This invention relates to garments provided with elastic means for adjusting the waist band.

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

Conventionally, these waist adjusting devices consist of two or more belts or straps sewn to the outside of the garment waist band, 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 waist band of the garment being constrained by drawing the two straps together. Some of these devices permit adjustment in very small increments, but it is usually something of a nuisance to loosen the buckle and move the strap to adjust the waist band 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 adjustments to any desired degree of exactitude cannot be made, and it is not limited to the two or three predetermined positions of waist band size.

In United States Patent 3,027,566 I have disclosed and claimed a novel means for adjusting the waist band of a garment predicated upon the provision of adjusting straps with two facings of self-adhering fabric, the said straps being used in conjunction with a conventional strap provided with a ring or closed loop of metal, plastic, or the like.

This invention provides an improvement on the self-adhering closure shown in the said patent in that the self-adhering closure is combined with elastic means such that the elastic means is selected in the selection of waist band size may be achieved and such that a bulky and unsightly loop member may be eliminated. Additionally, I have found that by providing the self-adhering closure on the interior of the garment waist band in combination with elastic means, such as an elastic strap, the resilient pressure pad utilized in the waist band closure shown in the said patent may be eliminated as an unnecessary element, apparently because the inherent resiliency of the elastic strap serves to insure a positive and firm engagement of the self-adhering closure which is operatively connected to the elastic strap. Thus, it is an object of the present invention to improve upon the waist band adjustment means shown in my prior patent, and to simplify and render more economical the manufacture and use of garments having self-adhering closures for waist band adjustments by the elimination of extraneous components. To this end, preferably, the present invention comprises a multi-faceted self-adhering facing of pile which will catch on and snag the hooks after the described pressing together of the facing 38 and the portion 40.

It is a characteristic of self-adhering facings of the described type that when pressed together they resist sliding movement relative to each other. Yet, they may be readily pulled apart by a peeling action. Moreover, I have found that the inherent resiliency of the elastic
band 20 which imparts a shearing or sliding stress to the overlapped facing 38 and the portion 40 serves to insure a positive and firm interengagement thereof.

The operation of the novel adjusting means described herein is as follows:

The user grasps the end 34 of the strap 30 and extends the elastic band 20 to the desired degree of adjustment for the waistband 2. The end 34 is then pressed against the portion 40 so as to effect the described interengagement of the facing 38 and the portion 40. Since the facing 38 will adhere to the portion 40 at any one of a number of overlapping positions, it is apparent that waist adjustments may be made with any desired degree of exactitude. Obviously, the exact same operation may be accomplished for the assembly 4L of the adjusting means 4.

It would be possible of course to provide one elastic band stretching through a continuous pocket common to both the assemblies 4L and 4R and achieve essentially the same adjusting results. However, it is preferred to separate the adjusting means into the two separate assemblies as described, so that sagging or pleating of the material is circumvented.

From the foregoing description it should be apparent that a self-adhering fabric closure is provided for the waistband adjustment of garments entirely on the interior thereof without any exposure of the adjusting means when the garment is positioned on the body of its user. Moreover, a minimum of bulk and of operative components is provided by the novel arrangement disclosed herein.

It should be understood that various changes and alterations may be made in the details of construction, arrangements, and materials for the various elements, without departing from the spirit and the scope of the instant invention, as defined in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

Means for adjusting the waist size of a garment, said means comprising:

a first garment portion defining a waistband;
a multilayer second garment portion disposed inwardly of said waistband and overlappingly attached to said first garment portion to define a reverse loop having a short outer leg and a longer inner leg to form a pocket between said waistband and said looped second garment portion;
said multilayer second garment portion consisting essentially of an elongated outer garment segment, a short inner garment segment and a screen fabric therebetween;
an elastic band received in said pocket and having a first end affixed to said inner garment segment at said outer leg of said loop;
a strap having a first end affixed to a second end of said elastic band at a surface away from said waistband and adjacent an inner surface of said outer leg of said loop,
said strap having a second end extending from the interior of the pocket and provided with a first adhering portion; and
a second adhering portion on the first garment portion positioned for overlapping engagement with the first adhering portion of the strap, the overlappingly engaged adhering portions being inseparable in response to a force exerted substantially perpendicular to the strap and being separable in response to a peeling action, the adhering portion of the strap being adherable with any point on the adhering portion of the first garment portion; whereby a waist adjustment may be made with any desired degree of exactitude.

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