H. A. TAYLOR.

STOCKING.

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1,227,217.

Patented May 22, 1917.

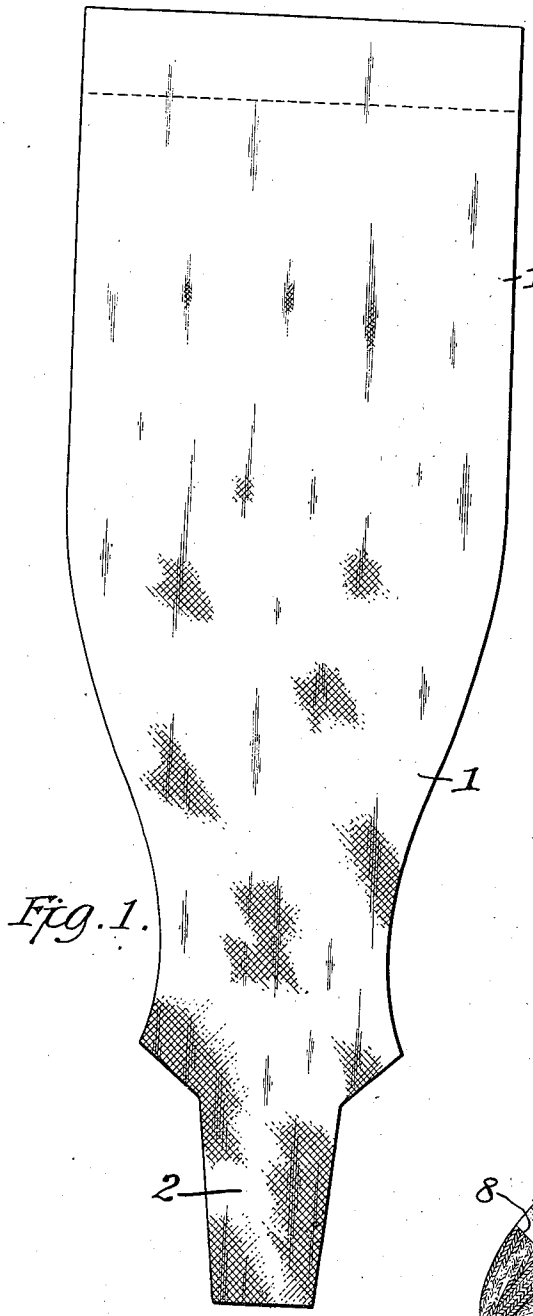



Fig. 1.

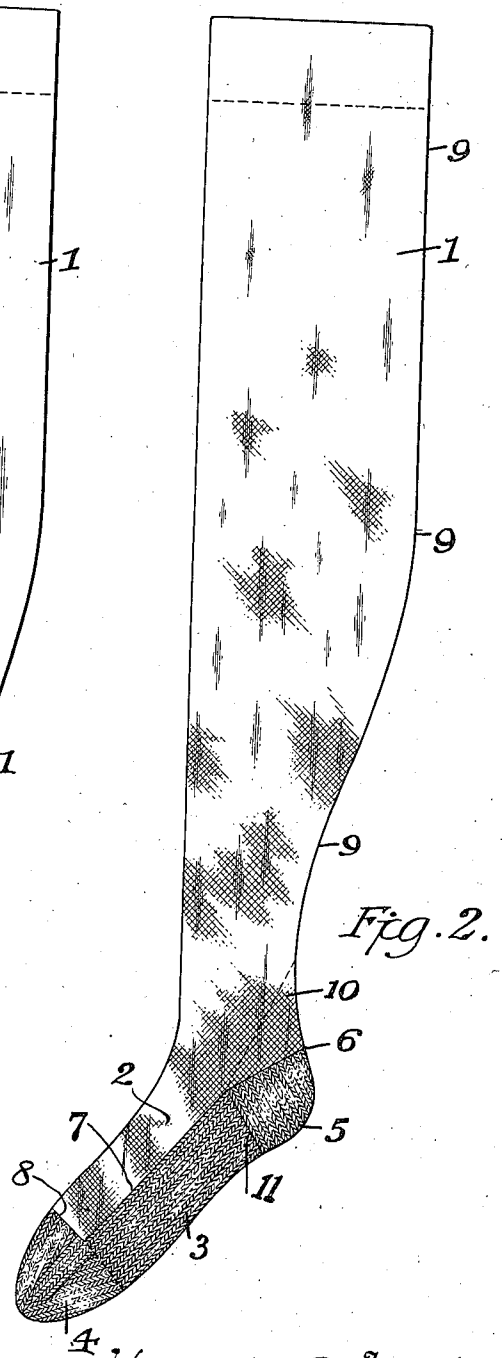



Fig. 2.

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By his Attorney

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY A. TAYLOR, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## STOCKING.

1,227,217. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 22, 1917.

Application filed August 28, 1915. Serial No. 47,742.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY A. TAYLOR, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the borough of Manhattan, city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stockings, of which the following is a specification.

In recent years the demand of the public for high quality and perfection in ladies' undergarments has markedly increased and perhaps in no instance has this become so pronounced as in the case of ladies' stockings. The demand for silk stockings has greatly increased, notwithstanding the fact that they, as heretofore made, are quite perishable, owing to the fact that the leg portions are peculiarly short-lived because of so-called "run-downs" or ladders occasioned by broken threads. The foot portions also are relatively perishable since they are not well adapted to stand the friction in wear caused by the shoe, particularly the low cut shoes now in vogue.

Various methods have heretofore been adopted to obviate these objections. For example, reinforcing the toe and heel, and the substitution in the non-observed parts of the stocking of thread or yarn other than silk, the knitting of such stockings being a continuous process on the same well known hosiery knitting machine. Certain other expedients have also been resorted to, but in them all defects of one kind or another have developed. Perhaps the most efficient means for overcoming the difficulties has been to cut a complete stocking of the proper shape from flat silk piece goods and then after properly folding the same, sew the meeting edges together; but objections developed also to this form because such goods do not have the elasticity found in stockings made on a hosiery knitting machine, and it was therefore difficult, if not impossible, to make stockings in this way which would have the necessary snug fit about the ankle and yet be capable of being drawn over the heel without so greatly stretching the fabric as to produce wrinkles in the ankle and upper foot section and also there was danger of pulling holes in the heel part or ripping the back seam and also the foot portion, which takes the wear, was apt to be short lived.

It is the purpose of this invention to provide a high grade stocking for the expensive trade, the observable parts of which throughout the leg and foot section shall be made of handsome, lustrous silk fabric, practically non-raveling in character, so that run-downs or ladders are substantially eliminated, and the foot and heel portion of which shall be made of more durable material embodying the desirable features of a so-called full fashioned hose, the two parts being united together in such manner as to constitute a stocking as durable as the strongest of those now made throughout on the hosiery knitting machine, but differing therefrom widely in its characteristics.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a blank cut from flat silk piece goods to form the leg and upper foot portion of the stocking; Fig. 2 is an elevation of a completed stocking embodying my invention, showing the leg and upper foot section when folded and stitched and united with the full fashioned foot portion produced by the operations of the well known hosiery knitting machine.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents a blank constituting the leg and upper foot portions of the stocking. The material I prefer to use is that made upon a so-called milanese or web machine which produces the goods in flat condition, said goods being generally known as glove silk fabric. 2 is the part of the blank which makes the upper foot section shown in Fig. 2. 3 is the under foot portion of the stocking, 4 the toe, which is illustrated as reinforced, and 5 the heel, which is likewise shown as reinforced. These two portions, *i. e.*, the leg and upper foot sections 1 and 2, and the under foot, toe and heel sections, 3, 4 and 5, are united together to produce the finished article. This union may be effected by stitching along the seams 6, 7 and 8, the edges of the leg portion being united by a back seam 9. I prefer, however, to secure the parts together by transferring, as it is called, the fabric of the upper foot and leg sections at the toe and heel seams directly upon the needles of the hosiery knitting machine and then knitting the full fashioned foot section upon such machine in the usual manner, the appropriate edges being thereafter united by stitching to form the seam 7 and the knitted heel portion 5 and the knitted toe and under foot portions 3—4 are united at their meeting edges at say the line 11 in any preferred manner, preferably by looping.

The result will be that at the points of union 6 and 8 there will be no perceptible

thickening of the material and yet the knitting operation will effect a secure union between the fabric of the upper foot and leg portion and the threads of the toe and heel portion.

10 represents a reinforce for the part of the stocking immediately above the heel, which is subjected to special wear when low cut shoes now in vogue are worn. Such a reinforce, however, forms no essential part of this invention.

I call particular attention to the fact that the two classes of material from which I make my new stocking are essentially different in their characteristics. The leg and upper foot portion, which are observable, are made upon a milanese or web machine by the employment of the so-called crochet lock stitch, which produces a fabric having a fineness, finish and beauty not obtainable by any hosiery knitting machine, however fine the thread or yarn may be, and gives the appearance of lustrous satin when worn upon the leg and yet possesses the desired degree of transparency; and furthermore, such fabric possesses the extremely desirable quality of being practically non-raveling, so that runs and ladders are substantially eliminated; the wear-taking foot portion of my improved stocking, on the other hand, is knitted on an ordinary hosiery knitting machine and may be made of such thread or yarn as desired and of such wear resisting quality as preferred and is of the full fashioned variety, that is to say, it has reinforced toe and heel and fashioned or shaped to the foot by the operations of the hosiery knitting machine and has the full elasticity throughout of such an article so produced.

It will be noted that my improved stocking fills every requirement of a high grade stocking, that is to say, when presented to purchasers, they find in it not only all the desirable features they have been accustomed to and expect to find in such goods, *i. e.*, full fashioned toe, heel and foot portions, reinforced as usual, but also an unusually handsome, highly finished upper foot and leg portion which possesses the unusual advantage of being practically non-raveling and which closely resembles lustrous satin in appearance, yet possesses the required amount of transparency.

It will be obvious to those who are familiar with such matters that the union of the leg and upper foot portion with the foot portion proper may be effected in ways other than those specified and preferred by me, also, as indicated above, that any desired thread or yarn may be used in forming the full fashioned foot section. I therefore do not limit myself in these respects.

I claim:

1. A stocking the leg and upper foot portion of which is cut to shape from flat warp piece goods, and a full fashioned lower foot part made by the chain stitch upon a hosiery knitting machine, the two parts being united and the back edges of the leg portion being brought together and stitched.

2. A stocking the leg and upper foot portion of which is cut to shape from flat warp knitted piece goods and a full fashioned lower foot part made by the chain stitch upon a hosiery knitting machine, the two parts being stitched together at the sides of the foot and interknitted at the toe and heel, and the back edges of the leg portion being brought together and stitched.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification.

HARRY A. TAYLOR.