or blouse on one side. Similar darts 65 and 66 on the opposite side may be provided to gather the bottom of the blouse and also, if need be, to gather the top of the shorts or play pants. Darts 67 and 68 are for a corresponding purpose and are located along a transverse edge 69 forming the waist band of the shorts or play pants on one side.

The shorts or play pants, as the case may be, identified herein by the reference character 70, are formed by the provision of substantially deep shaping cuts 71 and 72 oppositely disposed and defining edges 73 and 74 which are the edges of leg holes. The bottoms of the cuts in this instance also are spaced from each other to leave material for a crotch portion 75 of the shorts or play pants. A cut-out portion or dart 76 may also be provided at this point, as illustrated in Fig. 5, for drawing the crotch together in order to give it a more shapely effect when worn. Buttons 77 on each side are adapted to engage button holes 78 and which when buttoned form side seams 80 of the shorts or play pants.

In the simpler form to which this embodiment lends itself, and as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7, the garment is adapted to be applied to the wearer by first lowering the garment so that the head of the wearer emerges through the neck aperture 55 and in this particular instance the front of the garment is the portion which remains intact and continuous between the shirt or blouse and the shorts or play pants. The endmost portion indicated by the reference character 81 is then carried back between the legs and brought up at the rear where button holes 82 may be adapted to engage buttons 83 at the lower edge of the shirt or blouse. The waist portion of the garment may then be drawn in by application of a belt 84, as suggested in Fig. 7. Additional shaping cuts 85 are suggested as a means of lending some styling and shaping to the portions of the blouse beneath the arms.

This basic pattern may be somewhat enlarged by applying quarter-length sleeves 86 to the armholes, these quarter-length sleeves being folded around the arm and adapted to be joined by some releasable fastening means 87 which may comprise buttons, snaps or comparable device. The quarter-length sleeves are designed to be stitched to the edges 61, 62 of the armholes, forming seams 87.

In a similar fashion quarter-length legs 88 may be applied to the edges 73, 74 by stitching, forming seams 89. The quarter-length legs when applied in this fashion need also have provided some releasable closure device such as buttons 90 applicable to suitable button holes. This form of the basic construction having the added quarter-length legs and sleeves as described may be adjusted to the wearer depicted in Fig. 8 in the same manner as depicted in Fig. 7, there being

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provided for added effect a belt 91 at the waistband.

As depicted in Fig. 8 a neck aperture may have applied thereto a collar 93 stitched around the edge of the neck aperture. An exterior decorative hem portion 94 of contrasting color, if preferred, may be stitched along the edge of the slit 56 and provided with button holes for engaging buttons 95 on the opposite edge of the slit. These accessories are suggested by way of example, having in mind similar additions and accessories which can be readily applied to different portions of the garment as taste may dictate.

Regardless of the particular form the basic pattern of the construction may take, it is designed to be removed from the wearer by release of the fastening means so that the garment when removed may be stretched out flat, as suggested in Figs. 1 and 5. In the case of the added quarter-length sleeves and quarter-legs as suggested in Fig. 8, the garment when spread out will not be completely flat but such slight gathers or unevenness will be only modest so that such slight variations from the flat effect will be of no material consequence either in laundering or dry cleaning, as the case may be, and subsequent ironing.

Garments constructed in the manner herein described, being substantially flat in form when opened for laundering and ironing may readily be ironed by mechanical ironing devices, as for example, ironing machines, without it being necessary to manipulate a hand iron into corners to produce a neat-appearing effect. Formed in this manner the garment may be quickly and easily cleaned with all parts readily reached by the washing medium. Less wear should therefore be experienced during successive laundering or cleaning operations and subsequent ironings. The time saved in cleaning and ironing will be readily apparent to those accustomed to the care of such garments.

Although the construction has been illustrated herein chiefly for conventional dress, it will readily be appreciated that the same basic construction may be highly advantageous for such use as uniforms in the various trades or elsewhere wherever a uniform type of dress is especially advantageous, both from the point of view of wearability as well as the care and maintenance of the clothes.

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

1. A single-element separable garment construction comprising an initially flat piece of garment material having two end sections and an intermediate section joined to the respective end sections, one of said end sections comprising underpants and having opposite cuts extending inwardly from opposite lateral edges forming edges of leg openings therein, complementary fastening means along lateral edges of said first identified end section comprising closures for outside edges of leg portions of said underpants, the other end section being continuous from one lateral edge to the other and comprising an exterior garment adapted to overlie said underpants, complementary fastening means on said last-identified lateral edges comprising a closure for said exterior garment, said intermediate section being joined to the end sections at transverse edges, said intermediate section comprising a separate exterior portion of the garment and having shoul-



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der portions intermediate transverse edges thereof, and said intermediate section having a neck aperture intermediate the shoulder portions.

2. A single-element three-piece separable garment construction comprising an initially flat length of garment material having two end sections and an intermediate section joined to the respective end sections, one of said end sections having opposite cuts extending inwardly from opposite lateral edges forming edges of leg openings, complementary fastening means along lateral edges of said first identified end section comprising closures for outside edges of the leg portions, the other end section being continuous from one lateral edge to the other and comprising a skirt, complementary fastening means on said last-identified lateral edges comprising a closure for said skirt, said intermediate section being joined to and continuous with the end sections at transverse edges, said intermediate section having opposite cuts extending inwardly from opposite lateral edges forming edges of shoulder portions and armhole edges adjacent said shoulder portions, the edges of said shoulder portions having complementary fastening means thereon having a junction at a seam at the shoulder, and said intermediate section having a neck aperture intermediate the opposite cuts therein.

3. A single-element three-piece separable and reversible garment construction comprising an initially flat length of garment material having

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one end section adapted to form a wrap-around skirt, fastening means at longitudinal end edges comprising a junction for ends of the skirt in direct or reverse position, an intermediate section comprising an exterior blouse permanently joined along one lateral edge to an adjacent lateral edge of the skirt, shoulder portions for the blouse and means for joining sides of the blouse in either direct or reverse position, said blouse having a neck opening intermediate the shoulder portions, and another end section permanently joined along one lateral edge to an adjacent lateral edge of the intermediate section and comprising a pair of underpants, said last identified end section having oppositely disposed inwardly directed cuts comprising leg openings and complementary fastening means along outside vertical edges of said underpants comprising outside edges of said underpants.

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