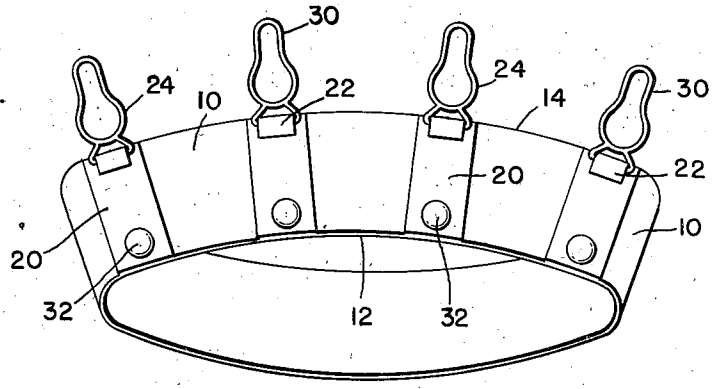
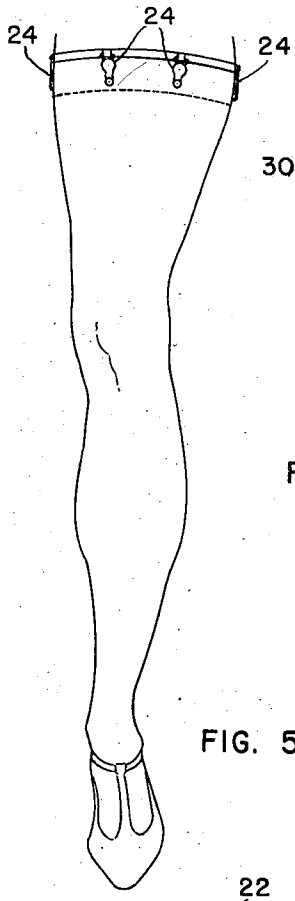
June 14, 1949. R. J. STEERE 2,473,113

HOSIERY SUPPORT OR GARTER

Filed March 21, 1946

FIG. 2.





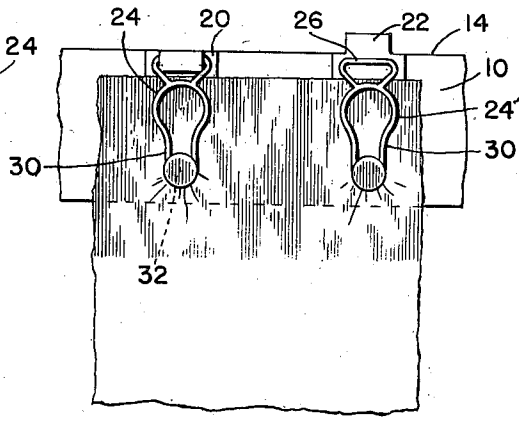
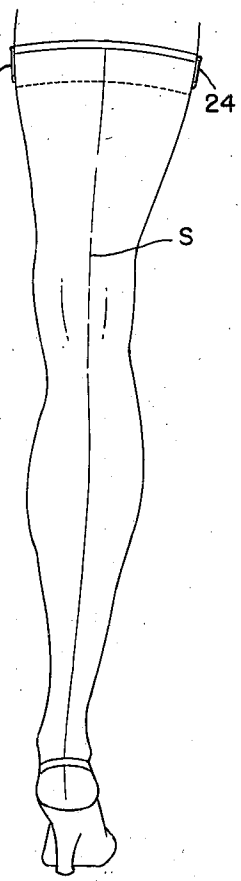


FIG. 4.



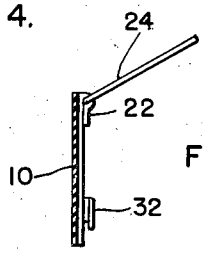
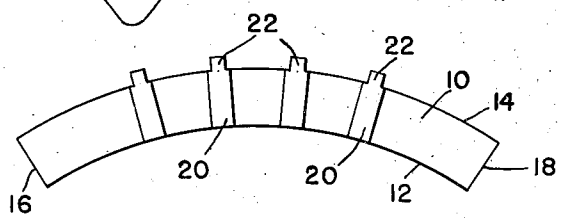


FIG. 3.

FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

FIG. 1.



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HOSIERY SUPPORT OR GARTER

Raymond J. Steere, Rockwood, Tenn.

Application March 21, 1946, Serial No. 656,085

8 Claims. (Cl. 2—312)

1

The present invention relates to a hosiery support or garter of a type which is adapted to encircle the thigh portion of the leg above the knee. The invention permits the wearing of hose at full length without the aid of extension supports from foundation garments or garter belts.

A principal object of the invention is to provide such a hosiery support of particular usefulness in properly supporting ladies' full-fashioned, full-length hosiery, in such manner that the hose are maintained on the leg in smooth and even condition, with the full-fashioned seam maintained in proper central position along the back of the leg at all times.

The present invention eliminates the necessity for a garter belt or the like worn around the waist and having the hosiery supports depending therefrom. It is well known that in the use of such belts for supporting hosiery, various uneven tensions are applied to the upper edges of the hosiery when the belt or depending supporters shift due to various movements of the wearer. Such extended hose supporting members are objectionable especially when used with full-fashioned hosiery, for the supporting members hang freely and without any control of stability at or near the point where the clasp engages the hose, allowing the fashion seam to creep out of position, thus distorting the true contour or lines of the leg. It is well known that full length hosiery cannot be maintained in a smart and neat condition when supported in the general manner referred to above.

Another important object of the invention is to provide a garter or hosiery support of the thigh encircling type having means in the form of clasps for supporting the hose or stockings within the width of the band itself, whereby any tension applied to the supporting clasps by movement of the leg will be evenly absorbed, the upper portion of the stocking always being maintained in an even and neat condition. With respect to this objective, the hose are supported by clasps which are attached to the upper edge of the band or garter, the clasps being disposed within the width of the band or garter and having means to grip the hose above the lower edge of the band. I am aware of the existence of thigh-engaging garter bands having a plurality of supporting elements which depend therefrom and connect with the upper edge of the stocking at points spaced some distance below the lower edge of the

2

band. In such prior devices, it is usually the custom to suspend the supporting clasps from the lower edge of the band. In general, these devices are subject to the same disadvantages as the garter belt worn around the waist, although perhaps to a lesser degree, for uneven tensions are exerted on the supporting clasps which, during the course of a short time, cause the stocking to become wrinkled and the back seam to become twisted from its proper position.

Another object of the invention is to provide a thigh-encircling garter band made of rubber or the like which changes in diameter throughout its width so that it may evenly fit the shape of the leg and be maintained in frictional engagement therewith throughout the entire surface of the band. The garter band of the present invention frictionally engages the limb of the wearer with skin surface tension.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description progresses.

In the drawings which are illustrative of a form which the invention may take, and which are not intended to restrict the invention other than as defined in the appended claims,

Figure 1 is a view of a blank of rubber or the like cut in preparation for the manufacture of a garter of my invention,

Figure 2 is a view of the blank of Figure 1 after it has been formed into a band and after the hose-supporting elements have been attached to the band,

Figure 3 is a central substantially vertical sectional view through the band at a point where the hose attaching devices are positioned, showing the manner in which they are mounted on the band,

Figure 4 is an enlarged view of a portion of the band, showing the manner in which the attaching mechanisms grip the welt of the stocking, and

Figures 5 and 6 are views respectively toward the front and back of the leg, showing one position in which the garter band may be worn and one manner in which the supporting devices may be disposed to engage the hose. These views show the garter at a relatively high position on the leg, when worn with hose of extreme length, it being evident that garters having depending supports could not be used with such hose without positioning the garter almost at the crotch.

It will be understood that the garter of the present invention will usually be worn at positions closer to the knee than is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6, when used with hose of customary length.

Referring to Figure 1, a blank 10 of rubber, pure latex rubber, synthetic rubber or the like is cut in the form shown having a lower edge 12 and an upper edge 14 of substantially the same curvature, the radius of curvature of the upper edge being greater than that of the lower edge, to a degree corresponding with the width of the band. The end edges 16 and 18 of the blank may be later slightly overlapped and bonded in any well known manner to form a one-piece, substantially-circular garter band of the form shown in Figure 2, the form being such that the upper edge 14 encircles the upper or thicker portion of the thigh whereas the lower edge 12 will encircle the smaller portion of the thigh in order that the band may evenly accommodate itself to the shape of the wearer's leg. The band thus formed fits the tapered form of the limb under equalized tension.

At spaced points along the blank, additional thin reinforcing strips 20 of rubber or the like are bonded to the outer surface of the blank in any well known manner, these strips being positioned in a substantially radial direction with respect to the lines of curvature which define the upper and lower edges 14 and 12 of the blank. The strips 20, while thin, are of sufficient body to form a firm anchorage for clasp buttons to be later described, and to keep the thin garter band from wrinkling when being worn. In order to secure the well known types of clasp members for supporting the hosiery, the rubber strips 20 are provided with integral tabs 22 which may be of slightly lesser width than the strips 20, and which extend beyond the upper edge 14 of the blank 10. In order to illustrate the manner of attachment of the supporting members, which are designated as 24, one of the tabs 22 is shown in Figure 4 in position prior to securing its clasp, although it will be understood that when a stocking is attached this tab would have been bent down and secured as by bonding to the outer face of its strip 20. The securing portion or link 26 of the clasp is positioned on the outer face of the strip 20 adjacent the upper edge 14 of the blank, and the extending tab 22 is then bent outwardly and downwardly over the link 26 and through its opening and is bonded to the outer face of the strip 20 in any well-known manner, so that the clasp is firmly but pivotally secured to the blank adjacent the upper edge thereof.

The clasp 24 may be of any well-known construction, having a lower restricted throat portion 30 which is adapted to be slipped over a clasp button 32 secured to or formed, as by molding, as an integral part of the lower outer end face of each of the rubber strips 20.

As shown in Figure 4, the garter band 10 is slipped over the leg to the proper point on the thigh in accordance with the length of the hose, and then the upper edge or welt of the hose is pulled up over the outer surface of the band until it is just below the upper edge 14 of said band. At this time, the button 32 is flexed upwardly and then pushed down into the throat 30 of the clasp with a gathering of the hose between the enlarged end of the button and the reduced portion of the throat 30 as is common practice, the hose being secured around the garter in the general position and condition illustrated in Figure 4.

While the strips 20 and the hose clasp elements

may be arranged on the band 10 in any well known manner, a preferred arrangement is indicated in Figure 2 where four strips are shown suitably spaced substantially throughout a half of the circle formed by the band. Referring to Figure 5, showing the front of the leg, there is a clasp 24 substantially at opposite sides of the leg, and the two clasps are disposed equally spaced throughout the front semicircle of the band. However, it will be understood that said clasps may be otherwise arranged or spaced, particularly to provide some support at the back of the leg if this is deemed advisable.

With the construction and arrangement shown, it is found that any tension applied to the garter and supporting clasps are evenly distributed, and it is found that the seam S (Figure 6) extending up the back of the leg are maintained in even and neat position. By reason of the fact that the top welt of the hose is positioned around the band and supported from adjacent the top thereof, a firm and flexible attachment is secured, which attachment is characterized by the absence of uneven stresses when the garter is being worn, the hose being maintained in a smooth and neat condition. In connection with the above advantages, it will be noted that the clasps 24 and the buttons 32 grip the hose within the confines of the band 10, so that there is no medium depending from the band itself which is capable of being pulled or shifted during movements of the leg to thereby cause wrinkling or twisting of the hose.

While I have shown the band 10 positioned relatively high on the leg in Figures 5 and 6, as would be the case when used with hose of maximum length, it will be understood that the garter will accommodate itself for wear at a point on the thigh somewhat closer to the knee. The absence of depending members to be secured to the stocking results in a device of reduced over-all width, so that the garter may be worn closer to the knee than in the case of prior art devices mentioned above in this specification, which comprise a belt with clasping elements hanging or depending therefrom. Thus, a garter of the present invention can be adjusted with more modesty than is possible with prior art devices.

It will be apparent that I have provided a garter which is useful and practical in retaining hose at full length position with substantially equalized and minimum tension on the hose fabric, whereby the hose are maintained in smooth and neat condition with the seam retained against creeping from proper position.

It will also be apparent that when pure latex or synthetic rubber is used in making the garter band, the adhering quality of the rubber frictionally engages the bare leg with skin surface tension, thus preventing the garter from slipping downwardly or circumferentially on the leg.

I claim:

1. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a band of rubber or the like having an inner surface which widens toward the upper edge of the band when the band is relaxed in order to assume the tapered form of the leg when worn and to grip the same by uniform skin surface tension, said band having a plurality of clasps pivoted thereto adjacent its upper edge and a plurality of cooperating buttons similarly spaced and located on the outer face of said band adjacent the lower edge thereof, said band being adapted to receive the welt of the hose thereover when worn on the thigh with

the top edge of the hose just below the top edge of the band and beneath said clasps and with said welt covering said buttons, said clasps and buttons being positioned and arranged to secure the welt of the hose at spaced points directly to and within the confines of the top and bottom edges of said band, whereby to maintain the hose in neat and even condition and avoid creeping of the hose seam.

2. A construction in accordance with claim 1 wherein said buttons and clasps are carried on reinforcing strips bonded onto the outer face of said band.

3. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a band of flexible material formed to fit and grip the thigh, said band being adapted to receive the upper end of the hose over the band when being worn, a pair of cooperating hose-securing members on the outer face of said band and independently secured to the flexible material thereof in spaced relation, both securing points being within the width of said band, said securing members being adapted to engage one another to grip the upper edge of the hose, said securing members being adapted to be displaced toward and into engagement with one another by flexing the material of said band, the engaging portion of the lower securing member being positioned above the lower edge of said band.

4. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a band of flexible material formed to fit and grip the thigh, and a plurality of spaced clasps of rigid material secured to said band adjacent the upper end thereof, said clasps having lower button-engaging ends which lie adjacent to the lower end of said band but within its confines, and cooperating clasp engaging buttons secured to the flexible material of said band adjacent the lower end thereof, whereby they may be displaced toward and into engagement with their respective clasps by flexing the material of said band, said band being thereby rendered rigid in vertical lines through said clasps when the clasps and buttons are engaged to thus cause the full width of said band to absorb stresses from the hose.

5. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a band of flexible material formed to fit and grip the thigh, and a plurality of spaced clasps of rigid material secured to said band adjacent the upper end thereof, said clasps having lower button-engaging ends which lie adjacent to the lower end of said band but within its confines, and cooperating clasp engaging buttons secured to the flexible material of said band adjacent the lower end thereof, whereby they may be displaced toward and into engagement with their respective clasps by flexing the material of said band, said band being thereby rendered rigid in vertical lines through said clasps when the clasps and buttons are engaged to thus cause the full width of said band to absorb stresses from the hose, said band having an inner surface which widens toward the upper edge of the band when the band is relaxed in order to assume the tapered form of the leg when worn and to grip the same by uniform skin surface tension.

6. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a band of rubber or the like adapted to encircle the leg under tension and having upper and lower edges cut on arcs having substantially the same center but of radii differing by the width of the band in order that the band may assume the tapered form of the leg when worn, said band having spaced tabs of rubber or the like bonded thereto and extending throughout the width of the band to form vertical strengthened areas on the band, said tabs being provided with means to secure a clasp thereto and having a cooperating button secured thereto in spaced relation to said clasp, said band being adapted to receive the welt of the hose thereover when worn on the thigh with the top edge of the hose just below the top edge of the band and beneath said clasps and with said welt covering said buttons, said clasps and the buttons being positioned and arranged to secure the welt of the hose at spaced points directly to and within the confines of the top and bottom edges of said band, said buttons being engaged with said clasps by flexing the material of said band and said tabs, said clasps and buttons being retained in proper relation securing the welt of the hose by the tension of said band when in position on the leg.

7. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a relatively narrow band of rubber or the like which tapers from a lesser to a greater diameter as the top edge of the band is approached and when the band is in relaxed condition when not being worn, said band being uncovered in order to grip the bare thigh with skin surface tension and being capable of circumferential stretching to assume the tapered form of the thigh when worn at any desired elevation thereon, a plurality of rigid clasps secured to said band adjacent the upper edge thereof and a plurality of corresponding vertically aligned clasp engaging buttons independently secured to the rubber of said band adjacent the lower edge thereof whereby said buttons may be displaced toward and into engagement with their respective clasps by flexing the rubber of said band, said band being adapted to receive the welt of the hose thereover when worn on the thigh with the top edge of the hose adjacent the top edge of said band and beneath said clasps with said welt covering said buttons, said clasps and buttons being retained in proper relation securing the welt of the hose by the tension of said band when it is worn on the thigh, said band being rendered rigid in vertical lines through said clasps when the latter are engaged with said buttons.

8. A garter for supporting hose at full length from the thigh, comprising a relatively narrow band of rubber or the like which is capable of circumferential expansion and is formed to fit and grip the tapered thigh at any desired elevation thereon, a plurality of rigid clasps of length substantially equal to the width of said band and secured to said band adjacent the upper edge thereof, and a plurality of corresponding vertically aligned clasp engaging buttons independently secured to the rubber of said band adjacent the lower edge thereof, said band being adapted to receive the welt of the hose thereover when worn on the thigh with the top edge of the hose positioned adjacent the top edge of said band beneath said clasps with said welt covering said buttons, said band in vertical lines between the independent securing points of corresponding clasps and buttons remaining flexible prior to their engagement to permit displacement of said buttons toward and into engagement with their respective clasps by flexing the rubber of said band, said band being thereby rendered rigid in said vertical lines by the engaged clasps to

thus cause the full width of said band to absorb stresses from the hose, said clasps and buttons being retained in proper relation engaging the welt of the hose by the circumferential tension of said band when in position on the thigh.

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