May 9, 1944. C. BULLINGER 2,348,242

UNDERGARMENT

Filed Nov. 9, 1940

Fig. 1

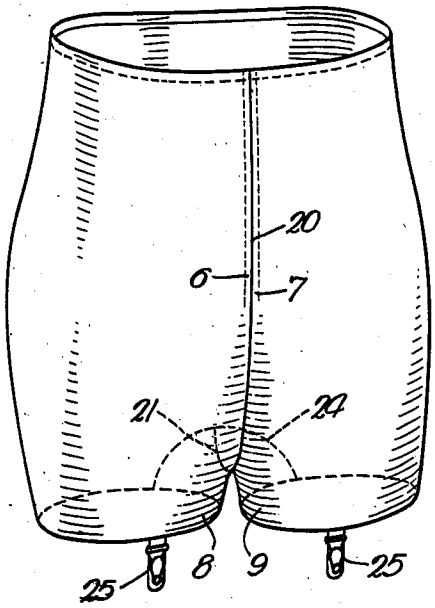


Fig. 2

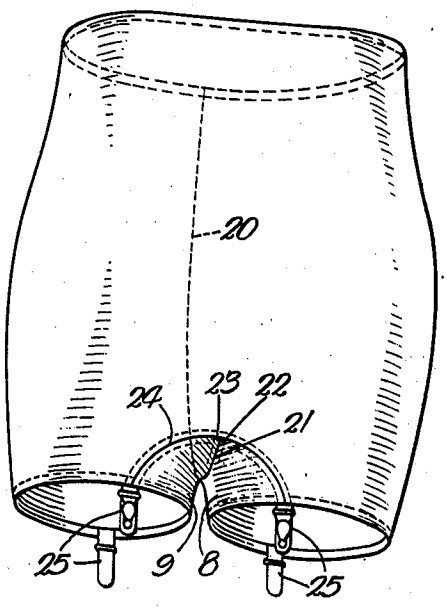
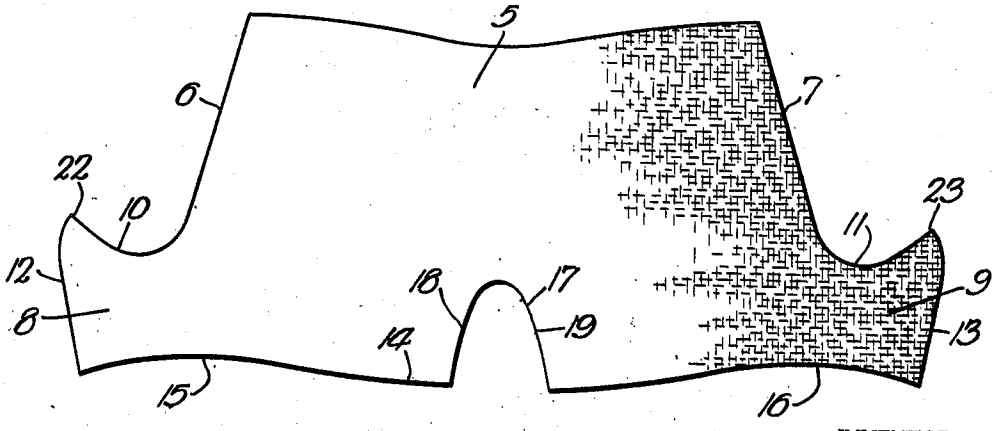


Fig. 3



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UNDERGARMENT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—224)

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of undergarments and although it is mainly designed for use in connection with the production of women's undergarments such as "pantie girdles," it may nevertheless be adapted to the production of men's undergarments such as shorts.

The main objects of the invention are to provide an undergarment of the type indicated of exceptionally simple construction but which will nevertheless be of form-fitting character to an unusually high degree, especially in view of the simplicity of the construction of the garment herein contemplated; to provide a garment which will be comfortable to wear both because of its form-fitting character and the absence of seams or the like in places where seams would be felt by the wearer; and in general it is the object of the invention to provide an improved garment of the character described.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be understood by reference to the following specification and accompanying drawing wherein there is illustrated a women's undergarment generally designated a "pantie girdle," embodying a selected form of the invention.

In the drawing—

Figs. 1 and 2 are front and rear perspective views, respectively, of the improved garment in distended condition substantially as when worn; and

Fig. 3 is a plan of a blank of material from which the garment is formed.

Referring now to the drawing, the garment herein disclosed is formed from a single piece of fabric shaped as indicated in Figure 3. The fabric may be of any suitable character and in the case of a "pantie girdle" garment for women's wear, the fabric is preferably a woven fabric containing rubber strands extending lengthwise of the fabric blank. The fabric is preferably of such a character that the rubber strands extending in one direction together with the weave of the fabric impart to the fabric a two-way stretch character, although it is particularly desirable that the fabric be substantially stretchable lengthwise of the blank, i. e., in the direction of the rubber strands. Woven fabrics such as are called "Leno" web are well suited to the production of a women's "pantie girdle." Other fabrics may, of course, be used. In the production of a woman's "pantie girdle" it is important that there be sufficient resiliency in the garment to permit it to snugly adapt itself to the wearer's body, whereas in the production of men's shorts, the garment may be made of other, relatively inelastic, materials and of such size as to fit either snugly or freely.

As shown in Figure 3, the blank of woven material includes a main or central portion 5 having downwardly and outwardly inclined end edges 6 and 7, respectively. The lower portion of the blank is provided at its opposite ends with extensions or leg forming portions 8 and 9, respectively. The upper edges 10 and 11 of said extensions extend laterally outwardly from the respective end edges 6 and 7, and they are preferably of concave form as shown. The free ends of said leg forming extensions 8 and 9 have downwardly extending end edges 12 and 13, which, as illustrated, have rounded upper portions and substantially straight downwardly and inwardly inclined portions.

The bottom edge of the blank is preferably cut so as to provide a centrally disposed convex edge portion 14 and concave end portions 15 and 16 on opposite sides of the central convex portion. The lower central portion of the body 5 is also notched out as illustrated to provide a U-shaped opening 17 formed preferably by concave edges as shown. The upper edge of the blank substantially parallels the lower edge thereof.

To form the garment illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 from the blank shown in Figure 3, the blank is folded upon itself to bring its end edges 6 and 7 together, whereupon they are suitably stitched or otherwise united as indicated by the vertical seam 20, thereby forming a tubular garment body.

The horizontally or laterally extending edges 10 and 11 are also brought into register with each other and united in continuation of the seam 20 as shown at 21.

The end edges 12 and 13 of the leg forming extensions are then respectively united by stitching to the notch-formed edge portions 18 and 19 as indicated by the arcuate seam 24, thereby to form the legs of the garment.

The seam 20 is preferably disposed in the middle of the front of the garment and, as shown, its continuation 21 extends directly rearwardly through the crotch of the garment. The ends 22 and 23 of the edge portions 10 and 11, respectively, terminate in the seam 24 which is disposed in the back of the garment.

Suitable hose supporters such as indicated at 25 may be provided on the garment and the edges of the garment at the leg openings and that the waist opening may be suitably finished by hemming or otherwise. The seams 20 and

24 may be covered with suitable tapelike strips of soft and smooth fabric to protect the wearer from chafing by the raw edges of the fabric at such seams.

The concave form of the upper edges 10 and 11 of the leg forming extensions, when united in the manner explained, causes the leg forming portions 8 and 9 of the blank to turn inwardly or rearwardly toward the notch 17, said portions 8 and 9 becoming the inner portions of the legs of the garment. The front, outerside and rear portions of the legs are formed by the lower portions of the blank on opposite sides of the notch 17.

By the joining of said concave edge portions in combination with the joining of the end portions of the leg sections to the notch-formed edges, there is produced a normal, spaced relation between the front and back portions of the garment body. In other words, the garment body has a normal, distended form which is adapted to snugly fit the body.

The end edges 12 and 13 of the leg forming portions of the blank are, in this instance, shown as being somewhat longer than the respective edge portions 18 and 19, to which the former are joined; this is merely for the purpose of accommodating the action of a sewing machine employed in stitching the edges together. In the stitching operation, the excess length of the edges 12 and 13 is automatically worked into the seam within the length of the respective edge portions 18 and 19. The relationship of the lengths of the edges 12 and 13 to the lengths of the edges 18 and 19 may vary with different fabrics.

When the garment is formed with elastic fabric having rubber strands extending lengthwise of the blank, the rubber strands in the finished garment extend horizontally or circumferentially of the body portions and also horizontally or circumferentially of the leg portions of the garment. Thus, adequate expansibility and resiliency are provided in the garment to cause it to supply the desired snugly fitting and constricting effect on the body.

It will be apparent that the described construction, although producing a pre-shaped, form fitting garment, is nevertheless very simple both in respect of the shaping of the blank and in respect of manufacturing operations to form the blank into a garment. The garment embodies only two seams, i. e., the vertical seam which extends downwardly and rearwardly through the crotch of the garment, and the arcuate seam 24 which, in effect, constitutes a leg seam and it will be apparent that no portion of it is located in any zone where it might cause discomfort to the wearer even when sitting.

Changes in the described construction may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which should be determined by reference to the following claims, the same being construed as broadly as possible, consistent with the state of the art.

I claim:

1. A form fitting pantie girdle comprising a fabric member having an upper portion provided with side edges united so as to form a tubular body part, and having a lower portion adapted to form legs, said lower portion having sidewise extensions at both sides of the member, said extensions having concave upper edges extending continuously from said upper portion side edges downwardly, outwardly and upwardly, said lower portion being also provided with a centrally disposed notch of substantial width and of a depth approximating the vertical dimension of said lower portion, said notch serving to separate said lower portion into a pair of leg forming sections, the outer side edge of each of said sections being united respectively to the notched-formed inner side edge thereof and the upper edges of said extensions being united to each other substantially in continuation of the seam between the side edges of said upper portion, said notch being of such length and depth and said extensions being of such length that the seam between said upper edges extends substantially from the front to the back of the garment when distended as when being worn, and such that the seams between the outer and inner side edges of said leg forming sections are disposed substantially in the plane of the portion of the distended garment opposite to the portion thereof containing said first mentioned united side edges.

2. A garment according to claim 1 wherein the seam between the side edges of the upper portion of the fabric member is disposed in the front of the garment and the seams between the inner and outer side edges of the leg forming sections are disposed in the back of the garment.

3. A form fitting pantie girdle comprising a fabric member having an upper portion provided with side edges united so as to form a tubular body part, and having a lower portion adapted to form legs, said lower portion having sidewise extensions at both sides of the member and being provided with a centrally disposed notch which, in effect, separates said lower portion into a pair of leg forming sections, the outer side edge of each of said leg forming sections being united respectively to the notch-formed inner side edge thereof and the upper edges of said extensions being united to each other substantially in continuation of the seam between the side edges of said upper portion, said extension being of sufficient length to enable the same to form continuous, seamless inner leg portions extending, when the garment is distended as when being worn, from approximately the plane of the front of the garment to approximately the plane of the back of the garment, the seams between said outer side edges and said notch-formed inner side edges being disposed substantially in the plane of the portion of the distended garment opposite to the portion thereof containing the united side edges of said body portion.

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