March 16, 1954 P. B. STROH 2,671,904

GARTER

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Fig. 2

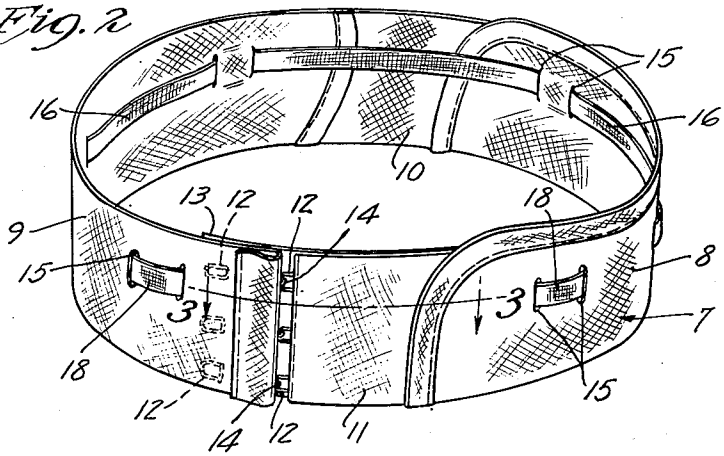


Fig. 1

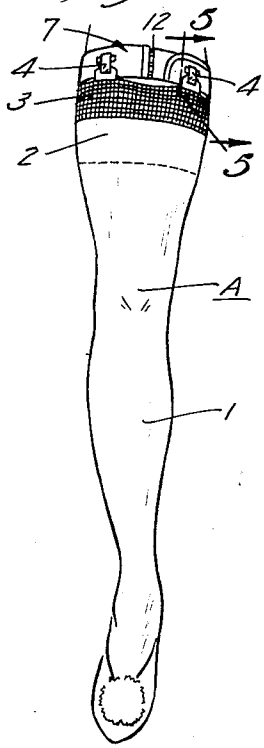


Fig. 3

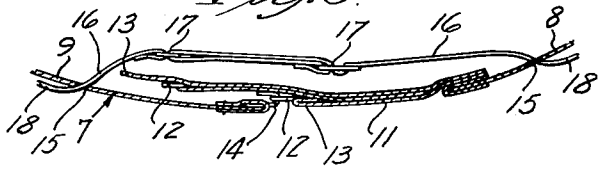


Fig. 4

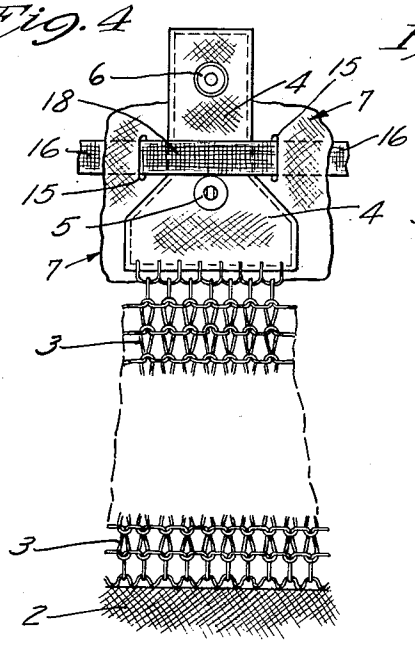
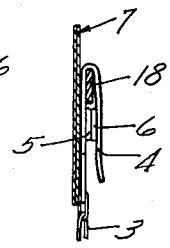


Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

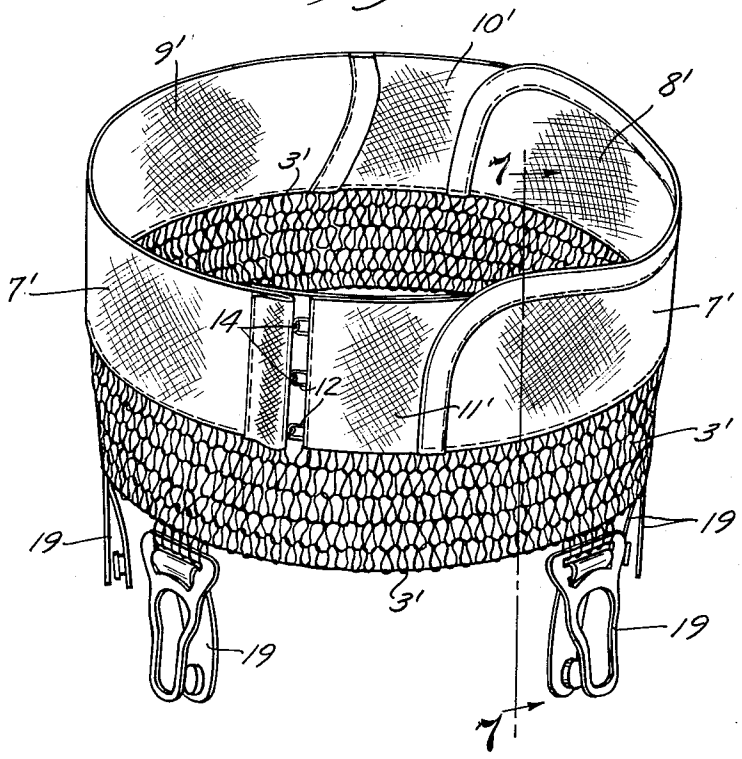
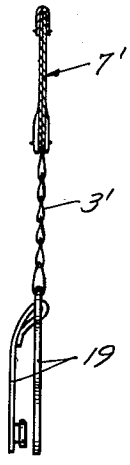


Fig. 7



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GARTER

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Application March 20, 1952, Serial No. 277,563

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—311)

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My invention relates broadly to women's hosiery and garter means therefor.

More specifically, my invention relates to improvements in feminine garters of the type adapted to be worn around the small part of the thigh immediately below the buttocks. Garters of this type are highly desirable in that they provide means of holding up the stockings without the necessity of garter belts, girdles, and the like. However, structures of this type have heretofore proved unsatisfactory due to the fact that, during the various movements of the leg of the wearer, too much stress was exerted directly upon the garter. As a result, the garter was caused to drop down upon the leg. The only alternative was to tighten the garter sufficiently to prevent this, in which case the wearer's garter became uncomfortable or her circulation interfered with—or both.

The primary object of my invention is the provision of a stocking and a garter therefore which may be worn with perfect comfort by the wearer and with complete assurance that the garter will not become dislodged or lowered due to the stress exerted thereon by the stocking during movements of the leg.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a device of the class described which is extremely neat in appearance and which is extremely simple to apply and remove from the leg of the wearer.

A still further object of my invention is the provision of a device of the class described, which is relatively inexpensive to produce and which will not add materially to the bulk or weight of the stocking or garter.

The above and still further objects of my invention will become apparent from the following detailed specification, appended claims, and attached drawings.

Referring to the drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a view in front elevation of a feminine leg with a stocking and garter built in accordance with one form of my invention positioned thereon;

Fig. 2 is a greatly enlarged view in perspective of the garter shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view in section taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view in elevation of Fig. 1, showing the attaching means in an unsnapped position;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view taken substantially on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1;

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Fig. 6 is a view in perspective of a modified form of my invention; and

Fig. 7 is a view in section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Referring with greater particularity to the drawings and, more specifically, to the structure of Figs. 1–5 inclusive, the numeral 1 indicates a full-length feminine hose or stocking designed to cover the lower leg and preferably having a reinforced upper portion or welt 2 surrounding the thigh above the knee, designated by the letter A. Secured to the free upper end of the reinforced portion 2, preferably by stitching throughout the circumference of same, is a highly elastic cuff portion 3, preferably and as shown formed by elastic thread or cord loosely woven to provide an open mesh. Secured to the free upper edge portion of the elastic cuff 3 and projecting upwardly therefrom in circumferentially-spaced relationship are tongue elements 4 preferably formed from non-elastic textile material. Tongue elements 4 are provided with fastening means such as the vertically-spaced male and female snap fastener elements 5 and 6 respectively.

Adapted to cooperate with the stocking 1 and highly elastic cuff 3 is a garter element identified in its entirety by the numeral 7 and comprising a band, preferably and as shown, formed from a pair of circumferentially-spaced elongated elastic members 8 and 9 and a pair of relatively short non-elastic members 10 and 11 preferably formed from fabric or the like and interposed between opposite ends of said members 8 and 9. Member 11 is shown as being provided with a plurality of eyes 12 at longitudinally-spaced points adjacent its free end 13. Any desired number of eyes 12 may be provided to permit circumferential adjustability of the garter 7. This may be accomplished by engaging the desired set of eyes 12 with the hooks 14 secured to the free outer end of the elastic member 9.

As shown, the elastic members 8 and 9 of the garter 7 are provided with circumferentially-spaced pairs of closely-spaced slits 15, through which slits is interlaced an elastic strip 16. Strip 16 is likewise circumferentially adjustable as indicated at 17 (see particularly Fig. 3) and presents relatively short anchoring portions 18 overlying the outer surface of the garter 7 for cooperation of the circumferentially-spaced anchoring tongues 4 projecting upwardly from the highly elastic cuff 3 of the stocking 1, as shown particularly in Figs. 4 and 5.

In use, the garter 7 above-described is placed about the thigh of the wearer, preferably im-

mediately below the buttocks, which portion is relatively thinner than the muscular portion immediately therebelow. The hooks 14 on the free end of the elastic portion 9 are placed through the proper set of eyes 12 so as to achieve the proper snugness of the garter 7 with respect to the leg. The garter 7 need not be too tight to be uncomfortable or to interfere with the circulation of the blood through the leg. Furthermore, this portion of the leg is relatively free from "pressure points," that is, veins or arteries close to the surface. Simultaneously, the elastic strip is then adjusted to snugly encompass the leg of the wearer. Thereafter, the stocking is placed in the position indicated in Fig. 1 and the tongue 4 inserted under the relatively short anchoring portions 18 of the elastic strip 16 overlying the surface of the elastic garter 7. Finally, the snap fasteners 5 and 6 are fastened as shown in Fig. 5. With this arrangement, I have found that the highly elastic cuff 3 constantly exerts sufficient tension upon the stocking 1 to hold same up, free from undesirable wrinkles and looseness. On the other hand, the high degree of elasticity of the cuff 3 permits movements of the leg to any extreme without either causing the stocking 1 to exert a restrictive tightness on the leg or to exert sufficient downward force upon the garter 7 to unseat same or to cause same to be pulled downwardly. Securing of the circumferentially-spaced tongues 4 to the circumferentially-spaced anchoring portions 18 of the elastic strip 16 I have found to provide even greater assurance against unseating of the garter 7, when periodic tugging forces are exerted thereon through the tongues 4 due to reciprocating movements of the leg incident to walking etc.

In the modified structure of Fig. 6, like parts of the garter 7' are indicated by like marks with prime marks added. As there shown, the elastic cuff 3' is stitched or otherwise secured throughout its circumference at its upper edge portion to the lower edge portion of the garter 7'. Also, as shown, a plurality of fastening elements 19 of the type commonly used in the garter art are secured to the lower edge of the elastic cuff 3 and depend therefrom in circumferentially-spaced relation for attachment to the welt or reinforced upper portion of the stocking.

While I have shown a preferred and one modified form of my invention, it is obvious that the same is capable of still further modification without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. In a garter, a relatively wide primary band, said primary band comprising a pair of circumferentially spaced elongated elastic members and a pair of relatively short non-elastic members interposed between opposite ends of said elastic members, and a relatively narrow secondary band extending around the interior of said primary band intermediate its sides and in parallel relation thereto, said secondary band being interlaced through said primary band at circumferentially spaced points to provide circumferentially spaced stocking anchoring portions along the exterior surface of said primary band.

2. The structure defined in claim 1 in which the free ends of each of said bands is provided with cooperating fastener means.

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