July 15, 1952 F. CHATFIELD 2,602,928

MEN'S UNDERGARMENT

Filed March 26, 1948 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

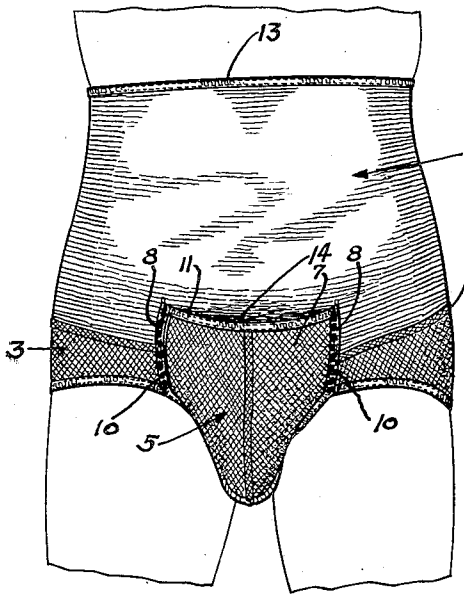


FIG. 1

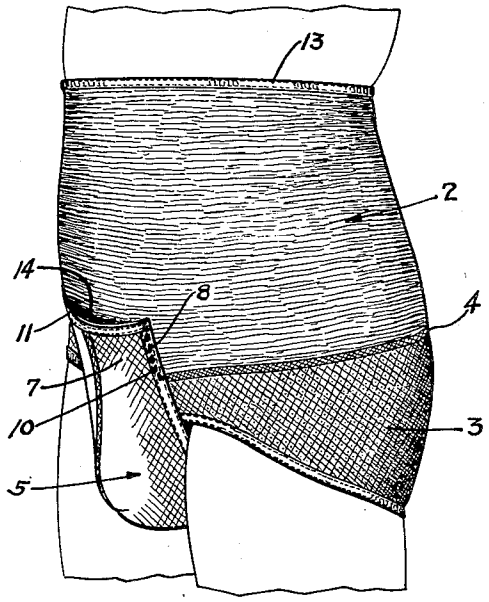


FIG. 2

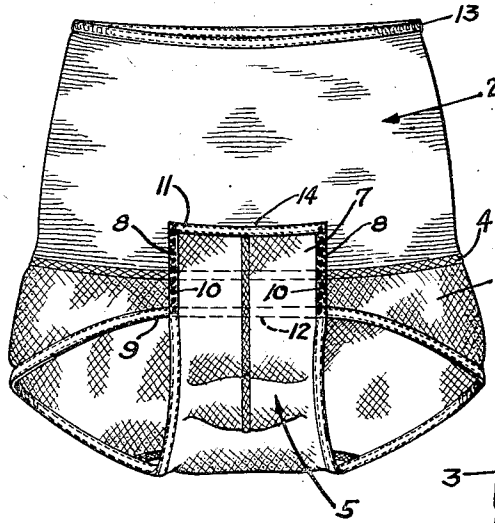


FIG. 3

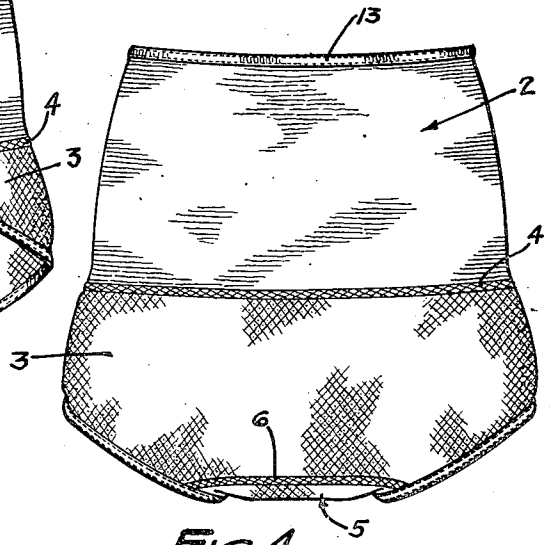


FIG. 4

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July 15, 1952 F. CHATFIELD 2,602,928

MEN'S UNDERGARMENT

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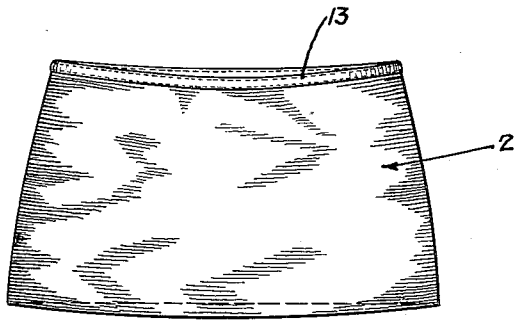


FIG. 5

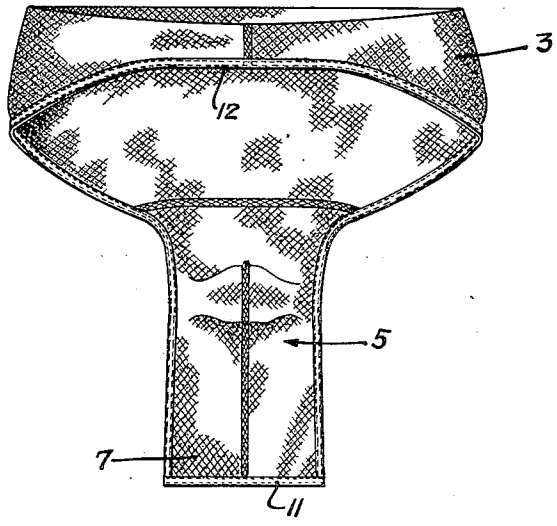


FIG. 6

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MEN'S UNDERGARMENT

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Application March 26, 1948, Serial No. 17,342

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—41)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in men's undergarments, and more particularly to garments of the general character disclosed in my Patent No. 2,138,481, granted November 29, 1938, and my copending application, Ser. No. 17,341, filed March 26, 1948.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the novel construction of the body portion of the garment whereby it serves to provide an abdominal support and imparts a restraining or compressing action to the figure around the circumference thereof. Briefly, the fabric which constitutes the main or girdle portion of the garment has an elastic thread knitted thereinto to provide the required stretch or elasticity for adequately supporting the wearer's body, the lower portion of the garment being constructed of a relatively looser knit fabric to provide freedom of movement without binding.

An object of the present invention therefore is to provide a garment of the character disclosed comprising a girdle type body portion adapted to snugly fit the lower portion of the torso in a manner to exert a constricting, yet comforting pressure against the wearer's body, and at the same time providing ample freedom of movement of the wearer's body without danger of the garment relatively shifting its position thereon.

A further object is to provide an undergarment of the character disclosed comprising a one-piece tubular knit girdle portion adapted to fit the wearer's body with a restraining and compressing action to thereby provide a comfortable support for that portion of the body covered by the girdle portion, and the lowermost portion of the body of the garment, including the suspensory, being constructed of a relatively looser knit fabric to minimize binding and pulling in the lower part of the garment as a result of body movements, and whereby the garment is extremely comfortable upon the wearer.

A further object is to provide a body supporting garment comprising an upper elastic girdle portion, and a lower portion preferably composed of a fabric which may be relatively looser fitting on the wearer's body, said upper and lower garment portions being knitted independent of one another after which they are secured together to provide a composite body-supporting garment adapted to engage the lower portion of the abdomen and impart a comfortable uplift thereto, the construction of the garment being such that it may be expeditiously

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manufactured in quantity production at low cost.

A further and more specific object of the invention is to provide a body-supporting garment for men designed to impart a gentle compressing action to the lower portion of the wearer's torso, such as the hips and stomach, to thereby enhance the appearance of the figure.

Other objects of the invention relate to the unique construction of the upper girdle portion of the garment which preferably is knit in one piece in the form of a tubular blank to avoid objectionable seams and the like; and in the formation of the lower portion of the garment whereby it may provide leg portions or merely leg openings, where said lower garment portion is secured to the upper girdle portion of the garment, the lower portion of the garment comprising a crotch piece extending forwardly from the rear of the garment and overlying the lower central portion of the front of the girdle portion and secured thereto to provide a horizontally disposed fly opening which is so located as not to interfere with the uplift support imparted to the lower portion of the abdomen by the girdle portion.

Other objects of the invention will appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings and will be pointed out in the annexed claims.

In the accompanying drawings there has been disclosed a structure designed to carry out the various objects of the invention, but it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the exact features shown, as various changes may be made within the scope of the claims which follow.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of the garment showing it positioned upon a wearer's body;

Figure 2 is a side view of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a front view of the garment only, showing the construction of the crotch portion;

Figure 4 is a rear view of the garment;

Figure 5 is a view showing the tubular blank which forms the upper girdle portion of the garment; and

Figure 6 is a view showing the lower portion of the garment partially completed and in condition to be secured to the upper girdle portion to complete the formation of the garment.

The novel garment herein disclosed is shown comprising an upper enlarged girdle portion 2 and a lower buttocks-covering portion 3. The fabric constituting the girdle portion has one or more elastic threads knitted therein to pro-

vide a fabric having ample elasticity to adequately support the wearer's body with a compressing action, and particularly the lower portion of the abdomen.

The elastic girdle portion **2** is shown formed from a tubular knit fabric to eliminate seams, and when the length of the girdle has been substantially completed, as shown in Figure 5, the lower garment portion **3** is secured thereto by stitching, as indicated at **4** in the drawings.

The fabric constituting the lower portion **3** of the garment is rather loosely knit so as to render said lower garment portion relatively looser fitting upon the wearer's body, and whereby it is not likely to pull or bind as a result of body movements.

The lower rear central edge portion of the fabric constituting the rear wall of the lower portion **3** of the garment has the rear end of a crotch piece, generally designated by the numeral **5**, secured thereto by a row of stitches **6**. The crotch piece may be constructed of a fabric similar to the fabric from which the lower portion of the garment is constructed, as indicated in the drawings. From the rear portion of the garment, the crotch piece **5** extends forwardly and upwardly and has its front end portion **7** overlying the lowermost portion of the front wall of the garment body, as clearly illustrated in Figure 3. To provide a suitable fly opening, the side edges **8** of the upper or front portion of the crotch piece are secured to the front of the garment from the lower edge **9** of the front wall of the garment to the upper edge **11** of the crotch piece by suitable seams **10**.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the location of the upper edge **11** of the fly opening **14**, subsequently to be described. By reference to Figures 2 and 3, it will be noted that the edge **11** is disposed in quite close proximity to the lower edge **9** of the garment body, whereby the elastic fabric constituting the front wall of the garment body may compress the lower portion of the stomach with sufficient uplift pressure to adequately support the stomach, as will be understood by reference to Figures 1 and 2.

The upper edge **11** of the crotch piece is unsecured to the body of the garment, and, in like manner, the lower central edge portion **12** of the lower front portion of the garment is unsecured to the crotch piece whereby a horizontal fly opening **14** is formed in the lower front portion of the garment which is similar to the one shown and described in my Patent No. 2,138,481, granted November 29, 1938.

The garment herein disclosed has been found extremely practical in actual use. The enlarged girdle portion **2** provides a comfortable support for the entire abdomen, as clearly illustrated in Figure 2, and at the same time it provides a restraining pressure against the hips and upper portion of the buttocks, whereby the entire body below the waistline is given wide support.

By knitting a suitable rubber or elastic thread into the girdle portion **2** of the garment, the entire girdle portion may be rendered highly elastic, whereas the lower portion **3** of the garment may fit the wearer's body with very little restraining pressure to thereby prevent the garment from pulling or binding, or exerting uncomfortable constricting pressures on the wearer's body, when the wearer of the garment is actively engaged in sports or other activities requiring frequent and perhaps extreme body movements.

In the drawings, the fly opening **14** is shown formed by securing the front upper portion of the crotch piece to the body of the garment along its sides only.

By knitting the girdle portion **2** in the form of a seamless tubular blank, and constructing the lower portion **3** as shown and described, the construction of the garment, as a whole, is greatly simplified whereby it readily lends itself for manufacture in quantity production without waste and at extremely low cost.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal objects of my invention, and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments herein described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, the scope of which may be determined by reference to the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a single-layer garment of the class described comprising a girdle portion and a lower portion, the girdle portion composed of tubular knit fabric having one or more rubber threads knitted into the fabric to render said girdle portion stretchable in a horizontal direction, the lower portion of the garment being constructed of a relatively looser knit non-elastic fabric, a crotch piece extending forwardly from the rear of the seat portion of the garment and upwardly, and having its front portion secured to the lower front portion of the girdle portion and cooperating therewith to provide a suitable fly opening, and the lower portion of the garment loosely fitting the wearer's body to permit free body movements without pulling or binding in the garment.

2. In a single-layer garment of the class described comprising a girdle portion and a lower portion, the girdle portion composed of tubular knit fabric having one or more rubber threads knitted into the fabric to render said girdle portion stretchable, the lower portion of the garment being constructed of a relatively looser non-elastic knit fabric, a crotch piece secured at the rear of the seat portion of the lower garment portion and extending forwardly therefrom and upwardly and having its front portion overlying the lower front wall of the girdle portion of the garment and secured thereto along its upright edges only, the upper edge of the crotch piece being unsecured and the lower edge of the front wall of the body of the garment between the vertical side edges of the crotch piece being unsecured thereby to provide a horizontal fly opening, and the lower portion of the garment loosely fitting the wearer's body to permit free body movements without pulling or binding in the garment.

3. A single layer tubular undergarment of the class described comprising a girdle portion and a lower portion, said girdle portion extending downwardly over the wearer's abdomen and overlying a portion of the buttocks in back and forming a circumferential termination disposed in a slightly forwardly and downwardly inclined plane, said girdle portion being composed of tubular knit fabric having one or more elastic threads knitted into the fabric to render said girdle portion stretchable, said lower portion being constructed of non-elastic, relatively looser knit fabric, said lower portion being tubular in nature and attached throughout its top to the

bottom of said girdle portion and extending downwardly in front therefrom a relatively short distance, and extending downwardly in back therefrom a relatively longer distance so as to cup the hips of the wearer's body, a crotch piece secured at the rear of the seat portion of said lower garment portion and extending forwardly therefrom and upwardly and having its front portion overlying the lower front wall of the girdle portion of the garment and secured thereto along its upright edges only, the upper edge of the crotch being unsecured and the lower edge of the front wall of the body of the garment between the vertical side edges of the crotch piece being unsecured the overlying upright edge portions of said crotch piece being secured to the lower portion of the garment body, thereby to

provide a horizontal fly opening, and said girdle portion and said lower portion substantially engaging the wearer's body.

FRANKLIN CHATFIELD.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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