April 3, 1962 B. B. RUBY 3,027,566

GARMENT WAISTBAND CONSTRUCTION

Filed Dec. 11, 1958

FIG. 1

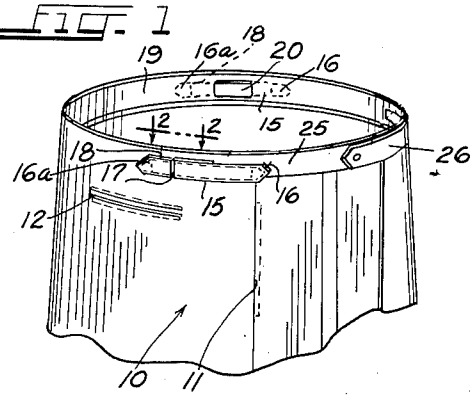


FIG. 2

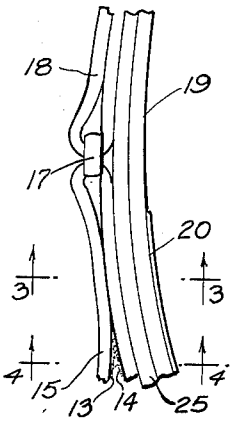


FIG. 3

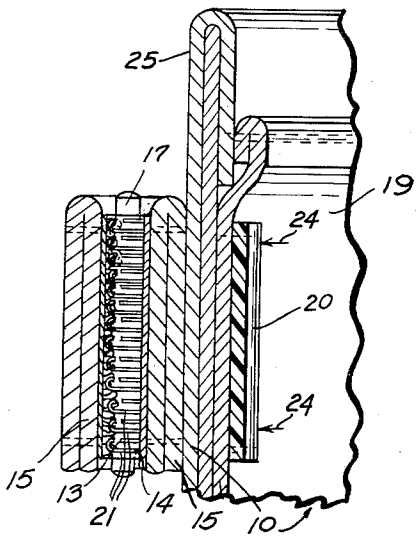


FIG. 4

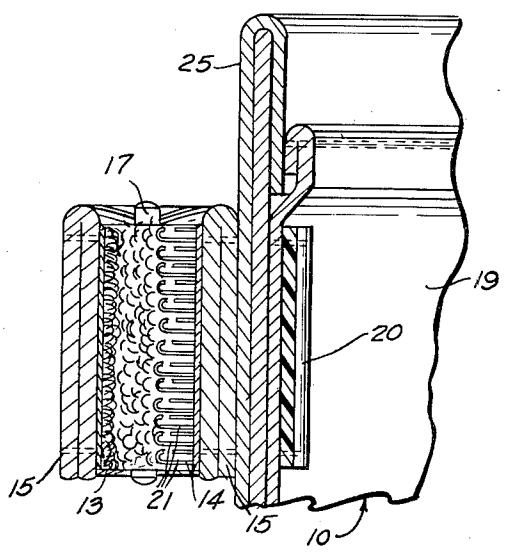
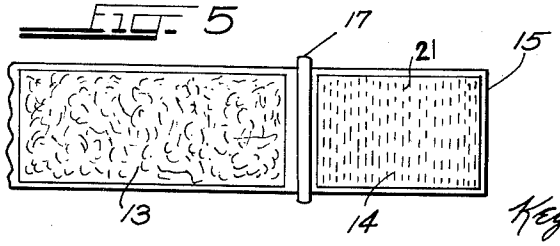


FIG. 5



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GARMENT WAISTBAND CONSTRUCTION

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—237)

This invention relates to garments provided with means for adjusting the waistband.

Men's slacks, women's skirts, children's pants, and the like, are often provided with adjustable means for constricting the waistband. When the waist of the garment is properly adjusted to the waist of the wearer, the garment hangs from its waistband, and does not need to be supported by a belt.

Conventionally, these waist adjusting devices consist of a pair of straps sewn to the outside of the garment waistband, and provided with means for fastening the two straps together. One well known arrangement is to provide one strap with a buckle through which the other strap passes and by which it is retained, the waistband of the garment being constricted by drawing the two straps together. Some of these devices permit adjustment in very small increments, but it usually is something of a nuisance to loosen the buckle and move the strap to adjust the waistband to a new position. A more convenient arrangement is to provide one strap with a metallic ring or the like, and the other strap with a button and a few button holes, or a few snap fasteners, so that this strap can be passed through the ring on the other strap and fastened back upon itself in two or three predetermined positions. The principal disadvantage of this construction is that nice adjustments cannot be made, the user being limited to two or three predetermined sizes at the waist.

The present invention improves upon the previously known constructions by completely eliminating buttons, buttonholes, snap fasteners, buckles with teeth, tongues or moving parts, and by permitting the waistband to be constricted with fine adjustment to the smallest increments of positioning, and simply, quickly and easily.

This is accomplished by providing the inside of one of the adjusting straps with two facings of self-adhering fabric, and using said strap in conjunction with a conventional strap provided with a ring or closed loop of metal, plastic or the like.

It is common practice to place friction pads on the inside of trousers and the like, to help keep the shirt tails from working up out of the trousers. The present invention, in one of its modifications, contemplates the use of a somewhat similar pad of soft rubber, felt or the like positioned on the inside of the waistband so that it is separated from my new waist adjusting straps only by the fabric of the waist of the garment itself. In this location, the body of the wearer presses against the pressure pad, which in turn presses against the two adhering facings of the waist adjusting strap, thereby keeping the two facings securely fastened together. The inner surface of the pressure pad in addition functions as a conventional friction pad.

Thus it is an object of the present invention to provide a waist adjusting construction which eliminates belts and buckles, lies flat against the waist, and is easy to manufacture and to use.

The present invention will be better understood from a consideration of the annexed drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary view in perspective of the top part of a garment, such as a pair of men's slacks or a woman's skirt, embodying the instant novel waistband combination;

FIGURE 2 is a fragmentary plan view of a portion

of the garment, taken at the waist-adjustment means, along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a fgragmentary view, partly in cross section, taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2, showing the cooperating fastening portions locked together;

FIGURE 4 is a fragmentary view, partly in cross section, taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 2, showing the cooperating fastening portions in opened position; and

FIGURE 5 is a fragmentary elevational view of the side adjusting straps, laid flat in open position and passed through the loop with which it cooperates.

Referring now more particularly to the drawing, FIGURE 1 illustrates the waist portion of a garment **10**, such as a pair of slacks or a skirt, and illustrated as having a side pocket **11**, a back pocket **12**, and a fly closing strap **26**. The garment is provided with two sets of waist adjusting straps, one at each side. Each set consists of a conventional strap **18** sewn or otherwise suitably fastened to the outside of the garment waist at **16***a* and having fastened to it a conventional closed loop **17** of metal, plastic or the like. The adjusting strap **15** is passed through the metal loop **17** and folded back upon itself with the folded end adjacent the garment waist, as is better shown in FIGURE 2. Said strap **15** is sewn or otherwise suitably fastened to the garment waist at **16**.

The inside of adjusting strap **15** is provided with a self-adhering facing, which may consist of one or more surfaces having the necessary adhering properties. A suitable facing is the velvet type fabric described and claimed by George de Mestral in U.S. Patent 2,717,437, patented September 13, 1955. Preferably, and as shown in FIGURE 5, two separate facings **13** and **14** are employed. For example, and as shown in FIGURES 3, 4 and 5, the facing **14** may have a raised nylon pile **21** severed to provide a very large number of resilient hooks. The facing **13** may be of similar material, so that when the facings **13** and **14** are pressed together, they are held together by intermeshing of the hooks. However, facing **13** may be of any material to which the hooks **21** will adhere. It is a characteristic of facings of this type that when pressed together they resist sliding movement relative to each other; yet they may be readily pulled apart. Since any portion of facing **14** will adhere to any portion of facing **13**, the waist adjustment may be made with any desired degree of exactitude. In FIGURE 5 the metal loop **17** is shown between the two facings, before facing **14** is bent over upon facing **13**. By pulling the adjusting strap **15** farther through the metal loop **17**, the waistband of the garment is made narrower.

In FIGURE 1 a second set of waist adjusting straps is shown in broken lines on the side of the waist opposite the first set of adjusting straps.

As shown in FIGURES 1–4 inclusive, a pressure pad **20** is sewn or otherwise fixed to the inside lining **19** of the garment's waistband **25** immediately next to the region of contact of facings **13** and **14** so that the waist of the wearer exerts pressure in the direction indicated by the arrows **24, 24** (FIGURE 3), which is transmitted to the facings **13** and **14** and thus serves to keep them pressed together even more firmly.

Since said facings **13** and **14** strongly resist sliding movement relative to each other, the waist adjusting mechanism does not yield in response to the breathing or other movements of the wearer, but remains firmly in place, thus tailoring the waist of the garment nicely to the waist of the wearer. However, when the garment is not being worn, or when the waist is unfastened at the fly closing strap **26**, the coacting facings **13** and **14** may readily be peeled away from each other for the purpose of establishing a different degree of waist constriction.

FIGURE 3 shows the working elements in locked

position, with the free end of the adjusting strap **15** folded under the remainder of said strap **15** and thus pressed against the waistband **25**. FIGURE 4 illustrates the relative relations of the locking parts as the two facings **13** and **14** are peeled away from each other by force applied perpendicular to the plane of sliding contact between said facings.

From the foregoing description, it is apparent that the instant invention is a substantial improvement over previously known waistband adjusting devices. It eliminates the use of buttons and snap fasteners, which are sometimes broken or rendered useless during laundering or ironing; replaces buckles having tongues or sliding toothed gripping bars, and instead employs a simple closed loop of metal or the like; is easy and inexpensive to incorporate in garments on a commercial scale; is convenient and easy to use; and presents a very neat appearance.

What is claimed is:

Means for finely adjusting the waist size of a garment, said adjusting means consisting of a loop, means connecting said loop to the outside of the waistband of said garment, and a strap having one end connected to said outside of the waistband and another end normally free, said strap having a first adhering portion adjacent said connected end thereof and a second adhering portion between said free end and said first strap portion, said second adhering portion being extendable through said loop and foldable into facing adhering relation with the first adhering portion, said adhering strap portions being inseparable in response to a force exerted substantially perpendicular to said strap and being separable in response to a peeling action, said free end of the strap being adherable with any point on the first adhering portion of the strap, and further comprising a resilient pressure pad attached to the inside of said waistband and in alignment with said first strap portion.

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