Jan. 29, 1935. J. HERTZBERG 1,989,418

SPAT

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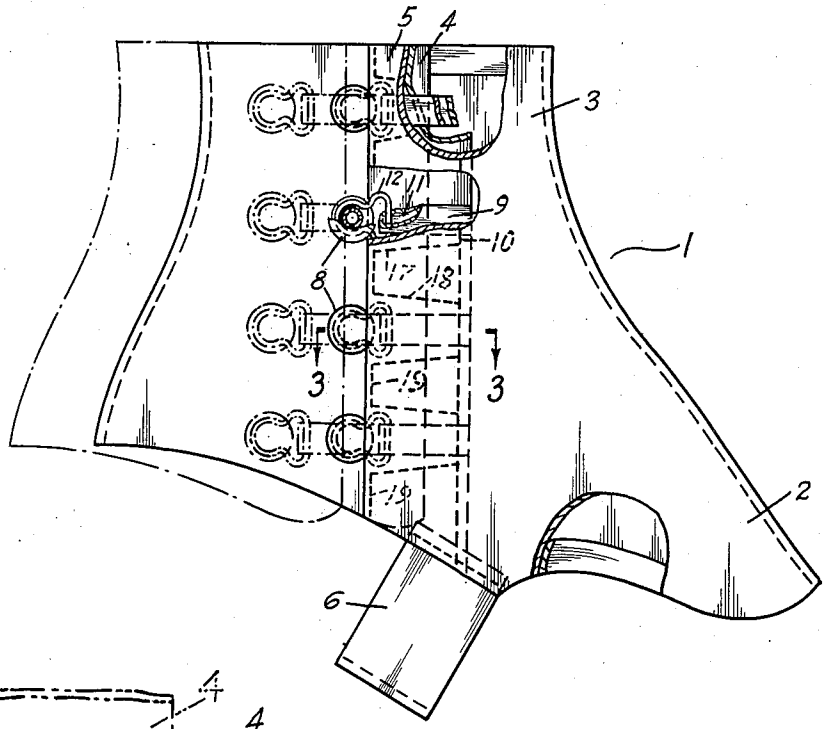


FIG. 1

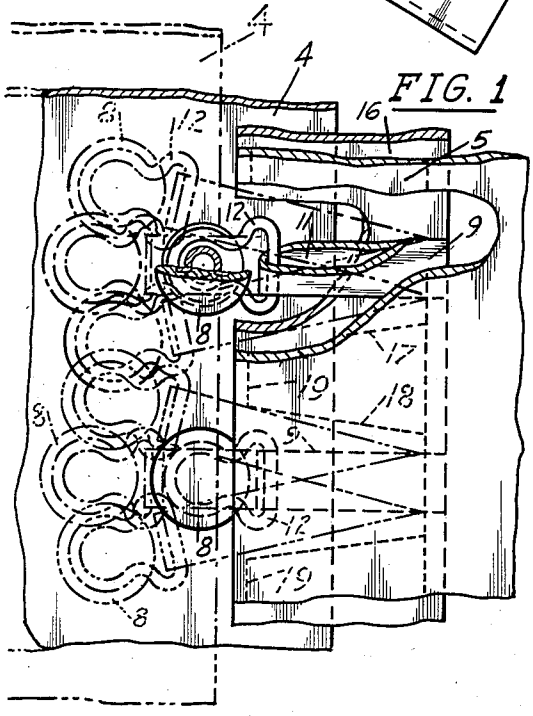


FIG. 2

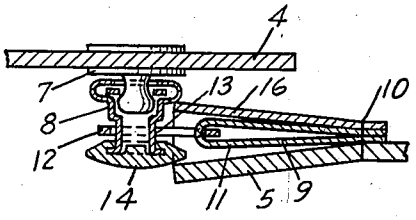


FIG. 3

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SPAT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 36—2)

The present invention relates to leggings, gaiters or spatterdashes and particularly to that type of legging, gaiter or spatterdash which is familiarly known as a "spat". This type of leg covering is generally made in the form of a split tube, the overlapping edges of which are provided with the complementary portions of a series of fastening or securing devices. Prior to the present invention, the fastening devices took either the form of buttons and button-holes or snap fasteners, one of the edges of the spat being provided with a vertical series of either button holes or with the female members of the snap fastener and the other edge being provided with a series of registering or alined buttons or with the male members of the snap fasteners.

The following are a few of the many disadvantages and shortcomings of the hereinabove described forms of leg covering as made prior to the present invention:

1. Difficulty of putting on and taking off both types hereinabove mentioned. In addition, button hooks are generally required in the use of the button-hole type.

2. Buttons or snap fasteners often have to be reset to accommodate small differences in foot size.

3. Buttons or snap fasteners are frequently torn off and button-holes torn or stretched, due not only to the stresses set up while the article is being put on or taken off, but also to the stresses due to movements of the foot. This, of course, causes the spat to take on an untidy or "sloppy" appearance.

4. Inflexibility of leg covering not only causes cramped ankles but also imparts a wrinkled, untidy appearance.

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a leg covering of the type hereinabove referred to, which will not only obviate the foregoing disadvantages but which will also have other important advantages. Some of the advantages will be hereinafter set forth, while others will appear as the description proceeds.

In one of its phases, the essence of the invention consists in providing the overlapping edges of the leg covering with complementary portions of a series of fastening elements, at least one portion of each fastening element being mounted for independent movement in one or more directions.

In a more specific aspect, the essence of the invention consists in providing securing means of the snap-fastener type, one of the complementary portions of which is mounted for movement to and away from the edge of the leg covering to which it is secured. In the preferred form of the invention, one of the fastener elements is rotatably mounted in one end of an elastic strip which is secured to one of the edges of the article.

The inventive concepts hereinabove set forth are capable of being embodied in a variety of mechanical forms, one of which, for the purpose of illustrating the invention, is shown in the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a view of the side of a leg covering which is provided with my novel fastening means, part of the article being broken away to reveal otherwise hidden elements. The full and dotted lines show the normal position of the spat and its elements while the dot and dash lines indicate an expanded position of the spat and its fastening means.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of a portion of the disclosure of Figure 1. The full and dotted lines show the normal positions of the spat and its fastening means, while the dot and dash, double dot and dash, and triple dot and dash lines show several of the possible positions of the overlapping edges and of the fastener elements.

Figure 3 is a cross-section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring in greater detail to the drawing and particularly Figure 1 thereof, the spat itself is indicated generally by the reference numeral 1. The article is illustrated as being of conventional form, having the wide lower end 2 adapted to conform to and to rest upon the upper portion of the shoe (not shown) and the narrow upper end 3 which is adapted to encircle the leg of the wearer (not shown) above the shoe. The article is of the split-tubular type and has the two overlapping edges 4 and 5 and the elastic strap 6 which is intended to fit about the arch of the shoe.

The two overlapping edges 4 and 5 carry the complementary members of a series of snap fastening devices. The male members of the fastener are indicated by the numeral 7 and are arranged in a vertical row a short distance from the very edge 4 while the female members 8 are each loosely mounted on the free end of an elastic strip or tape 9 in a manner to be hereinafter described. Obviously there are as many strips 9 as there are snap-fasteners.

As shown in the drawing, each strip 9 consists of a narrow elastic tape doubled upon itself and having its ends stitched together and to the spat at a short distance from the edge 5 by the line of

stitching 10. Mounted in the looped end 11 of each strip 9 is a metallic connector or eye 12 which encircles the neck 13 of the female snap-fastener element 8. The female element 8 is thus loosely mounted for rotative movement in the eye 12. This arrangement is advantageous for several reasons, one of which is that torque stresses which would ordinarily have a tendency to twist the fastener element from its mounting merely result in the movement of the eye 12 to a position where the reaction force between the fastener and elastic strip is in a straight line thereby eliminating torque. (See the double dot and dash and triple dot and dash positions of these elements in Figure 2.) The female member 8 may be provided with an ornamental head 14, as shown.

I prefer to provide pockets for the strips 9 which serve to house the said strips 9 and in a measure to limit their movement. These pockets and guideways are provided by securing a flap or fly member 16 to the inside of the edge 5 and stitching the flap to the edge 5 along the vertical line 10 and the spaced lines 17 and 18, thus forming a series of horizontal pockets. The alternate pockets which do not contain a strip 9 may be closed by means of a line of vertical stitching 19.

The lines of stitching 17 and 18 may be parallel but I prefer that they be so arranged that the pockets widen out towards the very edge 4, as shown, thereby enlarging the radius of movement of the entire strip 9 in a vertical direction. The strip 9, however, is not absolutely limited in its movements by the upper and lower lines of stitching 18 and 17. For, after it contacts the line of stitches 18 or 17 the end portion of the strip 9 which has been stretched beyond the extreme edge 5 will bend upwardly or downwardly (as the case may require) due to the flexibility of the strip 9, will continue to extend outwardly and/or upwardly and/or downwardly (as the case may require) due to elasticity of the strip 9, and the stresses tending to produce torque will only result in reactive forces along a straight line due to the movement of the eye 12. From the above it is obvious that as a result of my novel structure the edges of my spat can move relatively to each other in any plane and in any direction in any particular plane. (Relative vertical and horizontal movements of the spat edges and of the fastener elements are clearly shown by the different types of lines in Figure 2.) Because of this quality my spat has the greatest possible flexibility and will not only adjust itself to fit just as comfortably on high insteps and on wide insteps and wide ankles as on normal feet but will also fit perfectly when subjected to the stresses and strains incident to normal and abnormal movements of the foot of the wearer. This fit will in nowise be affected when the strain is removed. For, as soon as this happens the spat will automatically adjust itself to the new position which it should occupy to insure a good fit.

The foregoing disclosure is to be understood as being for the purpose of illustration only and not for the purpose of limitation since many changes may be made in the disclosure herein shown without departing from the spirit of my invention. These changes may include not only changes in size, shape, the materials used, and the substitution of equivalents for any of the elements herein shown, but may also include the making of a device which has incorporated therein some but not all of the inventive concepts herein set forth. It is for these reasons that it is my desire that claims which are hereunto appended for the purpose of defining my invention should be limited only by the prior art.

Having described my invention what I claim as new and useful is:

1. As an article of manufacture, a leg covering of the herein-disclosed type and having a body portion in the form of a split tube with overlapping edges, each of said edges being provided with complementary portions of fastening devices, the portions of the said fastening devices carried by one of said edges being rotatively mounted.

2. As an article of manufacture, a leg covering having a body member in the form of a split tube, a plurality of horizontal pockets formed on the said body member near one of its edges, an elastic strip positioned within each of the said pockets and attached at its rear end only, an element of a snap fastener rotatably mounted in each of the said elastic strips, and complementary portions of the said snap fastener positioned on the other of the said edges for cooperative engagement with the first said snap fastener elements.

3. As an article of manufacture, a leg covering consisting of a body member in the form of a split tube, a plurality of horizontal pockets formed on the said body member near one of its edges, an elastic strip positioned within each of the said pockets and attached at its rear end only, an eye attached to the free end of each of the said elastic strips, an element of a snap fastener rotatably mounted within each of the said eyes, and complementary portions of the said snap fastener positioned on the other of the said edges for cooperative engagement with the first said snap fastener elements.

4. As an article of manufacture, a leg covering consisting of a body member in the form of a split tube, a plurality of horizontal pockets formed on the said body member near one of its edges, an elastic strip positioned within each of the said pockets and attached at its rear end only, an eye attached to the free end of each of the said elastic strips and encircling a neck formed on an element of a snap fastener which is rotatably mounted in each of said eyes for rotative movement therein, and complementary portions of the said snap fastener positioned on the other of said edges for cooperative engagement with the first said snap fastener elements.

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