Dec. 14, 1937. C. C. FOSTER 2,102,064

STOCKING

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Fig. 1.

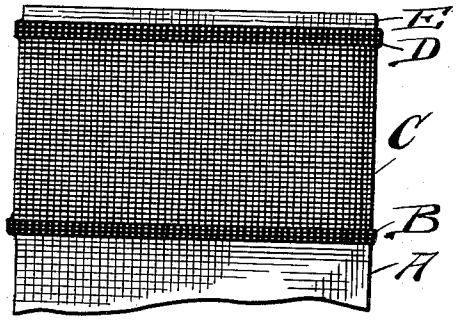
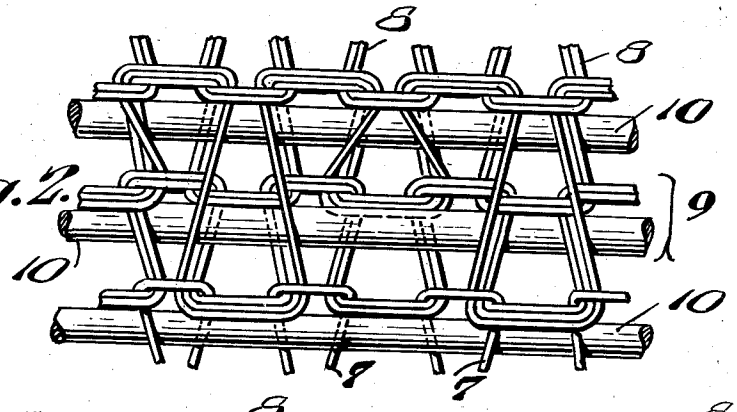


Fig. 2.



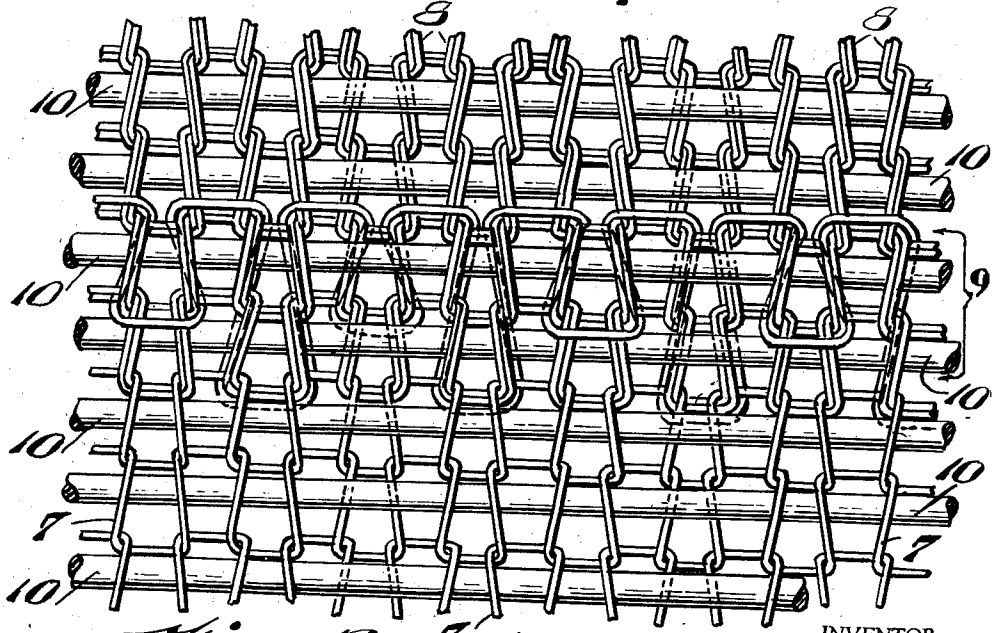


Fig. 3.

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Fig. 4.

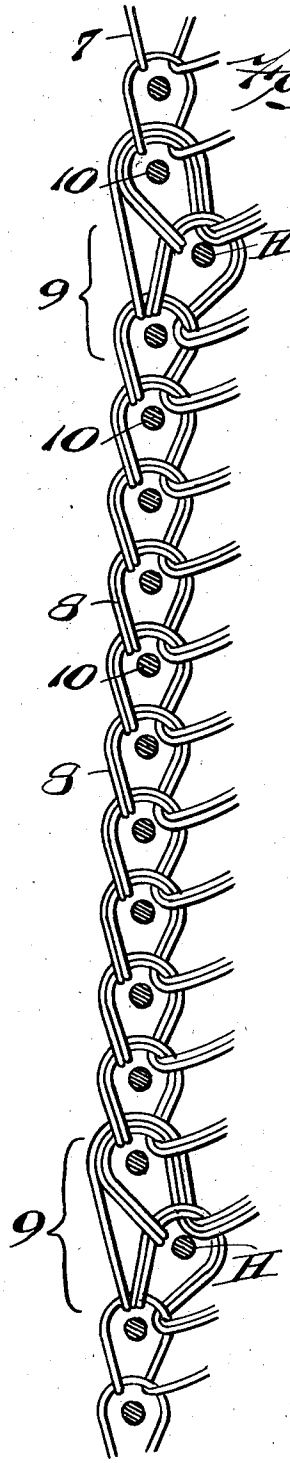


Fig. 6.

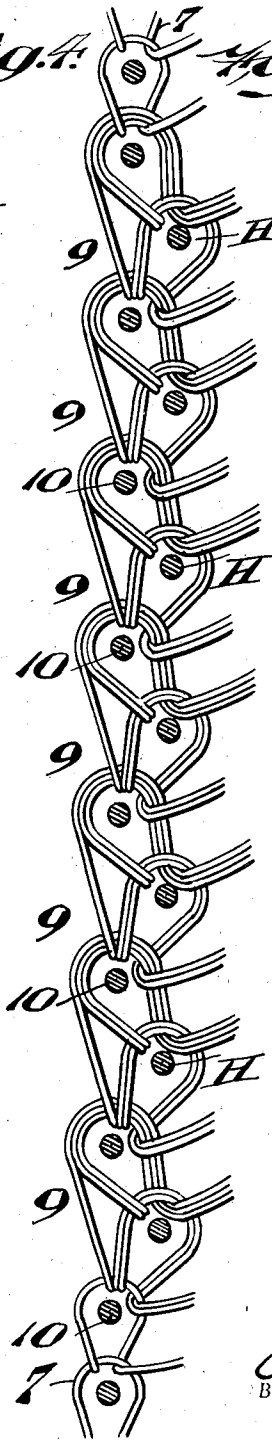


Fig. 5.

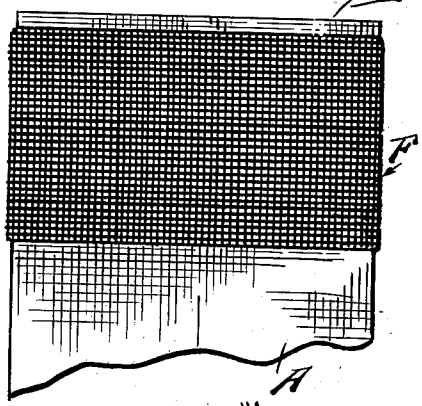
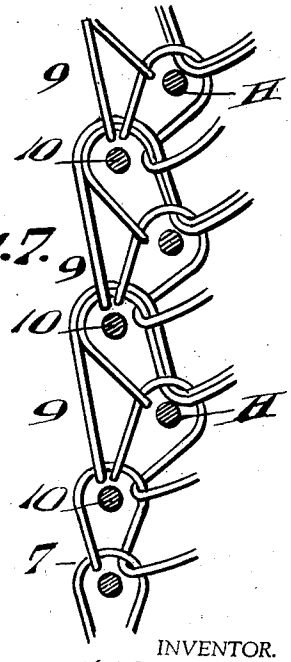


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,102,064

STOCKING

Charles C. Foster, Westville, N. J., assignor to The Chesterman-Leeland Company, Philadelphia, Pa., a corporation of Pennsylvania

Application September 14, 1936, Serial No. 100,620

1 Claim. (Cl. 66—172)

My invention relates to a new and useful stocking and it relates more particularly to a novel construction in the top or welt of a surgical stocking of the type used for supporting various portions of the leg or foot either permanently or during convalescence according to the nature of the defect or injury, this application being a renewal of, and improvement upon my prior application Serial No. 339,894, filed February 14, 1929 entitled Stocking top and allowed January 7, 1931.

Surgical stockings of this nature have heretofore been made of a knitted fabric in which is embodied an elastic filler in the form of elastic strands combined with, or bound in the knitted fabric. It has been found, in actual practice, that the upper edge of the welt or top of such surgical stocking tended to flare out or curl outwardly and downwardly unless a garter or other relatively strong elastic element was worn over the top edge of the welt, which rendered the stocking uncomfortable or resulted in undue constriction of circulation.

It is the object of my invention to produce a stocking top or welt which will not flare or curl outwardly at its top edge and which, at the same time, while applying the necessary tension to the leg will not necessitate the use of garters or other unduly constrictive devices.

The nature of the invention and the details of construction will be more clearly understood from the following specification and accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 represents a view in elevation of the upper portion of a seamless stocking provided with a top embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary and diagrammatic view of the rear or inner face of the fabric forming the stocking top.

Fig. 3 represents a fragmentary and diagrammatic view of the face or exterior of the fabric.

Fig. 4 represents a diagrammatic sectional view of the fabric shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 represents a view similar to Fig. 1 showing a modified form of construction.

Fig. 6 represents a diagrammatic sectional view of the fabric shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 represents a fragmentary and diagrammatic view of the fabric without the reinforcement shown in the other figures.

Referring to the drawings in which like reference characters indicate like parts and more particularly to Fig. 1, A designates the leg of a stocking, B a lower tuck-stitch course or a section or a band composed of more than one tuck-stitch course, the same forming a tuck-loop on the rear face of the welt C which may or may not be reinforced. D represents an upper tuck-stitch course or a section or a band composed of more than one tuck-stitch course and also forming a tuck-loop on the rear face of the welt. E represents the top edge of the welt which is of the same fabric as the leg A except that it is lock-stitched after completion. The leg portion A and the top edge E are preferably both knit of the plain rib stitch 7, the welt C, of the reinforced rib stitch 8 and the sections or bands B and D are formed of the tuck stitches 9. 10 designates elastic fillers which are combined in the knitting of the fabric. The lower and upper bands B and D may be formed of one or more courses of stitches 9, as desired.

In Fig. 5 the stocking leg is designated as A and the top lock-stitched edge as E but, in this modified form, the entire welt, which is designated as F, is formed of the tuck stitches 9 and may be reinforced as shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 6, or else may consist of the single direct stitch of which the leg A is formed, combined with the tuck stitch, as shown in Fig. 7.

I have found that, if the welt is provided with a band or bands formed of one or more courses of tuck stitches formed on the inner or rear face of the fabric, the shifting or displacement of the stitches and elastic strands, as shown at H, gives the body of the welt a tendency to curve inwardly in the direction of, or onto, the leg of the wearer thus completely counter-acting the tendency of a straight knit fabric to flare or curl away from the leg of the wearer particularly in view of the fact that the portion of the leg above the knee gradually thickens upwardly. In other words, the provision of the tuck stitches, whether they be in the form of a course or more at the top, or a course or more at the bottom of the welt, or both, or whether they constitute the entire body of the welt as in Figs. 5 and 6, compensate for the taper of the leg by shortening the inner surface of the fabric and thus providing a certain convexity which results in a tight hug.

In the drawings I have shown only two rib stitch courses below and above the tuck stitches in Fig. 4 and in Fig. 6. The number of courses of tuck stitches is only diagrammatic and does not bear any relation to the real size of the welt as actually made or as shown, the purpose of the drawings being only to illustrate the position and construction of the tuck stitches with relation to and their effect upon the welt.

Inasmuch as the formation of tuck stitches is, per se, well known, and inasmuch as machinery for producing tuck stitches is now available, I have deemed it unnecessary to show any special means or manner for producing the tuck stitch courses.

While I have shown and described the invention as applied to a seamless elastic stocking, it is to be understood that it is equally applicable to other types of hosiery with or without the use of elastic bands.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A seamless elastic stocking comprising a leg portion which is formed of strands of elastic fillers and knitted binding thread, a welt also formed of strands of elastic fillers and knitted binding thread and having therein an extra knitted binding thread, said welt having knitted therein a course having tuck-loops upon the back of the stocking at the juncture of the leg portion with the welt, and also having knitted therein a course having tuck-loops upon the back of the stocking adjacent the upper edge of the welt and spaced from the first mentioned course, whereby the welt may closely hug the leg of the wearer to retain its shape without discomfort to the wearer.

CHARLES C. FOSTER.