

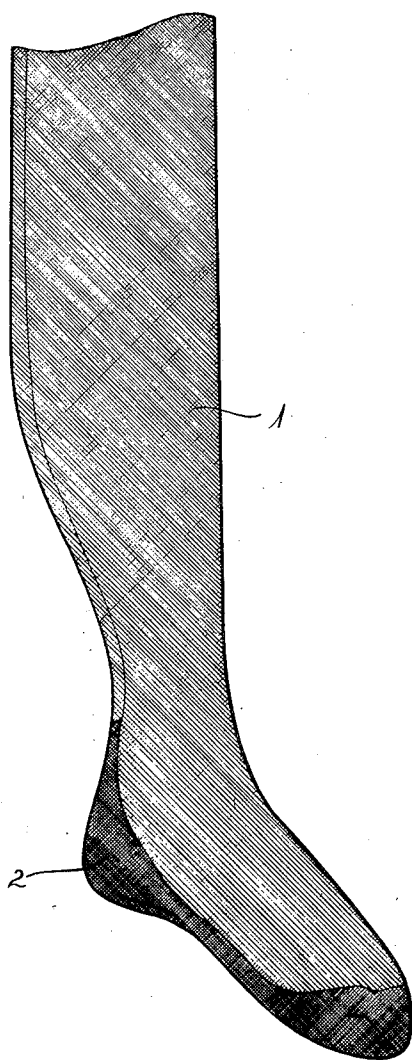
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STOCKING AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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STOCKING AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

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2 Claims. (Cl. 28—74)

The present invention relates to the production of vari-colored textiles and more particularly to the manufacture of knitted or woven articles such as full-fashioned hosiery from yarns made of two or more different types of synthetic high polymers.

Since the advent of nylon sheer hosiery in the American market, the fad has always been a stocking of contrasting color or shade, namely, a sheer boot or body portion of one shade and a darker toe, heel and sole portion. Probably the reason why this style has persisted is because the purchasing public wanted the best appearing leg covering possible, and one way to achieve this was to create a contrasting visual effect between the body and foot portion, which improved the appearance of the leg.

Therefore, in knitting nylon hosiery to produce this effect from synthetic high polymer yarn such as nylon 66 or polymerized hexamethylene adipamide, it is necessary to first treat the yarn to be used in certain portions of the hose in some special manner. For example, the yarn which is to constitute the toe, sole and heel may be dyed before knitting or given a special finish to increase its dye absorption. This is necessary in order to impart a color contrast between this yarn and the yarn constituting the body or boot portions when the finished hosiery is dyed with a particular dyestuff.

This special dyeing or finishing operation of a part of the yarn before it is knitted is a time consuming and expensive step which increases the cost factor materially. Moreover, the use of pre-dyed nylon yarn is not entirely satisfactory because, after finishing of the hose, puckers often occur in the seam area apparently from the stabilization of the nylon yarn during the dyeing operation which leaves it unaffected by the hose setting operation.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to fabricate hosiery and the like from at least two different types of synthetic high polymer yarns and to impart a contrasting color effect in the materials by the use of a single dyeing operation.

It is a further object of this invention to produce knitted articles in which different portions thereof consist of different type high polymer yarns that have different dye receptivity.

Another object of the invention is the production of nylon hose in which the boot portion thereof is dyed a

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lighter shade than the remainder by the application of a dyestuff of one color only.

A new type of nylon yarn that has recently made its entry in the American market is known as nylon 6, which is polymerized epsilon caprolactam. It belongs to the generic class of nylon yarns because it is a super polyamide.

When full-fashioned hosiery was knitted from nylon 6 it appeared to be comparable with nylon 66 in the most important aspects. However, when dyeing with the same class of dyestuffs it appeared to dye darker or had a greater dye absorption. From this it was concluded that it could not be used interchangeably with nylon 66 in the knitting operation because streakiness or a mottled effect would result.

It was then unpredictably discovered that swatches of nylon 6 and nylon 66, when dyed with a common dyeing agent and placed side-by-side, seemed to have a pleasing two-tone effect. When a full-fashioned hose was knitted from the two yarns wherein the splicing yarn of nylon 6 was used in the toe, heel, and sole portion and nylon 66 in the boot, or body portion, the hose could be dyed in one operation. As shown in the figure, the boot or body portion 1 was knitted from nylon 66 and the darker dyed toe, heel and sole portion 2 was knitted from nylon 6. It can be seen from the drawing that the effect was two pleasing contrasting shades which was equal to, or even better, than the two corresponding shades of nylon 66 hose, portions of which had been especially pre-treated in yarn form. Regardless of the color of dyestuffs used, the resulting shades always appeared to have a proper contrast, in that, the nylon 6 yarn always dyed sufficiently darker than the nylon 66 yarn.

What is claimed is:

1. A stocking, the boot portion of which is knitted from nylon 66 and the toe, sole and heel of which are knitted from nylon 6 and further characterized by a two-tone effect resulting from the application of a single dyestuff in which the toe, sole and heel are dyed a darker shade than the boot portion.

2. A process for manufacturing a stocking having a two-tone effect from nylon 66 and nylon 6 yarn which comprises knitting the toe, heel, and sole portion with splicing yarn of nylon 6 and the remaining body portion from nylon 66 yarn and dyeing the stocking thus formed in one operation whereby the toe, heel and sole portion is dyed a darker shade than the body portion.

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