ABSTRACT

A trouser garment with an integral employable security blanket formed in a reversible pocket the trouser garment having at least one garment wall adapted to support the reversible pocket; said reversible pocket having opposed pocket walls secured about peripheral edges leaving an accessible pocket opening; an edge portion of the reversible pocket being graspable to invert the pocket for deployment exteriorly of the garment wall; said trouser garment having elongated legs with a selectively openable gusset disposed in a "fly" formed at the bottom of at least one leg whereby said gusset having predetermined graphic material in combination with the reversible pocket forms an elongated display.
POCKET SECURITY BLANKET AND PLAYTHING CONSTRUCTION

RELATED APPLICATION


BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to security structures known generally to parents and children caregivers as “security blankets” or “blankies” integrated into articles of clothing. Specifically, “security blankets” are articles known to, carried by, and fondled by children (and some adults) for their particular characteristics such as textures, shapes, colors, and/or scents, and include dolls or toys as well as the more common blanket, the physical, manual contact with which “security blanket” provides comfort and a sense of security to the user. The new and improved security structure of the present invention is directly incorporated into a pocket of a garment which may be reversed to expose the security structure—“blankie.” The reversed or inverted pocket will have tactile and/or visual characteristics comparable to those found in “security blankets” or “blankies,” namely a familiar look or feel, and, in some cases, scent. In an alternative embodiment, the structure may be in the form of a hand puppet or plaything. In a further alternative embodiment, the head element of the hand puppet is disposed in an upper pocket of trousers which include a coordinated foot portion in a zippered gusset at the bottom of the trouser leg. When the head is deployed and the gusset is exposed, the unique appearance of an elongated doll or object (snake, animal skeleton) is created.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The primary object of the invention is to provide a garment which has been provided with an integrated “blankie-like” security structure or plaything in a pocket of the garment.

[0004] In its simplest and most fundamental form, the pocket security structure is comprised of panels and comfortable, soothing fabric having a texture and tactile feeling duplicative of a security blanket or security toy. Thus, a child might find the security of touching his or her security blanket or security toy by simply reaching into a pocket constructed of comfortable and soothing security blanket/toy fabric. Further incorporation of a familiar security image or pattern on the panels will enhance the desirable security feeling of the child when the pocket is deployed by reversing it to expose both the familiar comforting imagery and/or the comforting tactile feeling of the security fabric.

[0005] In an alternative embodiment, the pocket structure is shaped as a plaything and supplemented by one or more plaything elements to give the reversed pocket a toy or doll shape. The toy or doll shape provided by the reversed pocket, in a further embodiment, may be accessed through a separate garment opening as a hand puppet. In a further embodiment, the pocket structure is deployed in trousers having a zippered gusset which may be selectively opened to reveal elements coordinating with the deployed pocket elements to establish an elongated plaything appearing to extend downwardly from the pocket to the bottom of the trouser legs.

[0006] For a better appreciation of the multiple advantages of the new and improved pocket security blanket invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a sweatshirt incorporating the integral security blanket construction of the invention with first and second “security blankets” deployed by reversing the pockets;

[0008] FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view of the sweatshirt of FIG. 1 with the first and second pockets in non-reversed status;

[0009] FIG. 3 is a schematic exterior view of a preferred embodiment of a first reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0010] FIG. 4 is a schematic interior view of a preferred embodiment of a first reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0011] FIG. 5 is a schematic exterior view of a preferred embodiment of a second reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0012] FIG. 6 is a schematic interior view of a preferred embodiment of a second reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0013] FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a sweatshirt incorporating the integral security blanket construction of the invention with third and fourth “security blankets” deployed by reversing the pockets;

[0014] FIG. 8 is a schematic perspective view of the sweatshirt of FIG. 7 with the third and fourth pockets in non-reversed status;

[0015] FIG. 9 is a schematic exterior view of a preferred embodiment of a third reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0016] FIG. 10 is a schematic interior view of a preferred embodiment of a third reversible security blanket pocket of the invention;

[0017] FIG. 11 is a front elevational view of a pair of trousers with pockets at the waist and zippered gussets at the bottom of the pant legs; and

[0018] FIGS. 12 and 13 are front elevational views of the trousers of FIG. 11 having integral head elements deployed from the pockets and having coordinated foot or tail elements exposed when the gussets are unzipped.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 2, the integral security blanket construction of the invention may be formed as reversible pocket 10 in the form of a “mini-blanket” or reversible pocket 11 in the form of a mini-toy or mini-toy head which is incorporated into a garment G. FIG. 2 illustrates the pocket in normal condition with the opposed pocket walls 12, 13 and 14, 15 disposed within the garment G (shown as a hooded sweatshirt for the purpose of illustration but any garment whatever which includes pockets such as, for example, shorts, trousers and vests may include the invention).

[0020] In accordance with the principles of the invention, the pocket 10 is formed from opposed panels or pocket walls 12, 13 having a very particular and distinctive recognizable tactile quality or feel provided by the inherent nature of the particular material chosen, e.g., terry cloth, velour, plush, silk, satin, mohair, cashmere or the like. The opposed panels (which may be formed by a single sheet folded in two) are attached by a generally U-shaped line of stitching 14 extend-
ing about the periphery of the panels 12, 13. Advantageously, a folded U-shaped trim strip 15 of contrasting textile material may be attached to the edges of the panels 12, 13 by the stitching 15 providing a pull-tab for inverting the pocket 10 from its internal position in FIG. 2 to its deployed position in FIG. 1. A child user may obtain the comfort of the security blanket by simply inserting her hand into the pocket or by reversing the pocket to expose the mini-blankie. As a more specific aspect of the invention, the panels may have a prede-
termined color or design similar to that of a full-sized blanket. Additionally, the one or more of the panels 12, 13 may be imprinted with a predesigned soothing aromatic scent (vanilla, spice, evergreen, or the like) to provide a further degree of comfort.

[0021] The pocket 10 is attached, to the garment G by any suitable means such as a circumventing collar 16 fastened both to the top of the pocket 10 by stitching 18 and to an opening 1 in the garment G by stitching 19.

[0022] An alternative form of the mini-blankie 10 is a toy head 11 shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 5 and 6. In this form of the invention, the opposed pocket panels 20, 21 are of tactile fabric, e.g., terrycloth, and are shaped to generally represent a head. The panel 20 is provided with eye, nose and mouth graphics 22, 23, 24 by embroidery to provide a distinctive look and feel. As with the mini-blankie of FIGS. 1 and 2, the doll head may be specially colored and scented.

[0023] An opening pull-tab in the form of a crest or mohawk crown 25 of contrasting textile material to that of the panel 20 (e.g., satin contrasted to terrycloth) is attached to the head by a generally U-shaped line of stitching 26.

[0024] The head 11 is attached to the garment G by the collar 27 attached by adhesive or stitching 28 to the head and by stitching 29 to the open end of the pocket and to an opening in the garment G.

[0025] Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8 where the reversed security objects 10, 11 are formed as hand puppets 30, 31 which when reversed from pocket mode of FIG. 8 to deployed mode of FIG. 7, may be accessed by hand. In accordance with the invention, the garment G is provided with a dual opening to accommodate access to the garment interior as well as access to the revers-
able pockets 30, 31.

[0026] Specifically, the pockets 30, 31 are formed in the manner of the previously described pockets 11, 12. They have tactile panels and contrasting pull tabs, for example, in the form of a tail fan (for a shark puppet) or mohawk crown (for a doll head puppet) as shown in FIG. 9.

[0027] As with the pockets 10, 11, the puppet pockets are attached to a pocket opening in the garment G by collar 32 and comparable stitching 33, 34. However, in accordance with the invention, the garment G is provided with an auxiliary extra opening 35 adjacent the collar 32 to provide access into the garment G and into the reversed pocket puppets 30, 31. The reversed puppet puppets, in addition to providing blanke-

[0028] Further embodiments of the invention are illustrated in FIGS. 11-13. In these embodiments, trousers 40 having upper pockets 41, 42 formed at the waist portions house reversible head elements in the form of a skeleton head 43 (FIG. 12) or shark head 44 (FIG. 13) or any other head element. The head elements may be constructed in the manner described hereinabove, the most important feature being its reversal from a concealed position to an exposed and visible position when deployed.

[0029] In accordance with the invention, a simple triangu-
lar gusset 44 is sewn or otherwise attached to the edges 46, 47 of a selectively openable, vertical “fly” 45 by a zipper 48 having opposed tracks 49, 50 and a pull 51. The zipper tracks 49, 50 and the gusset edges may be secured to the trouser legs 39 by lines of stitching 52. In lieu of zipper tracks 49, 50, marked and looped fastening tapes (Velcro®) may be substi-
tuted.

[0030] The gusset 44, which folds in upon itself when the zipper 48 is closed, includes graphics and/or construction features such as described above in connection with the doll’s head, for a “foot” or “tail” or other “bottom” element which coordinates with the deployed “head” to establish an elongated figure which appears to extend from the pocket through the trouser leg to the bottom exposed gusset. The completed figure can be a human, a cartoon, an animal, a dinosaur, a skeleton, a fish, a snake, virtually any elongated figure described. In FIG. 12, the “foot” graphic is that of skeletal feet 53 which match the skeletal head 43. In FIG. 12, the “foot” graphic is that of a tail 54 which coordinates with the shark head 44 to establish a shark extending for the length of the trouser leg.

[0031] It will be appreciated that other types of objects than security products may be incorporated into the reversible pockets and trousers such as tactile cartoon characters, tactile college mascots, tactile corporate logos, and other specific, deployable, three-dimensional imagery.

[0032] Moreover, reversible pocket structures incorporating a three-dimensional object which may be exposed for display or utilization of the object may be incorporated into neckties, backpacks, pajamas, footwear, and the like.

[0033] It should be understood, of course, that the specific form of the invention herein illustrated and described is intended to be representative only, as certain changes may be made therein without departing from the clear teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, reference should be made to the following appended claims in determining the full scope of the invention.

We claim:
1. A trouser garment having
   (a) at least one garment wall adapted to support a reversible pocket;
   (b) said reversible pocket having opposed pocket walls;
   (c) said wall secured about peripheral edges leaving an accessible pocket opening;
   (d) an edge portion of said reversible pocket being graspm-
able to reverse said pocket for deployment exteriorly of the garment wall;
   (e) said trousers having elongated legs;
   (f) a selectively openable gusset disposed in a fly formed at the bottom of at least one leg;
   (g) said gusset having predeterminded graphic material which in combination with the reversible pocket from an elongated object.

2. The garment of claim 1, in which
   (a) said edge portion is a discrete element having a predeter-
   mined shape extending outwardly from the pocket when deployed and extending inwardly of the pocket for ready grasping when the pocket is in its undeployed condition.
3. The garment of claim 1, in which
(a) said tactile material being selected from terry cloth, plush, velour, satin, mohair, and cashmere.

4. The garment of claim 1, in which
(a) at least one of said pocket walls includes embroidery establishing a predetermined design.

5. The garment of claim 1, in which
(a) said garment includes an access opening adjacent said reversible pocket;
(b) said reversible pocket walls form a hand puppet;
(c) the interior of said hand puppet when deployed is internally accessible through said access opening.

6. The garment of claim 1, in which
(a) said fly is openable by a zipper means.

7. A garment adapted to display selectively an elongated plaything, said garment including:
(a) trousers having elongated pants legs depending from a circumscribing waist portion;
(b) pockets formed in said pants legs at said waist portion;
(c) at least one of said pockets including an internally integrally disposed head-like portion adapted to be reversibly deployed exteriorly of the pocket;
(d) a selectively openable fly opening formed at the bottom of at least one pants leg;
(e) a concealed gusset disposed at the bottom of at least one pants leg behind said fly opening and having tail-like portion thereon;
(f) whereby said gusset may be selectively deployed to expose said gusset;
(g) said head-like portion and said tail-like portion when deployed combining to establish an elongated plaything extending from the pocket through the pants leg to the pants bottom.

8. The garment of claim 7 in which
(a) a zipper means is included for selectively opening and closing said fly.

9. The garment of claim 7 in which
(a) said gusset is generally triangular in shape and foldable about a central vertical axis.