

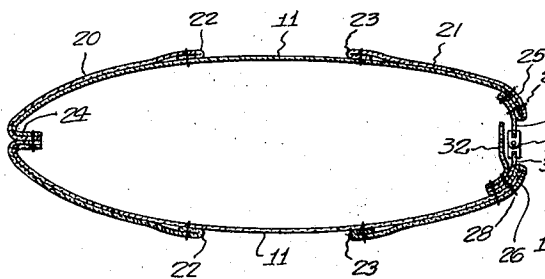
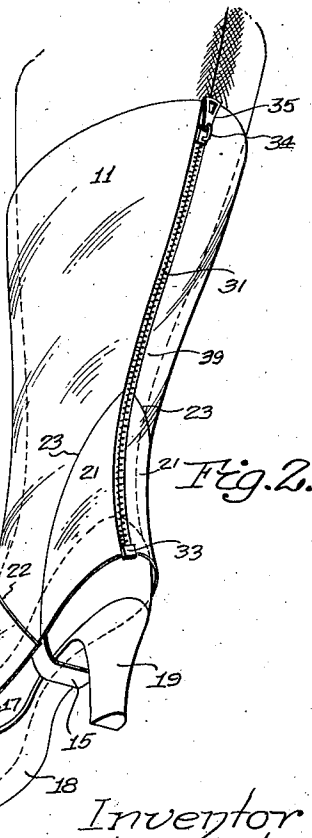
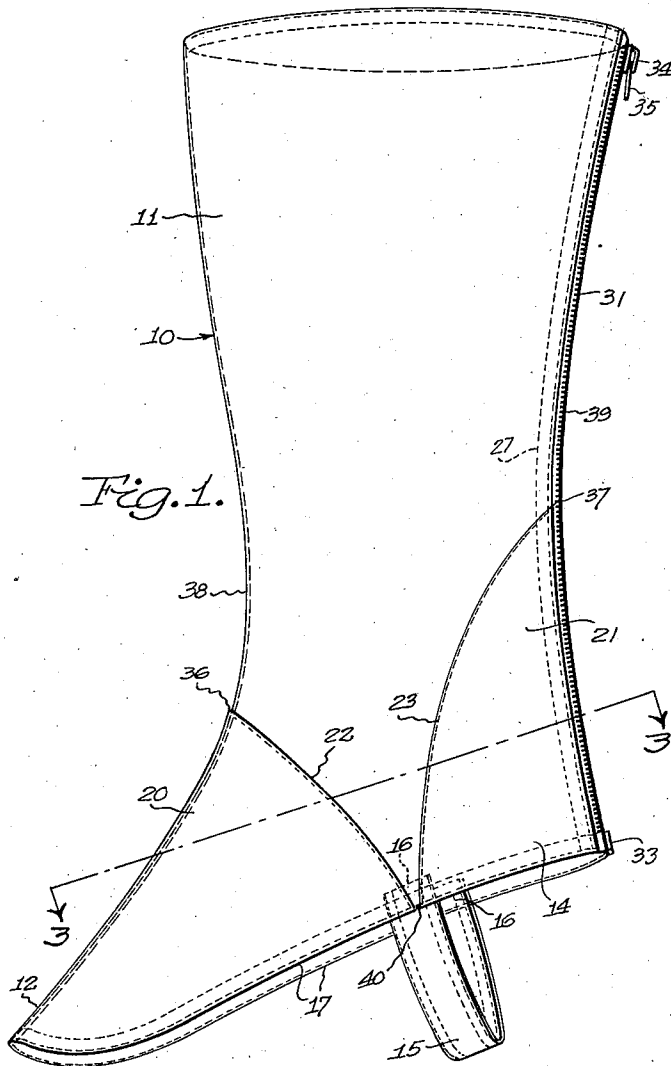
March 23, 1948.

E. WHEATON

2,438,308

WATERPROOF HOSIERY PROTECTOR

Filed Oct. 24, 1945



Inventor
Evalyn Wheaton
by Barthel + Bugbee
Att'y's

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,438,308

WATERPROOF HOSIERY PROTECTOR

Evalyn Wheaton, Detroit, Mich.

Application October 24, 1945, Serial No. 624,213

2 Claims. (Cl. 36—2)

1

This invention relates to protective clothing, and in particular, to spats or gaiters for protecting women's legs, shoes and hosiery from splashing or from the weather.

One object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material which can be folded into small space and kept in the purse, yet which can instantly be put on at the advent of rain, snow or chill winds.

Another object of this invention is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material which is closed by a slide fastener up the back edge thereof.

Another object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material which covers the top of the shoe and which fits the leg loosely so as to permit circulation of air therein, thus keeping the ankles dry inside the gaiter as well as protecting them from outside rain, wind or mud splashes.

Another object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material which protects a woman's hosiery without concealing it.

Another object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material wherein the gaiter is opened and closed by a slide fastener running up the back approximately coincidental with the seam of the stocking, thereby minimizing the presence and conspicuous appearance of seams or fasteners.

Another object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material which is closed by a slide fastener, the inner side of the fastener being provided with an overlapping cover strip or flap so arranged as to protect the stocking from damage during wear or while the fastener is being operated.

Another object is to provide a woman's spat or gaiter of transparent plastic material as set forth in the preceding objects wherein colored transparent plastic material is used to enhance the appearance of the gaiter.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent during the course of the following description of the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation partly in perspective of a woman's spat or gaiter according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of the spat or gaiter shown in Figure 1 as applied to the leg; and

Figure 3 is a horizontal section along the line

2

3—3 in Figure 1, showing the reinforcing portions and protecting strip over the slide fastener.

Referring to the drawing in detail, Figure 1 shows a spat or gaiter generally designated 10 as consisting of an approximately tubular sheath 11 constituting the vertical portion thereof and having a forwardly projecting bottom portion 12 for covering the forward upper portion of the shoe 13 over the toe and instep. A rearward lower portion 14 similarly covers the portion of the shoe 13 adjacent the heel thereof. A shank strap 15 is secured as at 16 on the opposite sides of the lower edge 17 and extends thereacross in the form of a loop, beneath the shank portion of the sole 18 of the shoe 13 immediately forward of the heel 19 (Fig. 2).

The shank strap 15 is preferably of doubled thickness of material to give added strength. Similarly, the forward and rearward portions 12 and 14 are reinforced with added layers of material 20 and 21 terminating along the edges 22 and 23 respectively. The forward edge 38 of the gaiter 10 is secured together by an inwardly turned seam 24 (Figure 3) whereas the rearward edge 39 terminates in turned over edges 25 and 26 (Figure 3) secured as at 27 and 28 to the supporting strips 29 and 30 of a slide fastener 31. Also secured to the turned over portion 26 is a vertical cover strip or flap 32 which serves to protect the stocking against injury from the slide fastener 31, either while opening or closing the latter or from chafing during wear.

The slide fastener 31 is anchored at its lower end by the connector 33 and is operated in the usual manner by the slide 34 to which is attached the usual operating tab 35. The reinforcing layers 20 and 21 at the front edge 38 and rear edge 39 respectively are so shaped that their edges 22 and 23 proceed obliquely from the points 36 and 37 to a substantially common meeting point 40 at the lower edge 17 of the device, immediately adjacent the anchorage point 16 of the shank strap 15. In this manner, the edges 22 and 23 which are preferably turned over underneath themselves before stitching or cementing, or securing by heat and pressure to the main portion 11, serve as strengthening ribs for sustaining the strain of walking. Alternatively, thicker material may be used for the forward and rearward portions in place of the double layers, and secured to the main portion 11 at the edges 22 and 23. Optionally, the slide fastener 31 may be placed at the side of the spat or gaiter, such as above the shank strap 15, at

3

the sacrifice of some of the advantages of placing it at the rear edge 39.

In the use of the invention, to put on the device, the tab 35 of the slide fastener 31 is pulled downwardly to the connection 33 (Figure 2), opening up the rearward edge 39 of the vertical portion 11. The wearer then inserts the toe of her shoe 13 into the space between the shank strap 15 and the forward portion 12, pulling the device upward and rearward until the shank strap 15 comes to rest immediately forward of the heel 19. With the cover strip 32 properly in position (i. e., not doubled over against the leg), the slider 34 of the slide fastener 31 is then drawn upward to close the vertical portion 11 at its rearward edge 39. To remove the device, a reverse procedure is employed.

When the wearer's feet and legs are thus protected, the tops of the shoes and stockings are effectively covered, thereby preventing spattering and protecting the shoes, stockings and legs against wind, rain, snow or slush. The device is compact and light in weight, easily folds into a small space and is very durable. When the spats or gaiters are removed, they may also be slipped over the handle of the umbrella or carried within the umbrella. The device is also useful when worn without stockings, in order to protect the bare legs against the weather.

The durable plastic material employed in the article may be of the type known under the trade-name of "Pliofilm" or "Vitaflm," and may be either colorless or of a colored material to match the wearer's accessories, such as purse, gloves, hat, etc. The transparent plastic material is waterproof and windproof, does not adhere to the stocking or shoe, is almost frictionless in walking, possesses ability to stretch, and has a high tear resistance. It is also resistant to the action of oils, greases and other chemicals and does not mildew, nor is it attacked by insects. It can be pressed into adhesion, or cemented thereby. It does not become brittle, and does not dry out in dry climates, nor is it adversely affected by very cold weather. It also can be folded without damage, and is practically non-inflammable. It can also be decorated with printed or painted designs, if desired.

While it is contemplated that the device fits loosely around the ankles and calves so as to provide a slight circulation of air therebetween, it may also be made to fit snugly, if desired. The device is preferably shaped to conform closely to the contour of the wearer's legs and can be worn not only over the shoes alone but also over shoes which are protected by rubbers. When made up in suitable colors, the device is stylish in appearance and flattering to the wearer's ankles. Different colors may also be used for the forward and/or rearward portions 20 and 21 than for the main portion 11. Moreover, the slide fastener, when so placed at the rearward edges of the device, is in its least conspicuous position. In this position, it substantially coincides with the seam of the stocking, further minimizing its appearance, and also closely follows the contour of the ankle and calf. By this arrangement, the slide

4

fastener is itself protected to some extent by the legs of the wearer, who, when possible, customarily advances into snow or rain or faces the wind.

While I have shown and described my invention in detail, it is to be understood that the same is to be limited only by the appended claims, for many changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. A waterproof hosiery protector, comprising a sheath of transparent plastic material having a forward edge and a rearward edge and open along one of said edges, a slide fastener mounted thereon along said open edge for selectively opening and closing the same, the lower part thereof having a forwardly-projecting instep-covering portion and a rearward portion, both of said portions being of materially greater thickness than said sheath whereby to reinforce said protector forwardly and rearwardly, the edges of said thickened portions being directed downwardly in an approximate V-shape on both sides thereof from the forward and rearward edges of said sheath respectively and substantially effecting a junction with one another on each side at the bottom edge thereof, and a shank strap having its opposite ends secured to said bottom edge on opposite sides thereof and also to said thickened portions substantially at said junction.

2. A waterproof hosiery protector comprising a sheath of transparent plastic material having a forward edge and a rearward edge and open along one of said edges, a closure device mounted thereon along said open edge for selectively opening and closing the same, the lower part thereof having a forwardly-projecting instep-covering portion and a rearward portion, both of said portions being of materially greater thickness than said sheath whereby to reinforce said protector forwardly and rearwardly, the edges of said thickened portions being directed downwardly in an approximate V shape on both sides thereof from the forward and rearward edges of said sheath respectively and substantially effecting a junction with one another on each side at the bottom edge thereof, and a shank strap having its opposite ends secured to said bottom edge on opposite sides thereof and also to said thickened portions substantially at said junctions.

EVALYN WHEATON.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,430,030	Rosenwasser	Sept. 26, 1922
1,668,458	Large	May 1, 1928
1,730,400	Wharton	Oct. 8, 1929
1,737,795	Hodges	Dec. 3, 1929
2,247,831	Asch et al.	July 1, 1941
2,304,177	Jones	Dec. 8, 1942

FOREIGN PATENTS

Number	Country	Date
207,708	Switzerland	Mar. 1, 1940