April 2, 1929. D. LEVINSON 1,707,441

ATHLETIC SHIRT

Filed Dec. 10, 1927

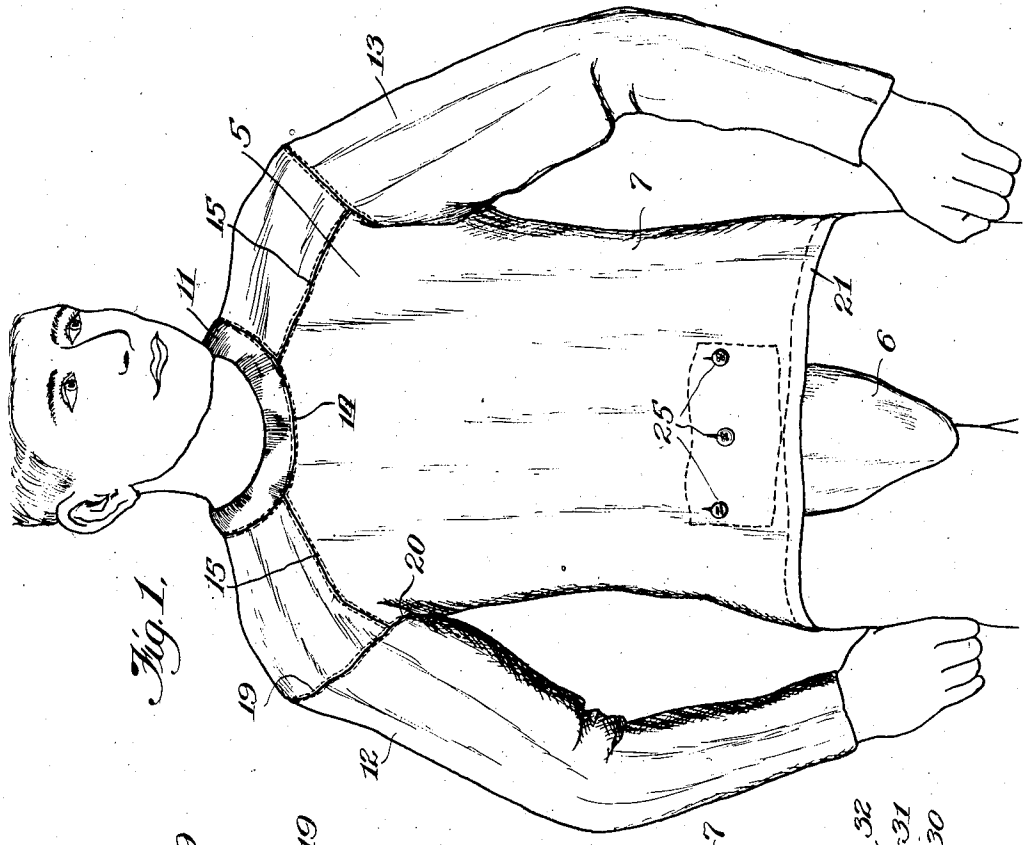


Fig. 1.

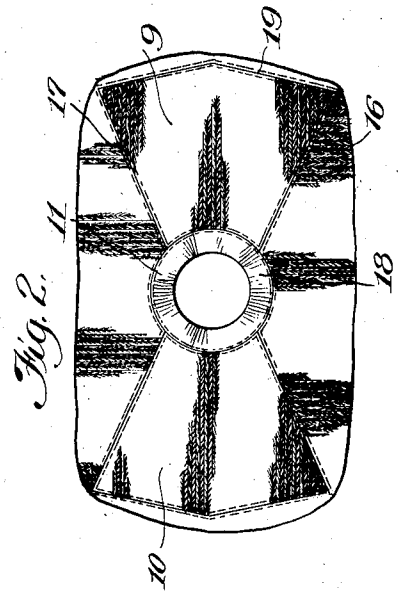


Fig. 2.

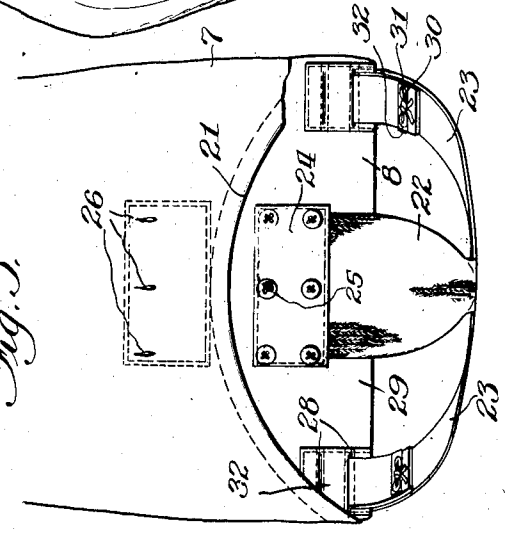


Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID LEVINSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO WILSON-WESTERN SPORTING GOODS COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

ATHLETIC SHIRT.

Original application filed August 26, 1925, Serial No. 52,577. Divided and this application filed December 10, 1927. Serial No. 239,041.

The present invention relates to athletic shirts and has particular reference to an athletic shirt adapted to carry an athletic supporter and to provide a maximum degree of freedom of movement for the arms and shoulders of the wearer.

The present application is a division of my co-pending application, Serial No. 52,577, for a combined shirt and supporter, which has resulted in the issue of Patent No. 1,658,448, dated February 7, 1928.

One of the objects of the present invention is the provision of a novel athletic shirt structure particularly adapted to be worn over the usual shoulder pads of a football harness and adapted to permit a maximum degree of freedom of movement of the wearer and to carry an athletic supporter.

Another object of my invention is the provision of an athletic shirt structure which is adapted to stretch about the usual heavy football shoulder pads, and which may be worn with such pads inside the shirt without hampering the free movement of the players' arms and shoulders during the play, and without stretching the collar out of shape.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a novel athletic shirt structure adapted to be used in combination with a supporter, to adjustably carry the latter and retain the shirt in proper position without the objectionable tendency of the shirt to bunch in the top of the football pants or to creep out of place.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will appear more fully from the following description and from the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters of reference indicate similar parts throughout the views.

Referring to the drawings,

Figure 1 is an elevational view of my athletic shirt, including an adjustable supporter;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the shoulder and neck structure of my athletic shirt; and

Figure 3 is a detail view of the lower end of the athletic shirt taken from the front with the supporter detached at the front.

Referring to Figure 1, the athletic shirt is indicated in its entirety by the numeral 5 and the supporter structure in its entirety by the numeral 6. The shirt may consist of the front panel portion 7, the back panel portion 8, shoulder gores 9 and 10, a ring neck 11, and the sleeves 12 and 13.

The front panel portion 7 may be formed of an integral piece with a back panel portion 8, or these may consist of two separate pieces sewed together beneath the arms, and both panel portions are formed with an upper curved boundary 14 adapted to be secured to the ring neck 11. The panels 7 and 8 are preferably formed of jersey knit or flannel material adapted to stretch in a horizontal direction as shown in Figure 1, and the panels are cut on lines 15 substantially parallel with the top of the shoulder from the ring neck 11 to the sleeves 12.

The ring neck 11 is preferably formed of a double layer of elastic knit material folded back upon itself and secured by stitching to the front and back panels 7 and 8 and the shoulder gores 9 and 10. The shoulder gores 9 and 10 are also formed of elastic knit material and are preferably made substantially trapezoidal in shape, having two converging sides 16 and 17, a curved edge 17 adjacent the neck band 11, and the opposide side 19 formed with two straight portions, or curved substantially as shown. The shoulder gores 9 and 10 are cut from elastic knit material so that they are adapted to stretch in a direction transverse to the body of the wearer; that is, up over the shoulder from front to back.

It will thus be observed that the panel portions and shoulder gores are adapted to stretch with the neck band at their inner edges and to stretch uniformly to insure a smooth fit over any shoulder pads or other harness that may be worn. Furthermore, the trapezoidal or triangular gores are adapted to stretch over the shoulder to permit the use of extremely heavy shoulder pads without hampering the freedom of movement of the wearer and without drawing the neck band out of shape. Besides conforming closely to the shoulder pads and holding them to the body of the wearer, the gores 9 and 10 are adapted to stretch to a greater degree when the arms are lifted, raising the shoulder pads.

The shirt is also provided with the usual sleeves 12 which are secured to the front and back panels at the curved armholes 20 and to the gores at the outer boundary 19 at a

point well beyond the outer edge of the shoulder. The sleeves 12 may be provided with reinforcing at the elbows, consisting of double layers of material, and the lower edge of the panel 7 is preferably cut away as at 21 to form a concavely curved lower edge.

Besides being particularly adapted to be used over a football harness, my athletic shirt is provided with means for adjustably attaching the supporter 6 which retains the shirt in adjusted position without any undesirable creeping up or bunching of the shirt in the football pants. The supporter 6 is made of elastic webbing, similarly to the popular type of athletic supporter, this elastic webbing having considerably more elasticity than the jersey knit or flannel material of the shirt portion 5. This supporter portion comprises the front pouch or sack 22, and the two diagonally extending leg straps 23. In accordance with the usual practice, these leg straps are stitched together and to the lower end of the pouch portion 22 to extend at an angle therefrom for drawing up over the outer sides of the buttocks.

To the upper end of the pouch portion 22 is stitched a multiple button fastening tab 24 for detachably securing the front part of the supporter portion to the lower front end of the shirt portion. It is desirable that this fastening tab have comparatively slight elasticity so that it will serve as a firm securing surface for the buttons 25, and so that practically all of the elasticity or give of the supporter portion will occur in the pouch part 22 and in the leg straps 23. To this end, this fastening tab 24 may consist of any heavy, relatively inelastic material, but as illustrative of what I consider the preferred method of forming this tab, I make the body portion thereof of elastic webbing and stitch across the outer face thereof, duck or some other similar fabric.

The buttons 25 are arranged in two or more horizontal rows of three buttons each, and these buttons are adapted to be fastened in one or more rows of button-holes 26 in the shirt portion 5. These button-holes are re-enforced in the body of the shirt by stitching a re-enforcing panel or backing 27 of relatively inelastic fabric such as duck, to the inner side of the shirt, the button-holes being worked in the shirt and in this re-enforcing panel. By fastening either row of buttons 25 in these button-holes 26, two different heights of attachment for the front part of the supporter portion are obtained.

The rear ends of the straps 23 are looped through horizontal slits 28 cut in the rear tail portion 29 of the shirt. There are two or more of these slits 28 cut in superposed relation in each side hip portion of the shirt to afford an additional adjustment for the rear part of the supporter portion 6. In forming these looped ends in the straps 23, lacing strings 30 are laced through eyelets 31 formed in the ends of the straps and in the intermediate portions of the straps. These lacing eyelets or holes 31 are preferably openings faced or worked in thread in re-enforcing strips 32 stitched to the straps. For re-enforcing the garment around the slits 28, plies of felt or other re-enforcing material 32 are stitched to the inner and outer sides of the shirt, and these slits are cut through the shirt material and through the two piles of felt. The three thicknesses of material are stitched together along the margins of the slits and around the outer margins of the felt re-enforcing plies, and this stitching adequately prevents any unraveling of the shirt material.

It will be apparent that the two vertical adjustments for the front part of the supporter portion and the two vertical adjustments through the rear part of the supporter portion will afford a latitude of adjustment equal to any requirements. These two adjustments for both the front and rear parts of the supporter portion enable the pouch portion 6ª to be moved either up or down in the crotch to practically any desired position for greatest comfort. By the mere unfastening of the buttons 25 and the unlacing of the lacing strings 30, the entire supporter portion 6 can be removed for washing or substitution.

It will thus be observed that I have invented an athletic shirt which is particularly adapted to be worn with football harness and which will permit a maximum degree of movement of the shoulders and arms of the player when such harness is worn beneath the shirt. My athletic shirt is also adapted to carry an adjustable supporter which will retain the shirt in proper position without any creeping or bunching of the shirt in the football pants.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, many modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I do not wish to be limited to the precise details of structure set forth, but desire to avail myself to all changes within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an athletic shirt for football players, the combination of a closed, circumferentially elastic neck band forming a relatively flat ring having an outer edge of a greater circumference than its inner edge with panel portions forming the front and rear of said shirt, said panel portions having curved upper edges secured to the outer edge of said elastic neck band, and a pair of shoulder gores having curved inner edges secured to said elastic neck band, said shoulder gores

and panel portions having their adjacent edges secured together and said panel portions and gores being arranged to stretch circumferentially with said elastic band.

2. In an athletic shirt for football players the combination of a closed, circumferentially elastic neck band forming a relatively flat ring having an outer edge of a greater circumference than its inner edge with panel portions forming the front and rear of said shirt, said panel portions having curved upper edges secured to the outer edge of said elastic neck band, a pair of shoulder gores having curved inner edges secured to said elastic neck band, said shoulder gores and panel portions having their adjacent edges secured together and said panel portions and gores being arranged to stretch circumferentially with said elastic band, said gores tapering in width toward said neck band, and sleeves secured to said gores and said panel portions.

In witness whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name this 8th day of December, 1927.

DAVID LEVINSON.