Dec. 3, 1929. N. HATCH 1,737,882

GARMENT

Filed Feb. 2, 1928

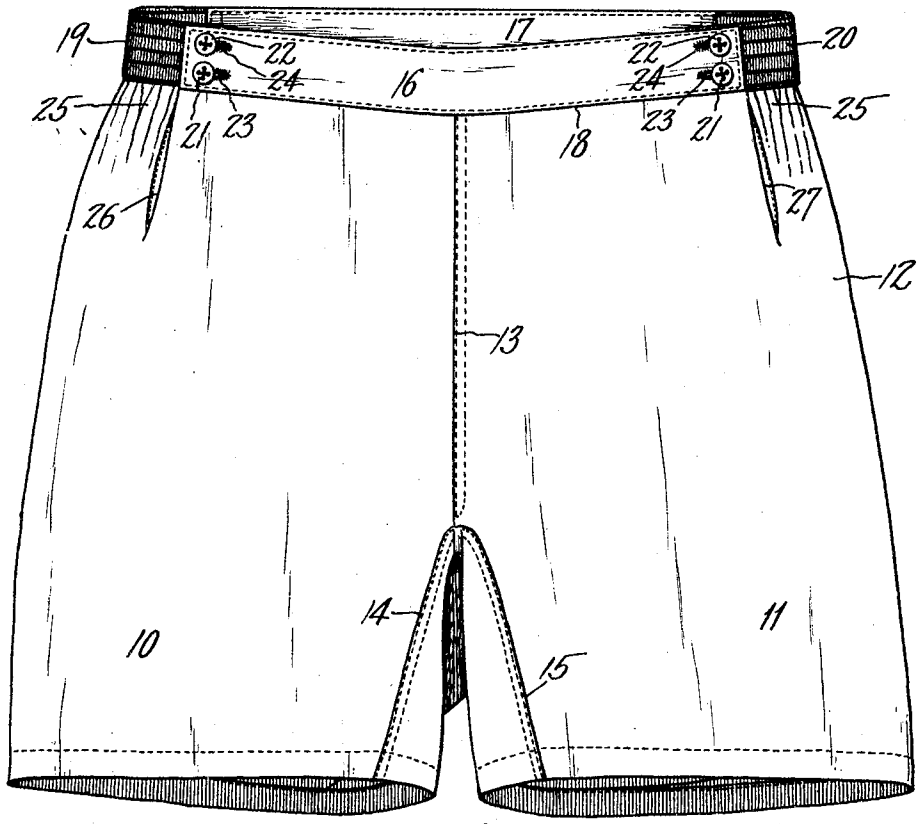


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

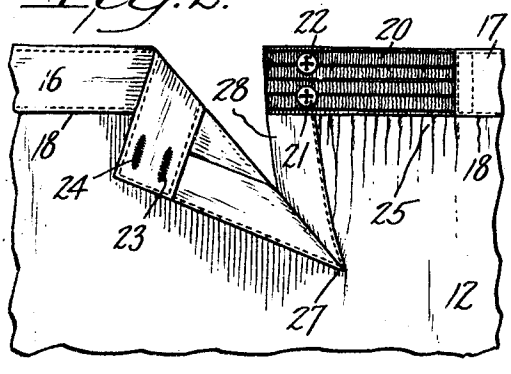
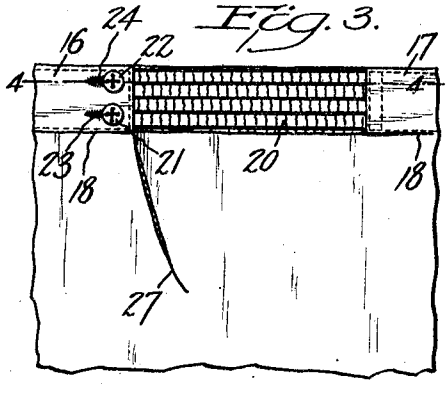


Fig. 3.



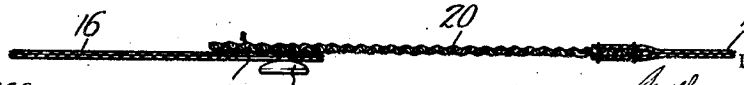


Fig. 4.

WITNESS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GARMENT

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My invention relates to trunks for athletic or gymnasium wear and particularly to the type of trunks known as "running track pants."

Trunks for athletic wear have heretofore been made with a front closure extending from the waistband to the crotch, and fastened by means of buttons which, when buttoned, are concealed in a covering flap. When trunks are worn for certain sports or athletic exercises, such for example as wrestling, the outer or overlapping edge of the closure of this type is apt to be accidentally caught and pulled sidewise by an opponent and, in such event, the closure may become unbuttoned and thus opened.

The object of my invention is to provide trunks suitable for athletic wear in which the front flap is eliminated and provides a smooth front, free from any closure that is liable to be caught and pulled open.

Another object of my invention is to provide trunks of the type indicated of a simple construction, that permits great freedom in the body movements of the wearer.

With these and other objects in view, which will be apparent from the following description, the invention comprises the trunks described and claimed in the following specification and claims.

The various features of the invention are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a vertical, front view of a pair of trunks embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary, detail view of a portion of the waistband and the part of the trunks immediately above the hips of the wearer, and showing a closure in opened position.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, but showing the closure in closed position.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view, taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

In my present invention, I provide trunks having a smooth, uninterrupted surface and having no closure below the upper edges of the hips. The trunks are provided with a waistband having elastic portions suitably positioned to expand or contract as the body muscles of the wearer relax or contract during movement or exercise. These elastic portions are positioned one at each side, immediately above the hip opening portions of the trunks. The upper part of the trunks immediately below the elastic portions are gathered in towards the elastic parts to permit the part of the trunks lying on the upper edge of the hips to expand and contract with the movement of the muscles and with the expansion and contraction of the waistband. While permitting freedom of body movement, this construction also holds the portion of the garment on the upper edges of the hips tightly on the body of the wearer and thus obviates the necessity of wearing a belt.

To permit the trunks to be donned and doffed, the waistband is separable where the elastic parts join the front part of the waistband, and the upper portions of the trunks are slit downwardly a short distance from this juncture towards the upper edges of the hips in such a manner that when the waistband is secured in position, these slits are held closed and in position to avoid opening or being engaged or caught by an opponent, or otherwise.

Referring more particularly to the accompanying drawing, the trunks are formed of a sheet or sheets of fabric cut in a suitable pattern and sewed to form leg portions 10 and 11 and a part 12 to enclose and cover the hips of the wearer. The fabric may be cut in two parts joined at the front by a vertical seam 13, at the rear by a corresponding seam, not shown and at the legs by seams 14 and 15. If desired, the entire trunks may be made of a single sheet of fabric cut to such a pattern that it may be formed into the trunks by a single seam at the rear, thus eliminating the front seam 13, or the trunks may be made of four pieces, providing seams at each side. The seam 13 and the other seams are all tightly sewed to join the fabric in an integral manner about the hip portions so that there is no part that can be opened without tearing the fabric or ripping a seam.

The waistband of the trunks comprises a front segment 16 and rear segment 17, each of which extends to within a little less than

one-half of the circumference of the waistband. These portions 16 and 17 are integrally attached at their lower edges to the upper part of the trunk portions by permanent seams 18, thus providing a smooth and unwrinkled surface for the front and rear portions of the garment. Elastic waistband portions 19 and 20, of the same width as the portions 16 and 17, are secured to the ends of the rear portion 17 to form an extension thereof, and are provided at their free or front ends with buttons 21 and 22 positioned to button into corresponding buttonholes 23 and 24 positioned at each end of the front portion 16.

It will be obvious that other suitable fastening means may be used, although the two buttons and buttonholes arranged in the manner shown, are preferable.

The trunks fabric is gathered or shirred, as at 25 in an elastic seam throughout the length of the elastic portions 19 and 20, so that the elastic may expand and contract readily, as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. This gathering or shirring also provides the necessary fullness on the upper edges of the hips and enables the band to be drawn inwardly so as to hold the garment on the body.

To enable the garment to be donned and doffed when the buttons 21 and 22 are unbuttoned, the trunk portion is slit, as at 26 and 27, downwardly at the end edges of the front portion 16 of the waistband, a facing 28 being provided for each side of the slit so that when the waistband sections are buttoned in closed position, this facing will double up and form a flatly folded closure. The slits 26 and 27 are preferably inclined very slightly rearwardly, as indicated in Fig. 3, as this tends to hold the closure more tightly together. The slits 26 and 27 are of such short length and are so positioned that they do not tend to open. They are also preferably so arranged that the front part of the trunks attached to the front waistband portion 16 overlaps the rear part and, therefore, cannot be caught or engaged by anything moving across the front portion of the trunks, or from the front portion to the side.

The buttonholes 23 and 24 are preferably arranged lengthwise of the waistband, as this arrangement tends to hold the buttons from unbuttoning, even though the slots 26 or 27 should be engaged and pulled.

Thus, it will be apparent that the usual front closure in athletic trunks has been avoided and the danger of accidental opening of the trunks at this part eliminated. This closure has been replaced by a pair of slits at the hip portions sufficient to enable the garment to be donned and doffed, but which slits are of such size and so inaccessibly placed as to afford slight, if any, opportunity for engagement and pulling open. However, should the garment be torn in such manner, only limited exposure would result. The elastic arrangement, moreover, enables sufficient security to be given to the wearer so that the use of a belt may be dispensed with and the garment made sufficiently elastic to accommodate all of the body movements or exertions of the wearer.

As changes of construction could be made within the scope of my invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

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

1. Trunks of the type described having leg portions and parts covering, and extending above, the hips, said trunks having a short, vertical closure on each side immediately in front, and at the upper edges, of the hip portions, said trunks extending uninterruptedly and unbrokenly at the front and rear from the closure on one side to the closure on the other side, a waistband, said waistband having a front section extending integrally from one of said slits to the other, a rear waistband section extending integrally at the rear of said trunks, elastic portions secured one to each end of said rear section, means for detachably securing the front edges of said elastic portions to the rear portions of said front section, said trunks being smoothly secured to said front and rear sections and being secured to said elastic portions in gathers to permit expansion and contraction.

2. Trunks of the type described having leg portions and parts covering and extending above the hip portions, said trunks being integral throughout the circumference of the hip portions but having short, vertical closures extending downwardly and inclined slightly rearwardly on each side immediately in front of and at the upper edges of the hip portions, a waistband, said waistband having a front section extending integrally from one of said slits to the other, a rear waistband section extending integrally at the rear of said trunks, and elastic portions secured one to each end of said rear section, said front section overlapping said elastic sections, buttons and button holes securing said elastic sections, to said front section, said buttonholes running lengthwise of said waistband, said trunks being secured flatly to said front and rear sections and being secured to said elastic portions in gathers to permit expansion and contraction.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

NATHAN HATCH.