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W. R. DOWMAN

1,859,915

STOCKING PROTECTOR AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

Filed March 14, 1929

Fig. 1

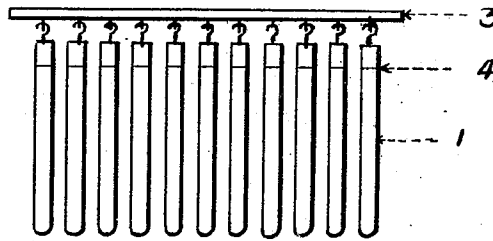


Fig. 2

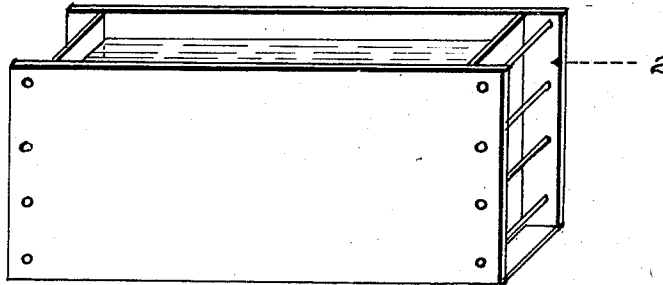


Fig. 4

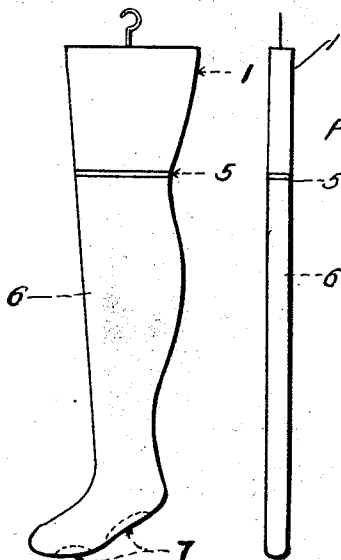
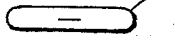


Fig. 3

Fig. 5

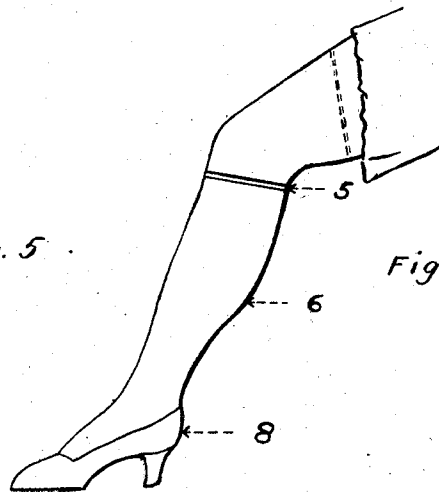


Fig. 6

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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STOCKING PROTECTOR AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

Application filed March 14, 1929. Serial No. 346,936.

This invention relates to improvements in stocking protectors and a method of making the same.

In this age of low shoes and short dresses, a considerable portion of milady's stockings are exposed to the elements and are in constant danger of being spattered by passing vehicles or other pedestrians. It is the purpose of this invention to provide for such stockings a light, inexpensive protector which is extremely durable, can be easily put on or removed, and conveniently carried in the ordinary handbag. It is a feature of the protector that it can be worn without being conspicuous, in fact it is so nearly transparent as to hardly affect the color and figures of the stocking under it. And when worn over a cotton or wool stocking it adds a sort of sheen which gives the appearance of a silk or rayon stocking.

The protector of the invention is made by dipping a suitable form into a liquid bath comprising vulcanized latex in solution which, upon the form being removed, quickly produce a film-like coating on the form. When this has sufficiently set the form is again dipped in the bath and removed to add another layer as it were to the film. In fact, however, the film does not form in layers but assumes an integral homogeneous structure and the purpose of redipping is to add enough material to give the protector the desired thickness and strength. When this has been accomplished the protector is removed from the form, being dusted with talc or other powder to guard against adhesion of one portion to another. Either before or after removal the protector can be perforated, if desired, for purpose of ventilation.

The protector has the shape of a stocking, is thin, light and substantially transparent, and when pulled over the stocking its elasticity causes it to fit the leg smoothly. It is moisture-proof and can be wiped clean before removal or washed afterwards. While on, the stocking is completely protected indeed the foot and leg of the wearer are kept entirely dry.

It is intended that the patent shall cover by suitable expression in the appended claim

whatever features of patentable novelty exist in the invention disclosed.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is an elevation of a series of forms which have been dipped in the liquid bath;

Figure 2 is a perspective of a tank containing the liquid bath;

Figure 3 is a side view of a form showing a protector thereon ready to be removed;

Figures 4 and 5 are a plan and edge views respectively of the form of Figure 3; and

Figure 6 is a perspective showing how the protector may be worn.

Referring to the drawings, a form 1, which may be made of wood or other suitable material and which may be shaped like a foot and leg or with flattened sides as shown in the drawings, is momentarily dipped into a tank 2 or other receptacle containing a liquid solution of vulcanized latex. As indicated in Figure 1 several of these forms 1 may be suspended on a rod 3 and simultaneously dipped and withdrawn.

A thin film 4 of the liquid solution adheres to the form which film after a few minutes exposure to the atmosphere becomes set in the solid state due to the prompt evaporation of the solvents. If preferred the evaporation can be hastened by placing the film-bearing form in a heater or dryer to aid in the evaporation of the solvents.

As soon as the initial film is sufficiently set, the form is again dipped in the solution. This imposes another film on the previous one, both of which become a seamless homogeneous whole as the evaporation continues. The redipping is repeated as many times as necessary to produce the desired thickness of the solidified material on the form.

When this has been accomplished, the upper end of the formed material can be trimmed off to make a smooth edge and this may be further finished and reinforced by adding strips 5 of the material separately cut from sheets prepared in a manner like that above described. These strips adhere to the material on the form and rapidly become an integral part of it.

The material or protector 6 as it may now be termed, is dusted with powder and re-

moved from the form. Care should be taken to dust both the outside and inside surfaces of the material as otherwise the undusted surfaces will stick together. Either before or  
5 after the protector is removed from the form holes 7 may be cut in the foot portion to provide ventilation although this precaution is not deemed necessary.

When worn, a protector of the proper size  
10 is placed over the ordinary or usual stocking of the wearer. The lengths of the protector may vary to suit different tastes. In Figure 6 the upper end of the protector is indicated in full lines as being just below the knee, and  
15 a longer length is indicated by the dotted lines above the knee.

In cases where the wearer does not wish to wear rubbers, or may be caught out in a storm without them, protectors without holes  
20 7 in the foot portions may be worn with the result that however wet the shoe 8 may become the stockings, legs and feet will remain dry. Later, the shoes can be changed and the wearer will have experienced no ill effects  
25 from their wetting. Primarily, however, the protector is intended to protect the legs of the stockings from being soiled by the splashing of mud or other dirt upon them. They can be quickly and easily put on and are so  
30 light and so nearly transparent that their presence is hardly noticeable either by the wearer or by others. When one's destination is reached, or the danger of soiling is passed, the protectors can be removed and made into  
35 a small, compact bundle readily storable in a pocket or hand bag until again needed.

Because of the resiliency of the material, these protectors can also be used to advantage in the treatment of varicose veins, the mildly constrictive effect of the protector being  
40 deemed beneficial.

I claim as my invention:

The method of making a protector for stockings which comprises dipping a form  
45 approximately the shape of a stocking in a liquid bath of vulcanized latex; removing the form and allowing the film of material there-to adhering to become solidified; followed by redipping of the form in said bath and further solidification; adding a trimming strip  
50 of the said solidified material to the upper edge of the material on the form and permitting it to bond therewith; thereafter dusting the material at the time of removal from the  
55 form.

Signed at Sharon, Massachusetts, this 12th day of March, 1929.

WILLIAM R. DOWMAN.