

**THE USE OF GARMENT STEAMER IN CLOTHING
CONSTRUCTION**

BY

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MAT. NO ENV1905999**

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project work was approved by the department of fine and applied arts in the University of Benin and was carried out by chizea George ifechukwude with MAT No; env1905999

**OSAYANDE FESTUS
SUPERVISOR**

DATE

**DR OMOFOWA SHADRACH
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

DATE

**DR OYAKHIRE VICTOR ALABA
EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

DATE

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated, to God almighty who made it possible for me to start and complete this programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Jesus Christ our Lord and savior for giving me the wisdom, strength, support and knowledge to explore things for the guidance to surpass all the trials encountered by me and the encouragement and determination to study and pass all my examinations

In addition my thanks goes to dr. Mrs Lovina who used her valuable time to read through and corrected my work. I am also grateful to my head of department for his assistance and encouragement.

To my parents Mr and Mrs Chizea who gave me all the support i needed for this programme. May God bless you all. To my sister victor Chizea I thank you so much for your encouragement and advice. May God bless you for all your life desires.

To you Dr kennette, Mrs Peculiar who made it possible for me to achieve my academic dreams.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Fashion has developed over the years and as we grow and continue to develop we make use of so many equipment in the fashion studio in clothing construction and many other things; however, the term used for the workroom of a fashion designer is called a Fashion studio. Generally, human beings' use energy and skills to systematically carry out fashion activities but thrive better with the use of simple tools and equipment in the fashion studio for a well finished product. The scholars in their journal of the Textile Institute Transactions, (1930) Taylor & Francis wrote on the "handle" of cloth as measurable quantity. Saying in judging the feel or handle of a material, use is made of such sensation as stiffness or limpness, hardness or softness and roughness or smoothness.

From the above write up, it is an evidence that cloth textures and handling is very important as in the same vein, every worker in present day needs a well, functioning tool and equipment like the Garment steamer to obtain maximum output and create beautiful and stress free clothing in the studio for the public or personal use.

Garment Steamer is also known as Cloth Steamer. It was traced back to the early 1800s. the first cloth steamer was invented by French inventor, named Denis Papin. Papin was a physicist and mathematician who was best known for his work on steam engines; invented in

1679. Though, it was in 1905 that the first electric clothes steamer was invented by Hiram Perkins.

The Garment Steamer is a device used for quick removal of wrinkles from garments and fabrics at a high temperature steam. For instance, it can be used to straighten wrinkles on both sewn and unsewn garment by releasing tension on the garment or fabric, so that it straightens itself. This equipment because of its functions and flexibility in usage is necessary in a fashion studio. Thus, there is a need to provide some of this equipment in the department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin for better production and stress reduction on the students. This research provided some of this equipment and produced different garments with various fabrics for practical demonstrations.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The absence of a good cloth steamer in the fashion studio of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin is an issue that needs an urgent attention; since it is a very important equipment that easy production of garments and helps to remove dust and moist on fabrics. It also, have greater advantage over the regular pressing iron which cannot be used to iron sewn wears on hangers or on the body. Furthermore, it cannot burn cloths during ironing as the regular cloth iron does due to high voltage.

1.3 Aim and Objectives

The Aim of this project is to reduce the stress involved during and after garment construction especially in the removal of wrinkles from garments and fabrics. The Garment

Steamer has a very good multi-use that allows both sewn and unsewn cloths as well as worn cloths on the body to be ironed or strengthened.

The Objectives are as follow:

1. The removal of filthy smell from fabrics
2. The removal of dust from fabrics
3. used to freshen up clothes
4. used to remove bacteria

1.4 Significance of the Study

Steaming is an effective way to get wrinkles out of almost any fabric. To use a steamer requires less space especially the handheld steamer. Its takes less time and effort than ironing with a cloth iron. Plus, there are plenty of other benefits –even health related such as killing bacteria, alleviates allergens. This will be an important equipment in the fashion studio in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts.

1.5 Scope of the study

The global garment steamer is growing on the back of increasing innovation and both fashion industries and individuals are adopting its use in garment productions. Hence, its

provision and usage in this project is limited to the fashion student in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The literature review of this chapter was carried out under the following

- 1 History of the Pressing iron
- 2 Purpose of the Garment Steamer in the fashion studio
- 3 Component of a Garment Steamer

2.1 History of Cloth Iron

The process of improving the appearance of clothing by improving creases and removing wrinkles with a press or iron is very important to the fashion designer especially during garment construction. The component of a garment needs to be ironed by application of heat before joining together. Hence, the invention of the cloth iron by Mary Florence Potts, an American businesswoman and inventor. She invented the clothes irons with a detachable wooden handles, which was exhibited at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition world's fair. Her invention was well known throughout North America and the European continent, and this iron was very heavy. The Morning Post newspaper. Camden, New Jersey. June 26, 1922 reported that, Mary Florence Potts, was an inventor and she invented cloth irons with detachable wooden hands and was exhibited at

the world's fair. Her inventions were prominent throughout North America and European continent in the 20th century and became the most popular heavy metal irons ever made.

The cloth iron which can be called steam iron, dry iron, smoothing iron or flatiron is a small appliance that when heated by heat (coal) or electricity is used to press hard on clothes to

remove wrinkles and even to dry clothes. Its named from the metal that is iron and how it was made, Old and Interesting 2002-02-07. it works when heat and weight of the iron is pressed on the fabric and it is stretched and the fabric maintains its new shape when cooled down.

Before the use of electricity, iron was heated by combustion, either in a fire or with some internal arrangement. Two of the oldest sorts of iron were either containers filled with a burning substance, or solid lumps of metal which could be heated directly. Metal pans were filled with coal which were used just for smoothing clothes in china at around the 1st century BC. Then a fine iron box was made and was filled with hot coals, which had to be periodically aerated by attaching a bellows. Now a lot of irons that used this coal, and heated by fuels such as kerosene, ethanol, whale oil, gas.

The invention of the heated electric iron was made by a man named Henry W. Seeley of New York City in 1882. But in this same year an iron hearted by a carbon arc was introduced in France, but did not succeed because it was too dangerous. The was not easy to control the heat pressure so the first ever controlled heat iron was made in the 1920s. The patent for an electric steam iron and dampener was issued to Max Skolnik of Chicago in 1934. The first commercial electric steam iron was seen and used in 1926 by NEW York drying and cleaning company. The iron had so many names and meaning which were:

1 FLATIRON (American English), FLAT IRON (British English);

Used for smoothing clothes and had a handle and a solid, flat and metal base

2 SAD IRON or SADIRON:

This means solid or heavy iron

3 BOX IRON, IRONING BOX, CHARCOAL IRON, OXTONGUE IRON or SLUG

A base or a container where hot coal or metal brick or slug can be inserted to keep the iron hot.

4 GOFFERING IRON;

Used for ironing ruffs and collars.

5 GOOSE, TAILORS GOOSE:

A flat iron named for the goose like curve in its neck.

“Ironing are actually two separate techniques. Ironing is the back and forth sliding motion most people are familiar with and do regularly at home. Pressing is the placing of the iron on the fabric, holding it there, and then removing”. By Heirloom creation on the topic of pressing and ironing.

“Ironing is the process of moving a hot iron along material to remove creases and wrinkles”. By Masterclass on how to iron.

“Pressing is what you do when you’re making something out of fabric and it isn’t finished yet. When you press your sewn pieces you lift the iron and place it gently down over the area then lift it and move it again. It’s an up and down motion rather than a slide to side motion.”

By The Sewing Loft.

2.2 The purpose of Garment steamer in the Fashion Studio

A garment steamer or a clothes steamer is a device that is used to remove wrinkles from garments or fabrics with the use of high temperature steam. The care and keeping of you: The body book for younger girls by Valorie Schaefer: while aimed at a younger audience, this book gives good information on how to take care of clothes and use of equipment's such as

garment steamer.

The Sewing book by Alison Smith: while the primarily about sewing also tells

us valuable information about fabric care and maintenance. The Home Comforts Book of Caring for Clothes and Linens by Cheryl Mendelson gives us good guide lines on how to use the garment steamer and maintenance. The Japanese art of Decluttering and Organizing by Marie Kondo writes on how to take care of clothes using the garment steaming and other equipment's.

The Bachelors guide to life by Jason Rich wrote in his book that the steamer can be used as a steamer on hanging garments to remove wrinkles or as a more traditional steam iron and is a better solution for clothes (2005). In the same book The Bachelors Guide to life the writer said "Depending on your wardrobe, if a steamer is more useful to you than a traditional iron it makes your clothes last even more". In Europe, steamers have become more popular than irons to get rid of wrinkles. We wash clothes or make clothes but how about making that cloth look good and attractive, with the use of garment steamer clothes look and stay longer. The stress of using the regular iron is so outdated in this time and year, the steamer makes life and stress look and feel free and fast. A steamer will get wrinkles out of clothes in seconds and that's why every fashion, Laundry studio must have it for quick making or park ageing of clothes.

Lawrence Zarian (2014) preview said in his book “you know how your mother told you to hang a dress in the bathroom and run the shower to get the wrinkles out? Steamers work on the same principles, just much more efficiently and you are not wasting water”, In his book Ten Commandments for a Perfect Wardrobe. In Jenne Giles book Felt Fashion: Couture project from Garments to Accessories, said press cloth is a piece of natural, undyed cloth that can be ironed

though the use of the steamer through, protecting your felt and fabric from the unexpected staining

and scorching. Fashion Stylists Handbook by Danielle Griffiths (2016) this book expands on how to be a good fashion designer and the good and necessary equipment's needed to be a good and talented stylist and designer. An advantage to this garment steamer is that a quick steam can refresh cloths between dry cleaning, perk up creased coats taken out of storage and smooths wrinkles.

The steamer also removes dust from fabrics in order to prevent the fabric from looking old, or tired. It also helps to pick hair off clothes, a steamer cannot completely remove the normal iron for all our clothes but is the best advised to be used for quicker, and more effective outcome. Fashion designers love the steamer for their ability to refresh and revitalize textile without causing damage. The garment steamer provides good and simple solution for making and maintaining clothes or fabrics, the steamer makes the garment look polished and look good for presentation, it also removes any alleviates allergens that attract dust mites, causing you to itch and sneeze.

2.3 Component of a Garment Steamer

The Garment Steamer help in a lot of ways and a stress free equipment and very good and a necessary tool / equipment for the fashion studio. The hand held appliance is applied by applying steam to a cloth or garment or any other item made of fabric includes a pump, a boiler and a switch, Power flows to the pump then the pump pumps water from the water tank to the boiler.

The steamer is filled with water which is heated and exits from the device as steam. Most models have an electrical wire which is connected to an outlet. Using a garment steamer is very easy the following steps can be used for your fabric for better result:

1 **PREPARE THE STEAMER FOR USE:**

Firstly, one needs to understand that u won't just start using the steamer just in one goal, but instead preparing the steamer device, like pouring water into the water tank before turning on the steamer.

2 **HANG THE GARMENTS:** Hanging the garments on a hanger or cloth rack makes its better and due to the high temperature steam being ejected by the nozzle, does not allow your skin to come to direct contact with the steam which will only lead to injury.

3 **USE DOWN STROKES TO STEAM EFFECTIVELY:**

Unlike the traditional iron one needs to press the steamer or surface of the iron on the garment. But for the steamer one needs to bring the steamer close enough in order to remove wrinkles using the down strokes on a similar pattern which constantly loosens the wrinkled fabric. Also when one is dealing with a delicate fabric be sure to

be calm and gentle in your strokes and to keep the steamer 1-2 inches away from the area that has the wrinkle.

4 ALLOW ENOUGH TIME TO DRY:

When one uses the steamer there are at times wet spot are seen on the fabric where one had steamed. So allow the clothes to dry well but not to worry because it takes 5-10 minutes to dry after steaming. So one needs to steam early so to allow it dry well and give one that fresh smell.

Now these steps make one know how to use the steamer. As we know the steamer has so many components that make the steamer effective and useful for our clothes. These components are as follows:

1 WATER TANK:

This is one of the most important part of the steamer. The water tank helps in the process of the steaming.

2 STEAM OUTLET/ STEAM NOZZLE:

This role is just to direct the high pressure steam to your clothes. And most times it comes with soft brushes for the removal of hair or other material from your clothes during the steaming process.

3 TAMPERATURE DIAL: As the regular iron have the regulating heat control so also the garment steamer for so many cloth types.

4 HEATING ELEMENT:

Due to its reliance on steam to straighten fabric, a garment steamer comes with a heating element. The bigger the tank the bigger the heating element, the smaller the tank the smaller the heating element.

5 ON/OFF BUTTON:

This is just to switch on the steamer if needed and off if not in use.

6 WORKING LIGHT/ LIGHT INDICATEOR:

This is just to show if the steamer is on or off.

7 HANDLE:

Every steamer must have a well fixed handle for better result. It must be very strong and

not loosed. Movement can't take place if its loosed so ensure it fixed well.

8 USA STANDARD PLUG:

A well-equipped steamer should have a plug in order to connect to power supplier, this gives power to the steamer work well and effectively.

These are the parts that you see on the garment steamer. The steamer is very useful in a well-covered and strutted fashion building or origination, it brings out the beauty and brightness of clothes. The steamer is especially useful for Silk, Wool, Lace and lighter weight fabric or delicate fabric. The steamer avoids the risk of burning your clothes because it does not need physical contact. The role of the steam is to loosen clothes fibers and remove wrinkles. So it depends on the size of the steamer that determines the amount of work to be done on any fabric.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This project emanated after a proper study of the present fashion studio in the University of Benin and functionality of a good Garment Steamer for the studio and student use. This will make the use of the pressing iron less useful and make the student use the new age Steamer that is less stressful and easy to use, it will also make the work rate faster in the studio. Using the steamer will also make the cloths look brighter and smell better.

3.2 Generation of Idea

An adequate research and market survey was made by the researcher on the importance and reason for the equipment needed in the studio for this project. There for note was taken, on purpose, right use, budget needed, reason, and financial implication for proper execution of the project. More over a lot of research, interviews were conducted with a lot of fashion designers, dress makers, models and fashion advisers. Furthermore, a lot of literatures were noted and consulted.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The researcher collected data by asking and consulting the previous fashion designers in the studio who had worked on a project in the past, also took some relative data on their project write up. The researcher also looked and searched online of the different issues and things

relating to the project at hand. During the course of the execution of the project, the researcher also did some market survey where he gathered data on the cost of the Garment Steamer.

3.4 Materials

Due to the nature of the project, the only material needed for this project was the equipment which is the Garment Steamer and the fabric or sewn materials.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation of data and review the results and analysis of the qualitative findings of the study. During this project work a survey was carried out to examine the materials and procedures necessary for its success.

The followings show the steps and procedures taken to produce some garments, using some suitable fabrics for easy Garment Steamer usage. As earlier mentioned in this project write up, that the garment steamer does not steam all type of clothes but can steam fabrics such as wool, silk, cotton, lace and lighter weight fabric or delicate fabric.

Step 1: This involves making sketches of different designs, using some suitable fabrics for the easy use of garment steamer. The garment constructions include, a long slave top made from cotton fabric and short slaves tops made from light cotton (Ankara) fabric as well as a damack fabric.

Fig: 1&2 The Digital and Manual illustration of back and front view of a Long Slave Top. by the researcher

Fig: 3&4 The Digital and Manual illustration of Front and back view of a Short Slave Top. (using the light cotton fabric) (Ankara) by the researcher

Fig: 5&6 The Digital and Manual illustration of back and front view of a Short Slave Top. (the damask fabric) by the researcher

Plat: 1 & 2 Demonstration of the Cutting of the Sleeve and the Bodice by the designer

Photography by: Atomre Destiny

Step 2: This deals with pattern cuttings of the various designed garments for constructions, using the brown pepper. This process makes fabric cutting easy and aids the designer when compelling different segments of garment during productions. The segments in this various garments include; The Bodice, the Sleeves, the Collar, the Band, the Button area, the Pockets, the Cuff, the Armlet, the Neckline, the Shoulder.

Plat: 3 & 4 Sewing section by the designer

Photography by: Atomre Destiny

Step 3: This process entails the coupling of the different pieces of clothing that makes up the garments.

Step 4: this stages fitting is done and the applying buttons to the fabric is been added, the adding of fittings, like button completes the creation of the fabric.

Step 5: Entails the steps in using the garment steamer on the finished fabric, this process helps to know when and how a steamer can be used and know the processes on achieving a well finished fabric.

A: Add water into the garment steamer. The water can be warm or cold, the reason being that the steamer can only work better with cold or warm water and not hot water because, the hot water which is already boiled will over increase the steamer temperature and then damage it.

Plate 5: Adding of water into the hole on top of the steamer in other to prepare it for use on fabric

Photography by: Atmore Destiny

B: After purring water into the steamer's hole, it is then left for the steamer to indicate its readiness by showing a Red light on the indicator; then the heat from the steamer is applied on the fabric. This is done by placing the steamer 1 meter or 2 meters away directly from the fabric just for the steam to penetrate through the fabric.

Plate 6: Applying the Steamer on the Fabric and Showing how the movements of the Steamer

Photography by: Atmore Destiny

C: After using the garment steamer, the fabric is allowed to dry for about 2 to 3 minutes. This is because, when using the steamer there is always water dropping from the steamer unto the fabric which does not dry up immediately, except when heat from the steamer is concerted on the section or the fabric.

Plate 8: Fontal View of Long Sleeve Shirt immediately after using the Steamer

Photography by: Atmore Destiny

D: This is the frontal view of a brush which is a part or section on the garment steamer. The garment steamer comes in different types and sizes but this particular one is the 2 in1 garment steamer.

Plate 9: The Frontal View of Brush Section on the Garment Steamer.
Photography by: Atmore Destiny

E: The brush Section of the Garment Steamer is used to remove dust that might have gathered on the garment during sewing as well as to create luster on the garment.

Plate 10: Brushing the Fabric with the Brush Section of the Garment Steamer.
Photography by: Atmore Destiny

F: The brush section is removed or detached from the garment steamer when not needed for easy usage.

Plate 11: Detaching Process of the Brush Section from the Garment Steamer when not needed
Photography by: Atmore Destiny

G: After using the garment seamer, pure out the remaining water from steamer and clean properly with dried fabric or tissue paper for the maintenance of the steamer and prevention of being electrocuted.

Plate 12: Removing the remaining water from the steamer after use.
Photography by: Atmore Destiny

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The construction of some long sleeve and sleeveless tops with different fabrics for this project has been made easy with the use of the garment steamer. The use of the garment steamer has helped to reduce stress and time wastage during garment production since the tool can be used even after the garment has been constructed to smoothen the fabric. Also the project has offered an insight on how the garment steamer can be use, maintain and preserved for better functionality hence the need for a fashion studio to have a garment steamer cannot be over emphasized.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion the construction of some long sleeve and sleeveless garments has been made easy, less time taken and lustrous with the aid of the garment steamer. The innovation and invention of some fashion tools, equipment and other materials has helped modern fashion designers, to create fashionable, trending, functional, valuable and durable wears. the garment steamer does not burn clothes or even the skin, the pressing process can be done while standing unlike the regular iron. The garment steamer is not well known like the cloth press iron, but easier to use and removes both dust and odor from the fabric.

