Jan. 5, 1943. A. R. GOLDSTON 2,307,213

GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

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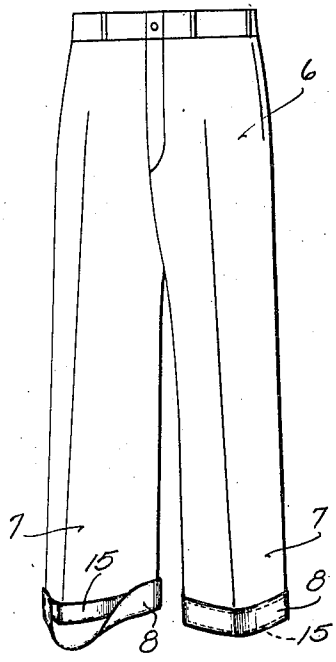

Fig. 1.

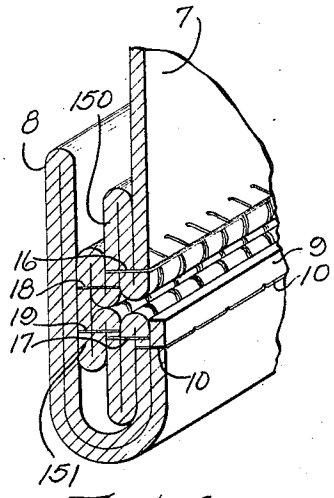

Fig. 4.

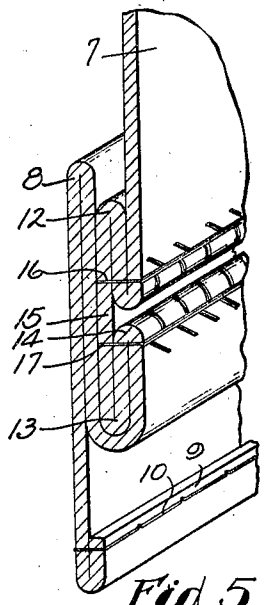

Fig. 5.

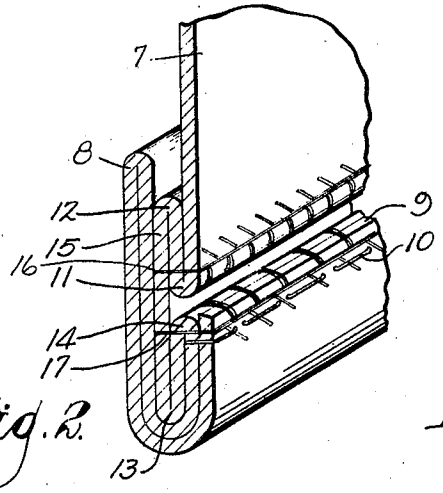

Fig. 2.

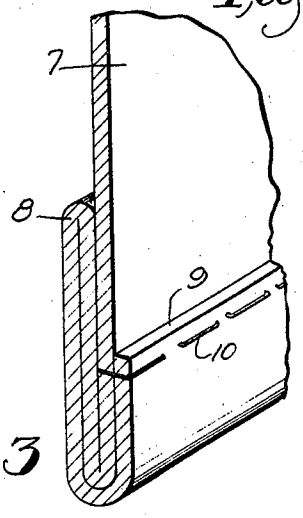

Fig. 3

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GARMENT CONSTRUCTION

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8 Claims. (Cl. 2—269)

This invention relates to improvements in garment construction.

It is the primary object of the invention to provide a novel and improved means whereby ready made garments may be lengthened in one or more successive steps as desired to adapt them to fit a number of different customers without the expense of alteration.

By way of exemplification I have shown my invention applied to a trouser leg, but it has other possible applications in the garment field.

At the present time the actual cost to the retailer handling ready made trousers is 15¢ to 35¢ for alterations to the cuff to adapt the garment to the requirements of different wearers for whom the garment is fitted in all respects except leg length. It is my object to eliminate such expense completely in practically all cases involving garments made in accordance with the present invention, my purpose being to provide a seam concealed within the cuff of the trouser leg which includes one or more pleats, preferably box pleats, the component parts of which may be opened singly or collectively without the use of special equipment and without requiring any reseaming to adapt the length of the trouser leg to the customer.

It is my further purpose to provide a construction in which the increase in length may be accomplished in predetermined increments so that by mere comparison of the customer's requirements with the initial length of the garment the salesman can instantly proceed to open the exact seam or seams which will give the desired ultimate increase.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of a pair of trousers equipped with my invention, the right trouser leg cuff being turned down to expose the seam.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view partly in cross section and partly in perspective, showing the cuff and seam.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing the same cuff after the seam holding the pleat has been wholly let out to extend the leg to its full length.

Figs. 4 and 5 are views similar to Fig. 2 showing differing embodiments of the invention.

Like parts are identified by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

The pair of trousers 6 shown in Fig. 1 is entirely conventional except for the embodiment of my invention within the cuff portions. In accordance with standard practice each of the trouser legs 7 has an upturned cuff at 8 formed in the usual manner by folding upwardly upon the leg the material thereof and then carrying the terminal portion of the fabric downwardly and within the leg and there stitched. In the conventional pair of trousers the downwardly carried and upwardly folded margin 9 of the fabric is held by the stitch 10. In this view the pleat incorporated for the purpose of the present invention has been entirely removed and hence this view exhibits the standard practice in which a full cuff is provided.

In accordance with the present invention the fabric constituting the leg portion 7 of the garment is provided with an annular pleat, box pleat, or double box pleat, within the cuff 8, as best shown in Fig. 2. The material of the leg is folded upwardly at 11 upon the leg to a fold 12, thence downwardly inside the cuff to a fold 13 at the bottom of the cuff, and thence upwardly to another fold at 14 which is in immediate proximity to the fold 11. This makes a box pleat 15 which extends annularly about the leg of the trouser within the cuff as shown in Fig. 1.

Each of the folds at 11 and 14 is now detachably caught by suitable stitching to the face of the box pleat 15. The material may be folded and stitched by hand or, in the manufacture of trousers in quantity, an ordinary "Lewis blind stitcher" may be used, with a special folder. While any sewing machine will serve the purpose, the "Lewis blind stitcher" or equivalent, is useful in that it produces a seam which unlocks and unravels instantly when the right thread is pulled.

In practice the withdrawal of the threads 16 will free the top half of the box pleat and, if the total length of folded material is 1" (the pleat being ½" high) the removal of thread 16 will increase the length of the garment leg by 1". An additional inch of lengthening may be secured by removing threads 17, thus releasing the lower half of the box pleat and leaving the garment leg in the condition shown in Fig. 3.

Assuming that a greater total variation is desired by increments of less than 1", it is possible to make the double box pleat shown in Fig. 4. Here the box pleat at 150 corresponds identically to that shown in Figs. 1 and 2 at 15 with the exception that a supplemental box pleat is provided at 151. Assuming that the opening of the seam at 16 or 17 will, in either case, increase the length of the trousers leg by 1", it will be apparent that the opening of the seam at 18 or 19 will in either case increase the length of

the trousers leg by ½''. Thus the two box seams permit an increase in length of as much as 3'' in ½'' increments.

Fig. 5 shows the embodiment of Fig. 2, so far as the box pleat is concerned, but it shows the pleat applied to a blind or fake cuff in which the lower part of the cuff comprises only a single ply except for the seam 10 at its extreme lower margin.

In all the several devices illustrated it will, of course, be understood that the thickness of the material has been greatly exaggerated in proportion to the vertical dimensions of the seams. In actual practice the cuff appears to lie substantially as flat over the box pleat as it does after the box pleat is removed. Consequently the invention is not conspicuous and, as above noted, it requires only a few moments time for a salesman to loosen an appropriate seam or seams to open part or all of a pleat to increase the length of the trousers leg.

Not only is the invention advantageous in the initial sale of a ready made garment, but it may also be used to increase the length of trousers, dresses or coat sleeves as the wearer grows, being thus particularly adapted for the clothing of children.

I claim:

1. In a garment, the combination with a tubular section and a cuff or the like folded upwardly from the terminal part of said section, of an annular box pleat formed in said tubular section and disposed within said cuff, and a second pleat formed in the material of the first pleat, said second pleat being of lesser width than the first pleat and likewise annularly disposed within the cuff, and stitching of the releasable lock stitch type separately upholding in bonded relation the individual parts of the respective box pleats, said stitching being arranged for the individual release of the component parts of said pleats, whereby to extend the length of said section in predetermined increments.

2. In combination in a garment, a tubular limb-encasing section, the extremity of which is turned inwardly and provided with a seam connecting it to an intermediate portion of said section to comprise a two-ply cuff, both of said cuff plies being outwardly folded below said seam to extend upwardly upon said section about said seam, a pleat comprising an integral intermediate portion of said section folded above said seam and extending downwardly below the seam within the outwardly folded two-ply portion of said cuff, and fastening means connecting to each other the portions of said section constituting said pleat, said fastening means being free of either of the plies of the outwardly folded portions of said cuff.

3. The device of claim 2 in which said fastening means connects portions of the pleat with at least one of the plies constituting said cuff within the outwardly folded portions thereof.

4. In a garment, a tubular limb-encasing section provided with upper and lower oppositely folded portions comprising an annular box pleat intermediate its ends, means providing connections for at least temporarily holding the component portions of said box pleat folded, and a terminal portion of said section commencing interiorly adjacent the lowest of the box pleat portions and extending thence downwardly beyond said last mentioned box pleat portion and upwardly of said section externally about said box pleat and thence back upon itself to comprise an annular two-ply cuff encircling the component pleats of said box pleat, thence extending reversely upwardly and inwardly of the lower box pleat portion and permanently connected to an inner surface of said section.

5. In a garment, a tubular limb-encasing section, an upwardly folded portion of said section constituting a first pleat, means holding said first pleat folded, a downwardly folded portion constituting a second pleat, means holding said second pleat folded, said first and second pleats being annular in form, another portion of said limb-encasing section originating adjacent and within said second pleat and extending downwardly to the lowest level of said second pleat, thence upwardly externally of said pleats to the highest level of said first pleat to comprise the inner ply of a cuff, thence extending downwardly along said inner cuff ply as the outer ply of a cuff, and thence extending upwardly within the last mentioned portion of said section and permanently secured thereto.

6. In a garment, a tubular limb-encasing section having upwardly and downwardly folded annular portions comprising a box pleat, means connecting to each other the upwardly folded portions of said sections, means independently connecting to each other the downwardly folded portions of said sections, whereby either of said portions may independently be released, and an extension of the downwardly folded portion of said section upwardly about the entire box pleat for at least the full length thereof and thence downwardly to comprise an annular cuff concealing said box pleat and independent of the aforesaid connections.

7. The device of claim 6 in which the outer ply of said cuff has its bottom margin turned back upon itself and stitched to said outer ply to provide a finished edge independently of other portions of said section.

8. In a garment, the combination with an inner tubular section having a box pleat including aligned inner folds and outer folds extending upwardly and downwardly from the respective inner folds, the lower end of said inner tubular section being folded upwardly outside of said box pleat to completely enclose said box pleat and thence reversely turned back upon itself and extended beneath said box pleat and inwardly of said inner tubular section and permanently secured to said section at a point no higher than the lowermost of the aligned inner folds of said inner section, and means individually and detachably connecting the component upper and lower folds of the box pleat across the aligned folds first mentioned to the inner tubular section for separate release for the lengthening of said tubular section.

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