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ANCHORING MEANS FOR FOUNDATION GARMENTS

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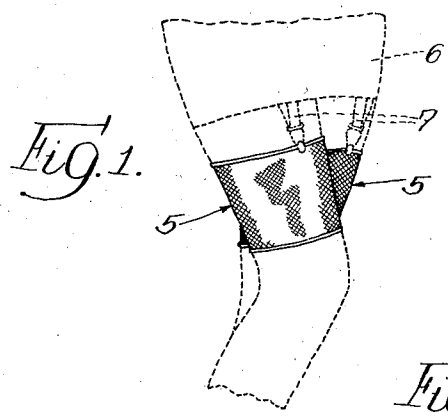
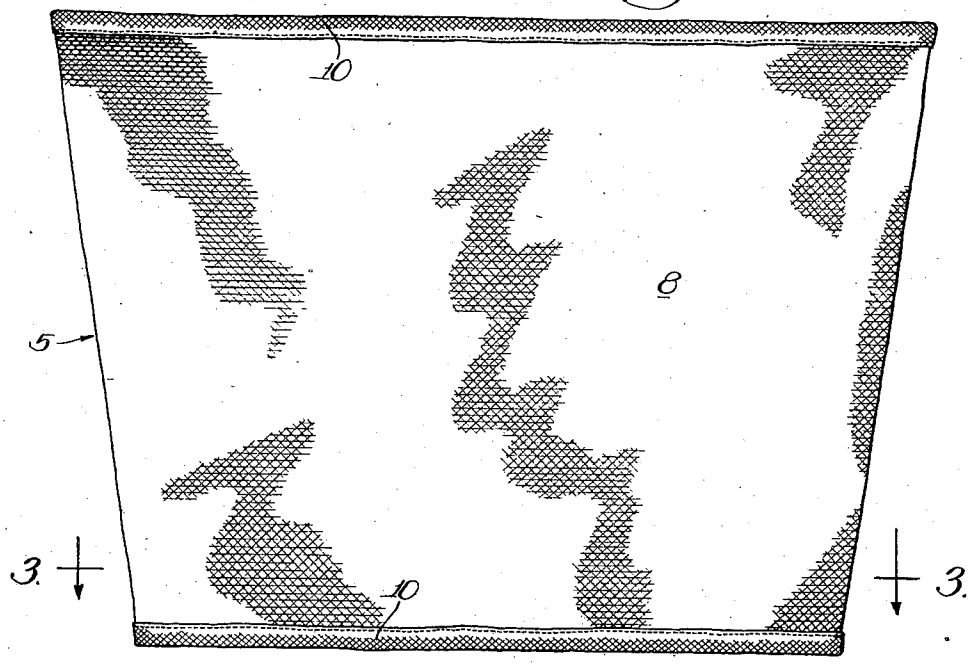


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



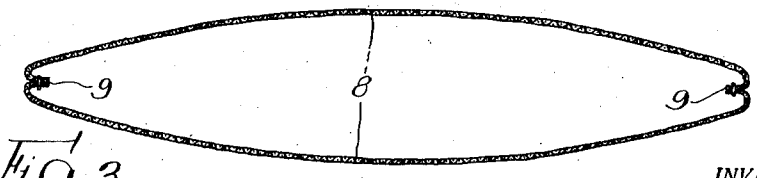


Fig. 3.

INVENTOR.
Edward R. Sutter,
BY
Ernest A. Wegner
his Atty.

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ANCHORING MEANS FOR FOUNDATION GARMENTS

Edward R. Sutter, Chicago, Ill., assignor to Beau-T-Form Foundations, Inc., Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—313)

The invention relates generally to anchoring means for a foundation garment and more particularly to means to be worn on the thigh of the wearer to provide a means to which garters may be attached in the absence of stockings.

It is an inherent characteristic of foundation garments to creep up on the wearer due to conditions created in walking, stooping or sitting. When stockings are worn the garters depending from the foundation garment are attached to the stockings and the two perform complementary functions. The foundation garment holds the stocking up and at the same time the stockings tend to hold the foundation garment down. With the present trend toward "socks" or painted leg covering, there is nothing to which the foundation garment may be anchored to aid in holding it against creeping up.

It is a general object of this invention, therefore, to provide a new and improved anchoring means for foundation garments to be worn in the absence of stockings.

A more particular object of the invention is to provide an improved anchoring means of the character described which is so constructed as to form a firm anchor without cutting or binding the wearer and without itself tending to creep up on the wearer.

Another object is to provide an anchoring means constructed to grip the leg more firmly as a longitudinal pull is applied to the anchoring means.

Still another object is to provide an anchoring means having limited stretch in a longitudinal direction and no stretch circumferentially.

A further object is to provide an anchoring means composed of two pieces of material of equal length, each having limited stretch longitudinally but no stretch circumferentially of the means, and sewn together on the bias to have a uniform pull.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view depicting the anchoring means in position on a wearer.

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view of one of the anchoring means shown in Fig. 1 on a greatly enlarged scale, approximately actual size.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken approximately along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

While the invention is susceptible of various modifications and alternative constructions, it is here shown and will hereinafter be described in a preferred embodiment. It is not intended, however, that the invention be limited thereby to the specific disclosure made, but on the contrary it is intended to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit and scope of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

Heretofore women have customarily worn "socks" primarily only when engaged in athletic activities, and thus at a time when a foundation garment was not worn. However, with the wearing of "socks" or the painting of the legs replacing the customary long stockings for street and business wear, and thus at a time when it is still desirable to wear a foundation garment, there has arisen a need for some means to which a foundation garment might be anchored or fastened and which would then serve the same function as the long stockings, namely, to aid in keeping the foundation garment from creeping up. Such an anchoring means is herein disclosed and takes the general form of a wide, continuous band 5 to be worn (see Fig. 1) one around each thigh of the wearer at about the normal position of a stocking top. In this position of the band 5 a foundation garment 6 may be attached or anchored to the band through the medium of the conventional garters 7 depending from the foundation garment.

For purposes and advantages which will become apparent as the description proceeds, the band is preferably composed of two similar pieces 8 each composing when sewn together half of the band. Each piece 8 is of great width, on the order of six inches, in order to give an even and distributed pressure on the thigh to prevent binding or cutting into the flesh. At the same time this great width provides a large contact and hence frictional area which also serves to prevent slipping or creeping of the band itself. The length of the pieces 8 will, of course, vary slightly to provide bands of different sizes.

Each piece 8, moreover, is constructed to have a limited stretch in a direction longitudinally or axially of the band but to have substantially no stretch in a direction circumferentially of the band. While this quality may be obtained in a variety of ways, it is here obtained without the employment of rubber through a peculiarity of the weave or knit of the material, a common and well known expedient being to weave the material with the warp threads under tension and with the woof threads laid in not under tension. The pieces 8 are preferably a "Celanese" jersey. Each piece 8, moreover, has both of its ends cut

on the bias and with the bias cut in opposite directions to result in a slightly tapering piece, that is, one having a trapezoidal shape symmetrical with respect to a transverse center line. The bias cuts are made transversely of the threads woven under tension so that the pieces when assembled will produce a band having the characteristics of limited transverse stretch and substantially no circumferential stretch above mentioned.

The pieces are sewn together by internal "Merrow" seams 9 with the sides of corresponding length at the same end. This gives to the band a bias construction, that is, it gives to the band when expanded a slightly tapering or a frusto-conical shape, as best seen in Fig. 2. This biased or conical construction shapes the band to the contour of the thigh, improving the fit thereof and having the additional advantage that when so shaped it more firmly grips the thigh upon the application of a longitudinal pull on the band.

The absence of stretch in a circumferential direction aids greatly in keeping the band from creeping up, while the longitudinal stretch gives to the band many of the characteristics of a stocking top and particularly the yieldability desirable to accommodate the stresses that are set up in walking, bending and sitting. This longitudinal stretch also cooperates with the bias construction to cause a tighter gripping of the thigh by the band when a longitudinal pull is applied to the band. It is also be noted that the two-piece construction results in a symmetrical band the bias of which is the same throughout the circumference of the band, and thus assures a uniform pull which would not be obtainable were the band to be made of a single piece of material. The band is finished preferably by applying a binding tape 10 to each end of the band to provide reinforced, smooth edges, as well as a reinforced means to which the clips of the garters 7 may be secured.

It is believed apparent from the foregoing that I have perfected an anchoring means for foundation garments which may be worn with comfort in the absence of long stockings and which will at the same time effectively serve to hold the foundation garment against creeping up. In addition to being comfortable and effective, it is thin and of light weight so as not to make its presence known when covered with a dress, and it will not itself creep up even under the constant pull that is exerted thereon because of the anchoring of the foundation garment thereto.

I claim as my invention:

1. A means to be worn about the thigh and to which a foundation garment may be anchored by the garters depending from the garment comprising a wide band composed of two pieces of jersey material, each being woven to be limitedly stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the band and substantially non-stretchable in a direction circumferentially of the band, each piece having both of its ends cut on the bias with the bias at one end opposed to the bias at the other to result in a taper of the piece of material, and the two pieces sewn together by diametrically opposed seams with the sides of corresponding length at the same end so the band has a tapering shape, and a binding tape at the large end of the band.

2. A means to be worn about the thigh and to which a foundation garment may be anchored by the garters depending from the garment comprising a wide band composed of two pieces of material, each being woven to be limitedly stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the band and substantially non-stretchable in a direction circumferentially of the band, each piece having the shape of a trapezoid symmetrical about a transverse center line, and the two pieces sewn together by diametrically opposed seams with the sides of corresponding length at the same end so as to have a frusto-conical shape when expanded.

3. A means to be worn about the thigh and to which a foundation garment may be anchored by the garters depending from the garment comprising a wide band composed of two pieces of material, each being woven to be limitedly stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the band and substantially non-stretchable in a direction circumferentially of the band, each piece having both of its ends cut on the bias with the bias at one end opposed to the bias at the other to result in a taper of the piece of material, and the two pieces sewn together by diametrically opposed seams with the sides of corresponding length at the same end so the band has a tapering shape.

4. A means to be worn about the thigh and to which a foundation garment may be anchored by the garters depending from the garment comprising a band approximately six inches in width composed of two pieces of material, each constructed to be limitedly stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the band and substantially non-stretchable in a direction circumferentially of the band, each piece having both of its ends cut on the bias to give a taper to the piece of material, and the two pieces sewn together by diametrically opposed seams with the sides of corresponding length at the same end so the band has a tapering shape.

5. An anchoring means for a foundation garment to be worn on the thigh in the absence of stockings comprising a wide band of thin, flexible material stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the band and having substantially no stretch circumferentially, the band tapering from its upper to its lower edge to conform to the shape of the thigh.

EDWARD R. SUTTER.