

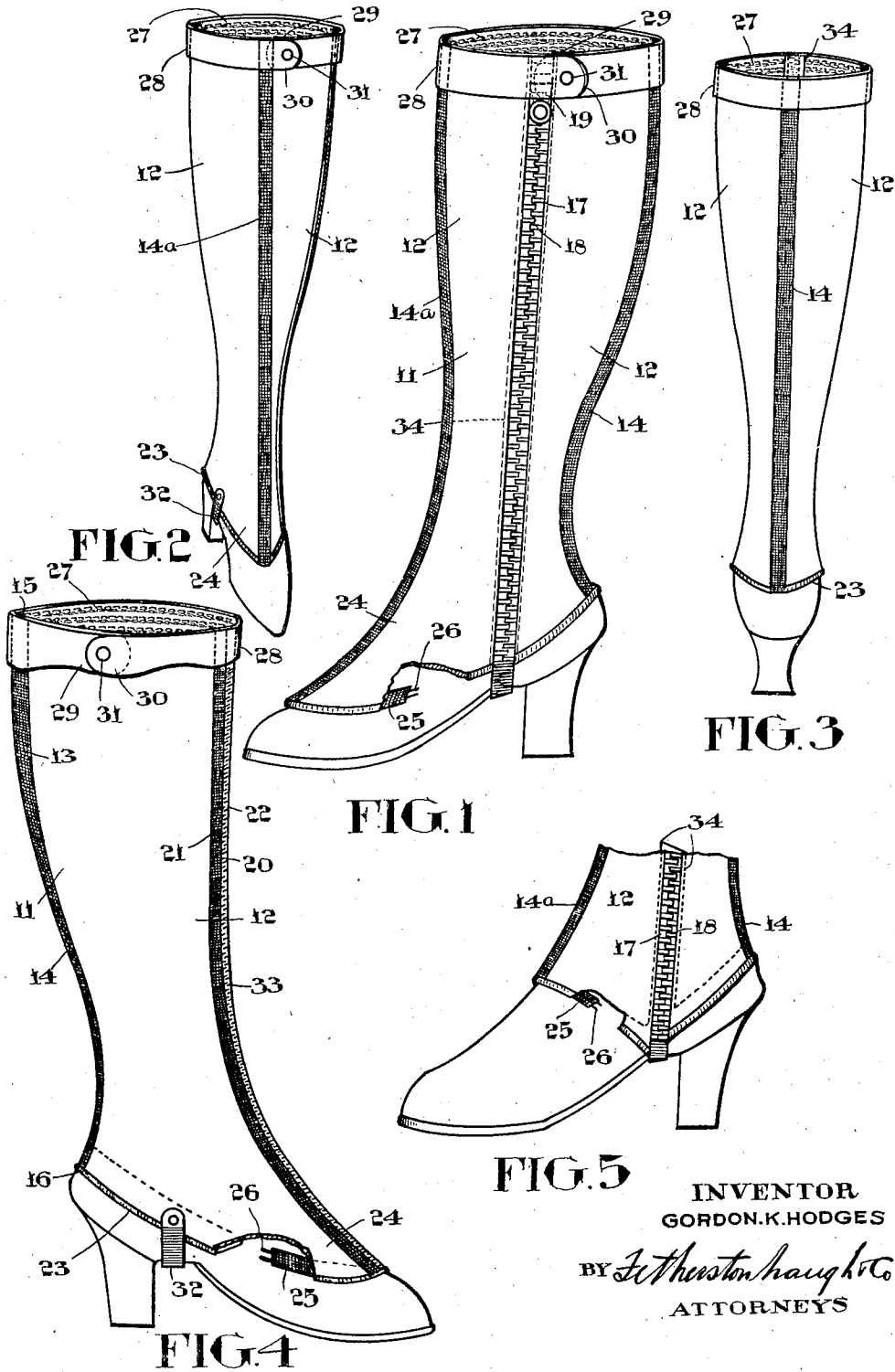
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G. K. HODGES

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LEGGING

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INVENTOR  
GORDON K. HODGES

BY *J. Thurston Haugh* & Co.  
ATTORNEYS

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GORDON K. HODGES, OF MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

## LEGGING

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in leggings and the object of the invention is to provide a leg covering which will fit closely to the leg of the wearer, protect same against weather conditions, and prevent soiling of stockings made of silk or other delicate fabrics.

Another object is to provide a thin, substantially transparent waterproof leg covering which will be light in weight, neat in appearance, and easily slipped on and removed.

A further object is to provide a legging which may be easily folded into small space so that it may be carried with very little inconvenience by the wearer.

A still further object is to provide a flexible legging which, when adjusted, will not creep or wrinkle while being worn.

According to my invention I provide a legging made of transparent waterproof material, such as rubberized artificial or real silk, shaped to conform to the curvature of the leg. Resilient inserts are secured to the legging at suitable points to ensure a close fit to the leg and to reduce the tendency to wrinkle or tear the transparent material. The resilient inserts also provide a ventilating means to prevent discomfort through overheating while wearing the gaiter. Suitable fastening devices, such as hookless fasteners, are provided to facilitate the application and removal of the legging. Means are also provided for holding the lower edge of the legging in frictional contact with the instep or upper of the shoe. The upper edge of the legging is further provided with frictional gripping means to contact with the leg or stocking and prevent slipping of the legging.

In the drawings which illustrate my invention:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my preferred type of gaiter or legging.

Figure 2 is a front view of the legging shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a view of the back of the legging shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a side view of the modified type of gaiter made according to my invention.

Figure 5 is a partial side view of a further modification.

Referring to the drawings and particularly to Figures 1 to 3 inclusive, 11 designates the body of the legging which is preferably made of oiled or rubberized silk, artificial silk, or any other suitable material, of any desired colour. The blanks 12 for the body of the legging are cut to conform to the shape of the leg. The blanks form the sides of the legging and the edges 13 of the blanks are spaced from one another and joined together by strips of resilient material. The strips 14 and 14<sup>a</sup> at the front and back may be made of substantially the same width extending from the top edge 15 of the legging to the bottom edge 16, or the inserts may be tapered being made wider at the top than at the bottom. The fastening device is preferably placed at the side of the leg and may be of the well known hookless fastener now commonly in use, consisting of two strips of tape 17 each having metallic projections 18 which, when drawn together by a sliding member 19, engage with one another to lock the adjacent edges of the tapes together. The edges of the blanks are bound with tapes or strips 23 of non-flexible material. The lower front portion 24 of the legging is adapted to overlie the instep of the wearer's foot. The fastening device extends from the lower side edge to the top to allow easy application or removal of the legging. The lower edge of the legging is provided with a frictional contacting or gripping means 25 which may consist of a tape having woven in or secured thereto twisted cords of elastic or rubber 26 which contact with the shoe and prevent slipping of the legging thereon. Similar friction gripping means 27 are secured to the top inner surface of the legging to contact with the stocking and prevent slipping of the gaiter at this point. An ornamental cuff 28 may be secured to the top edge of the legging if desired. The free ends 29 and 30 of the cuff may be secured together by a dome fastener 31. Adjustable straps 32 of any suitable type are secured to the gaiter and pass under the arch of the shoe to hold the leg-

ging in place. The adjustable straps are preferably extensions of the fastening tapes.

In Figure 4 the fastening device 33, which is similar to that shown in Figures 1 to 3, is placed at the front of the legging. The front lower edge of the modified type of gaiter shown in Figure 5 is cut away when worn with overshoes or high cut rubbers.

In the drawings hookless fasteners are shown, but it will be readily understood that any other type of fastening means may be employed. A protecting flap 34 is secured to one of the fastening edges and underlies the metal fasteners to prevent the same from coming in contact with or damaging the delicate fabric of the stocking.

It will be seen that by using elastic inserts at the front and back of the legging between the blanks, the strain on the stitching and the tendency to tear are considerably reduced and, in addition, the material is prevented from wrinkling and a proper fit is secured. The elastic when stretched is sufficiently porous to allow a certain amount of ventilation which prevents discomfort through overheating. The friction grips at the top and bottom of the legging hold same in place and prevent creeping of the material. The adjusting strap under the instep also assists in holding the legging in place. When the legging is made as shown in Figure 4, with the fastening device at the front, an elastic strip is inserted at the back of the legging between the blanks. In this case I prefer to insert strips 22 of elastic material between the free edges 20 of the fastening tapes and the free edges 21 of the legging material. These elastic inserts will not only prevent wrinkling, but will obviate to a great extent the tendency to tear away the waterproof fabric at the seams. The body blanks when made of transparent glossy waterproof material protect the stockings from rain, snow, slush, and the like.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A legging comprising body blanks of suitable material shaped to fit the leg, elastic inserts at the front and back of the legging extending substantially from top to bottom, hookless fasteners also extending from top to bottom of the legging at the side, and frictional gripping means extending circumferentially around the inside of the gaiter at the top and bottom to prevent slipping of the gaiter.

2. A legging comprising full length sections of non-elastic transparent material fashioned to conform to the shape of the leg, full length elastic inserts extending between and connecting certain adjacent edges of said sections, friction material extending in strip form around the upper and lower inner edge portions of said sections, the upper friction material being adapted to engage the stock-

ing of the wearer to prevent slippage of the upper portion of the legging and the lower friction material being adapted to engage the upper portion of the foot, hookless fastening means arranged to draw the free edges of the legging together to secure the same around the leg and to bring the upper and lower friction material into binding engagement with the stocking and with the upper portion of the foot, an ornamental cuff extending around the outside of said sections at the upper edge of the legging and fastening means for securing the ends of the cuff together at the free edges of the legging.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

GORDON K. HODGES.