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Z. J. KEGL

GARTER SHIELD

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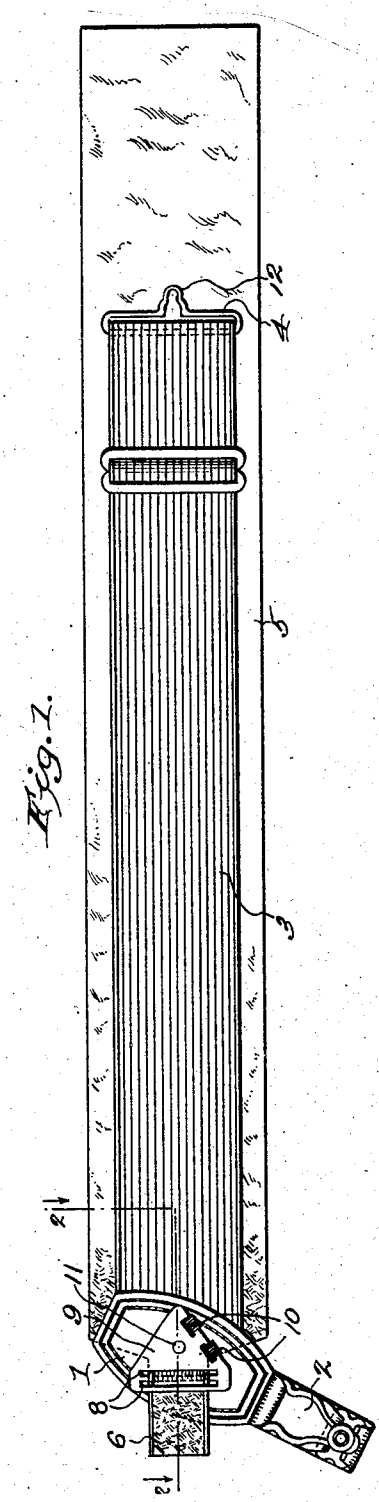


Fig. 1.

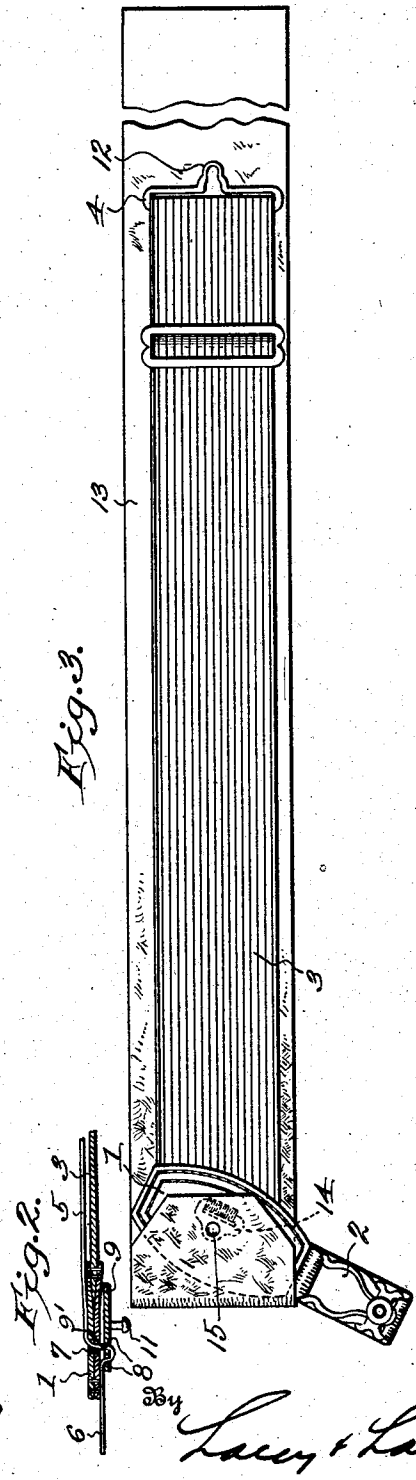


Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

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GARTER SHIELD.

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This invention relates to garment supports and more particularly to a garter. When a garter is in use, the elastic band which is secured about the leg beneath the knee has direct contact with the skin and not only becomes soiled but also saturated with perspiration so that the rubber in the elastic strip deteriorates and either breaks or loses its elasticity. This is particularly true in hot weather.

Therefore, one object of the invention is to provide a shield which may be applied to a garter and serve to prevent the garter from becoming soiled or saturated with perspiration when in use, thus protecting the skin from infections.

Another object of the invention is to detachably connect the protecting strip with the garter so that it may be easily removed and laundered.

Another object of the invention is to so attach the protecting strip to the garter that it may extend longitudinally of the elastic leg-encircling strip of the garter and be wrapped about the portions of the leg to be encircled by the garter and the garter prevented from accidentally slipping out of engagement with the protecting strip.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein

Figure 1 is a view in elevation showing a protecting strip applied to a garter of a conventional construction;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of protecting strip applied to a garter.

The garter to which the protecting strip is applied is of a conventional construction and includes a pad 1 having a sock-engaging clasp 2 extending from its lower end and a leg-encircling strip 3 extending from one side. The strip 3 is formed of elastic fabric and at its free end carries the usual clip 4 adapted to be releasably engaged with a fastener carried by the pad 1.

The protecting or shielding strip 5 which is shown in Fig. 1 consists of a strip of woven fabric capable of absorbing moisture and of greater length than the distance between the pad 1 and free end of the leg-encircling strip 3 of the garter. This strip 5 is disposed longitudinally of the leg-encircling strip and at one end is cut or otherwise reduced in width to form a tongue extension 6 which is passed outwardly through a slot 7 formed in the pad 1 and threaded through slots 8 formed in a plate 9 secured to the outer face of the pad by stitches 10. The plate is serrated along one of the slots 8 to form teeth 9′ adapted to bite into the tongue and firmly grip the same. A stud or button 11 projects from the plate 9 and is adapted for engagement by the bill 12 of the clip 4 at the free end of the strip 3. By having the tongue 6 passed outwardly through the slot 7 and threaded through the slots 8 formed in the plate 9, the protecting strip 5 will be securely held in engagement with the garter but may be readily removed when soiled. Since the free end of the protecting strip extends beyond the free end of the leg-encircling strip or band 3 of the garter, it will be evident that, when in use, the protecting strip may be wrapped about the leg with its end portions overlapped and entirely cover the portion of the leg about which the band 3 extends when the clip 4 is engaged with the button or fastener 11. The band 3 will, therefore, be entirely held out of engagement with the skin and will be protected from becoming soiled and also its rubber prevented from deteriorating as perspiration will be absorbed by the protecting band. This makes the garter very sanitary and comfortable to wear. When the protecting band becomes soiled, it may be easily detached from the garter for laundering and a clean one substituted.

The protecting strip 13, which is illustrated in Fig. 3, is also formed of woven fabric capable of absorbing moisture and of greater length than the distance between the pad 1 of the garter and the free end of its leg-encircling band or strip 3. In this form the pad of the garter is provided with a conventional form of fastener including the usual plate 14 from which extends a button 15. One end of the strip 13 is preferably reduced in width but is not provided with a tongue extension. This end portion of the protecting strip overlaps the pad 1 in opposed relation to the strip or band 3 and is formed with a small opening through which the button 15 is passed. When this form of protecting strip is employed, it may be disposed, as shown in Fig. 3, and the band and garter applied in the same manner set forth in connection with the form disclosed in Fig. 1 or the strip 13 may

be first wrapped about the leg with its end portions overlapping and the band 3 of the garter then passed about the protecting strip and secured by engaging the bill 12 of its clip 4 with the protruding end portion of the button 15. It will thus be seen that in this form the button serves not only as means to anchor the free end of the band 3 but also as means to releasably connect the protecting band with the garter.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. In combination with a garter having companion fastener elements at its ends, a protecting strip having one end detachably secured to the fastener element at one end of the garter, said protecting strip being of greater width and length than the garter and extending longitudinally thereof against its inner surface and adapted to be disposed between the garter and a leg encircled thereby.

2. In combination with a garter including a pad, a leg-encircling strip extending from said pad, a fastener engaging element at the free end of said strip, and a fastener carried by said pad, of a leg-protecting strip having one end portion releasably engaged with said last-mentioned fastener and its other end free, said protecting strip being of greater length than said leg-encircling strip and adapted to be disposed longitudinally thereof between its inner surface and a leg encircled thereby.

3. In combination with a garter including a pad, a leg-encircling strip extending from said pad, a fastener engaging element at the free end of said strip, and a fastener carried by said pad and including a base plate formed with slots, of a leg-protecting strip having one end provided with a tongue extension engaged in said slots and its other end free, said protecting strip being of greater length than said leg-encircling strip and adapted to be disposed longitudinally thereof between its inner surface and a leg encircled thereby.

4. In combination with a garter including a pad, a leg-encircling strip extending from said pad, a fastener engaging element at the free end of said strip, and a fastener carried by said pad and including a base plate formed with slots, of a leg-protecting strip having one end provided with a tongue extension passed through a slot in said pad and engaged in the slots of said fastener plate, said protecting strip being of greater length than said leg-encircling strip and adapted to be disposed longitudinally thereof between its inner surface and a leg encircled thereby.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ZOLTAN J. KEGL. [L. S.]