Aug. 15, 1950 E. SLATER 2,519,202

BIFURCATED GARMENT

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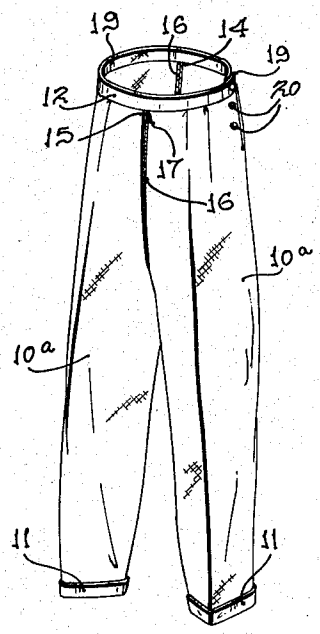


FIG. 1.

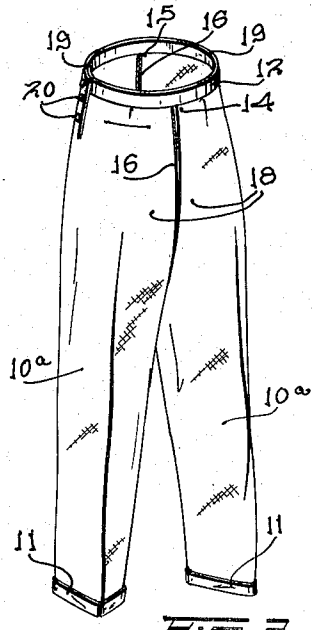


FIG. 2.

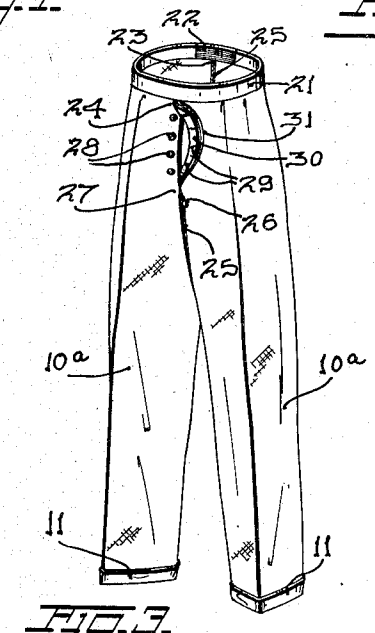


FIG. 3.

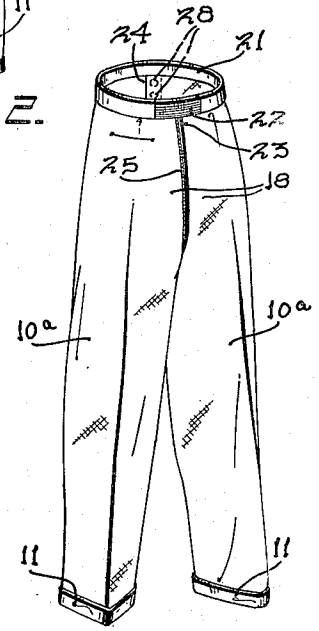


FIG. 4.

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BIFURCATED GARMENT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—227)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in men's and women's and children's bifurcated garments, such as trousers, slacks, shorts, bathing suits, overalls, coveralls, jeans, military and civilian uniforms.

The object of the invention is to provide a garment of this class which, while being worn, is readily and expeditiously openable and closable along a continuous line extending from a high point at the back of the waist down to and through the crotch and then up over the front of the garment to and including a point high up at the front of the waist. Such high point at the back of the waist is preferably as high as the lower limit of the belt portion of the garment, and such point at the front of the waist is also preferably as high as the lower limit of the belt portion of the garment; but said belt portion is uninterruptedly continuous across both said points.

The means for opening and closing the garment along said line is preferably a single slide fastener which is not visible to the naked eye and which contains a flap made of the same material attached directly underneath said zipper on one side so that undergarments will not catch nor prevent it from closing; and accordingly, in illustration but not in limitation of the invention, such means is herein shown and will below be referred to as an invisible slide fastener.

A feature of the invention, and one above passingly alluded to, is that the belt portion of the garment is permanently uninterruptedly continuous around the waist of the wearer at the front and back regions of the waist. This feature is present even when, for girthwise expansion of the garment at the waist portion thereof, to facilitate donning of the garment when such waist portion is inelastic, with side or front openings as provided for in existing styles.

The important concept of this invention is to provide a garment having the seat fullness characteristic of trousers, slacks and all bifurcated garments in the class hereinabove first mentioned, which is readily and expeditiously openable and closable all along the line aforesaid, and yet which at the lower part of the seat portion of the garment is of uninterrupted continuity girthwisely of the garment when closed all along said line. Thereby, a more easily washable garment is provided, and one which may not be accidentally severed into two parts during washing, particularly in a power driven washing machine, and also one such that its parts may not become entangled or otherwise so disposed as to make the task of placing the garment properly on the body

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of the wearer other than a quick and easy operation.

The purpose of the invention, in providing a garment openable over the entirety of the long line above described, is to allow the garment to remain securely on the body of the wearer yet to be temporarily openable in a manner to permit a call of nature to be properly and safely responded to. When the garment is worn by a male, and the need is for urination, the same opening is used, but in this case, the garment need be opened only along said line at the frontal portion of the garment. With a slide fastener serving the entirety of the length of said opening, the slider of said fastener, which with said opening fully closed, would desirably be at the end of the opening, at the end thereof high up at the front of the garment, need be moved, for the purpose last-mentioned, only over a fraction of its maximum possible extent of travel.

Also by virtue of the fullness at the seat of a garment of the kind to which the invention is applied, easy handling of a lower undergarment, as pull down panties or bloomers such as worn by women or children, is made possible, without disturbance in any way of the full attachment of the garment to the waist of the wearer.

Among some of the further advantages of the new garment which may be here mentioned, are that trousers, slacks and the like need not be lowered; that men would not have to remove their jackets, belts or suspenders in order to heed the call of nature; that consequently the cuffed or other bottoms of the leg portions would not drape in folds against the floor of the comfort station, as one at a beach and usually having a wet floor, that, therefore, the bottoms of the leg portions would not become dirtied or stained or absorb moisture for wrinkling and loss of crease; that one or two piece bathing suits would not have to be removed, whether they be wet or dry, causing great discomfort to the bather; that in an emergency when a comfort station is not available, as in the country, relief may be had for men, women or children at any secluded spot, and quickly, and without the possibility of embarrassment because the garment has had to be bodily lowered; and that a necessity for high-speed dressing, as on a sudden alarm to soldiers, sailors, policemen and firemen, is perfectly taken care of; that workmen will save time in undressing and dressing in bathrooms by the use of said slide fastener in his work pants.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, refer-

ence will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view looking toward the front of a pair of women's slacks pursuant to the invention.

Fig. 2 is a similar view, looking toward the rear.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a modification.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2, further showing said modification.

Referring to the drawing in detail, and first to Figs. 1 and 2, the pair of slacks shown is of the conventional type, having a pair of leg portions 10ª with cuffs 11, and a waist-belt portion 12.

The long opening aforesaid has one end at a point 14 at the rear of the garment and as high as the lower limit of the belt portion 12, and thence continues uninterruptedly down along the back of the garment and through the crotch and up along the front of the garment to a point 15 also as high as the lower limit of the belt portion 12.

Such opening, which will be called the opening 14—15, is openable and closable by a single slide fastener 16, the slider 17 of which is at the point 15 when said opening 14—15 is fully closed as illustrated.

The full seat portion of the garment is indicated at 18.

For easy donning of the garment to result in good fit, when the belt portion 12 is inelastic throughout its length, the embodiment now being described is illustrated as having the belt portion 12 in separable parts as a result of providing two side openings 19, to be closed in any desired way, as by means of buttons 20 and cooperant buttonholes.

The openings 19 have their bottoms, as in conventional in ordinary slacks, located at such a level, in the vicinity of the maximum side swell of the hips, that with the slide fastener 16 fully closed as shown, the garment is girthwisely uninterruptedly continuous over the zone lying between the bottoms of the openings 19 and the joinder effected at the upper inner ends of the leg portions 11 by the closed side fastener, that is, over a zone including the seat fullness 18.

Thus, despite the provision of the side openings 19, the one part of the garment incorporating one of the leg portions is not accidentally severable from the other part of the garment incorporating the other leg portion 10ª because these parts of the garment are connected together at the top ends of the opening 14—15 by the uninterrupted formation of the belt portion 12 at those top ends of the opening 14—15.

Furthermore, since the long crotch-traversing opening 14—15 is opened only for the special purposes explained, and then of course always after the garment has been donned, during such donning of the garment the operation is the same as in the case of an ordinary pair of trousers or slacks.

On the other hand, whenever said opening 14—15 is opened, the belt portion 12 is in effect an uninterruptedly continuous one all around the waist of the wearer. Washing, with the slide fastener 16 closing the opening 14—15, is as easy and safe as in the case of an ordinary pair of slacks.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, here, there is shown the same pair of slacks as in Figs. 1 and 2, except that the side openings 19 are both omitted; the belt portion 21 is illustrated as having interposed therein, as at one point along its length, an elastic insert 22 stretchable along the length of the belt portion; and the fastening means for the long crotch-traversing opening is modified.

Said long opening, corresponding to the opening 14—15, extends all the way down to, through and upward beyond the crotch, from a point 14, to a point 24, corresponding to the point 15. Here a slide fastener 25 is shown as of such shorter length than the opening 23—24 that when the slider 26 of the fastener is at the point 27 the slide fastener 25 is fully closed. The remaining part of the opening 23—24, between the points 27 and 23, is illustrated as a fly opening attended on one side by a line of buttons 28 and on its other side by cooperant button-holes 29 on a strip 30 topped by a covering strip or flap 31.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

A bifurcated garment of the class described having seat fullness characteristic of trousers, slacks or the like, said garment having a waist belt portion, an opening traversing the crotch of the garment and terminating at the rear of the garment at a point below said belt portion and at the front of the garment at a point below said belt portion, said belt portion being uninterruptedly continuous across points on the garment vertically in line with the rear end of said opening and vertically in line with the front end of said opening, means for closing said opening, said belt portion being interrupted to provide the same with free ends for meeting at one side of the garment, said garment having an opening in the said one side thereof in line with the free ends of said belt portion, said last-named opening having its bottom end located at a point higher on the garment than the lowest point of the crotch of the garment, means detachably coupling the ends of said belt portion, and means detachably joining the sides of said last-named opening.

ESTELLE SLATER.

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