Feb. 8, 1949. S. W. HENDERSON 2,461,381

LEG AND SLEEVE STRETCHER

Filed June 12, 1946

FIG. 1

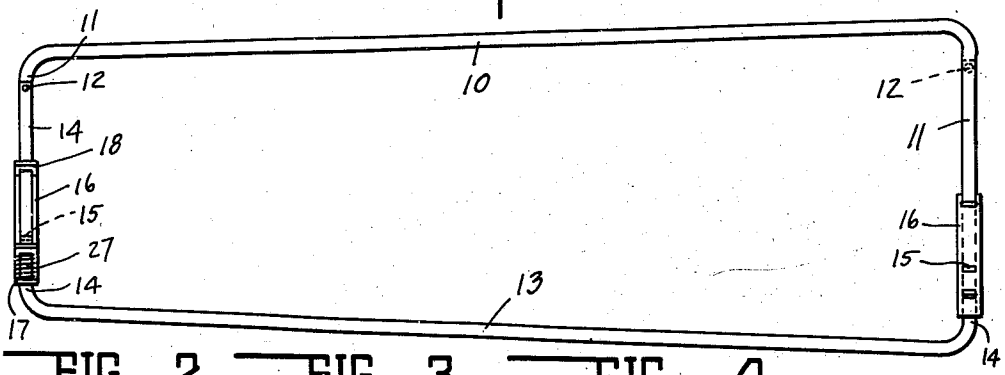
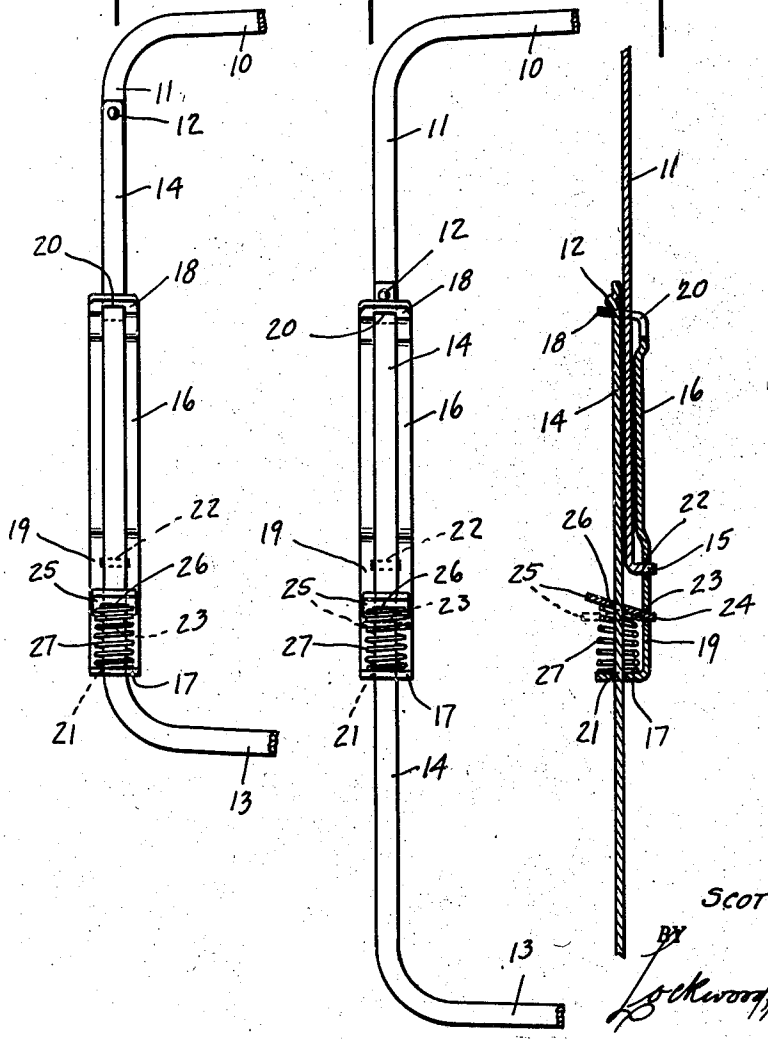


FIG. 2 FIG. 3 FIG. 4



INVENTOR.
SCOTT W. HENDERSON.

BY Lockwood, Goldsmith & Galt.
ATTORNEYS.

Patented Feb. 8, 1949

2,461,381

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,461,381

LEG AND SLEEVE STRETCHER

Scott W. Henderson, Kokomo, Ind., assignor to Vera P. Williams, doing business as C. I. Togstad Company, Kokomo, Ind.

Application June 12, 1946, Serial No. 676,148

11 Claims. (Cl. 223—63)

1

This invention relates to a stretcher and former for garments, and same in smaller sizes may be applied to sleeves and in larger sizes to pants or trouser legs, and is particularly applicable to washable suits, such as of the seersucker and kindred varieties which are laundered rather than dry cleaned.

The chief object of this invention is to provide a comparatively simple stretcher device for such a leg or sleeve which is insertable therein and readily extended to the desired maximum position for stretching that particular leg or sleeve so that the same can dry and when dried will have the crease formed therein.

The chief feature of the invention resides in the provision of the two U-shaped members which are arranged in confronting relation and are slidably associated at their lapping arm portions, and such slidably associated portions include a lock arrangement which is readily adjustable in the extending direction and is automatically locked when extended to prevent collapse so that the wet leg or sleeve in drying will not exert sufficient force on the stretcher to release the lock.

This lock is further characterized by a simple construction that is finger releasable to permit collapse of the stretcher when the same is to be removed from the garment being stretched.

Another feature of the invention resides in the formation in an arm of a bar stop by an aligned depression and projection formation.

The stretcher provides that when the garment is dried there will be formed in it, where tensioned by the stretcher, a crease, thereby obviating the ironing of such a garment after drying.

The term seersucker, used initially herein, is set forth by way of example and not by limitation, and it is to be understood that other similar types of garments, such as duck, linen and like fabrics may be similarly stretched, dried and creased with this device, and obviously the stretcher is not limited in its use to washed garments, but is applicable equally as well to dry cleaned garments, and garments that have not been cleaned.

Other objects and features of the invention will be set forth more fully hereinafter.

The full nature of the invention will be understood from the accompanying drawings and the following description and claims.

In the drawings

Fig. 1 is a side elevational view of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan view of one end of

2

the stretcher showing the same in the collapsed position.

Fig. 3 is a similar view of the same parts and the automatic lock in the completely extended position of the parts, full lines showing parts in locked relation and dotted lines showing the lock in the released position.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of the parts as shown in Fig. 3.

In the drawings 10 indicates an elongated bar section member which has at opposite ends the arm portions 11, each of which terminates in an angular portion 15, as shown more clearly in Fig. 4. 13 indicates another member of substantially the same length as member 10, and same is provided with arm portions 14. The ends of this member are provided with lateral projections 12 formed as by indenting. Thus the aforesaid construction comprises two confronting U-shaped members of bar type and a particular cross section of the bar is such that the outside faces are slightly curved for reasons previously assigned.

The aforesaid is acknowledged to be broadly old in the art except for the angular ends 15 and the projections 12. In other words, the general form of the stretcher is old.

Referring to the several figures it is observed that there is provided a U-shaped bridge member 16 having one transverse arm 17 and a similarly angular directed arm 18. Intermediate said arms and from a point closely adjacent arm 18 and for about a distance approximately half the length of the bridge member, the latter, in its intermediate portion 16, is offset slightly as at 19 for the purpose of providing a rather elongated bearing for the arms 11 and 14.

The angular end 18 of the bridge member is notched as at 20 and is of just sufficient size to simultaneously slidably accommodate one arm 11 and the adjacent arm 14. The other angular portion 17 of the bridge member is notched or slotted as at 21 to slidably accommodate only the arm 14. The bridge member is notched or slotted as at 22 to seat the angular end 15 of the arm 11, and such notch 22 is herein shown spaced from the adjacent end of the offset portion 19 approximately the same distance that the angular end 18 is spaced from the adjacent end of the offset portion 19.

The member 16 between the notch 22 and the angular end 17 is notched as at 23, and a tail portion 24 is rockingly seated therein. The plate portion 25, integral with the tail, is notched as at 26 to accommodate the arm 14. Interposed between the locking member 25 and the angular

portion 17 of the bridge structure, and enveloping the arm portion 14, is a coil spring 27 which normally constrains the locking member 25 away from the angular portion 17 and thereby causes the locking member to grip and lock upon the arm portion 14, thereby preventing movement of the arm portion 14 toward the portion 10.

This construction obviously is such that when the two adjacent arms 11 and 14 lie substantially side by side and substantially coextensive with each other, to extend or separate portions 10 and 13, merely pull outwardly upon the two U-shaped members at the junctions of the arms with the elongated portions. This can be accomplished, if desired, solely with the two index fingers after the form has been seated in the leg or sleeve.

After the extension has been effected to the degree desired and the garment has dried and it is desired to remove the stretcher, lock member 25 is suitably engaged and tilted to the dotted line or released position, see Fig. 3, against the force of the spring, as previously stated. Thereupon the two arms 14 and 11 can be forced together. When the U-shaped members are sufficiently collapsed, same may be withdrawn from the stretched, dried and creased sleeve or leg.

From the foregoing, therefore, it will be observed that the parts are few in number, to-wit: two U-shaped members, two bridge members, two springs and two locking members, a total of eight in all for a complete stretcher. It will also be noted that by reason of the indentation and projection 12 above the angular end 18, complete separation cannot be effected after assembly so that loss of the parts will not occur.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in great detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character.

The several modifications described herein as well as others which will readily suggest themselves to persons skilled in this art, all are considered to be within the broad scope of the invention, reference being had to the appended claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. In a garment stretcher having two confronting U-shaped members with arms in lapping relation, the combination of a U-shaped bridge member for each lapping pair of arms and carried by one of those arms and slidably supported at spaced points by the other of those arms, a locking member pivotally supported by the bridge member and embracing the said other arm, and a coil spring member about said other arm and operatively interposed between the bridge member and the locking member and normally constraining the latter to locking engagement on the said other arm and against stretcher collapse and permitting relatively free stretcher extension.

2. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein the bridge member between the arm portions thereof includes an elongated inwardly offset portion for elongated bearing purposes relative to the said one of those arms.

3. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein each of the said other arms includes a bridge engageable stop preventing U-shaped member extension separation.

4. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein the bridge member between the arm portions thereof includes an elongated inwardly offset portion for elongated bearing purposes relative the said one of those arms, each of the said other arms including a bridge engageable stop.

5. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein the bridge member between the arm portions thereof includes an elongated inwardly offset portion for elongated bearing purposes relative the said one of those arms and maintaining elongated slidable bearing contact between the pair of lapping arms.

6. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein the bridge member between the arm portions thereof includes an elongated inwardly offset portion for elongated bearing purposes relative the said one of those arms and maintaining elongated slidable bearing contact between the pair of lapping arms, each of the said other arms including a bridge engageable stop.

7. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 1 wherein each U-shaped member and the bridge member is of integral character and is of bar type and the locking member is of plate type, there being but eight individual members in toto.

8. A garment stretcher including two elongated parallel members slidably associated together in lapping relation, an elongated U-shaped member, both parallel members extending through one arm thereof and one also extending through the other arm of the U-shaped member, a spring coiled about the said one member and operatively bearing at one end upon the said other arm, and an apertured locking member disposed angularly of the said one member and having the other end of said spring operatively bearing thereon, said locking member and the other of said parallel members having seated association with the U-shaped member, the locking member being tiltable to transverse position for release purposes.

9. A garment stretcher as defined by claim 8 wherein means is provided on the free end of the said one parallel member for limiting longitudinal extension of the parallel members.

10. In a garment stretcher having a pair of relatively slidable members, the combination therewith of a third member arranged to maintain parallelism between the pair of members, a tiltable locking member apertured to slidably accommodate and lock upon one of said pair of members, a tongue on said locking member, and a notch in said third member to seat said tongue, the locking member being normally biased to an inclined position upon the said one member for locking purposes and movable into transverse relation thereto for release purposes.

11. In a garment stretcher having a pair of relatively slidable arms, the combination therewith of a member arranged to maintain parallelism between the arms, and a tiltable locking member apertured to slidably accommodate and lock upon one of said arms, one of said members having a tongue and the other apertured for seating said tongue, the locking member being normally biased to an inclined position upon said one arm for locking purposes and movable into transverse relation thereto for release purposes.

SCOTT W. HENDERSON.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
817,718	Kulhawik	Apr. 10, 1906
1,532,586	Dietrich	Apr. 7, 1925
1,678,679	Nelson	July 31, 1928
2,400,236	Kruse	May 14, 1936