

J. W. SCHLOSS.
GARMENT SUPPORTER.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1909.

970,120.

Patented Sept. 13, 1910.

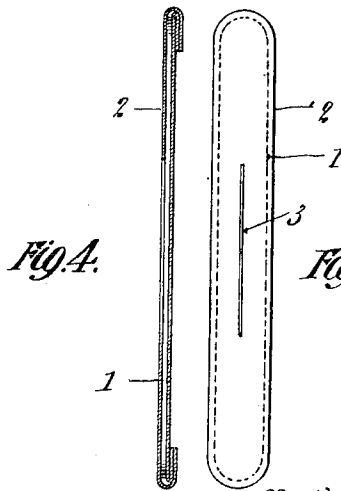
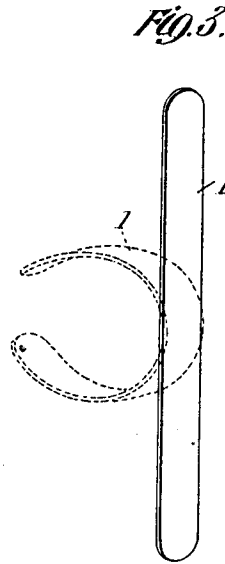
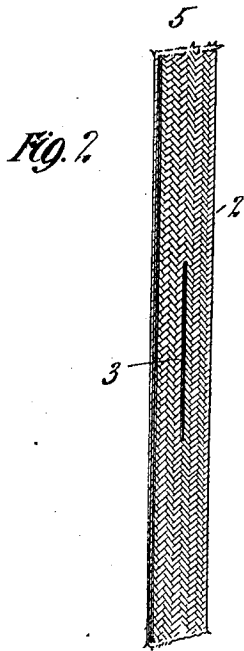
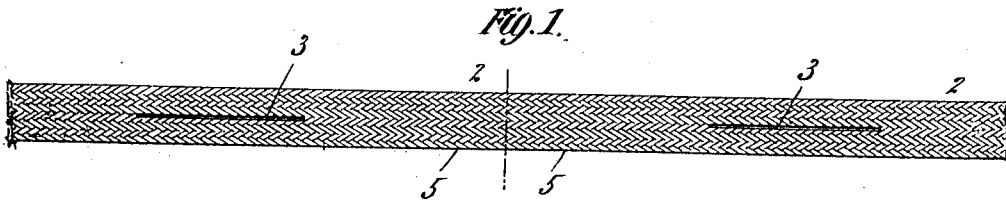


Fig. 5.

Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

970,120.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 13, 1910.

Application filed July 17, 1909. Serial No. 508,104.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH W. SCHLOSS, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of New York, in the borough of
5 Manhattan and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Supporters, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

10 My invention relates to garment stiffeners.

Lace and other soft fabrics which are used for ladies' collars and other apparel do not have enough inherent stiffness to serve their required purposes, and it is customary to employ resilient ribs, blades, or
15 strips, secured to the fabric and serving to provide the stiffening qualities which are required. Such ribs, or strips are, however, inconvenient in washing the fabric, especially if made of cardboard or the like, and attempts have been made to have the stiffening strips removable from the fabric by a simple manipulation whenever desired, but
20 without sacrificing the qualities of firm and complete engagement with the fabric in normal use, and inconspicuousness and attractiveness of appearance. So far as I am aware, these results have never been perfectly attained, and it is the purpose of my
25 invention to provide an improved form of stiffener which is adapted to secure the said purposes.

With this object in view my invention consists in the features of construction and combination as hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a side view of an incomplete stiffener covering showing the manner of manufacture. Fig. 2 is a front view of the stiffener partly completed.
40 Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the core. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the completed stiffener with the core in place, and Fig. 5 is a front view of the same.

Referring to the drawings in which like
45 parts are designated by the same reference sign, 1 denotes the core and 2 the cover of the preferred form of my garment stiffener. The core 1 may be made of stiff cardboard, celluloid, metal, or any resilient strip material having sufficient firmness to exert its proper functions in use, and having sufficient elasticity or flexibility to permit its bending into a loop as shown in dotted lines of Fig. 3. I make the cover 2 of woven or
55 braided fabric manufactured in a loom or

braiding machine in a continuous tubular indefinite length, and having a longitudinally extending slit 3, repeated at spaced intervals along such length. This slit is conveniently made by adjustments of the loom
60 or braiding machine which will be understood by those skilled in the art, producing the complete tubular woven or braided covering fabric in one continuous length, with the equally spaced apart slits 3, the latter
65 being of equal length and having uniform selvage edges. It is then merely necessary to cut up the fabric covering between the slitted portions thereof, into sections 5 of equal length adapted to constitute individual covers for the stiffeners.
70

The length of each section 5 is slightly greater than the length of the core 1. Each section has its ends folded over and pasted or otherwise fastened down so that the resultant interior cavity has a longitudinal
75 dimension snugly corresponding to that of the core 1. The slit 3 is symmetrically located between the ends of the stiffener under these circumstances, and is made of sufficient longitudinal extent to permit the insertion of the core 1, after the latter has been doubled or looped upon itself in the manner shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3. As
80 the core resumes its rectilinear shape it expands into the ends of the cover, rounding such ends outward in an ornamental manner as is desired. This rounding of the ends is mainly due to the nature of the braided fabric which I prefer to employ, and which
85 has a strong contractile tendency causing it to draw together at the ends where it is not expanded by the core. The folding over of the protruded ends gives the rounded outline shown in Fig. 5 when the core is
90 in place. This is not only ornamental, but is a distinct advantage from the standpoint of utility, because the rounded ends present no sharp corners which might scratch the neck or person of the wearer. In this condition the stiffener is sewed to the collar or
95 other fabric to be stiffened, the stitches, of course, not penetrating the hard central core. The tension of the fabric cover on the core is not only adapted to round out the ends of the cover as above described, but also stretches the walls of the slit 3, thereby pulling them together so that the slit is entirely closed and practically invisible. The slit is
100 disposed in the cover so that the core when

in position will afford a flat face adjacent the slit, which is advantageous for several reasons. It is evident that the action of the core upon the fabric places the latter under tension, and, hence, as aforesaid, the material forming the walls of the slit is rendered taut, the walls of the slit closing neatly together as a result. It is for this reason especially that woven fabric is preferred to other material. The lips or walls of the slit close very closely by reason of the adjacent face of the core having a flat surface, and further when it is desired to remove the core, bowing it forces the said lips apart so that the fingers may readily engage with the core. A further advantage resides in the fact that the edges of the assembled stiffener are adapted to be sewed through at any point along their length without interfering with the ready removal of the core when desired. The closing of the slit in this way evidently effects the entire concealment of the core at the same time, so that the latter is never visible under any circumstances when within the cover. The appearance of the completed stiffener is ornamental and attractive, presenting only the smooth regular outline of the cover, practically the same as if the core were permanently incased. Not only this, but the wearer is never subjected to the discomfort of contact with the hard core at any point since there is no point

where the core is exposed to permit such contact.

When the stiffener is doubled or looped upon itself for the purpose of removing the core, the above tension is removed and the side edges of the slit are easily separated sufficiently to permit the withdrawal of the core.

What I claim, is:—

A garment stiffener comprising an elongated and normally flat fabric cover having closed ends, said cover having a narrow slit in one of the flat faces thereof and substantially on its longitudinal median line; a flat bowable and resilient core disposable into and removable from said flat cover while the flat face of the core is faced toward a flat side of the cover, the slit being positioned directly over a flat face of the core when the parts are assembled and said core being of somewhat greater length than the normal length of the cover; the strands of the cover fabric being placed under tension by the insertion of the core and thereby normally maintaining the lips of the slit closed before the said face.

In witness whereof, I subscribe my signature, in the presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH W. SCHLOSS.

Witnesses:

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