(No Model.)

F. C. SHAW.

Bifurcated Garment.

No. 240,277. **Patented April 19, 1881.**

Fig. 1.

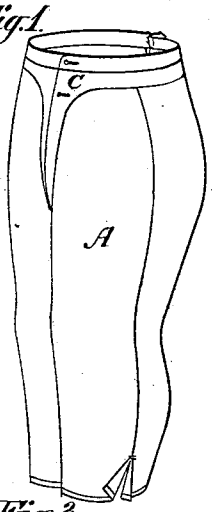


Fig. 2.

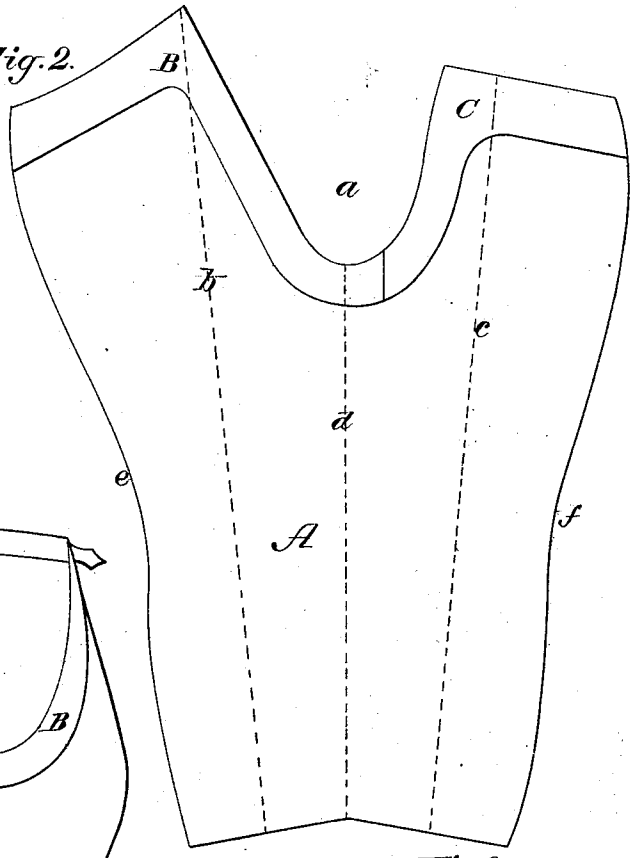


Fig. 3.

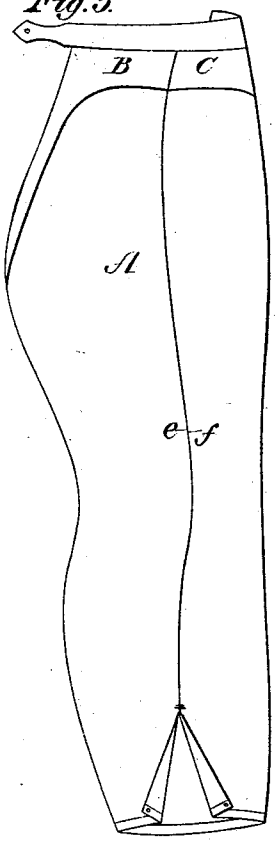


Fig. 4.

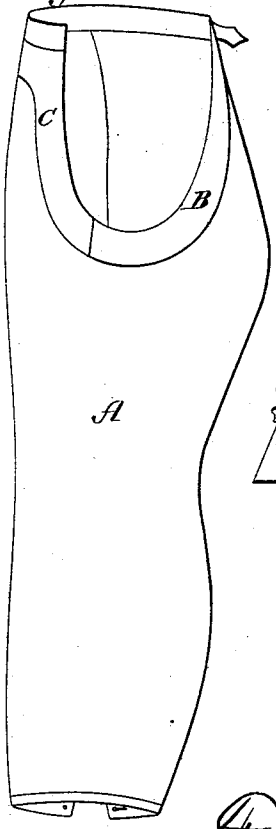


Fig. 5.

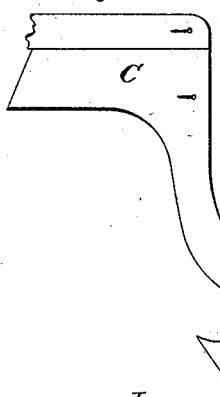
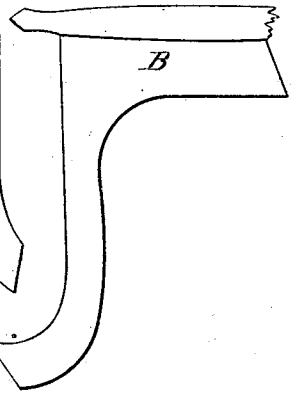


Fig. 6.



Inventor:

Foster C. Shaw

Attest:

William W. Dodge.

Dan'l Kelly.

Pancoast & Pancoast

Attorneys

N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FOSTER C. SHAW, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF FIVE-EIGHTHS TO JOHN SHILLITO & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

BIFURCATED GARMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 240,277, dated April 19, 1881.

Application filed February 14, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FOSTER C. SHAW, of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bifurcated Garments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the manufacture of bifurcated garments, and particularly drawers and overalls; and it consists in cutting the leg portions in the peculiar manner hereinafter described, whereby each leg is formed with a single seam, and said seam brought to the outer side, and in an improved manner of re-enforcing or strengthening the crotch and giving a finish to the garment.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a pair of drawers embodying my improvement; Fig. 2, the piece of which the leg is formed, opened out to show its shape; Figs. 3 and 4, respectively, outer and inner face or side views of a single completed leg; and Figs. 5 and 6, views of the front and back re-enforcing pieces, respectively.

The object of my invention is primarily to increase the strength and durability of the garment, and in carrying out this object, in the manner presently described, I secure also an improved finish or appearance and greater comfort in use.

Hitherto it has been customary to so cut the material that each leg should contain either an inside and outside seam, or more commonly a single seam on the inner side of the leg. Such construction is objectionable, for the reason that the sewing together of the legs is rendered more difficult because of having to sew across the seams, necessitating the raising of the presser-foot and the slackening of the speed of the sewing-machine, and for the further reason that the garment, when thus constructed, is liable to give away in the crotch, at the point where said seams meet. The inside seam, moreover, chafes and annoys the wearer.

To overcome these difficulties, I cut the material from which to form the leg in the shape indicated in Fig. 2, a portion being cut out at the upper end, midway between the edges of the piece, in its open or unfolded condition, as at *a*, to conform to the crotch, the edge of this cut-away portion forming the meeting line of the leg with its mate. The blank or material A is then folded along the lines *b c*, about midway between a central line, *d*, bisecting the material in the direction of its length, and the sides or edges *e f* of said material or blank. The outer edges are thus brought together about midway between the folds *b c*, on the outer side of the leg, where the seam is formed, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 2. The legs, being thus cut and formed, are sewed together along the line of the cut-away portion *a*, or crotch-line, as usual. It is to be noted that by bringing the leg-seam to the outer side the line of meeting of the two legs is left free from all unevenness or extra thicknesses hitherto occasioned by the leg-seams; hence the legs may be more readily and firmly united, and all chafing of the wearer is avoided.

It is well known that garments of the kind referred to more frequently give away in the crotch than at other places; hence the importance of preserving the material at such point in an integral condition and without seams, which are always more or less liable to rip, will be seen. But to still further insure the crotch against such difficulty, I preferably employ a re-enforce strip, B, which may commence at the termination of the ordinary front facing, C, or at the bottom of the front placket, and extends through the crotch, up the back seam, and along the upper portion of the garment until it again meets the front facing, C, at the line of the leg-seam, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2; or it may continue across said seam, as preferred. When such re-enforce is used it is, of course, applied to the legs, one piece to each, before they are united, in the manner indicated in Fig. 4. The form of the front re-enforce or facing is shown in Fig. 5, and that of the back re-enforce in Fig. 6. The re-enforce extending up the back gives the necessary strength of material for properly securing the seam at the bottom of the rear placket, and also gives a finish and additional strength to the upper portion of the drawers or garment. A waistband, with strap and buckle or lacing, is employed, as usual.

The front and back re-enforce may, if desired, be cut in one piece and arranged to cross and

protect the outer seam against ripping, and may in either form be used on garments cut in the ordinary way. It is, however, especially designed and adapted for garments cut in the peculiar manner described.

The manner of laying out the lines for cutting is well known, and requires no description.

Having described my invention, I claim—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a bifurcated garment each leg of which contains a single seam, said seam being at the outer side of the leg.

2. The herein-described method of forming legs of bifurcated garments, consisting in cutting away the blank midway between the sides or edges to form the crotch-line, folding the edges inward toward each other, and uniting them on a line between the folds, as set forth.

3. A blank for the formation of legs of bifurcated garments, having a cut-away portion, *a*, at the top, midway between the sides or edges, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a bifurcated garment, a re-enforce strip extending along the crotch-seam from the termination of the front placket, up the back seam, and along the waist to the leg-seam, as shown and described.

5. In combination with a bifurcated garment having an outside leg-seam, as described, a re-enforce extending through the crotch to and along the waist and crossing the leg-seam in a continuous piece, to protect said seam against strain or ripping.

FOSTER C. SHAW.

Witnesses:
WILLIAM W. DODGE,
GEORGE BAUER, Jr.