

Feb. 15, 1927.

A. J. CARPENTER

1,618,147

GARTER

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Fig. 1.

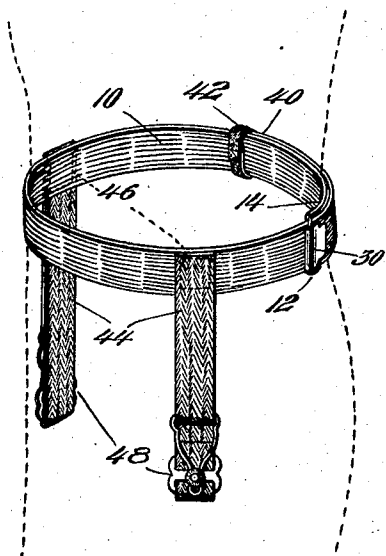


Fig. 2.

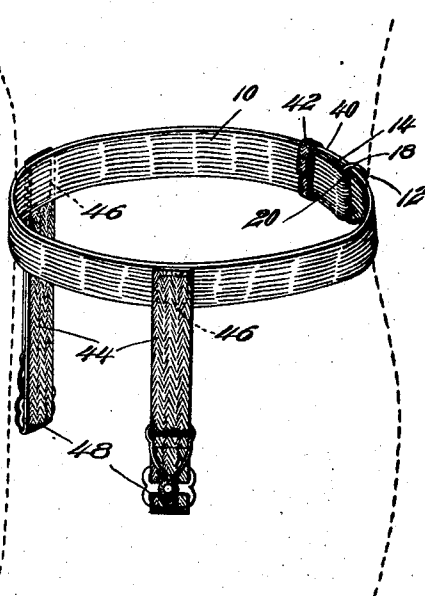


Fig. 3.

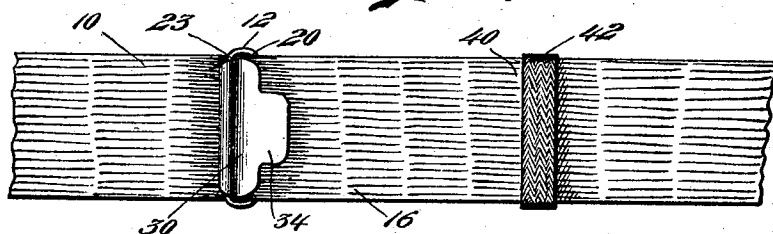
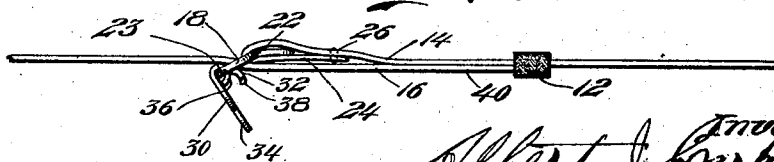


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT J. CARPENTER, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

GARTER.

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My invention relates to garment supporters and more particularly to garters.

One object of my invention is to provide means to vary the circumference of a garment supporter in the shape of an endless band adapted to encircle a limb in which all metal parts in contact with the limb are eliminated. As I provide, through the medium of a clasp buckle and a slack loop, a substantially endless elastic band of varying circumference, it is obvious that the necessity of a detachable fastener or coupling for connecting the ends of the band together is eliminated, thereby resulting in equal pressure on all parts of the limb. A further object of my invention is to provide, by means of the clasp buckle I employ and co-operating slack loop, a garment supporter without any metal parts formerly used for adjusting the circumference thereof. So far as I am aware, substantially all prior garment supporters have been dependent for their detachment and adjustability on a metal part that is very liable to slip and twist and become forced into the limb. The type of clasp buckle I employ makes a positive latch without touching the limb and the slack loop attaches the free end of the band to the fixed end in such a manner that it acts as a guide and support for the slack end, which, as it merely comprises a double layer of fabric, will soon conform to the shape of the limb without any pressure after it has been worn for a short while.

These and such other objects of my invention as may hereinafter appear will be best understood from a description of the accompanying drawings which illustrate a garter constructed in accordance with my invention.

In the drawings, Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a garter constructed according to the preferred embodiment of my invention, attached to a relatively thin leg.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view substantially similar to Fig. 1 with the garter attached to a relatively fatter leg.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged face view of the clasp buckle, slack loop and adjacent portion of the band.

Fig. 4 is an edge elevation of the portion of the band shown in Fig. 3.

In the drawings, wherein like characters of reference generally indicate like parts throughout, 10 generally indicates an endless elastic band adapted to encircle a limb.

This endless elastic band is of the general configuration of an endless band ladies' garter, without any coupling members to couple the ends thereof together around the limb as common in most former types of men's garters, thereby eliminating in a large manner the number of metal parts formerly thought necessary in men's hose supporters. To provide a garter or garment supporter adapted to fit any sized limb or adapted to be adjusted on the same limb when through use the elastic band becomes less elastic, I provide means to vary the effective circumference of said band. In my preferred embodiment, said means comprises a clasp buckle 12. The inner end 14 of the band 10 is adapted to be permanently affixed to a portion of said buckle in a manner to prevent the buckle from touching the limb as will be explained, and the free end 16 of said band is adapted to be passed around the limb, threaded through said buckle and over the relatively fixed portion 14 of said band below it, beyond the buckle, said free end thus being adapted to be adjustably clamped by said buckle 12 to the fixed inner end 14 thereof. In my preferred embodiment, I preferably construct the clasp buckle 12 as follows: I provide the rigid loop 18, of a width substantially equal to that of the band, preferably constructed of metal. I thread the inner end 14 of said band through the hollow center portion 20 of said rigid loop 18, and around the inner bail side 22 of said rigid loop 18, said end 14 being doubled on itself as at 24 and secured to itself by means of the stitching 26. The free end 16 of the band 10 is adapted to encircle the limb and be threaded through the hollow center portion 20 of said rigid loop 18 and passed over outside of the fixed end 14 thereof. The other portion of said clasp buckle 12 comprises a cam member 30 adapted to be pivotally attached to the outer side 23 of said rigid loop 18. The cam member 30 is provided with the cam surface 32 adapted to adjustably clamp the free end 16 of said band against the fixed doubled end 14 thereof and enclosed bail portion 22 of said loop 18, and the manipulating portion 34 by which said cam surface 32 may be raised up from said band to permit free passage of the free end 16 of said band through the hollow portion 20 of said loop. In my preferred embodiment the cam member 30 is preferably stamped from plate ma-

terial. The manipulating portion 34 comprises the flat plate 34 having the cam surface 32 bent over thereon as shown and provided at the ends thereof with the pivot ears 36 to secure said cam member 30 to said loop 18. While the cam surface 32 may be of any suitable configuration, I preferably provide a surface adapted, when in closed position, to bear obliquely against the free end 16 of the band, the inner end 38 thereof being preferably provided with teeth to more firmly clasp the band. It is thus obvious that the only portion of the buckle inside of the band comprises the bail portion 22 of the loop 18, which, as shown, is completely covered up by the doubled over portion 24 of the fixed inner end 14 of the band, and is thus prevented from bearing against the limb.

As shown in Fig. 2 all the rest of the clasp buckle, including the hinge portion 23 of the loop 18 and the entire cam member 30, is entirely outside of the band 16, so as not to bear against the limb. Fig. 2 illustrates how no metallic portions can bear against the limb. To prevent the free slack end 16 of the band from loosely sliding about, I preferably provide on its extremity 40 the non-elastic fabric guide loop 42, preferably constructed of silk. In my preferred embodiment, said fabric guide loop 42 is permanently secured to the extremity 40 and loosely encompasses the fixed inner end 14 of the band 10 underneath it. It is thus obvious that as the circumference of the band 10 is varied, the loop 42 is free to slide over the lower band 14. It is apparent that when the extremity 40 is stretched out so that there is no slack the first time the garment supporter is put on, that the loop 42 after having been worn several times will find a relative position on the supporter, so that the free extremity 40 of the band beyond the buckle will be always extended and free of slack.

It is obvious that my garment supporter as heretofore described may be used as a ladies garment supporter or as an arm band or as any other type of limb encircling garment supporter. My invention, however, is peculiarly adapted for use for supporting men's hose. To this end, I provide the usual type of hose engaging means depending from the band. In my preferred embodiment, as shown, these hose engaging means preferably comprise the non-elastic fabric depending tabs 44 immovably secured to said elastic band 10, preferably by means of the stitching 46 at spaced intervals thereon, preferably spaced on each side of the leg bone so as not to affect circulation, and the usual

type of hose engaging clasps 48 suitably attached to the bottom of said tabs 44.

It is obvious, however, that one or a plurality of any type of suitable hose engaging means may depend from the band in place of the two tabs and clasps arranged as shown.

It is obvious that I have provided a readily adjustable garment supporter adapted to bear evenly against all parts of the limb which it encircles without any metal parts attached to come into contact with the flesh and also provided with suitable means to adjust the slack free end thereof.

It is understood that my invention is not limited to the specific embodiment shown and that various deviations may be made therefrom without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A garment supporter, comprising a rigid loop, an elastic limb encircling band of the approximate width of the loop having one end thereof passed over the inner bail side of said rigid loop doubled upon and permanently secured to itself to protect the limb from the rigid surface of said loop and a free end thereof adapted to encircle a limb and be threaded through the hollow center portion of said rigid loop and passed over the inner layer of said band, a cam member pivoted on the outer side of said rigid loop having a cam surface adapted to adjustably clamp the free end of said band against the fixed doubled end thereof and the bail portion of said loop and a manipulating portion adapted to raise up said cam surface from said band to permit free passage of the free end of said band through said loop, said loop and cam member thus forming a clasp buckle, and a non-elastic fabric guide loop permanently secured to the free end of said band and encompassing the inner layer of said band slidable on said inner layer to adjust for slack.

2. A garment supporter, comprising a clasp buckle, an elastic limb encircling band having one end thereof permanently affixed to said buckle so as to prevent the buckle from touching the limb and the free end of said band threaded through said buckle and passed over the fixed portion of said band beyond the buckle adapted to be adjustably clamped by said buckle to the fixed end thereof, and a fabric guide loop to slidably secure the free slack end of said band to the inner layer thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ALBERT J. CARPENTER.