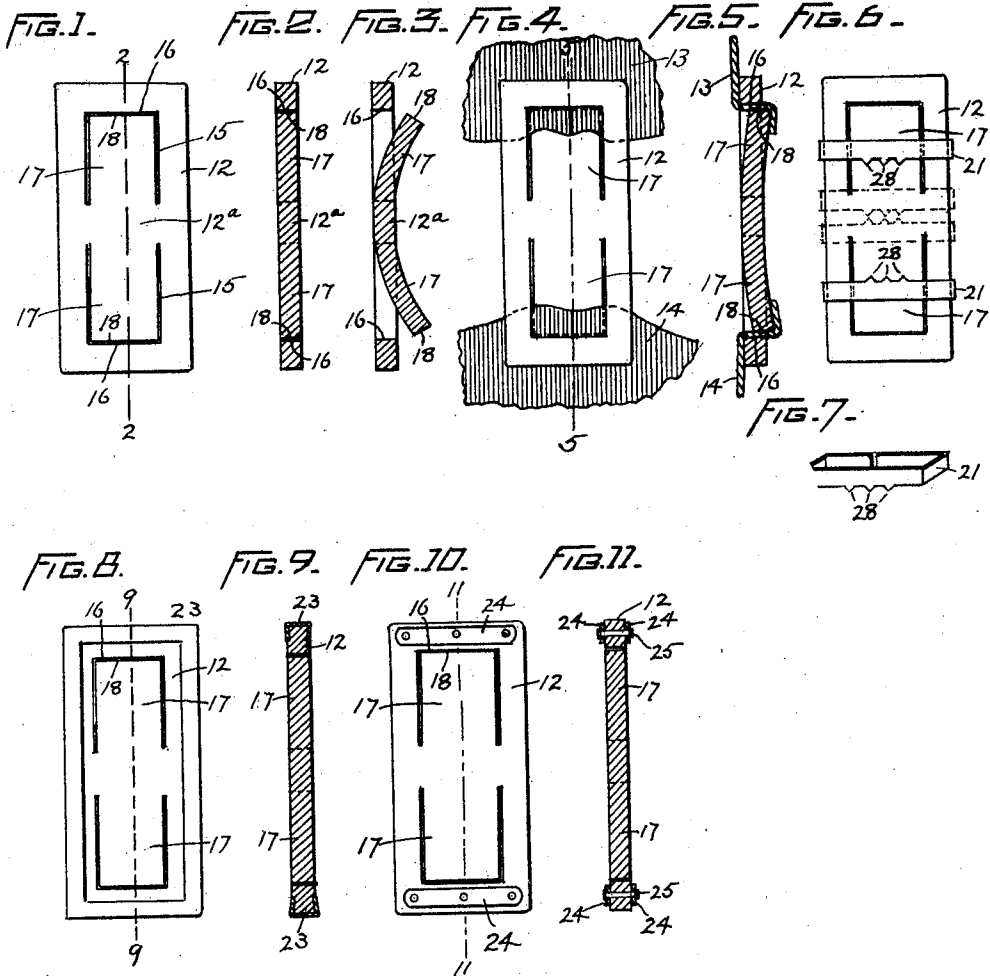


A. H. HOLMES.
GARMENT SUPPORTER.
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1,389,304.

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GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

1,389,304.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT H. HOLMES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Natick, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Garment-Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to means for detachably connecting apparel parts, such as stocking or hose legs, and hereinafter called supported parts, with supporting parts above the supported parts, to hold the latter in a smooth condition, the supporting parts being usually either drawer legs, or straps depending from corsets, or otherwise supported on the wearer's body.

The object of the invention is to provide a simple and relatively inexpensive device, adapted to be quickly and conveniently engaged with, and detached from the supporting and supported parts, and to be maintained in secure gripping engagement with said parts.

The invention is embodied in the improved supporter hereinafter described and claimed.

Of the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification,—

Figure 1 is a side view of a supporter embodying the invention.

Fig. 2 is a section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the hereinafter described tongues swung outward from the body.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing the supporter engaged with a supporting part and with a supported part.

Fig. 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 1, showing the supporter provided with tongue-confining bands.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one of the bands.

Fig. 8 is a side view, showing the fastener body provided with reinforcing means.

Fig. 9 is a section on line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a view similar to Fig. 8, showing a different form of reinforcing means.

Fig. 11 is a section on line 11—11 of Fig. 10.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all of the figures.

Referring first to Figs. 1 to 6, inclusive, 12 represents a relatively thick oblong body, which is a strip of compressible material,

preferably sole leather. In stating that the body is relatively thick, my meaning is that the body is considerably thicker than sheet metal usually employed to form garment supporters, which include flexible sheet metal tongues. In opposite end portions of the body are openings formed to receive a portion of a supporting part 13, such as a drawers leg, or a strap depending from corsets, and a portion of a supported part 14, such as a stocking or hose leg.

Said openings are preferably formed by cutting angular slits 15 through the body, as shown by Fig. 1, the slits being separated from each other by an uncut portion 12^a of the body, which constitutes a uniting connection between the end portions of the body and a hinge connection between the body and the tongues hereinafter described.

The body is provided with inwardly facing gripping surfaces 16 at its opposite end portions, said faces being compressible and formed by the operation of cutting the slits 15, and their width being equal to the thickness of the strip.

The slit-cutting operation defines two flexible tongues 17, which are integral with the uncut portion 12^a, and are adapted to swing into and out of the body openings defined by the slits 15. The free ends of the tongues 17, also formed by the slit-cutting operation, form outwardly facing compressible gripping surfaces 18, adapted to cooperate with the body faces 16 in gripping the parts 13 and 14, as shown by Figs. 4 and 5.

The tongues 17 are integral with the uncut portion 12^a of the body, and are therefore flexibly connected with the body, so that they may be located within the body, as shown by Fig. 2, or may be swung outwardly therefrom, as shown by Fig. 3.

When the tongues are swung outward, as shown by Fig. 3, openings are formed in which portions of the parts 13 and 14 may be inserted, said parts being engaged with the tongues, as indicated by Figs. 4 and 5, and securely gripped between the faces 16 and 18 when the tongues are swung inward.

To positively confine the tongues 17 in their gripping position, I provide metal bands 21, which are adapted to slide on the body and tongues, as indicated by full and dotted lines in Fig. 6. When the bands are moved to the full line position, they prevent outward swinging of the tongues 17.

I have found that when the supporter is made from a strip of sole leather, it is adapted to securely grip the parts 13 and 14, the inherent stiffness of the leather being sufficient to enable the gripping surfaces 16 to withstand the pressure exerted thereon when the supporter is in use.

The supporter may be made of a relatively thick strip or piece of less inherently stiff material than sole leather, such as felt, in which case it is desirable to provide reinforcing means to enable the gripping surfaces 16 to withstand the pressure exerted thereon.

Figs. 8 and 9 show a body and tongues which may be made of a strip of felt, and is provided with reinforcing means, embodied in a marginal frame or mat 23, bearing on the entire margin of the body and on the marginal portions of opposite sides of the body.

Figs. 10 and 11 show the body provided with reinforcing means embodied in metal strips 24, secured by rivets 25 to opposite sides of the body at the end portions thereof.

In each case the portions of the body on which the surfaces 16 are formed, are prevented from yielding bodily, or being bowed outward, by pressure of the garment parts 14 against the surfaces 16. The compressibility of the surfaces 16 is, therefore, limited to that required to cause them to frictionally engage the garment parts.

The bands 21 are provided with spurs 28 adapted to engage the tongues 17 and prevent the bands from slipping. The teeth are formed on the inner edges of the bands and may be bent inward from the plane of their outer sides, so that their points will engage the tongues 17 and prevent movement of the bands from the positions shown by full lines to the positions shown by dotted lines in Fig. 6. The compressibility of the material of which the tongues are formed, permits the disengagement of the tongues from the spurs by inward pressure on the tongues, when it is desirable to move the bands to the dotted lines positions.

The compressibility of the material of the body 12 permits the displacement of the gripping surfaces 16 and 18 in opposite directions, by the compression of the material caused by the garment parts interposed between the said surfaces, the said displaced surfaces being caused to grip said parts by the effort of the compressed material to expand.

The angular slits 15 define three-sided openings in the body 12. The gripping surfaces 16 and 18 formed by the transverse portions of said slits are transverse gripping surfaces. The outer sides of the longitudinal portions of the slits form longitudinal inwardly facing gripping surfaces extending lengthwise of the body and the

inner sides of said slit portions form longitudinal outwardly facing gripping surfaces, extending lengthwise of the body and constituting the longitudinal edges of the tongues. Portions of the garment parts are interposed between said transverse gripping surfaces, and other portions are interposed between the longitudinal gripping surfaces, as indicated by Figs. 4 and 5. The gripping surfaces are all displaceable by compression of the material of the body, and are caused to grip the interposed parts by the effort of the compressed material to expand. The garment parts are therefore thus gripped not only by the transverse gripping surfaces 16 and 18, but also by the longitudinal gripping surfaces, so that each of the garment parts is gripped along three lines, as indicated by Fig. 4.

The compressibility of the material of the body causes said transverse and longitudinal gripping surfaces to yieldingly conform to folds and portions of varying thickness of the gripped garment parts, so that there is no liability of cutting said parts, as would be the case if the gripping surfaces were relatively narrow and were formed on a sheet metal fastener body.

I claim:

1. A garment supporter composed of a relatively thick oblong body of compressible material having angular slits cut through portions thereof, and defining three sided body openings, the outer sides of said slits forming inwardly facing transverse gripping surfaces at opposite end portions of the body, and longitudinal inwardly facing gripping surfaces extending lengthwise of the body, the inner sides of the slits defining three sided tongues having transverse outwardly facing gripping surfaces and longitudinal outwardly facing gripping surfaces extending lengthwise of the body; said slits being separated from each other by an uncut portion of the body, each of said gripping surfaces being displaceable by the compression of the material of the body and tongues by garment parts interposed between the gripping surfaces, and caused to grip said parts by the effort of the compressed material to expand, the arrangement being such that the garment parts are thus grasped, not only by the transverse gripping surfaces, but also by the longitudinal gripping surfaces, the compressibility of the material of the body causing said gripping surfaces to conform to the gripped garment parts, without liability of cutting the same.

2. A garment supporter composed of a relatively thick oblong body of flexible compressible material, having angular slits cut through portions of the body, and forming inwardly facing gripping surfaces, openings at opposite end portions of the body,

and flexible integral tongues connected to the body at their inner ends, and having free outer ends forming outwardly facing gripping surfaces adapted to swing into and out of said openings, and coöperate with the inwardly facing gripping surfaces, in gripping parts inserted in said openings; and tongue-confining bands slidable on the body and tongues, and adapted to confine the tongues in gripping position, said bands being provided with tongue-engaging spurs. 10

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

ALBERT H. HOLMES.