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(54) **GARMENT WITH ONE OR MORE
PERSONALIZABLE PANELS**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A garment with one or more personalizable panels and various related embodiments are disclosed. The garment, to be worn about the lower torso and legs, comprises: a waist encircling portion, a first leg encircling portion, and a second leg encircling portion, in which the waist encircling portion may comprise both an adjustable waistband and a non-adjustable waistband portion, and a personalizable panel for displaying one or more personal communications. The disclosed embodiments feature a variety of personalizable panels constructed in a variety of ways and attached to the garment in a variety of ways. Features of the disclosure allow for the attachment of the personalizable panel in such a way as to not interfere with the operation of the adjustable waistband portion. Other features of the disclosure allow the personalizable panel to maintain its shape despite the expansion and contraction of the adjustable waistband portion. The one or more personal communications may be conveyed as text, designs, images, and in any combination thereof as needed.

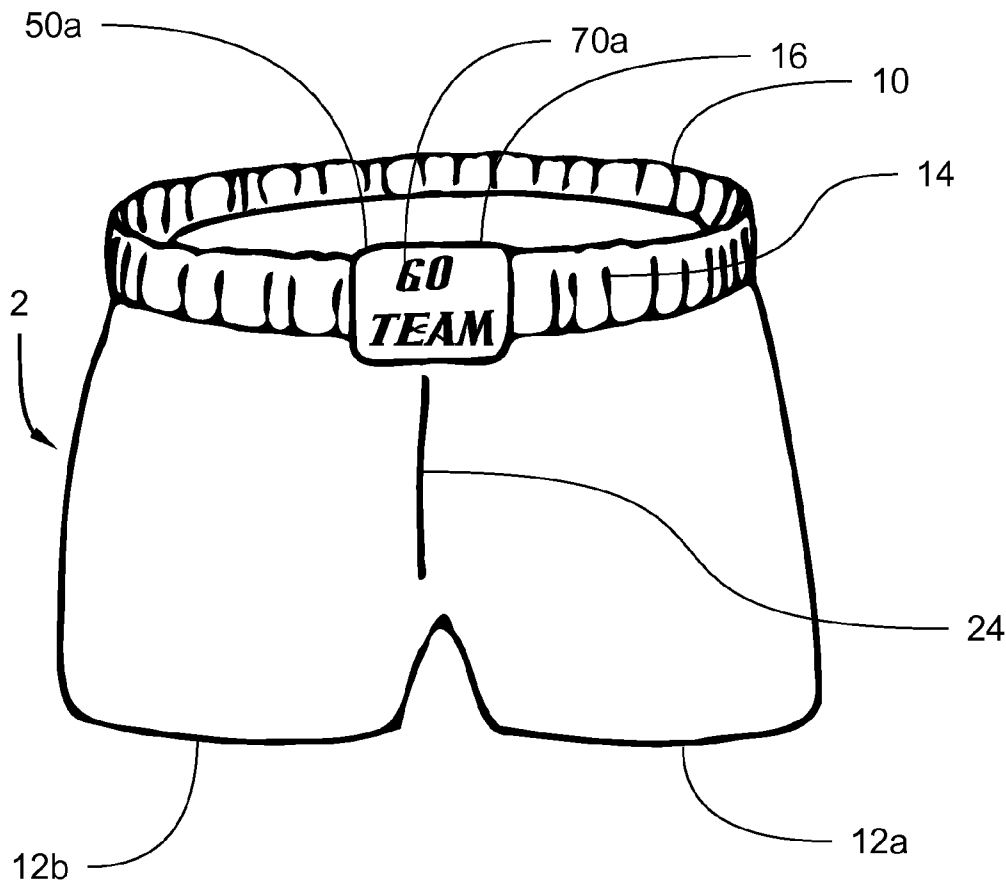
(76) Inventor: **Lynn A. Bowman**, Buford, GA (US)

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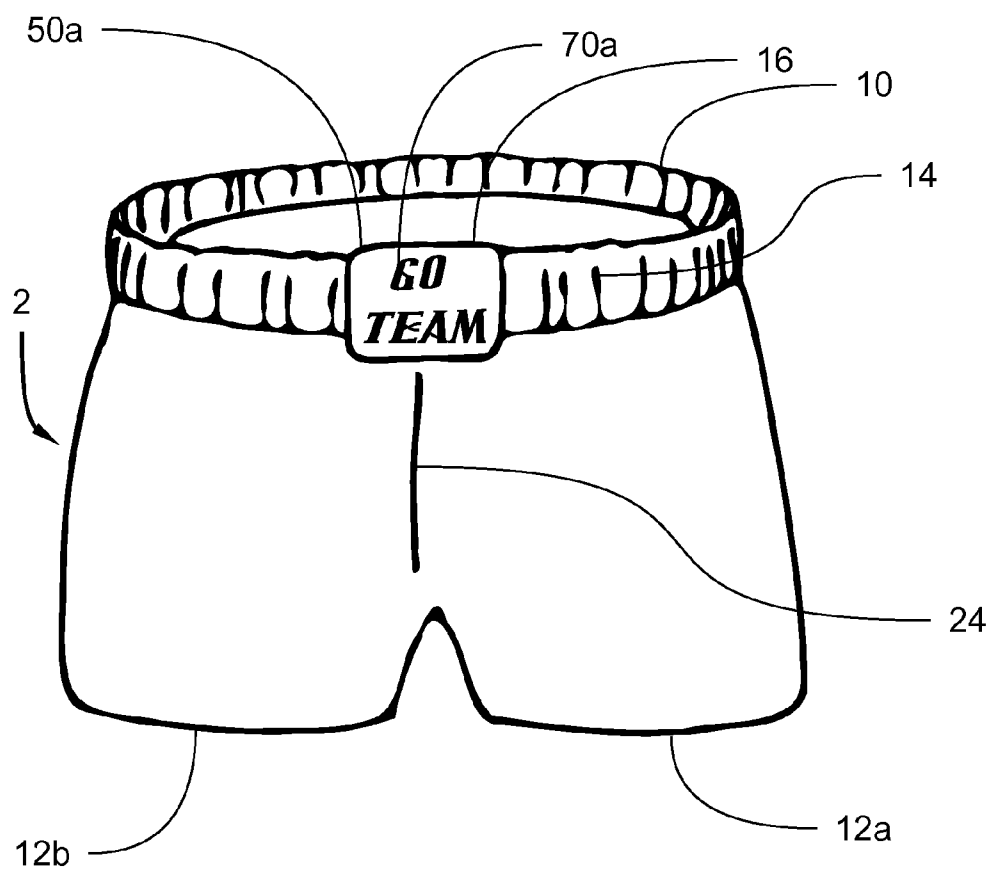


FIG 1A

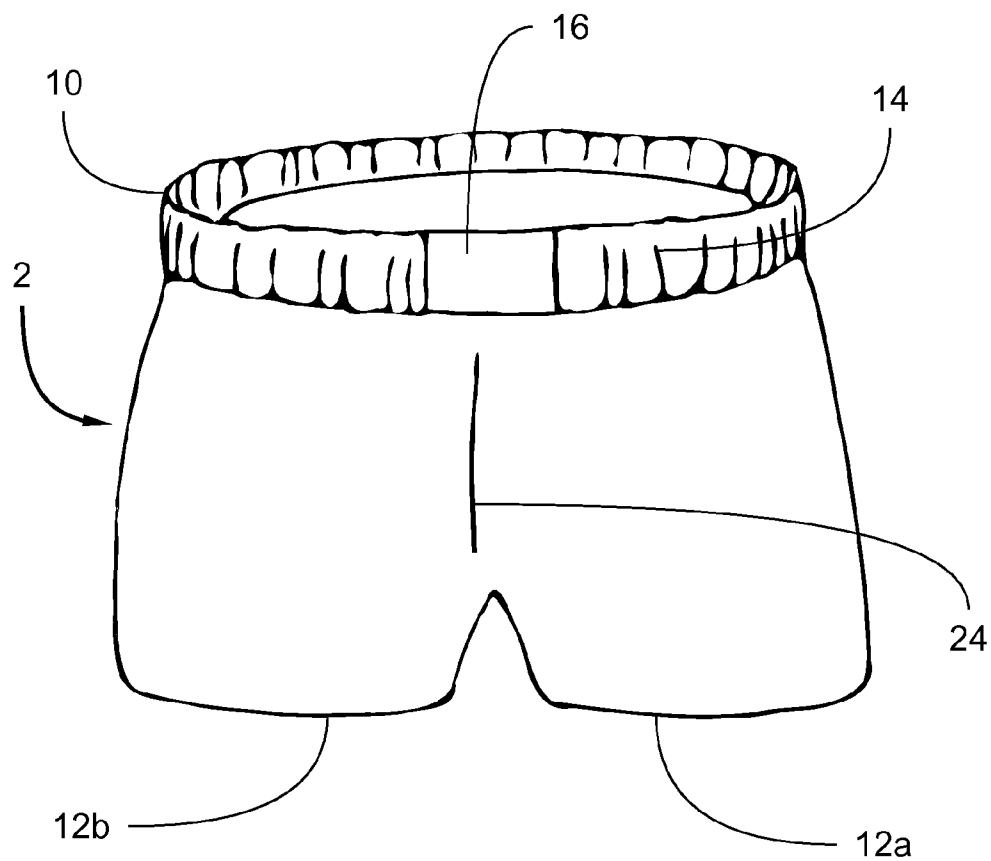


FIG 1B

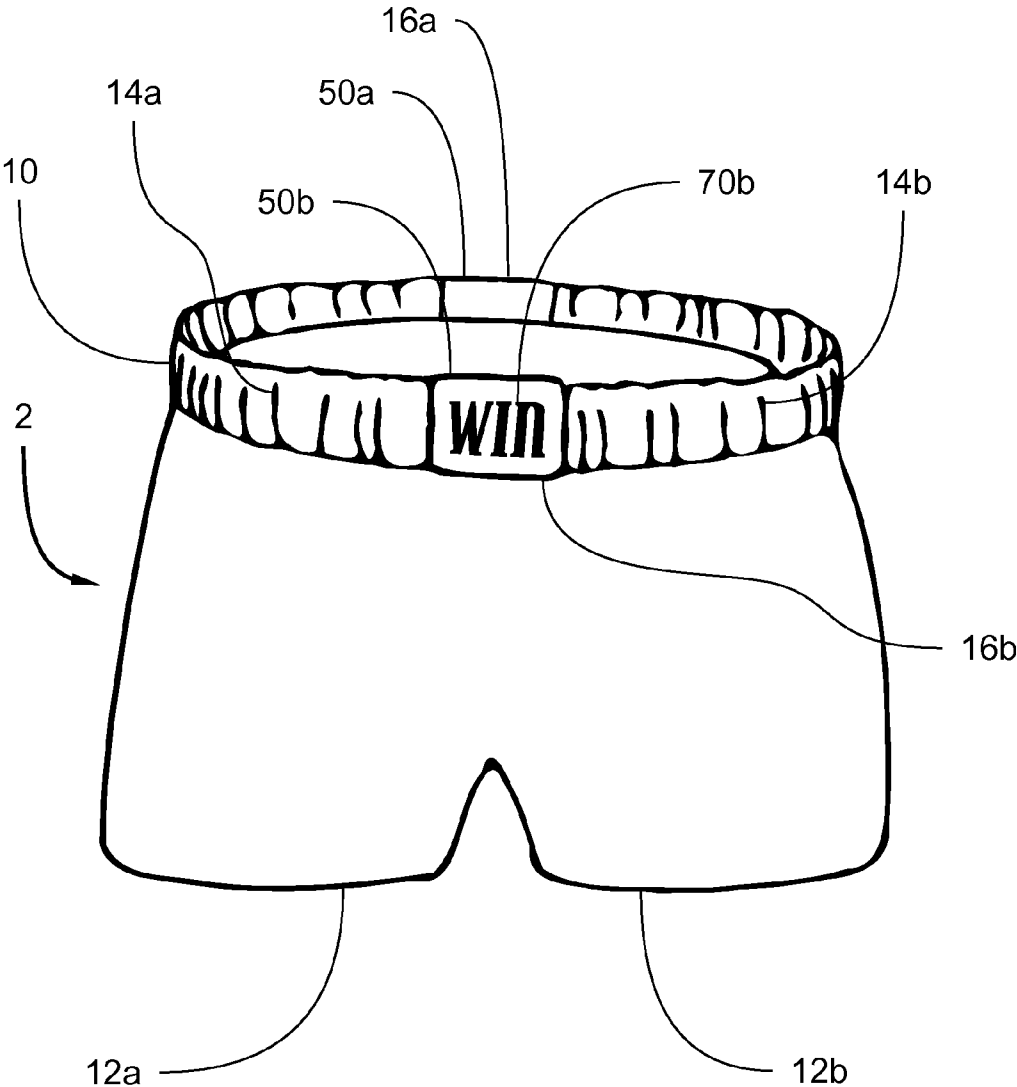


FIG 2

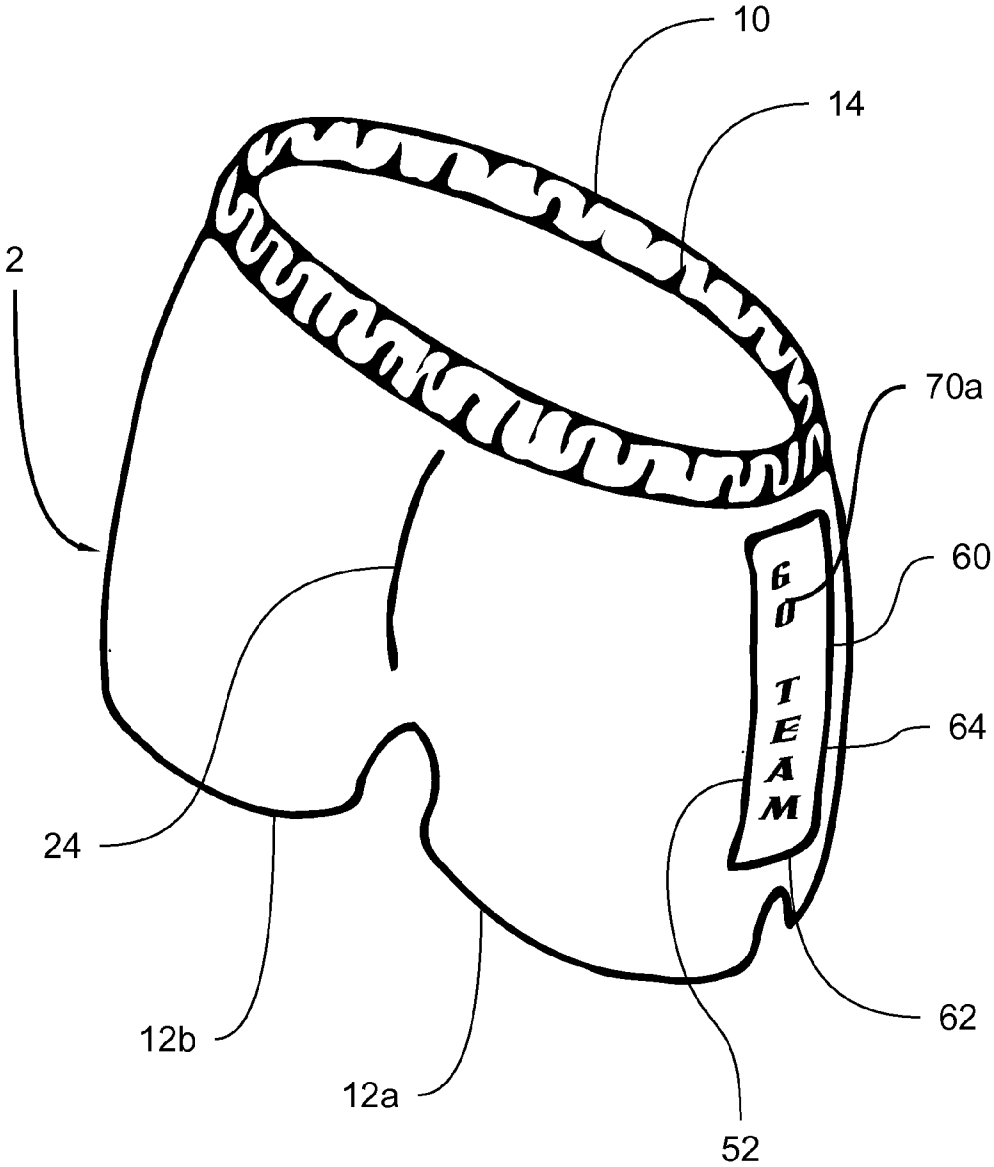


FIG 3

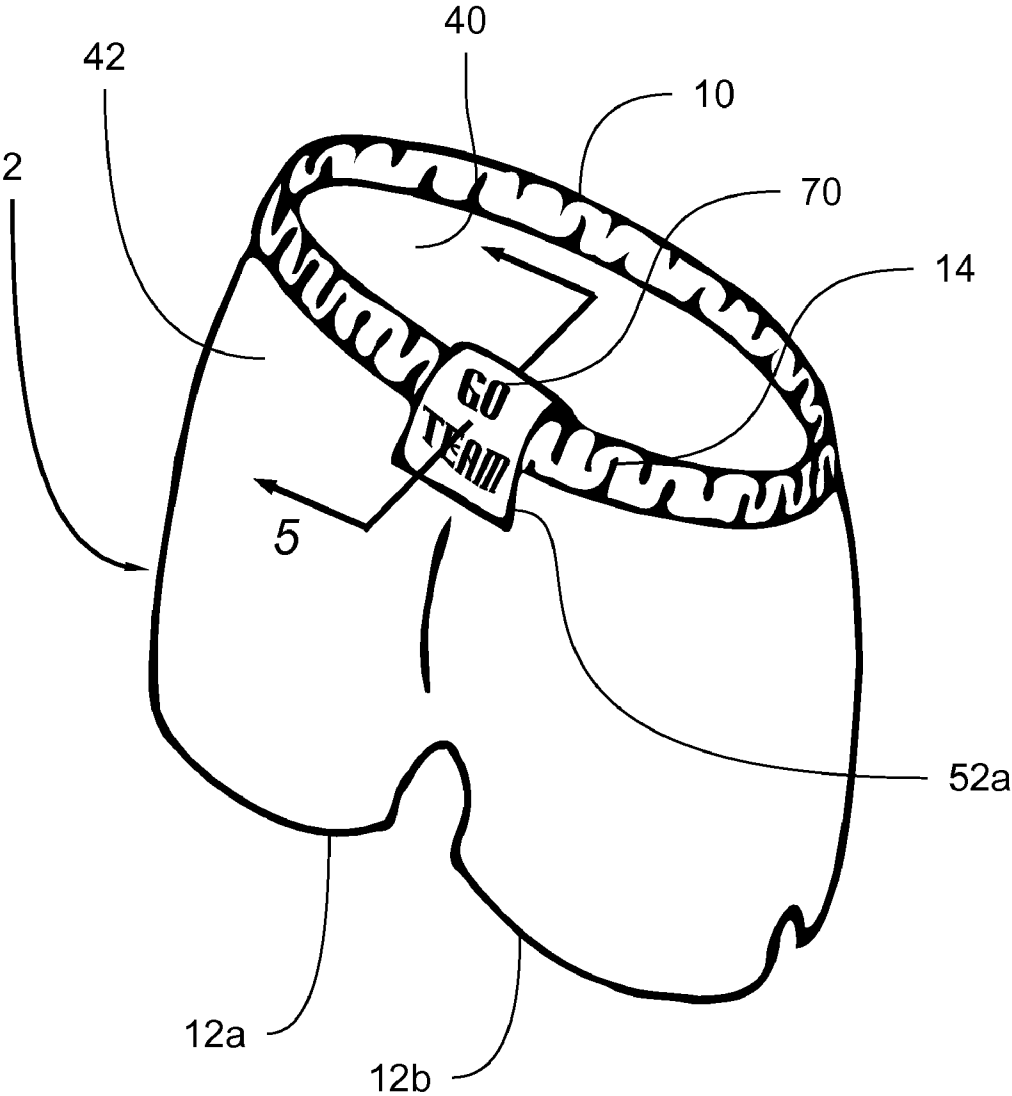


FIG 4

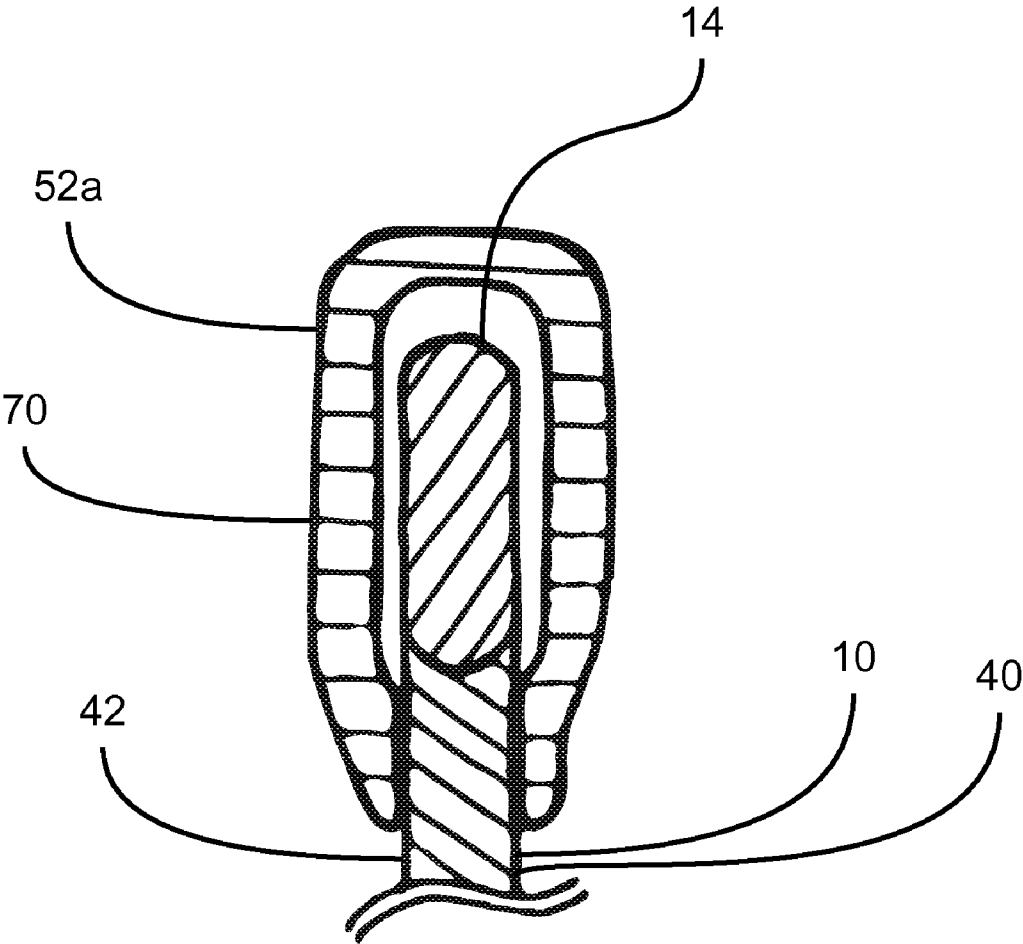


FIG 5

GARMENT WITH ONE OR MORE PERSONALIZABLE PANELS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This non-provisional utility application includes subject matter that is related to United States design patent application by inventor Lynn A. Bowman entitled “Garment with One or More Personalizable Panels”, which has the filing date Aug. 19, 2011, agent docket number 2011_05_C. The aforementioned design application is incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable.

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED APPENDIX

[0003] Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND

[0004] One only need look at such things as bumper stickers, T-shirts, web logs, and postings on social media websites to see that people enjoy expressing themselves and their personalities in ways that are visible to others. In addition, many people enjoy expressing themselves through their own personal style, whether it be through clothing choices, hair style, jewelry, or other means. The present application discloses a garment and related embodiments that have features allowing a person to display one or more personal communications for the observation and notice of others.

SUMMARY

[0005] Disclosed are various embodiments of a garment with one or more personalizable panels. In a first embodiment, a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprises: a waist encircling portion, a first leg encircling portion, and, a second leg encircling portion; the waist encircling portion having: an adjustable waist band portion abutting a non-adjustable waistband portion, the non-adjustable waistband portion being configured such that at least a first portion of said non-adjustable waistband portion is a first personalizable panel; the first personalizable panel being further configured to substantially retain its shape while the adjustable waistband portion flexes; the first personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, the first personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

[0006] In another embodiment, a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprises: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and a first elongate personalizable panel attached to the first leg encircling portion; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized as having both a first panel length and a first panel width with the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first panel width is substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion, the first elongate personalizable panel being further configured to substantially retain its shape while the adjustable waistband portion flexes; the first elongate person-

alizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

[0007] In another embodiment, a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprises: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and, a first elongate personalizable panel having at least one panel edge; the first elongate personalizable panel being further configured such that at least a portion of at least one panel edge is attached to the first leg encircling portion, the first elongate personalizable panel having both a first panel length and a first panel width, said first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first panel width is substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to carry a first personalized communication, and, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

[0008] In another embodiment, a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprises: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and a first elongate personalizable panel; the garment further characterized as having a wearer proximal side which faces inward toward the wearer and a wearer distal side which faces away from the wearer; the garment further characterized in that the first elongate personalizable panel is configured such that a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the wearer proximal side and a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the wearer distal side; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized in that it is folded over a portion of the waist encircling portion such that the adjustable waistband portion may operate in expansion and contraction without causing substantial expansion and contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, and, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible from the outside of the garment.

[0009] In another embodiment, a kit for personalizing a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprises: a garment to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion; the garment further characterized as having a wearer proximal side which faces inward toward the wearer and a wearer distal side which faces away from the wearer; and, a first elongate personalizable panel configured such that a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attachable to the wearer proximal side and a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attachable to the wearer distal side; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized in that it can fold over a portion of the waist encircling portion such that the adjustable waistband portion may operate in expansion and contraction without causing substantial expansion and contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, and, the first elongate personalizable panel being attachable to the

garment such that the first personalized communication is visible from the outside of the garment when the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the garment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, appended claims, and accompanying drawings where:

[0011] FIG. 1A shows a perspective view of a garment according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 1B shows another perspective view of the garment of FIG. 1A.

[0013] FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of a garment according to an embodiment of the present disclosure having more than one personalizable panel.

[0014] FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of a garment according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0015] FIG. 4 shows a perspective view of a garment according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0016] FIG. 5 shows a cross section view of a garment according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMBERS APPEARING IN THE FIGURES

- [0017] 2—garment with one or more personalizable panels
- [0018] 10—waist encircling portion
- [0019] 12a, 12b—first leg encircling portion, second leg encircling portion
- [0020] 14, 14a, 14b—adjustable waistband portion, first adjustable waistband portion, second adjustable waistband portion
- [0021] 16, 16a, 16b—non-adjustable waistband portion, first non-adjustable waistband portion, second non-adjustable waistband portion
- [0022] 24—front access opening
- [0023] 40—wearer proximal side
- [0024] 42—wearer distal side
- [0025] 50, 50a, 50b—personalizable panel, first personalizable panel, second personalizable panel
- [0026] 52, 52a, 52b—elongate personalizable panel, first elongate personalizable panel, second elongate personalizable panel
- [0027] 60—panel edge
- [0028] 62—panel width
- [0029] 64—panel length
- [0030] 70, 70a, 70b—personalized communication, first personalized communication, second personalized communication

DESCRIPTION

[0031] The present invention is now described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It may be evident, however, that the present invention can be practiced without these specific details and still be within the teachings of this disclosure.

[0032] Turning now to FIG. 1A, shown is a perspective view of an embodiment of a garment with one or more personalizable panels 2 to be worn about the lower torso and legs

comprising: a waist encircling portion 10, a first leg encircling portion 12a, and, a second leg encircling portion 12b; waist encircling portion 10 having: an adjustable waist band portion 14 abutting a non-adjustable waistband portion 16, non-adjustable waistband portion 16 being configured such that at least a first portion of said non-adjustable waistband portion is a first personalizable panel 50a; first personalizable panel 50a being further configured to substantially retain its shape while adjustable waistband portion 14 expands and contracts; first personalizable panel 50a being configured to display a first personalized communication 70a, the first personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

[0033] With continuing reference to FIG. 1A, the garment may be characterized as having both a garment top and a garment bottom in which a torso of the wearer is proximate to the garment top and the legs of the wearer are proximate to the garment bottom when the garment is worn. The waist encircling portion 10 of the garment has an adjustable waistband portion 14 to facilitate snugness and proper sizing of the garment while being worn. The adjustable waistband portion 14 need not encircle the entire waist encircling portion of the garment and preferred embodiments have non-adjustable waistband portion 16 which abuts adjustable waistband portion. Constructing the garment in this way still provides adjustability in the waistband area of the garment but also allows for a first personalizable panel 50a to be integrated into the garment. Adjustable waistband portion 14 is free to expand and contract as the wearer's movements dictate while at the same time the non-adjustable waistband portion 16 is substantially free from expansion and contraction as the garment wearer moves. Also shown in FIG. 1A is front access opening 24, which may be particularly useful for a male wearer of the garment. Front access opening 24 is an optional feature of the garment, which may not be present in all embodiments. Front access opening 24 may be constructed to have a closure means such as a button, buttons, hook and loop, zipper to secure the front access opening in a closed aspect.

[0034] The garment of FIG. 1A may be constructed from a range of suitable materials and with a range of different methods used to join those materials together to complete the manufacture of the garment. Cloth and fabric materials are preferred. However, any suitable garment material could find appropriate application with the teachings of this disclosure. The various embodiments of garments according to this disclosure apply equally to undergarments, overgarments, swimwear and the like, subject only to the materials and construction methods that suit the particular application of the teachings of this disclosure. A preferred embodiment of the garment may be constructed of a plurality of cloth panels, wherein the panels are joined together via stitching and the adjustable waistband portion uses an elastic rubber or latex aspect to provide adjustability to the adjustable waistband portion. Other preferred embodiments may use a drawstring through the waist encircling portion to provide adjustability to the adjustable waistband portion. Other embodiments using a cloth or fabric, which may be thermally joined, such as polypropylene, which is particularly suitable for moisture wicking undergarments, may employ a plurality of panels which are then joined via thermal or ultrasound methods which may fuse the panels or panel edges without stitching.

[0035] In preferred embodiments, garment 2 may have one or more personalizable panels that are configured to display one or more personalized communications. First personaliz-

able panel **50a** may be constructed from a range of suitable materials, with cloth and fabric being preferred. First personalizable panel **50a** need not be constructed from the same materials used in the remainder of the garment. In addition, first personalized communication **70a** may be created on first personalizable panel **50a** in a variety of different ways. In preferred embodiments, stitching or embroidery may be used on first personalizable panel **50a** to create an easily recognizable word, phrase, or image that may have meaning to the wearer of the garment. Equally preferred modes of conveying the personalized communication are silk screening, direct-to-garment printing, ink jet printing, stamping, and other means of transferring text or images onto the personalizable panel. In preferred embodiments, first personalizable panel **50a** may be constructed of multiple plies of material such that first personalized communication **70a** is displayed on an outermost ply while the inward facing surface of the personalizable panel closest to the skin of the wearer may be a smooth ply with no intrusions or piercings from the displayed first personalized communication **70a**. Such constructions of the personalizable panel have advantages in the comfort of the garment to the wearer. When the personalized communication is implemented by embroidery or stitching it may be preferred that the embroidery or stitching take place on an outer ply while the inner ply would be free of any artifacts of the stitching or embroidery.

[0036] While the embodiment of garment **2** in FIG. 1A shows first personalizable panel **50a** located in the front of the garment, there is no intention to limit the position of the personalizable panel to just the front of the garment. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1A, first personalizable panel **50a** may be located anywhere along waist encircling portion **10**, only subject to the condition that non-adjustable waistband portion **16** and adjustable waistband portion **14** be positioned such that non-adjustable waistband portion **16** is located where first personalizable panel **50a** is desired. In addition, there is no intention to limit the number of non-adjustable waistband portions that may be used to construct the garment. A garment within the teachings of this disclosure may have one or more non-adjustable waistband portions, and in between those non-adjustable waistband portions there may be one or more adjustable waistband portions. Furthermore, one or more of the non-adjustable waistband portions may be a personalizable panel, with each personalizable panel displaying a personal communication. Each personal communication may be unique or may be a duplicate of another personal communication.

[0037] With reference now to FIG. 1B, shown is the garment of FIG. 1A illustrated without the personalized communication to more clearly show the location of non-adjustable waistband portion **16**. FIG. 1B shows the garment **2** comprising waist encircling portion **10**, first leg encircling portion **12a**, and second leg encircling portion **12b**. Waist encircling portion **10** is shown comprising adjustable waistband portion **14** and non-adjustable waistband portion **16**. Also, front access opening **24** is visible in the figure indicating that FIG. 1B is a perspective view of the front of the garment. Non-adjustable waistband portion **16** may be adorned directly with a personalized communication, or a personalizable panel that displays a personalized communication may be added to the garment, as both embodiments are within the teachings of this disclosure.

[0038] Turning now to FIG. 2, shown is another embodiment of a garment with one or more personalizable panels **2** to

be worn about the lower torso and legs, having more than one personalizable panel. The view of the embodiment of the garment of FIG. 2 is shown from the back of the garment. The garment of FIG. 2 is shown comprising: a waist encircling portion **10**, a first leg encircling portion **12a**, a second leg encircling portion **12b**. Waist encircling portion **10** is shown comprising: a first adjustable waistband portion **14a** abutting a first non-adjustable waistband portion **16a**, and, a second adjustable waistband portion **14b** abutting a second non-adjustable waistband portion **16b**. At least a portion of first non-adjustable waistband portion **16a** is first personalizable panel **50a**, and, at least a portion of second non-adjustable waistband portion **16b** is second personalizable panel **50b** and second personalizable panel **50b**. In other embodiments of the garment of FIG. 2, first and second personalizable panels **50a** and **50b** may be separate panels that are attached to first and second non-adjustable waistband portions, respectively.

[0039] Turning now to FIG. 3, shown is another embodiment of a garment with one or more personalizable panels **2** to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion **10**, a first leg encircling portion **12a**, a second leg encircling portion **12b**, and an elongate personalizable panel **52**. The garment of FIG. 3 may be characterized as having both a garment top and a garment bottom in which the torso of the wearer is proximate to garment top and the legs of the wearer are proximate to the garment bottom when the garment is worn. Elongate personalizable panel **52** comprises at least one panel edge **60**, a panel width **62**, and, a panel length **64**. At least one panel edge **60** of the elongate personalizable panel **52** is attached to one of the leg encircling portions so as to position panel width **62** to be substantially parallel to at least a portion of waist encircling portion **10**. In addition, elongate personalizable panel **52** may be positioned so that it attaches to the garment below the waist encircling portion area defined by the adjustable waistband portion. Also shown in FIG. 3 is front access opening **24** which may be particularly useful for a male wearer of the garment. Front access opening **24** is an optional feature of the garment which may not be present in all embodiments. Front access opening **24** may be constructed to have a closure means such as a button or zipper to secure the front access opening in a closed aspect.

[0040] The garment of FIG. 3 may use the same variety of materials and the same variety of methods of joining the various panels as the garments of FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 2, previously described. In addition, the elongate personalizable panel of FIG. 3 may be expected to use the same materials and construction methods as the one or more personalizable panels embodied in the garment of FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and FIG. 2. In particular, the elongate personalizable panel may be a single ply or multi-ply construction. In preferred embodiments, panel length may be greater than panel width, with the elongate personalizable panel further characterized in that it is located such that the panel width is oriented substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion of the garment. It is noted that a garment with more than one elongate personalizable panel is entirely within the scope of this disclosure. A preferred embodiment has a first elongate personalizable panel aligned with and on the same side of the garment as the first leg encircling portion and a second elongate personalizable panel aligned with and on the same side of the garment as the second leg and circling portion.

[0041] The garment of FIG. 3 has a number of embodiments that may be desirable. The advantages of certain pre-

ferred embodiments will now be described. One preferred embodiment of the garment of FIG. 3 has elongate personalizable panel 52 that is attached to the garment via one panel edge 60. The remainder of elongate personalizable panel need not be attached to the garment in this embodiment. This preferred embodiment would then allow the garment 2 to be manufactured first and then the unattached portion of elongate personalizable panel 52 of the garment may be inserted or otherwise positioned into a machine that may then stitch or in some other way create a first personalized communication 70a directly on elongate personalizable panel 52. The free access to one or more unattached edges of the elongate personalizable panel makes it much easier to personalize the garment. Once the garment has been personalized via stitching or other methods, then one or more of the free panel edges may be attached to the garment.

[0042] Turning now to FIG. 4, shown is a perspective view of another embodiment of a garment with one or more personalizable panels 2 to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion 10, a first leg encircling portion 12a, a second leg encircling portion 12b, and a first elongate personalizable panel 52a. Waist encircling portion 10 comprises an adjustable waistband portion 14. The garment shown is further characterized as having a wearer proximal side 40, which faces inward toward the wearer when garment 2 is worn, and a wearer distal side 42 which faces away from the wearer when the garment is worn. First elongate personalizable panel 52a is configured such that a portion of the panel is attached to wearer proximal side 40 of the garment and a portion of first elongate personalizable panel 52a is attached to wearer distal side 42. As shown in the figure, first elongate personalizable panel 52a is folded over a portion of the waist encircling portion 10 of the garment such that adjustable waistband portion 14 may operate in expansion and contraction without causing substantial expansion and contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel. The garment of FIG. 4 as shown displays a personalized communication 70 on first elongate personalizable panel 52a such that personalized communication 70 is visible from the outside of the garment. Furthermore, the garment of FIG. 4 is constructed in such a way that the means of attaching first elongate personalizable panel 52a to the garment 2 in no substantial way interferes with the functional expansion and contraction of adjustable waistband portion 14.

[0043] The embodiment of the garment according to FIG. 4 has a number of advantages set forth now. Prior to attaching the first elongate personalizable panel to either the wearer proximal side or the wearer distal side, the remainder of the garment may be manufactured. The first elongate personalizable panel may be manufactured separately and then attached to the garment afterward. This introduces a number of beneficial efficiencies in the manufacturing process. In addition, a kit may be prepared wherein the kit comprises: an elongate personalizable panel and a garment to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion, a first leg encircling portion, and a second leg encircling portion, the waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion. A personalized communication may then be added to the elongate personalizable panel and then the elongate personalizable panel may be attached to the garment. The elongate personalizable panel is attachable to the garment. The means of attaching the elongate personalizable panel to the garment may include stitching, hook and loop fasteners, gluing, and other means. A cross section view is

indicated in FIG. 4 to show the details of the relative positioning of elongate personalizable panel with respect to adjustable waistband portion. The cross section view can be seen in FIG. 5.

[0044] The garment of FIG. 4 may use the same variety of materials and the same variety of methods of joining the various panels as the garments of FIG. 1A and FIG. 3 previously described. In addition, the elongate personalizable panel of FIG. 4 may be expected to use the same materials and construction methods as the one or more personalizable panels embodied in the garments of FIG. 1A and FIG. 3. In particular, the elongate personalizable panel may be single ply or multi-ply in construction. In preferred embodiments, panel length may be greater than panel width. The elongate personalizable panel may take on shapes which are suitable to the construction methods described and need not be limited to rectangular shapes.

[0045] FIG. 5 is a cross section view of the garment of FIG. 4 with the position and direction of the cross sectional view as indicated in FIG. 4. The cross section of FIG. 5 shows waist encircling portion 10 having an adjustable waistband portion 14. Also shown in FIG. 5 are wearer proximal side 40 and wearer distal side 42. First elongate personalizable panel 52a is shown attached to both wearer proximal side and wearer distal side of the garment in such a manner as to allow the adjustable waistband portion to flex and contract without causing substantial expansion or contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel. Also FIG. 5 indicates that personalized communication 70 is visible from the front of the garment.

[0046] Any element in a claim that does not explicitly state “means for” performing a specified function, or “step for” performing a specific function, is not to be interpreted as a “means” or “step” clause as specified in 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Paragraph 6. In particular, the use of “step of” in the claims herein is not intended to invoke the provisions of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Paragraph 6.

I claim:

1. A garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion, a first leg encircling portion, and, a second leg encircling portion; the waist encircling portion having: an adjustable waist band portion abutting a non-adjustable waistband portion, the non-adjustable waistband portion being configured such that at least a first portion of said non-adjustable waistband portion is a first personalizable panel; the first personalizable panel being further configured to substantially retain its shape while the adjustable waistband portion flexes; the first personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, the first personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

2. The garment of claim 1 in which the first personalizable panel comprises an inner portion and an outer portion, the inner portion being configured to rest proximate to the wearer of the garment, the outer portion being configured to display the first personalized communication.

3. The garment of claim 1 further configured such that the waist encircling portion has a first adjustable waistband portion that abuts a first non-adjustable waistband and a second adjustable waistband portion that abuts a second non-adjustable waistband portion, in which the first non-adjustable waistband portion is configured to have a portion that is a first personalizable panel and in which the second non-adjustable

waistband portion is configured to have a portion that is a second personalizable panel; wherein each personalizable panel is further configured to substantially retain its shape while each of the adjustable waistband portions flex; the first personalizable panel being further configured to display a first personalized communication and the second personalizable panel being further configured to display a second personalized communication, wherein the first personalizable panel is located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment, and wherein the second personalizable panel is located such that the second personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

4. The garment of claim 1 in which the garment further comprises a front access opening, the front access opening being located between the first leg encircling portion and the second leg encircling portion, the front access opening also being located below the waist encircling portion.

5. The garment of claim 1 in which the adjustable waistband portion uses elastic material or drawstring material to provide adjustability.

6. A garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and a first elongate personalizable panel attached to the first leg encircling portion; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized as having both a first panel length and a first panel width with the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first panel width is substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion, the first elongate personalizable panel being further configured to substantially retain its shape while the adjustable waistband portion flexes; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

7. The garment of claim 6 further comprising: a second elongate personalizable panel attached to the second leg encircling portion, the second elongate personalizable panel further characterized as having both a second panel length and a second panel width with the second elongate personalizable panel being located such that the second panel width is substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion, the second elongate personalizable panel being further configured to substantially retain its shape and position while the adjustable waistband portion flexes; the second elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a second personalized communication, and, the second elongate personalizable panel being located such that the second personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

8. The garment of claim 6 further characterized in that the second panel length is larger than the second panel width.

9. The garment of claim 6 in which the garment further comprises a front access opening, the front access opening being located between the first leg encircling portion and the second leg encircling portion, the front access opening also being located below the waist encircling portion.

10. The garment of claim 6 in which the adjustable waistband portion uses elastic material or drawstring material to provide adjustability.

11. A garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist

encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and, a first elongate personalizable panel having at least one panel edge; the first elongate personalizable panel being further configured such that at least a portion of at least one panel edge is attached to the first leg encircling portion, the first elongate personalizable panel having both a first panel length and a first panel width, said first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first panel width is substantially parallel to a portion of the waist encircling portion; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to carry a first personalized communication, and, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible on the outside of the garment.

12. The garment of claim 11 in which the first personalizable panel is configured such that the first panel length is larger than the first panel width.

13. The garment of claim 11 in which the garment further comprises a front access opening, the front access opening being located between the first leg encircling portion and the second leg encircling portion, the front access opening also being located below the waist encircling portion.

14. The garment of claim 11 in which the adjustable waistband portion uses elastic material or drawstring material to provide adjustability.

15. A garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion, and a first elongate personalizable panel; the garment further characterized as having a wearer proximal side which faces inward toward the wearer and a wearer distal side which faces away from the wearer; the garment further characterized in that the first elongate personalizable panel is configured such that a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the wearer proximal side and a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the wearer distal side; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized in that it is folded over a portion of the waist encircling portion such that the adjustable waistband portion may operate in expansion and contraction without causing substantial expansion and contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication, and, the first elongate personalizable panel being located such that the first personalized communication is visible from the outside of the garment.

16. The garment of claim 15 in which the garment further comprises a front access opening, the front access opening being located between the first leg encircling portion and the second leg encircling portion, the front access opening also being located below the waist encircling portion.

17. The garment of claim 15 in which the adjustable waistband portion uses elastic material or drawstring material to provide adjustability.

18. A kit for personalizing a garment with at least one personalizable panel to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising:

A. a garment to be worn about the lower torso and legs comprising: a waist encircling portion having an adjustable waistband portion, a first leg encircling portion, a second leg encircling portion; the garment further characterized as having a wearer proximal side which faces

inward toward the wearer and a wearer distal side which faces away from the wearer;

- B. a first elongate personalizable panel configured such that a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attachable to the wearer proximal side and a portion of the first elongate personalizable panel is attachable to the wearer distal side; the first elongate personalizable panel further characterized in that it can fold over a portion of the waist encircling portion such that the adjustable waistband portion may operate in expansion and contraction without causing substantial expansion and contraction of the first elongate personalizable panel; the first elongate personalizable panel being configured to display a first personalized communication,

and, the first elongate personalizable panel being attachable to the garment such that the first personalized communication is visible from the outside of the garment when the first elongate personalizable panel is attached to the garment.

19. The garment of claim **18** in which the garment further comprises a front access opening, the front access opening being located between the first leg encircling portion and the second leg encircling portion, the front access opening also being located below the waist encircling portion.

20. The garment of claim **18** in which the adjustable waistband portion uses elastic material or drawstring material to provide adjustability.

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