(No Model.)

S. B. & F. F. LEWIS.

BIFURCATED GARMENT AND GUSSET THEREFOR.

No. 517,579. Patented Apr. 3, 1894.

Fig. 1.

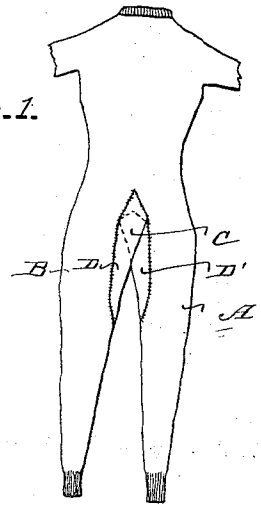


Fig. 2.

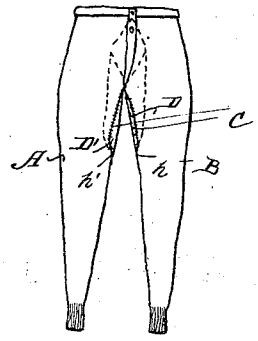


Fig. 3.

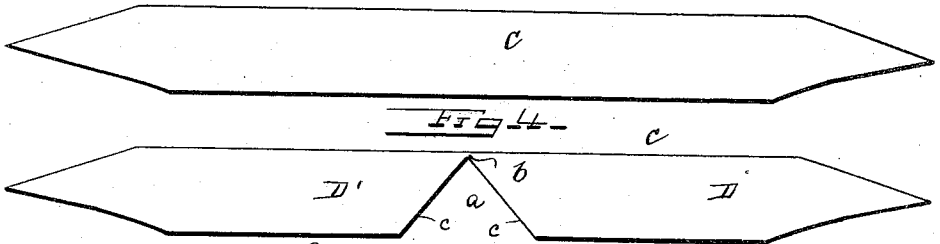


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

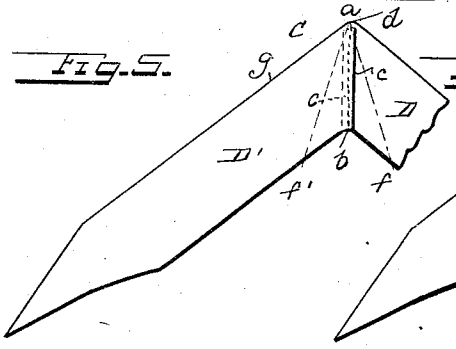


Fig. 6.

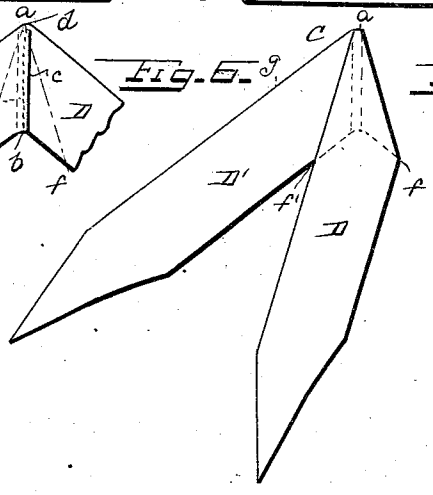
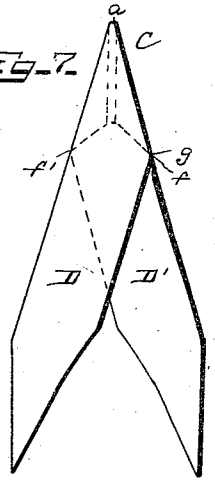


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

STEPHEN B. LEWIS AND FRANKLIN F. LEWIS, OF JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNORS TO THE LEWIS KNITTING COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

BIFURCATED GARMENT AND GUSSET THEREFOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,579, dated April 3, 1894.

Application filed May 18, 1893. Serial No. 474,684. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, STEPHEN B. LEWIS and FRANKLIN F. LEWIS, citizens of the United States, and residents of Janesville, in the county of Rock and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bifurcated Garments and Gussets Therefor; and we do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a back view of a combination garment having the invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a front view of an undergarment with the invention applied thereto. Fig. 3 represents the part from which the supplementary portion or gusset is formed. Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7 show the supplementary portion or gusset in successive stages of formation.

This invention has relation to certain new and useful improvements in bifurcated garments and gussets therefor, such as union suits, trousers, drawers, equestrian tights and similar garments designed for wear about the legs and thighs; and it consists principally in the combination with the usual main or body portions of a garment, of an improved gusset which is set into the garment at the bifurcation thereof, as hereinafter more fully described. Garments of this character as generally made have two main or body portions, and two supplementary portions. By our improvement, while the main portions may be substantially the same as those usually employed, the supplementary portion consists of but one piece of simple construction, made in such a manner as to materially reduce the cost of manufacture of the garment without detracting from its desirability as to fit or comfort.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figs. 1 and 2 represent garments constructed in accordance with our improvement, the letters A and B designating the two main portions of the garments and C the supplementary portion or gusset. In the manufacture of this supplementary portion or gusset we first take a strip of material having substantially parallel sides, and of a length considerably greater than its width. The ends of this strip may be square or pointed, or otherwise shaped, according to the design of the maker, or the shape of the corresponding portion of the parts A and B. Such a strip with pointed ends, is shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 4 shows the part C in its next step toward completion, wherein a V-shaped cut *a* is made nearly across it at its central portion, the angle of this cut being more or less acute, as may be desired. The strip is next bent at the point *b* in such manner as to cause the edges *c*, *c*, of the V-shaped cut to overlap each other, said overlapping edges being secured by a through-and-through seam from *b* to *d*, as shown in Fig. 5. It will be observed that this gives the strip a continuous outer selvage from one end to the other.

In the next step, illustrated by Figs. 6 and 7, one branch or flap D of the strip is folded over on the dotted line *a*—*f*, Fig. 6, to the dotted line *a*—*f'*, and the other branch or flap D' is given a backward or reverse fold on the dotted line *a*—*f'*, so that its outer edge or selvage from *a* to *g* is in line with the fold at *a*—*f*. The fold *a*—*f* and the selvage *a*—*g*, are united to the rear edge of part A at the back of the garment, near the waist line, as shown in Fig. 1, the seam continuing along the outer selvage of the flap D', and uniting it to A, the outer selvage of the flap D being united by a seam to the rear edge of the part B, as shown in said Fig. 1. The inner edges of the flaps D, D', from the points thereof to the points *h* and *h'* are stitched to the front flaps of the respective parts A and B of the garment.

Having described this invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The herein described improved bifurcated garment, comprising the main or body portions, and a gusset C formed from a single piece of fabric, having a triangular apex portion, and two flaps folded over said apex portion in reverse directions, forming three thicknesses of the fabric at said portion, said flaps diverging laterally therefrom in the planes of

said folds and having therewith a continuous outer selvage, said gusset being set into the garment at the bifurcation thereof by seams along its outer selvage and folds and the back flaps of the main portions, and by seams at the inner edges of the end portions of the diverging flaps, substantially as specified.

2. In a garment of the class described, the gusset C formed from a continuous strip of fabric, having a V-shaped cut at its central portion and made from the inner edge, the edges of said cut being overlapped and secured, the two branches of the strip being reversely folded over said seam, substantially as specified.

3. In garments of the class described, the gusset C, consisting of one continuous piece, having a V-shaped notch cut out of its central portion at one side, the edges of said opening being drawn together and secured by a seam, forming a V-shaped strip having a continuous outer selvage edge, a reflex fold made about this seam in such a manner as to entirely cover it from both sides and present a folded edge in line with the selvage edge, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

STEPHEN B. LEWIS.
FRANKLIN F. LEWIS.

Witnesses:
L. J. BARROWS,
SILAS HAYNER.