Oct. 11, 1938. H. HARDIE 2,132,616

GARMENT BAND

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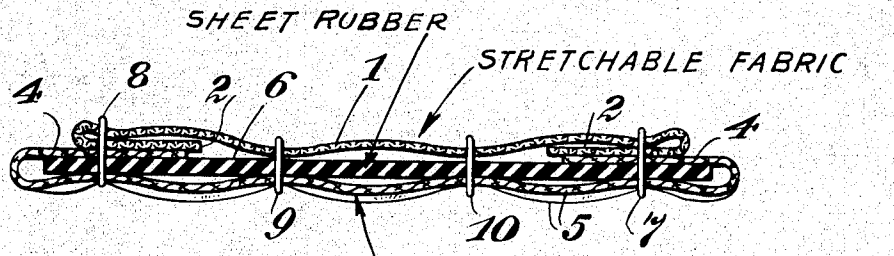


Fig. 1.

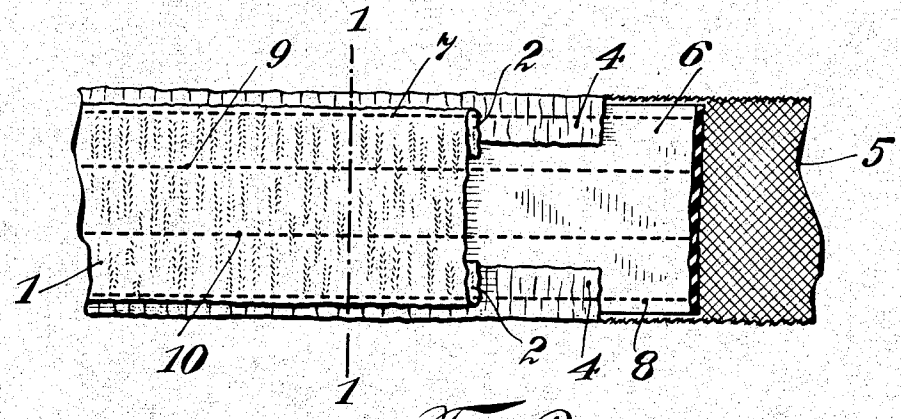


Fig. 2.

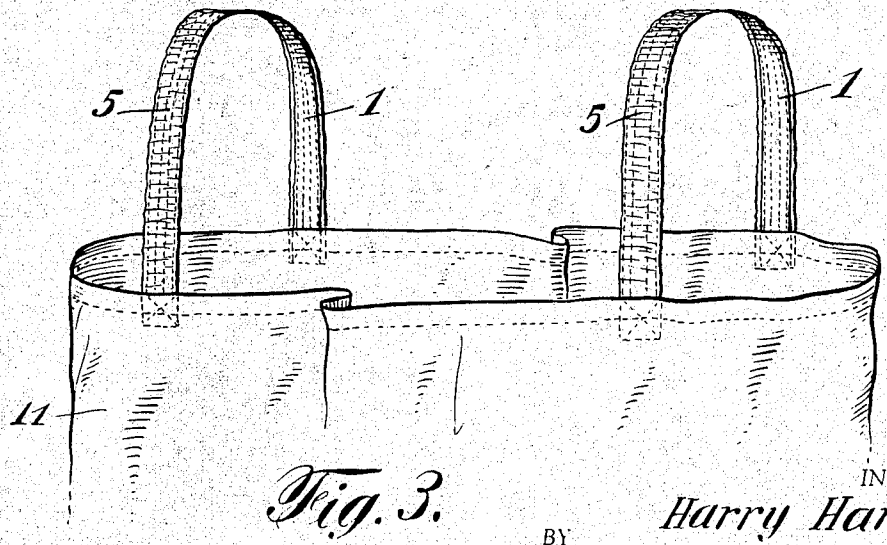


Fig. 3.

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GARMENT BAND

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3 Claims. (Cl. 241—12)

The present invention relates to garments and more especially to a band for use in or on garments.

The present invention is more particularly adapted for shoulder strap bands, although it may be used in other portions of garments where elastic bands are desirable.

Fig. 1 is a cross-section on line 1—1 of Fig. 2, showing the parts separated in order to more clearly disclose the construction.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a band in accordance with the present invention showing portions broken away in order to more clearly illustrate the construction.

Fig. 3 illustrates the band as applied as shoulder straps to a garment, the upper part only of which is illustrated.

The present invention relates to a garment band of such construction as is adaptable for narrow bands such as are commonly used for shoulder straps or the like and more particularly for use with under garments.

The preferred construction comprises a strip 1 of stretchable fabric of any desirable construction, preferably knitted material. The edges of this strip 1 comprise turned-in hems 2 which face against turned-in hems 4 of a strip of fabric 5. The fabric 5 may be and preferably is non-stretchable fabric, although the invention is useful with stretchable fabric for the entire fabric construction, where such constructions are desired. However, the fabric 5 is preferably cut on the bias and this tends to make the outer face somewhat elastic, but not as stretchable as the inner face of knitted fabric 1. Non-stretchable fabric when cut on the bias may be elongated by distorting the mesh of the weave if the bias cut strip is subjected to longitudinal stress, and this may be desirable under certain circumstances. The strip of fabric 1 and strip of fabric 5 comprise a sheath in which is enclosed a strip of sheet rubber 6. Stitches 7 and 8 pass through the turned-in hems 2 and 4 and also pass through the edges of the strip of sheet rubber 6. The turned-in hems 4 of the fabric 5 are turned in over the edges of the rubber strip 6 to enclose these edges in fabric. The stitches 7 and 8 anchor the fabric pieces 1 and 5 at their edges to complete the sheath by passing through the hems 2 and 4. Rows of stitching 9 and 10 pass through the fabric 1, the strip of sheet rubber 6, and the fabric 5, thereby anchoring the sheet rubber strip securely in position within the sheath. While two intermediate rows of stitching 9 and 10 are shown, it is to be understood that any desired number of rows may be used, dependent upon the width of the band. Preferably, though not necessarily, the fabric strip 5 is cut on the bias to increase its elasticity and is slightly wider than the stretchable fabric 1 when the band is completed so as to substantially cover the inner facing and render the same invisible when the band is in use on the wearer. The strip of outer fabric 5 may be of a different color from the inner knitted fabric 1 and may comprise the same material as the garment 11.

Preferably, where non-stretchable fabric is used for the strip 5, the band is sewed together while under tension and as soon as the tension is released, the rubber strip 6 contracts, thereby slightly shirring the fabric 5 while the knitted or stretchable fabric 1 is unshirred. The knitted fabric 1 is adapted to comprise the inner side of the band which is in contact with the skin of the wearer and since this stretchable fabric does not shirr, it forms a smooth surface which adds to the comfort of the device when in use.

The device may be manufactured by a single operation of sewing, in that the strips of fabric 1 and 5 and the strip of rubber 6 may be run through suitable forming and holding devices under a four-needle, or more, sewing machine so that when the strips of fabric are fed into the proper device, the hems are automatically formed with the hem of the outer facing enclosing the edges of the rubber strip and the materials are stretched until the sewing operation is completed at which time tension is released and the band leaves the sewing machine as a completed article of manufacture. Where the device is constructed under tension, ordinary stitches may be used to sew the plurality of rows of stitching. Where the fabrics are both fully stretchable and the device is constructed without tension, then all of the longitudinal stitches are of the stretchable stitch type which is well known in the art.

Four rows of stitching are shown, but it is to be understood that for bands of different widths, other numbers of rows of stitches may be used.

The present invention utilizing non-stretching fabric for the outer portion of the strap is of such nature as to comprise a narrow, neat, elastic band which does not detract from the appearance of the garment and adds to the comfort of the wearer because of its elasticity and furthermore, the inner portion of the sheath being stretchable fabric, lies smoothly in place against the skin of the wearer when the band is in use.

The enclosing of the edges of the rubber strip by hems of the outer facing tends to make a larger

bend to the edges of this facing and thus makes the band very flexible. Furthermore, the construction admits of the use of a quite thin rubber strip which also contributes to the flexibility of the finished band. The plurality of intermediate rows of stitching locks the parts together and prevents buckling of the parts as well as securely anchoring the rubber strip in place.

What I claim is:

1. As an article of manufacture, a shoulder strap band comprising a strip of stretchable fabric, a pair of in-turned hems on the edges of said strip and both facing the same side of said strip, a strip of non-stretchable fabric cut on the bias in order that said strip of non-stretchable fabric may be elongated by distortion of the weave of the fabric, a strip of sheet rubber adjacent the non-stretchable fabric, a pair of in-turned hems on the edges of said non-stretchable fabric, said hems on the strip of non-stretchable fabric facing the hems on the strip of stretchable fabric and enclosing the edges of the strip of sheet rubber, a pair of rows of stitches passing through said hems and the edges of the strip of rubber, and sewing said strips of fabric together to form a sheath, and stitches extending lengthwise of said strip of rubber and through said sheath to anchor said strip of rubber within said sheath remote from the rows of stitches through the hems of said sheath, said strip of sheet rubber being under sufficient tension to normally retain said strip of non-stretchable fabric in a shirred condition.

2. An article of manufacture comprising a shoulder strap band having a pair of superimposed strips of fabric with in-turned edges forming hems, stitches through said hems joining said strips of fabric together to form a sheath, a strip of sheet rubber within said sheath, the edges of said strip of rubber being enclosed in certain of said hems, and stitching other than the stitching through said hems anchoring said rubber within said sheath.

3. A shoulder strap for a garment as an article of manufacture comprising a pair of superimposed strips of fabric sewed together at their edges to form a sheath, a strip of sheet rubber within said sheath, and stitches other than those sewing the fabric strips together and extending lengthwise of said band for anchoring the said rubber within said sheath, one of said strips of fabric being wider than the other whereby the wider strip only is visible when said band is in use.

HARRY HARDIE.