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J. F. HARGREAVES

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BAND FOR GARMENTS

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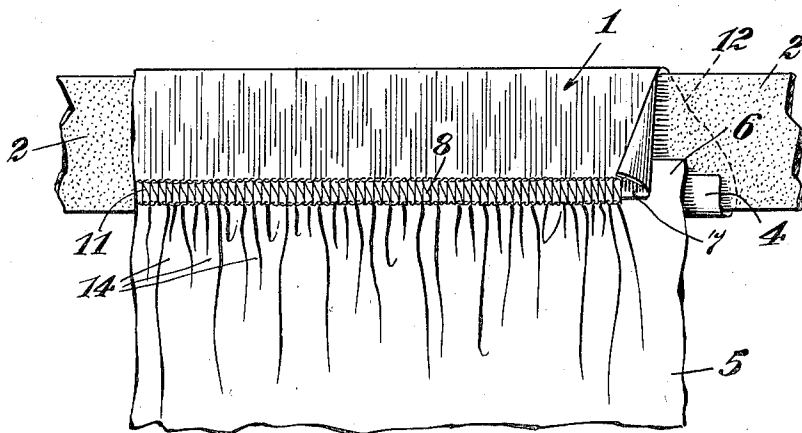


*Fig. 1.*

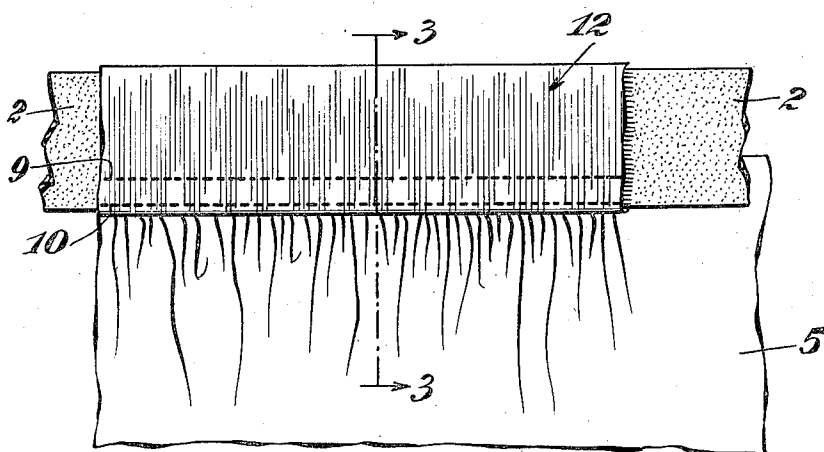


*Fig. 2.*

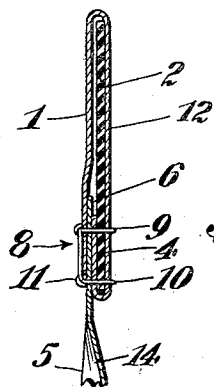


*Fig. 3.*

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BAND FOR GARMENTS

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The present invention relates broadly to garments and more especially to elastic band for undergarments.

The present invention is an improvement upon the band disclosed in the Harsh Reissue 16,641, reissued May 31, 1927.

The Harsh patent referred to discloses a waist band of elastic material folded over a strip of rubber and sewed through and through by two rows of stretchable stitching, in such manner, as to comprise an article of manufacture subsequently adapted to be sewed to a garment. The result is a satisfactory waistband, in which, however, several thicknesses of material occur, and in which the rubber strip and the sheath are secured together in such manner that each time the sheath or the rubber is stretched, the two members must move together. This tends to produce a feeling of pulling or stretching on the skin of the wearer.

The present invention comprises a band for garments formed by folding a sheath of textile material, preferably stretchable, around a flat strip of sheet rubber, introducing an edge of the garment into the fold of the sheath, and then sewing the fold or seam of the sheath by stretchable stitching. Preferably, this seam of the sheath is at the lower edge of the band, and at the top of the garment. By this construction a minimum amount of material is used in producing the band, and the main portion of the band, namely, the entire width thereof above the lower edge comprises a freely movable sheath enclosing the flat strip of rubber, so that the sheath and the rubber have substantially independent movement over the major portion of the band. This independent movement is especially desirable adjacent the upper edge of the band which is in part likely to be subjected to the most stretching. This construction produces an extremely comfortable band with a minimum amount of material, and also a minimum amount of labor in constructing the band.

Fig. 1 is a front view of the construction, showing how parts are folded to form the band.

Fig. 2 is a back view illustrating the

smoothness of the band on the side next to the wearers skin.

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic cross section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, a sheath 1, preferably of textile material stretchable in a longitudinal direction, encloses a thin flat strip of sheet rubber 2, in such manner that the sheet is adapted to form an overlap seam near one edge of the rubber band 2, and to this end the sheath material is wrapped around the said edge as at 4, in Fig. 1. The garment 5 has a free edge 6, which is extended into the seam of the sheath so that the edge 6 of the garment is between the portions 4 and 7 of the sheath, Fig. 1. With the parts in this position, a single pair of double row elastic stitches 8 are sewed over the edge 7, in such manner that the edge 7 is between the rows 9 and 10 of the double stitch, with the interlocking threads 11 of the double stitch covering the free edge 7 of the sheath. The threads forming the stitches 9 and 10, pass through the garment 5, the overlap edge of the sheath 4, through the rubber band 2, and also the back face 12 of the sheath.

From the foregoing, it will be observed that the rubber strip 2 is enclosed within a textile sheath, in such manner as to provide an elastic band, wherein the sheet rubber comprising the elastic member is securely anchored and at the same time is loosely enclosed within the major portion of the textile sheath. This produces an extremely comfortable band in that a movement is permitted between the rubber and the major portion of the sheath at all times. This freedom of movement of the parts is particularly noticeable adjacent the upper edge of the band which is the part where the most appreciable effect on the band of the wearer occurs. Preferably, the garment 5 is shirred at 14 slightly adjacent the seam where the garment goes into the sheath in order to provide proper fullness to the garment. It also will be noted, that the sheath lies perfectly flat against the sides of the rubber band.

It will be observed that the elastic band in the present case is formed with a minimum amount of material, and is secured to the gar-

ment by means of a single seam thereby minimizing the steps in manufacture, and at the same time producing a comfortable and artistic piece of wearing apparel.

5 Having described my invention, I claim:—

1. A band for garments comprising a thin flat strip of elastic sheet rubber; a textile sheath of stretchable material folded around said rubber to form an overlap adjacent one  
10 edge of said rubber; a garment; an edge of said garment extending between the overlapped portions of the sheath; stretchable stitches passing through the overlapped portion of the sheath, the edge of the garment,  
15 the edge of the sheet rubber strip; and the face of the sheath to anchor the sheath closed and to anchor the band to the garment.

2. A band for a garment comprising a strip of elastic sheet rubber, a sheath of textile material enclosing said strip with the edges of  
20 the sheath overlapped adjacent one edge of said strip, the edge of a garment extending into said sheath between said overlapped portions, and a row of double stitching enclosing  
25 the free edge of said sheath and anchoring the band to the garment and anchoring the rubber in place within said band with the opposite edge of the sheath and band free to  
30 move within limits permitted by said rows of stitching.

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