United States Patent

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[72] Inventor **Gilbert Sivel**
Nimes, France

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[73] Assignee **Eminence**
Nimes, France
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[33] **France**
[31] **143,349**

[54] **METHOD OF MANUFACTURING AN ELASTIC BELT**
5 Claims, 7 Drawing Figs.

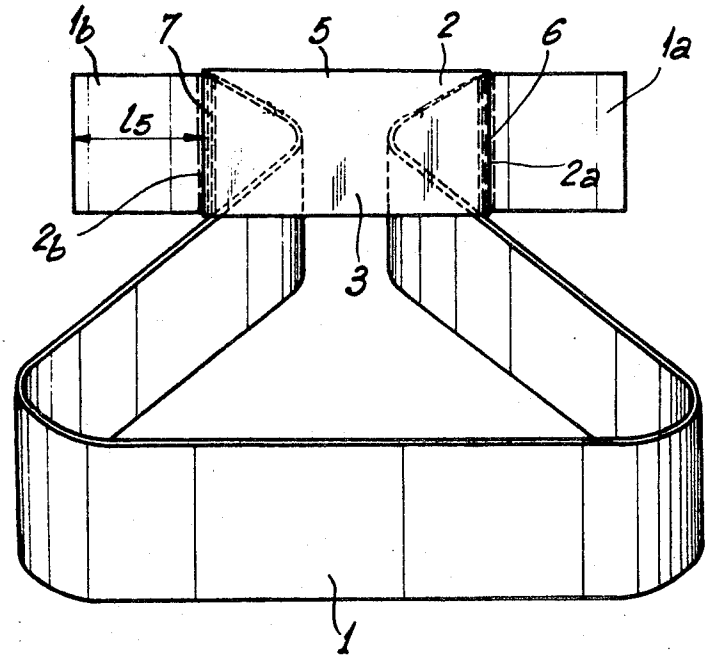
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **2/338,** 24/265.1, 24/208.3
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A41f 3/02,** A41f9/00, A41f15/100
[50] **Field of Search** 2/337, 336, 338, 320, 93, 311, 308; 24/17.2, 17.1, 265.1, 208.3; 161/70, 71, 74, 78; 57/139, 141; 66/170; 139/38, 33, 84

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Primary Examiner—Patrick D. Lawson
Assistant Examiner—Geo. V. Larkin
Attorney—Watson, Cole, Grindle & Watson

ABSTRACT: An elastic belt comprising an elastic strip having its ends joined by a connection element including two leaves hinged along a folding line is made by disposing the connection element astride the oppositely directed ends of an elastic strip, fixing the edges of the said connection element adjacent to the respective ends of the strip, for example by stitching, and then turning the connection element so that the originally inwardly facing surfaces of its leaves face outwardly and vice versa.



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SHEET 1 OF 2

Fig. 1

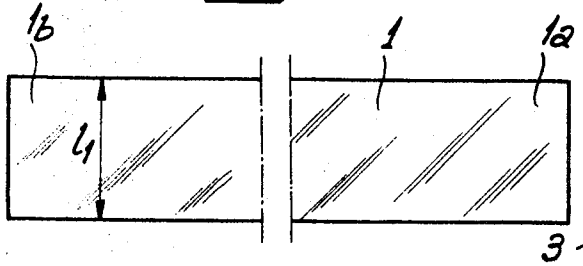


Fig. 2

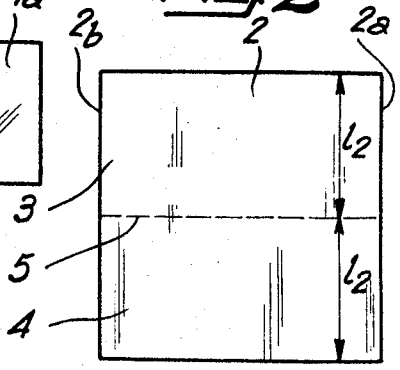


Fig. 4

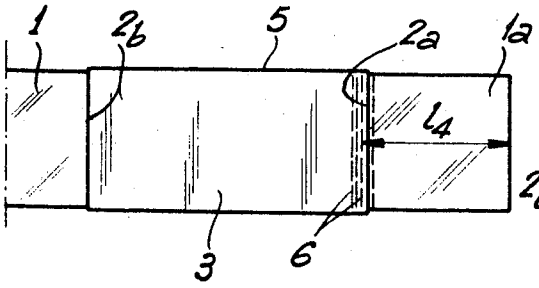


Fig. 3

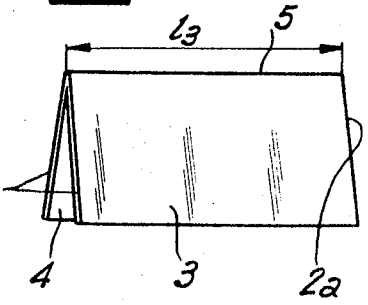
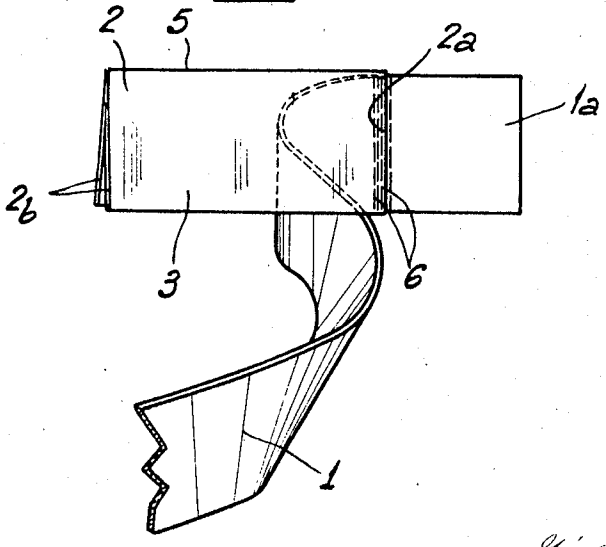


Fig. 5



Inventor
Gilbert Sinel

By
Watson, Cole, Grindle & Watson
Attorneys

Fig. 6

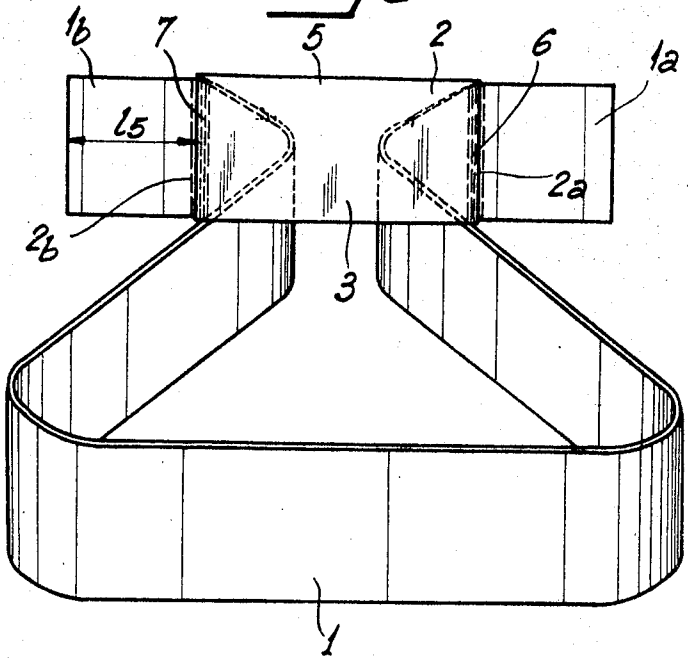
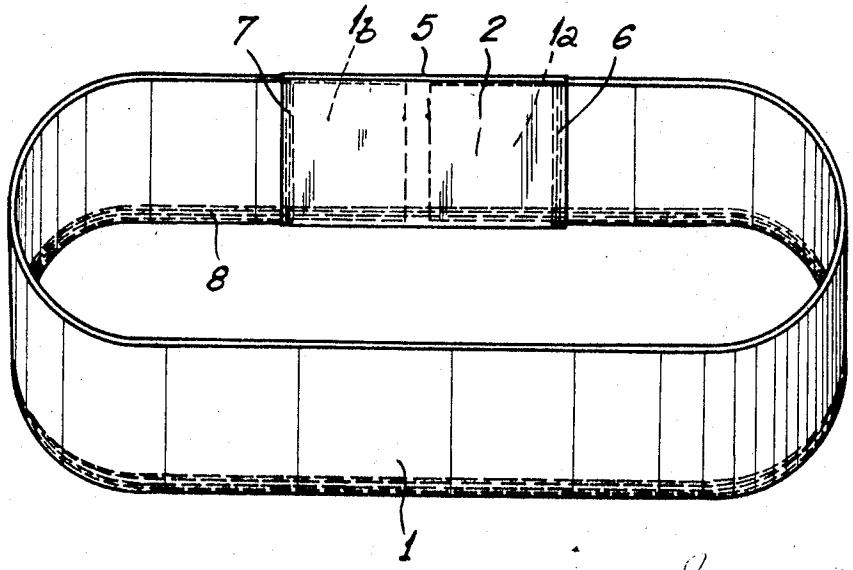


Fig. 7



Inventor
Gilbert Sinel
By watson, Cole, Grindle & watson
Attorneys

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING AN ELASTIC BELT

This invention relates to a method of manufacturing an elastic belt, and to a belt made by this method.

The belt is particularly intended for attachment to an undergarment or an overgarment and the method according to the invention enables the simultaneous manufacture of the belt and the displaying of an indication such as the trademark of the manufacturer.

According to the invention, in a method of manufacturing an elastic belt, especially a belt for an overgarment or an undergarment, a connection element, including two leaves articulated along a folding line, is disposed astride the oppositely directed ends of an elastic strip, the edges of the said connection element adjacent to the respective ends of the strip are fixed to these ends, and then the connection element is turned in such a manner that the originally inwardly facing surfaces of its leaves face outwardly and vice versa.

Preferably, the edges of the connection element are fixed to the strip by stitching, which may be multiple-needle stitching.

The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

FIG. 1 shows an elastic strip intended to form a belt in accordance with the invention,

FIGS. 2 and 3 show a double-leaf connection element,

FIGS. 4, 5 and 6 illustrate different stages of the manufacturing process according to the invention, and

FIG. 7 shows an elastic belt in accordance with the invention.

The elastic strip 1 shown in FIG. 1 has a length, between its ends 1*a* and 1*b* determined by the waist measurement for which the belt according to the invention is intended.

The connection element 2 (FIG. 2), intended to be joined to the ends 1*a* and 1*b* of the strip, is of double-leaf construction. This connection element includes two leaves 3 and 4, articulated about a folding line 5, the width l_2 of which is substantially equal to the width l_1 of the strip 1. The connection element itself may also be elastic and may include, on a surface of one of its leaves 3, 4, printed indications such as the trademark of the manufacture. When such printed indications are provided, the connection element is folded about the folding line 5 in such a manner that the said indications are disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the leaf (see FIG. 3).

The folded connection element is then disposed astride the strip 1 in the vicinity of the end 1*a* of the latter, in such a way that the end 1*a* projects slightly from the connection element 2. Preferably, the distance l_4 by which the end 1*a* projects is less than half the length l_3 of the leaves 3 and 4. The edges 2*a* of the connection element 2, adjacent to the end 1*a* are then fixed to the strip 1, for example by multiple-needle stitching 6 (see FIG. 4).

The strip 1, apart from its stitched end 1*a* is then disengaged from the connection element 2 (see FIG. 5), and its end 1*b* is introduced into the connection element so as to project beyond the latter by a distance l_5 preferably less than half the length l_3 of the leaves 3 and 4. In the course of this operation, it is important to avoid twisting the strip 1.

The edges 2*b* of the connection element 2, adjacent to the end 1*b* of the strip 1, are then fixed to the strip by means of stitching 7 (see FIG. 6).

In order to obtain an elastic belt in accordance with the invention, it then suffices to open the connection element 2 about its folding line 5 and to refold it, about the folding line, in the opposite direction, i.e. so that the faces of the leaves 3, 4 which originally were inside now become outside (see FIG. 7). The ends 1*a* and 1*b* are then inside the connection element 2, in nonabutting relationship as illustrated by the dotted lines in FIG. 7, while the printed indications carried on one of the leaves become apparent. Such a belt may then be stitched on an undergarment or an overgarment (not shown) by multiple stitching 8 which closes the connection element 2 opposite the folding line 5.

It will be seen that in the finished belt the lines of stitching 6 and 7 are concealed under the connection element 2.

What I claim is:

1. A method of manufacturing an elastic belt comprising the steps of: disposing a connection element, having two leaves articulated along a folding line, astride the oppositely directed end of an elastic strip, attaching an edge of the said connection element adjacent to a respective end of the strip, removing the free end of the strip from said connection element and placing said end adjacent said free respective edge of said connection element in overlapping relationship therewith, attaching said free end and said free edge and then turning the connection element in such a manner that the originally inwardly facing surfaces of its leaves face outwardly.

2. An elastic belt, comprising;

an elastic strip,

an element connecting the end portions of said elastic strip, said element having two leaflike members hinged along a folding line,

each end portion of said elastic strip being stitched to a respective end of said element so that the stitching lies concealed between said connection element and said elastic strip.

3. A belt according to claim 2, in which the width of each of said leaflike members is substantially equal to that of the elastic strip.

4. A belt according to claim 2 wherein each of said ends of said strip projects from the ends of said element a distance substantially equal to less than half the length of said element.

5. A belt according to claim 2 wherein the ends of each of said leaflike members are folded under and said ends of said strip are stitched at the folded portions of each leaflike member to conceal said stitching.