Oct. 29, 1957 A. KAUFMAN 2,810,912

BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENTS

Filed July 29, 1955

FIG. 1

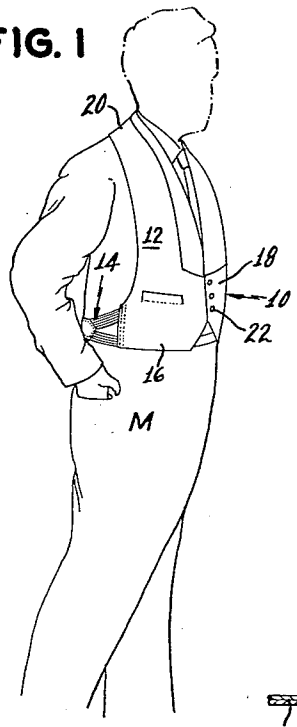


FIG. 2

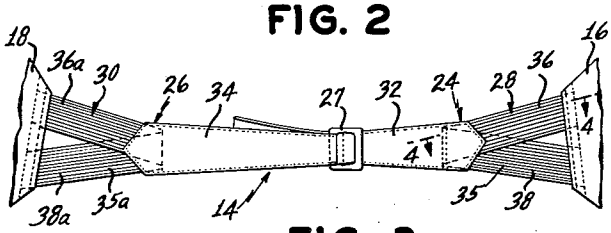


FIG. 3

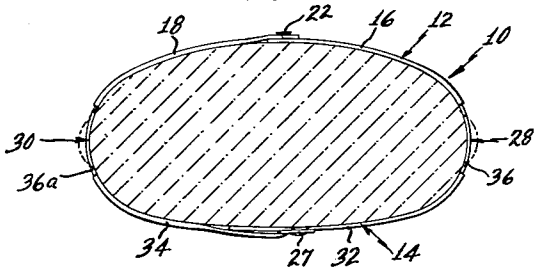
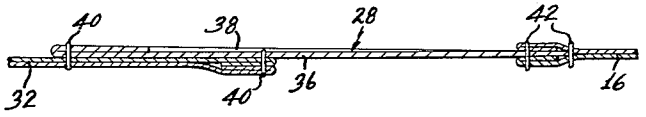


FIG. 4



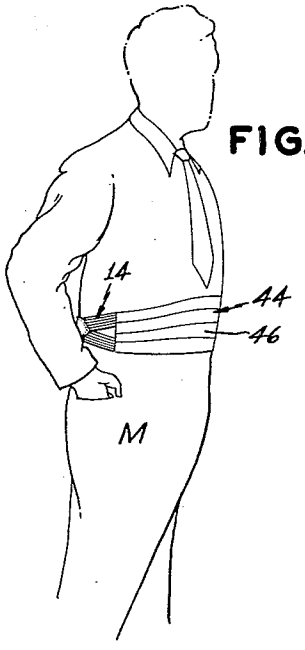


FIG. 6

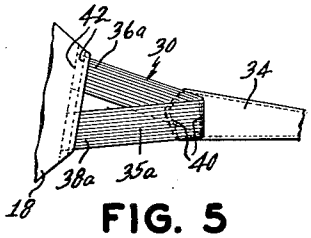


FIG. 5

INVENTOR.
Abraham Kaufman
BY Edwin Sevrogh +
ATTORNEYS

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BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENTS

Abraham Kaufman, New York, N. Y., assignor to George W. Heller, Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application July 29, 1955, Serial No. 525,261

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—102)

This invention relates to body encircling garments.

The main object of the present invention is to provide in body encircling garments new and improved means for automatically adjusting the garment to variations in the girth of the wearer.

A general object of the present invention is to provide a generally improved body encircling garment.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be fully understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a vest embodying the present invention showing the vest as actually used by a wearer thereof;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary rear view of the garment shown in Fig. 1 illustrating the band of said garment;

Fig. 3 is a phantom cross section view of the garment shown in Fig. 1 as the garment would appear on a wearer thereof;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary side elevation view illustrating the details of construction of the band portion of the garment shown in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 1 illustrating my present invention incorporated in a cummerbund.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, a vest **10** embodying the present invention is shown being worn by a wearer M. As shown in Fig. 1 the vest **10** embodying the present invention is of the type commonly used by men for formal wear. It will be understood that the vest **10** is shown merely for illustrative purposes and that other body encircling garments can be constructed to incorporate the present invention. Vest **10** includes main body portion **12** and the rear band **14**. Main body portion **12** is made up of two bodice portions **16** and **18** which are connected to each other at collar **20** and also by means of button-buttonhole arrangement **22** at the front thereof. The bottoms of bodice portions **16** and **18** of vest **10** are also connected by means of the band **14**.

Band **14** is illustrated clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawing. As shown therein, band **14** is made up of two band portions **24** and **26** which are releasably connected to each other by means of buckle **27**. In accordance with the present invention, each band portion **24** and **26** comprises an elastic part or portion **28** and **30**, respectively, and an inelastic or fabric portion **32** and **34**, respectively. As can best be seen from Fig. 2 each elastic portion **28** and **30** is made up of an elastic fabric band **35** and **35***a*, respectively, bent over to form band portions **36** and **36***a* and **38** and **38***a*, respectively, which are disposed at an acute angle to each other so as to form V's. As just described, in the preferred form the two band portions **36** and **38** and their corresponding parts **36***a* and **38***a* are two parts of a single band **35** and **35***a* which is folded over on itself to form the V-shaped elastic band parts **28** and **30**. Of course, the band portions **36** and **38** could be separate pieces connected at the apex of the V. In the folded over condition, the apexes of the V's are secured to the inelastic parts **32** and **34** of band **14** as by stitching **40** (Fig. 4). The ends of the arms of the

V-shaped elastic parts **28** and **30** are secured to the sides of garment **10** as by stitching **42**.

In wearing the garment **10**, the wearer slips the garment over his head and causes it to lie in the manner illustrated in Fig. 1. Thereafter, he secures the two inelastic band parts **32** and **34** together by means of the buckle **27**, and adjusts the tension of the band in order that the garment fits the wearer properly. By providing V-shaped elastic parts **28** and **30** as heretofore described, if the wearer has an irregular girth in the area where the band encircles the wearer's body, then the angularly disposed band portions **36** and **38** and **36***a* and **38***a* adjust themselves independently so as to have the garment fit comfortably on the wearer (Fig. 3). Accordingly, regardless of the shape of the wearer's body due to excess fat or outwardly protruding ribs, etc., the band will fit snugly around the wearer's body so as to render the garment comfortable for the wearer.

Referring now to Fig. 6 another garment, that is cummerbund **44**, is shown disposed on wearer M. The main body portion **46** of cummerbund **44** is connected to a band **14** which is of substantially identical construction to the band **14** on vest **10** heretofore described. It is believed, in view of the detailed description of the construction of band **14** presented heretofore, that a detailed description of the construction of the band **14** on the cummerbund is unnecessary.

Although several forms of the present invention have been illustrated and described herein, it will be understood that various changes and modifications may be made therein within the scope of the appended claim without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A body encircling garment comprising, a main body part adapted to cover the abdominal part of the body, a band extending between spaced portions of said main body part, said band having an elastic part secured to each of said spaced portions and an inelastic part extending between said elastic parts, each of said elastic parts comprising a pair of elastic strap portions disposed at an acute angle to each other to form a V, the inner ends of said elastic strap portions being secured in superposed relation to the adjacent end of said inelastic parts to form the apex of the V, the outer ends of said elastic strap portions being secured in non-superposed spaced relation to an adjacent one of said body part spaced portions, the contour edges of said elastic strap portions being in smooth continuous relation with the contour edges of said main body part, said inelastic part extending between the apexes of said V's and comprising a pair of inelastic strips, each strip being secured at one end thereof to the apex of the adjacent V and tapering therefrom toward the other end thereof, the contour edges of said inelastic strips being in smooth continuous relation with the contour edges of said elastic strap portions, a provision being made at the other end of said inelastic strips to releasably secured said strips together, whereby said garment automatically adjusts for variations in girth of different parts of the wearer's body.

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