June 9, 1953 G. E. RUTLEDGE 2,641,257

UNDERGARMENT

Filed July 7, 1949

Fig. 1.

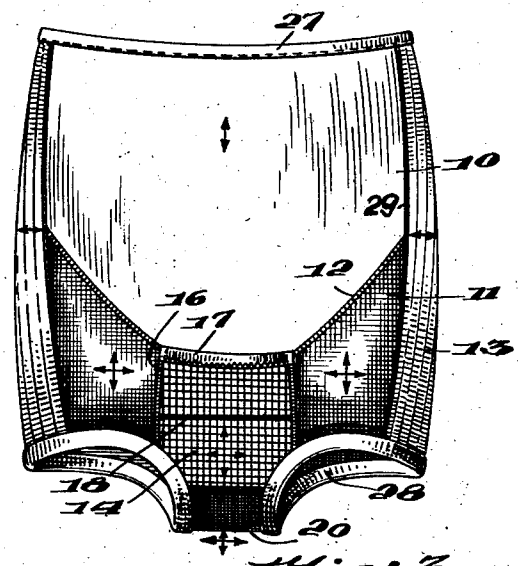


Fig. 2.

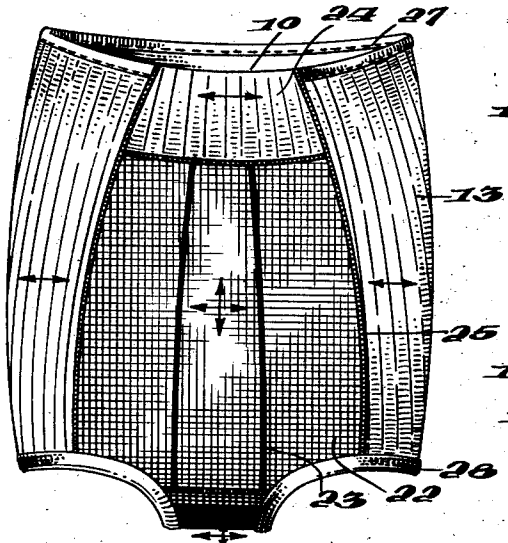
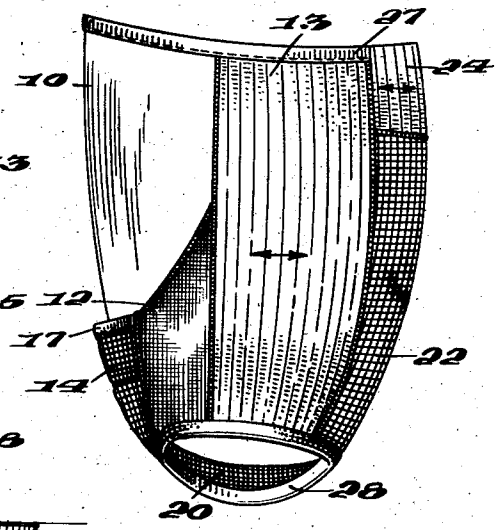


Fig. 3.



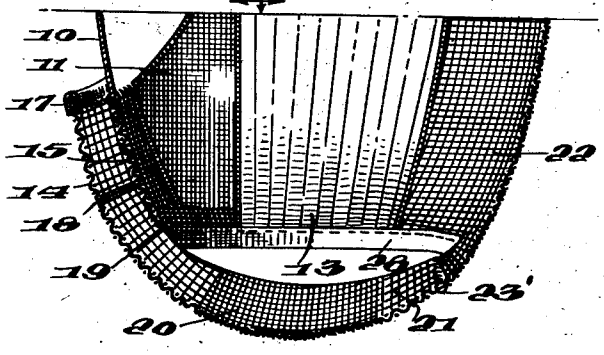


Fig. 4.

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UNDERGARMENT

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10 Claims. (Cl. 128—159)

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This invention is directed to a man's undergarment of the class of shorts and is particularly directed to such an undergarment of novel construction designed to give healthful and comfortably support to the mature male body.

One object of the invention is to provide a man's undergarment incorporating supporting portions adapted to support particular areas of the mature male body.

Another object of the invention is to provide a man's undergarment which is essentially in the nature of shorts but also having the properties of a man's girdle.

Another object of the invention is to provide a man's undergarment of the class of shorts incorporating a suspensory and other supporting features.

Another object of the invention is to provide a form-fitting man's undergarment of the class of shorts having over-all elasticity but wherein the characteristics differ in different vertical and circumferential areas thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide a man's undergarment of the class of shorts incorporating rubber or other elastic yarn where, and only where, required and comfortable on the male figure, such elastic yarn variously serving to provide ready stretch in certain portions of the garment and tension in other portions.

Another object of the invention is to provide a man's undergarment of the class of shorts incorporating portions of different fabric texture designed to variously give comfort, support and ventilation.

Another object of the invention is to provide a form-fitting man's undergarment of the class of shorts incorporating a front which is nonstretchable, or substantially so, in conjunction with elastic other portions designed to tension said front against the male body.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a form-fitting man's undergarment of the class of shorts in which the lower area, at least in the front, is designed to provide ventilation.

The foregoing and other objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the illustrative embodiment of the invention shown in the appended drawing and description thereof to follow.

In such drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a man's undergarment according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a corresponding rear view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a corresponding side view; and,

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary sectional elevation showing the lower portion of the undergarment.

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The undergarment shown in the drawing is of a jockey shorts type. The garment body includes a main front portion 10 adapted to cover the main abdominal region but terminating at its lower edge above the bottom of the garment so as not to cover the sensitive lower abdominal region. Portion 10 functions as a supporting girdle for the main abdominal region, being tensioned thereagainst by elastic other portions of the garment hereafter referred to. Such portion is made of fabric which is inelastic horizontally and slightly elastic vertically. In the embodiment shown portion 10 is constructed of closely woven fabric which is nonstretchable horizontally but incorporates rubber threads which are relatively resistive to stretch but which permits some slight stretch in a vertical direction to permit conformation with the contour of the body. It will be noted that girdle portion 10 is curved at its lower edge to generally conform to the abdominal region.

Underlying girdle portion 10 and secured at its upper edge thereto by a flat butt seam 12 is a lower front portion 11 adapted to cover the lower abdominal region. To insure comfort lower portion 11 is made of easily stretchable knitted fabric incorporating rubber yarns. Such fabric is preferably of a close mesh type which when stretched on the body will provide fabric pores designed to give ventilation over the lower abdomen.

The garment includes opposite side portions 13 which are secured to the outer edges of both the upper and lower front portions 10 and 11 by lapped or butt seams 23. Such side portions are preferably constructed of plain or rib knit fabric incorporating rubber yarns designed to exert tension on the upper front portion 10, horizontally. Such side portions will preferably be inelastic, or substantially so, in a vertical direction. Preferably the side portions will be less easily stretchable horizontally than the lower front portion 11 which is capable of stretching both horizontally and vertically.

A suspensory pocket portion 14 is located in the lower central front portion of the garment. The same in its upper portion underlies the central front portion 15 of the lower abdominal portion 11 and is secured at its opposite sides thereto by lines of vertical stitching 16. The upper edge of suspensory pocket portion 14 has seamed thereto an elastic tape 17 which serves to hold the edge flat and under horizontal tension when the garment is on the body but which permits the upper area of the pocket to be pulled downwardly. A horizontally normally closed fly opening is thus

provided with the underlying central front lower abdominal portion 15. The lower margin 19 of said portion 15 is formed with closely knit plain wales instead of being of mesh knit and incorporating rubber yarns. Such margin 19 tends to hold portion 15 flat against the body but is capable of stretching upwardly for fly opening purposes.

Suspensory pocket portion 14 when on the body is designed to provide a definite loosely fitting supporting pocket. It is preferably made of coarse open mesh knit fabric which is readily distensible both vertically and horizontally to conform to the shape of the body parts. Preferably the same is made of very soft inelastic yarn such as cotton for reasons of comfort. It may, as shown, include a narrow area of elastic rubber courses 18 intermediate its upper portion above the pocket forming area to cooperate with edging tape 17 in maintaining the upper area flat against the body.

As will be understood from Fig. 4 the pocket forming lower area of portion 14 is located below lower margin 19 of member 15. Knit integrally with the rear end of pocket portion 14 is a crotch portion 20 of soft easily stretchable fabric adapted to insure comfort in the crotch area, particularly when walking. Such crotch portion is preferably composed of mesh knit fabric formed of elastic yarns and stretchable both lengthwise and horizontally. The rear area 21 of crotch portion 20 may, if desired, be of open mesh knitting and composed of cotton or other inelastic yarns. In any event crotch portion 20 is designed to smoothly fit the crotch area of the body and avoid rubbing friction which might produce chafing.

The rear portion 22 of the garment is composed of elastic fabric knit of rubber yarn and is preferably of medium mesh fabric adapted to provide porosity and ventilation when the garment is worn. Such back portion should be capable of vertical and horizontal stretch. The same is seamed at 25 to and will coact with side portions 13 to horizontally tension front main abdominal portion 10. The vertical stretch of rear portion 22 will insure proper fit on the body and insure against strain and binding, particularly in the crotch area, when the wearer bends over or sits down. If desired a pair of spaced vertical stripes 23 of closely knit fabric may be formed integrally with the rear portion on opposite sides of the center line which will serve to resist undue stretch of the back portion and hold the fit.

The lower end of back portion 22 is secured in a flat smooth butt seam 23' to the rear portion 21 of crotch portion 20.

Because of its ready stretchability it is desirable to terminate back section 22 below the upper end of the garment providing the upper back area with portion 24. Such upper back portion 24 is preferably formed of closely knit elastic yarn and is designed to stretch horizontally to provide a greater degree of tension circumferentially in the waist area of the body. The lower edge of portion 24 is seamed to the upper edge of main body portion 22 and vertical seams connect both such back portions with the rear edges of side portions 13.

Extending around the upper edge of the garment is an elastic tape 27, the same terminating with the side edges of back portion 24. The same provides a greater degree of tension at the upper edge and exerted through the side portions 13 and below.

The lower edges of lower abdominal portion 11, side portions 13 and back portion 22 together with the side edges of suspensory pocket portion 14 and crotch portion 20 are shaped to form suitable leg openings and such edges are bound with elastic tape 28 adapted to embrace the legs.

It will be understood that the garment is designed to closely fit the body by reason of the elastic portions thereof. A substantial circumferential tension is exerted by the main abdominal portion 10 for supporting purposes. The suspensory pocket is free from either vertical or horizontal tension both because of its own loosely fitting character and the ready stretchability of crotch portion 20. The lower front abdominal portion 11 will closely fit the lower abdominal area but without exerting any appreciable tension thereon in any direction. The upper portion of the suspensory pocket portion 14 would normally lie flat against the front central area 15 of the lower abdominal portion 11.

Thus I have provided a garment comprising form-fitting shorts embodying appropriate girdle and suspensory supporting features. The employment of different types of fabric and different yarns in the different portions of the garment are designed to insure overall comfort of the garment. In some portions it will be apparent that ready stretchability is obtained while other portions are designed to produce tension. The ventilation provided by the mesh character of the fabric in the lower area of the garment is considered a desirable feature because of its form-fitting character but it is within the scope of the invention to construct any or all of the lower abdominal suspensory pouch, crotch and rear portions of the garment of closely knit fabric where ventilation is not desired. The shape and arrangement of the different portions is also subject to variation. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be determined from the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable and longitudinally stretchable front girdle portion adapted to engage the main abdominal region and terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, and a circumferentially and longitudinally readily stretchable lower front portion incorporating elastic yarn adapted to engage the lower abdominal region with a relatively low tension and secured at its upper edge to the lower edge of said front girdle portion.

2. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable front girdle portion adapted to engage the main abdominal region with high tension and terminating in a convex lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, and an elastic lower front portion of two-way stretch fabric adapted to engage the lower abdominal region with relatively low tension and having a concave upper edge joined to said lower edge of said front girdle portion.

3. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable

front girdle portion adapted to engage the main abdominal region and terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, and a lower front portion of two-way stretch fabric incorporating elastic yarn secured at its upper edge to the lower edge of the front girdle portion and adapted to engage the lower abdominal region with relatively low tension.

4. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including circumferentially stretchable elastic back and side portions incorporating elastic yarn, a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable front girdle portion connecting with said side portions and adapted to be circumferentially tensioned by said back and side portions against the main abdominal region, said front girdle portion terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, and a circumferentially readily stretchable elastic lower front portion connecting at its edges with said side and front girdle portions and adapted to engage the lower abdominal region with relatively low tension and having a greater degree of elasticity than said back and side portions.

5. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable front girdle portion adapted to engage and support the main abdominal region and terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, an elastic lower front portion incorporating elastic yarn secured at its upper edge to the lower edge of said front girdle portion and adapted to engage the lower abdominal region with relatively low tension, a loose fitting suspensory pouch portion connecting with said lower front portion, an elastic crotch portion incorporating elastic yarn connecting with the rear of said pouch portion, a back portion connecting with the rear of said crotch portion, and side portions connecting with said front girdle and lower front portions, said back and side portions incorporating elastic yarn and being adapted to circumferentially tension said front girdle portion, and said lower front portion being more readily stretchable circumferentially than said back and side portions.

6. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable front girdle portion adapted to engage the main abdominal region and terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, a lower front portion of elastic mesh fabric adapted to engage the lower abdominal region and being secured at its upper edge to the lower edge of said front girdle portion and a suspensory pouch portion of open textured ventilating fabric, said pouch portion having an upper portion overlapping said lower front portion and terminating in a free upper edge and having its sides secured to said lower front portion.

7. An undergarment of the class of shorts comprising a tubular garment body adapted to embrace the abdominal, side, back and crotch areas of the body, said garment body including a two-way stretch elastic back portion, a circumferentially substantially non-stretchable front girdle portion adapted to engage the main abdominal region and terminating in a lower edge adapted to be located in upwardly spaced relation to the crotch, a two-way stretch elastic lower front portion adapted to engage the lower abdominal region and secured at its upper edge to the lower edge of said front girdle portion, circumferentially stretchable side portions interconnecting the front girdle and lower front portions with said back portion, an elastic fabric crotch section at the bottom of the garment body, and a loosely fitting suspensory pouch portion connected between said lower front portion and said crotch section.

8. A bifurcated garment for molding the abdominal body area and embracing the side, back and crotch body areas comprising, an upper main front portion for overlying and extending substantially to the sides of the abdominal area and formed of circumferentially substantially non-stretchable and vertically stretchable material with the upper edge substantially horizontal and the lower edge being generally convex, a lower front portion for overlying the lowermost portion of the abdominal area and formed of readily stretchable material with the upper edge secured to said convex lower edge of said upper main front portion and portions of its lower edge defining portions of leg openings, a side and back portion joining the sides of said upper main front portion and the sides of said lower front portion for overlying the lower side and back body areas with the upper edge substantially horizontal and portions of the lower edge constituting continuations of said lower edge of said lower front portion to define further said leg openings, the upper portion of said side and back portion including a horizontally extending elastic section for applying circumferentially relatively high tension to said sides of said upper main front portion thereby to apply substantial compressive force to the abdominal area and the lower portion of said side and back portion being formed of readily stretchable material to conform readily and closely with the body in either a sitting or a standing position and hold said upper main front portion and said elastic section against working upwardly of the body, and a crotch portion formed of elastic material and secured at the rear edge to said lower edge of said side and back portion with the sides constituting continuations of said lower edge portions of said lower front portion and of said lower edge of said side and back portion to complete the definition of said leg openings.

9. A bifurcated garment for molding the abdominal body area and embracing the side, back and crotch areas comprising, an upper main front portion for overlying and extending substantially to the sides of the abdominal area and formed of circumferentially substantially non-stretchable and vertically stretchable material with the upper edge substantially horizontal and the lower edge being generally convex, a lower front portion for overlying the lowermost portion of the abdominal area and formed of readily stretchable material with the upper edge secured to said convex lower edge of said upper main front portion and the lower edge near its ends defining portions of leg openings, a side and back portion joining the sides of said upper main front portion and the sides of said lower front portion for overlying the lower side and back

body areas with the upper edge substantially horizontal and portions of the lower edge constituting continuations of said lower edge of said lower front portion to define further said leg openings, the upper portion of said side and back portion including a horizontally extending elastic section for applying circumferentially relatively high tension to said sides of said upper main front portion thereby to apply substantial compressive force to the abdominal area and the lower portion of said side and back portion being formed of readily stretchable material to conform readily and closely with the body in either a sitting or a standing position and hold said upper main front portion and said elastic section against working upwardly of the body, a loose fitting suspensory pouch portion having the upper parts of its sides secured to intermediate vertical parts of said lower front portion and the lower portions of its sides constituting continuations of said lower edge of said lower front portion to define further said leg openings and the upper edge unattached to the juxtaposed central part of said lower front portion, and a crotch portion formed of elastic material and secured at one edge to the lower edge of said pouch portion and at the other edge to said lower edge of said side and back portion with the sides constituting continuations of said lower portions of said sides of said pouch portion and of said lower edge of said side and back portion to complete the definition of said leg openings.

10. A bifurcated garment for molding the abdominal body area and embracing the side, back and crotch body areas comprising, an upper main front portion for overlying and extending substantially to the sides of the abdominal area and formed of circumferentially substantially non-stretchable and vertically stretchable material with the upper edge substantially horizontal and the lower edge being generally convex, a lower front portion for overlying the lowermost portion of the abdominal area and formed of readily stretchable material with the upper edge secured to said convex lower edge of said upper main front portion and the lower edge near its ends defining portions of leg openings, a side and back portion joining the sides of said upper main front portion and the sides of said lower front portion for overlying the lower side and back body areas with the upper edge substantially horizontal and portions of the lower edge constituting continuations of said lower edge of said lower portion to define further said leg openings, the upper portion of said side and back portion including a horizontally extending elastic section for applying circumferentially relatively high tension to said sides of said upper main front portion thereby to apply substantial compressive force to the abdominal area and the lower portion of said side and back portion being formed of readily stretchable material to conform readily and closely with the body in either a sitting or a standing position and hold said upper main front portion and said elastic section against working upwardly of the body, the tension applied by said elastic section to said upper main front portion being greater than the tension applied thereto by said lower portion of said side and back portion whereby the required compressive force is applied to the abdominal area while said lower portion is readily stretchable to conform to various body positions, a loose fitting suspensory pouch portion having the upper parts of its sides secured to intermediate vertical parts of said lower front portion and the lower portions of its sides constituting continuations of said lower edge of said lower front portion to define further said leg openings and the upper edge unattached to the juxtaposed central part of said lower front portion, and a crotch portion formed of elastic material and secured at one edge to the lower edge of said pouch portion and at the other edge to said lower edge of said side and back portion with the sides constituting continuations of said lower portions of said sides of said pouch portion and of said lower edge of said side and back portion to complete the definition of said leg openings.

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