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C. F. SCHUESSLER

2,083,869

SUPPORTER

Original Filed Jan. 3, 1933

Fig. 1.

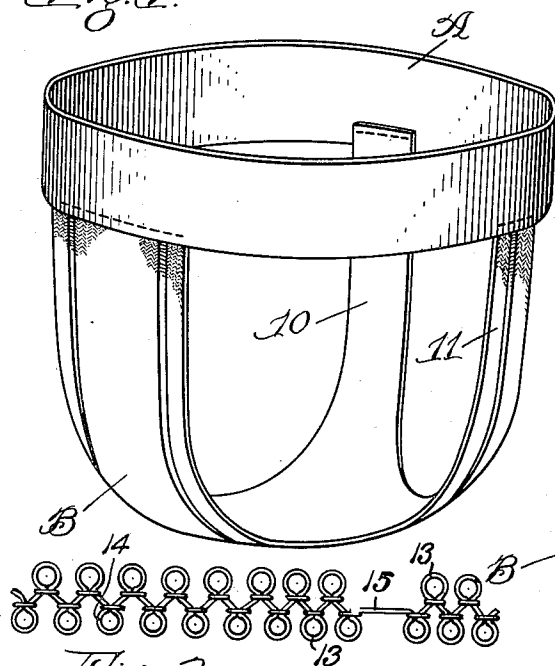


Fig. 3.

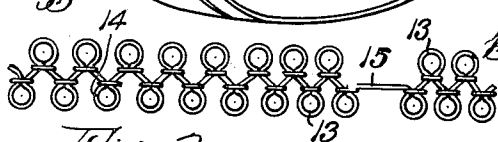


Fig. 2.

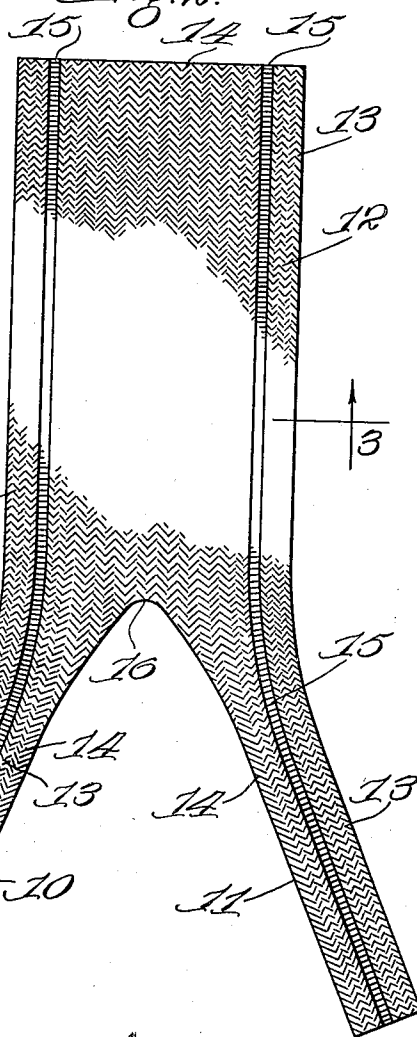


Fig. 4.

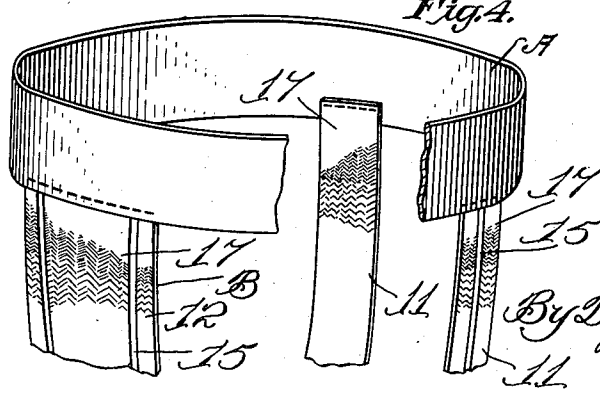


Fig. 6.

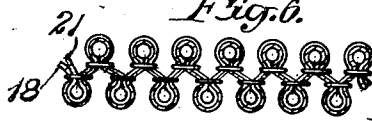
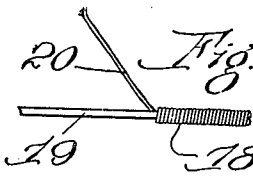


Fig. 5.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SUPPORTER

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Renewed November 6, 1936

2 Claims. (Cl. 66—176)

This invention relates to a supporter and more particularly to the type of supporter known as athletic supporter.

5 An object of the invention is to provide a knitted supporter of improved construction which is more durable and serviceable. More specifically, the invention provides for such an arrangement of long and short stitches as will add strength, elasticity and form to the article. Other objects and advantages will appear as the specification proceeds.

The invention is illustrated, in a preferred embodiment, by the accompanying drawing, in which—

15 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a supporter embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a plan view of the supporter strip, separated from the belt; Fig. 3, a sectional view, the section being taken as indicated at line 3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4, a broken perspective view of a modified form of the invention; Fig. 5, a broken view of a rubber or latex thread which may be employed; and Fig. 6, a broken sectional view of a modified form of the invention in which a latex thread is employed in conjunction with a regular cellulose woolen, silk etc. thread.

25 In the illustration given in Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, A designates a belt, and B, a supporter strip.

The belt A may be of any suitable material. If desired, it may be formed of an elastic fabric of knitted material, or of an elastic fabric equipped with rubber bands, etc.

30 The strip B is preferably formed as illustrated more clearly in Fig. 2. At one end, the fabric is divided into the strips 10 and 11. The strips 10 and 11 merge near the middle of the supporter strip and form the wide band 12. The strip B is preferably formed on a regular knitting machine which is well known and need not be described. It is understood by those skilled in the art that the length of the stitches will be increased by employing short needles and decreased by employing long needles. In forming my improved form of supporter B, I employ short needles in a number of rows to form wales of long stitches in the central portion of the band 12, and I employ long needles in a few rows to form wales of close and short stitches along the border of the band 12. The short stitches are indicated by numerals 13, and the long stitches are indicated by the numeral 14. The short stitches 13 tend to contract the borders of the band, while the longer stitches 14 give a fullness to the central portion of the band 12.

50 I prefer to omit the longitudinal stitches at the 55 points 15 in order to form grooves. It will be

noted from Fig. 2 that the grooves 15 extend along the borders of band 12 and through the central portion of the furcated strips 10 and 11.

In forming the strip B, I also desire to knit the entire piece as a whole and without employing extra stitches or sewing. In order to accomplish this, the knitting is preferably begun at the free ends of the separated strips 10 and 11, the needles in the machine being omitted between the ends of the strips and the strips knitted independently. As the knitting proceeds, the needles are brought into play one by one at points adjacent the inner edges of the strips 10 and 11 so as to gradually bring the two strips together at 16. The knitting then proceeds uniformly to the top of the band 12, the short needles being employed to form the long stitches in the central portion of the fabric, and the long needles being arranged so as to form the close stitches along the borders of the band 12. When the fabric B is completed, it may be secured to or stitched to the belt A in any suitable manner.

While I have shown wales of loose and close stitches, it will be understood that stitches of a closeness intermediate between the close and loose stitches shown may be used, and used, if desired, between the wales of the loose and close stitches—giving a gradual change in the texture or body of the garment.

30 In the modification illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, the upper portion 17 of the band 12 is formed with an elastic or rubber thread 18. The thread 18 is formed of an extremely small latex filament 19 about which is coiled a thin fabric thread 20. In knitting the band 12, the latex thread 18 is simply substituted for the ordinary cellulose wool, silk etc. thread, and the short and long stitches formed in the garment with the new thread just as already described. If desired, the entire strip B may be knitted with the latex thread 18.

40 In the modification illustrated in Fig. 6, the knitting is accomplished by two threads instead of one, the two threads being handled as companion threads in the same way that a single thread would be handled. One of the two threads is preferably the latex thread 18, and the other an ordinary cellulose, wool, silk etc. thread 21. I have found that the combination of the two threads is desirable because of the increased elasticity afforded by the latex thread 18, and because the cellulose thread 21 affords a softness or flexibility which is absent in a garment formed entirely of the latex thread.

55 In my improved supporter strip B, the close stitches along each border carry the strain and

protect the weaker and looser stitches 14 in the central part of the garment, the portion formed by the loose stitches in turn affording greater fullness. If the knitted garment is formed entirely of cellulose thread, it may be laundered without injury because of the absence of rubber and at the same time, the formation of the stitches affords considerable elasticity. In the form illustrated in Fig. 4, the elasticity of the strip is increased by the short knitted portions 17. The portions 17, in view of the fact that they are formed continuously and knitted in the same manner as the remainder of the fabric, need not be noticeable.

15 The foregoing detailed description has been given for clearness of understanding only, and no unnecessary limitations should be understood therefrom, but the appended claims should be construed as broadly as permissible, in view of the prior art.

I claim:

1. In a supporter garment, a belt, a strip of fabric having one end furcated, each of the ends of the fabric being secured to the belt, said fabric being formed of parallel courses of stitches extending transversely of the fabric, the stitches in the central portion of each course being relatively long and the stitches in the border portions of each course being relatively short.

2. In a supporter garment, a belt, a strip of fabric having one end furcated, each of the ends of the fabric being secured to the belt, said fabric being formed of parallel courses of stitches extending transversely of the fabric, the stitches in the central portion of each course being relatively long and the stitches in the border portions of each course being relatively short, and said furcated portions having their inner border portions formed of relatively long stitches and their outer border portions formed of relatively short stitches.

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