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Spiewak et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0061146 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Mar. 17, 2011**(54) **DUTY UNIFORM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.****A41D 1/06**

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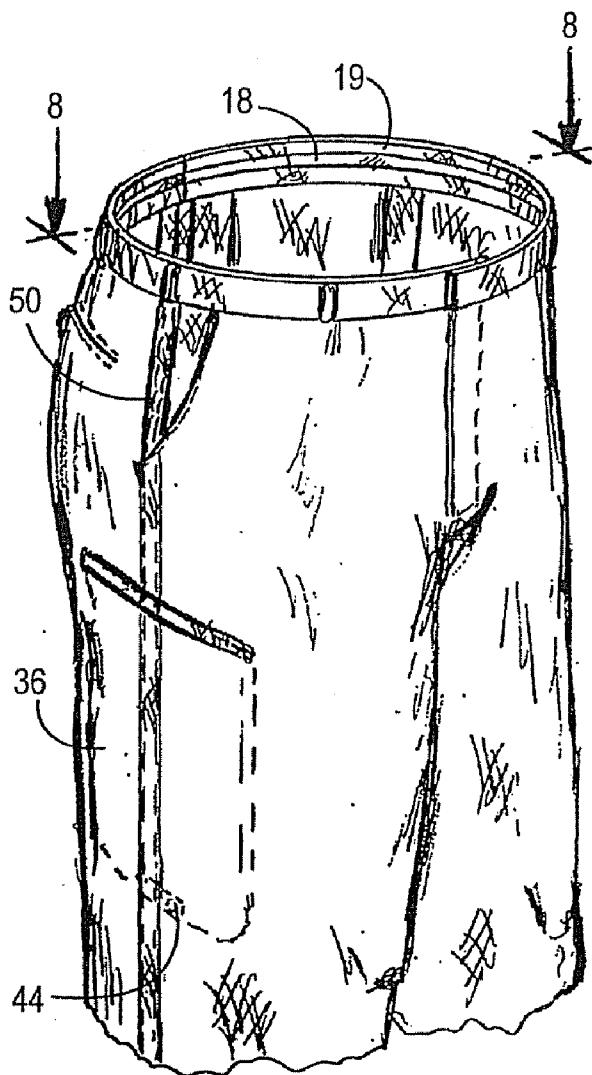
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(52) **U.S. Cl. 2/227; 2/247**

(57)

ABSTRACT

For uniformed personnel a shirt and pants Class A dress uniform having one or more Class B work uniform type of structural features which render it more functional, more comfortable and more attractive. More specifically, this new uniform includes a shirttail retainer, a microphone sling and an internal hidden and secure cargo pocket on each leg or combinations of one or more of these features. The shirttail retainer utilizes spaced apart silicone rubber friction strips on the outer surface near the waist which cooperate with a friction strip on the inner surface of the pants waistband. The microphone sling hangs from a button on the shoulder hidden beneath the shoulder epaulet. The internal cargo pocket is on the inner surface of the outer leg wall.

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York, NY (US)(73) **Assignee:** **I. SPIEWAK & SONS, INC.**(21) **Appl. No.: 12/881,133**(22) **Filed: Sep. 13, 2010****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) Continuation of application No. 11/233,860, filed on
Sep. 23, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,793,359.

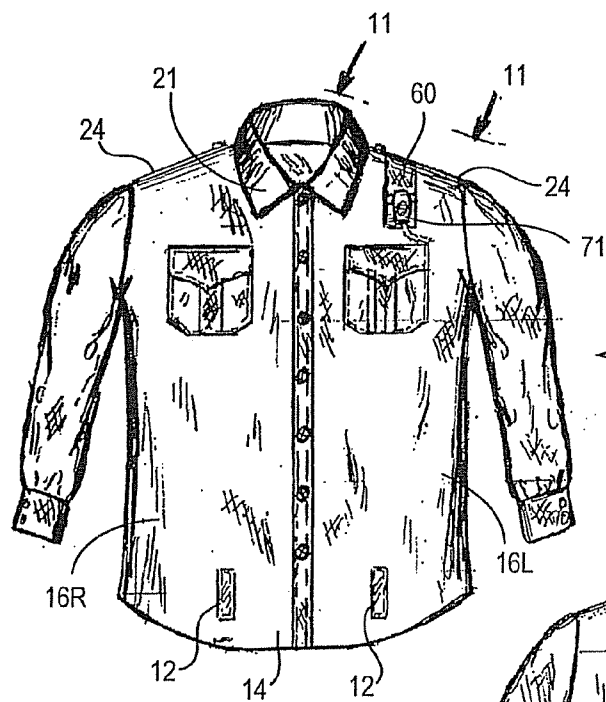


FIG. 1

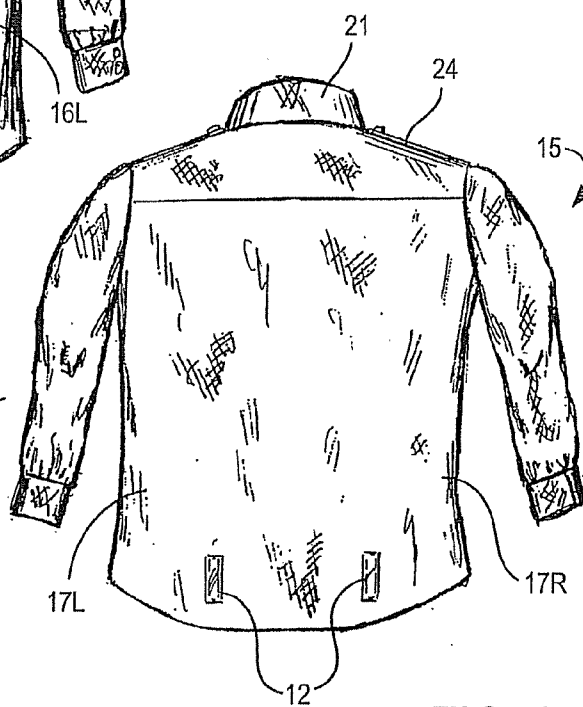


FIG. 2

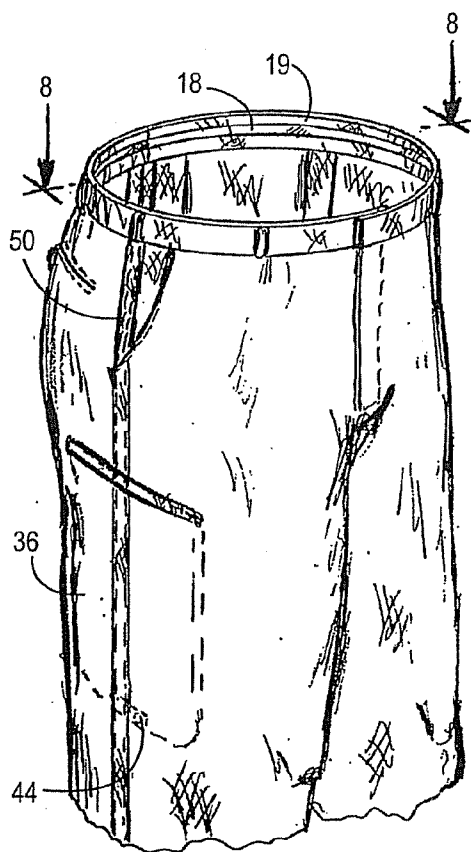


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

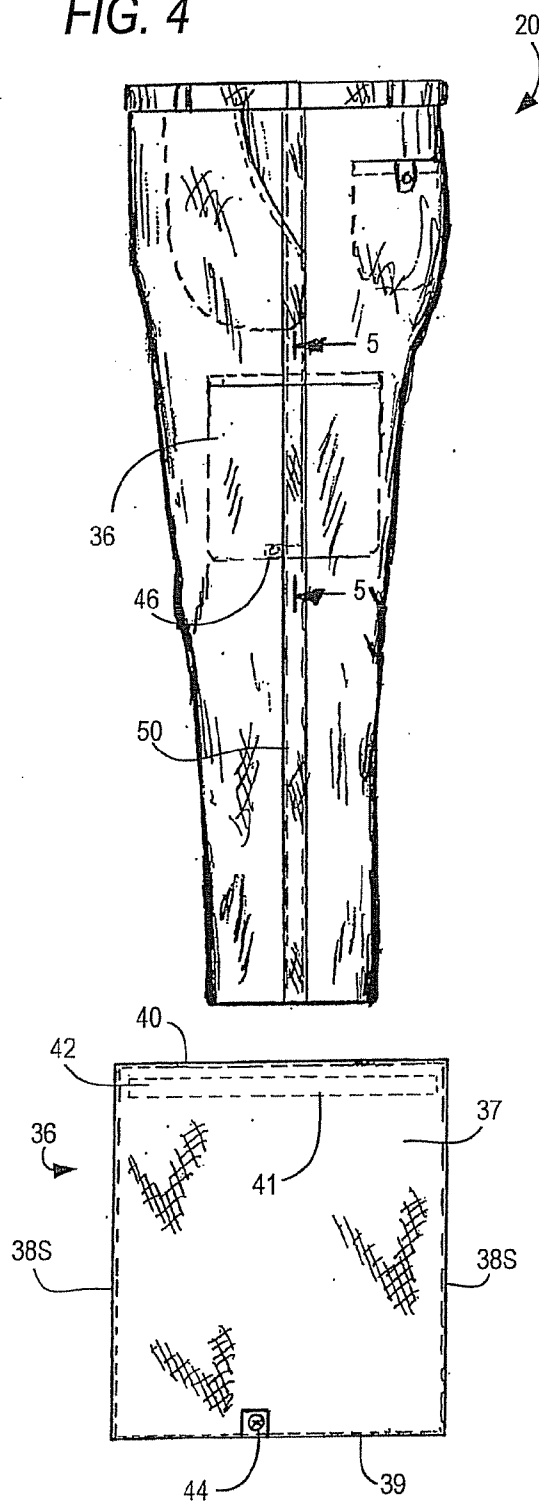


FIG. 6

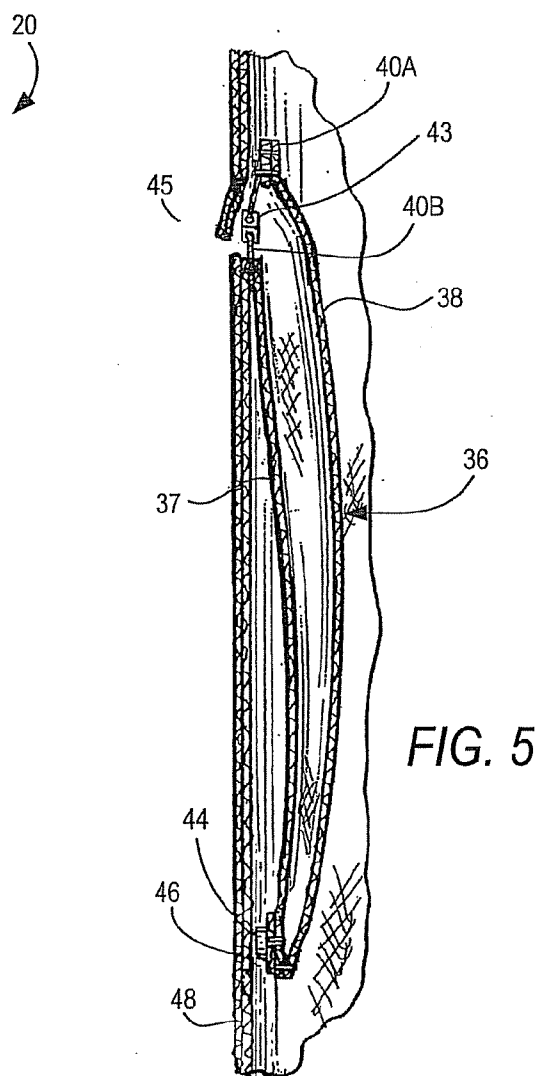


FIG. 5

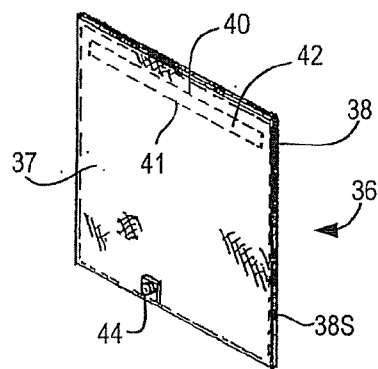


FIG. 7

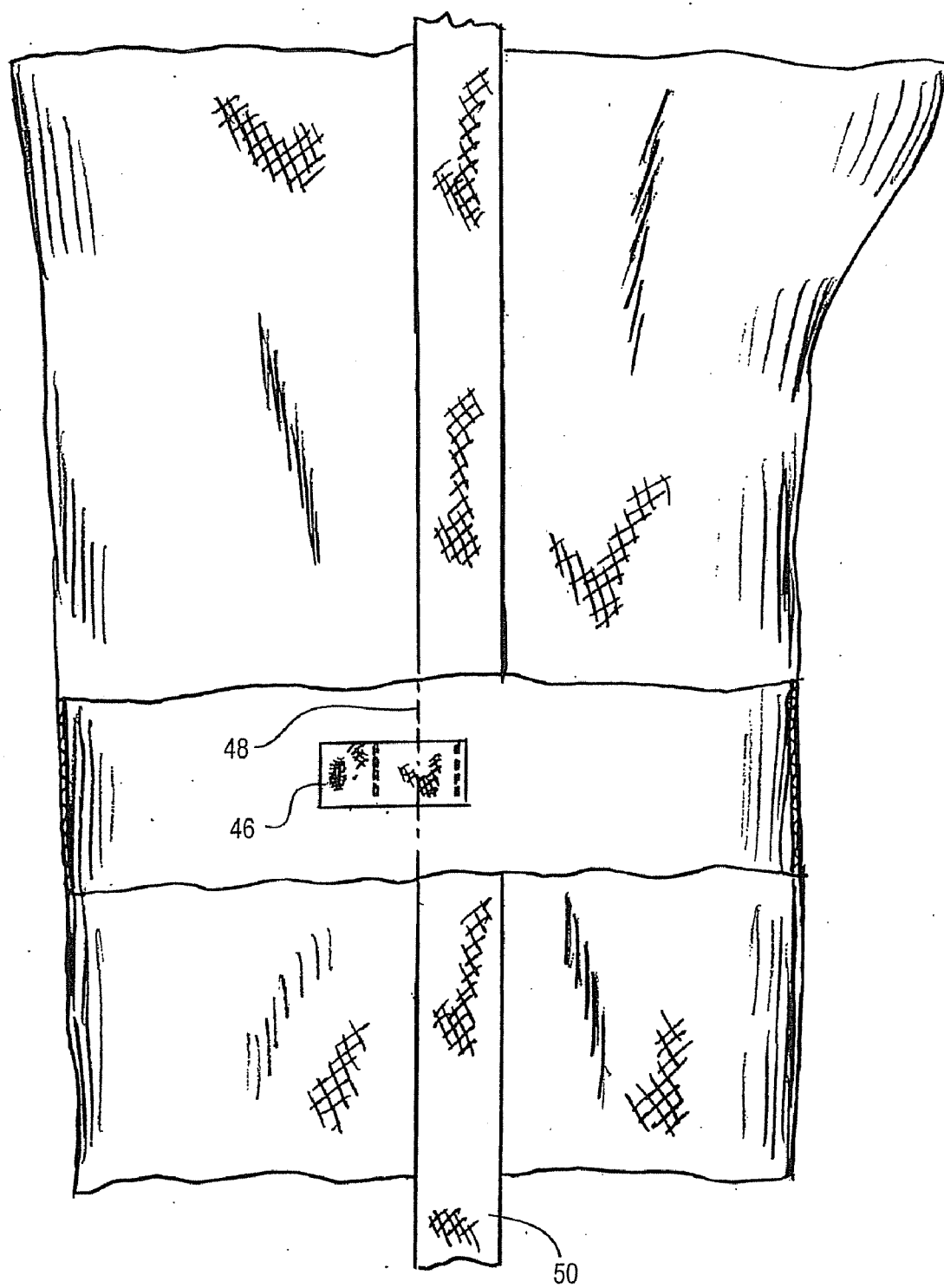


FIG. 4A

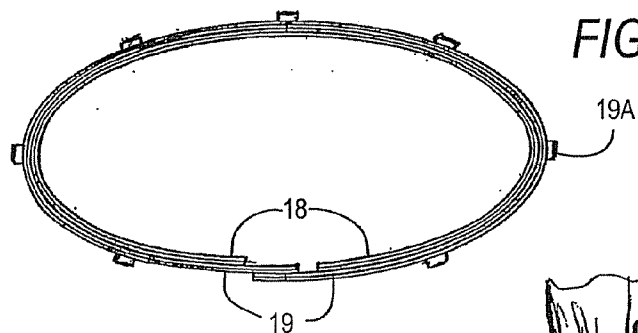


FIG. 8

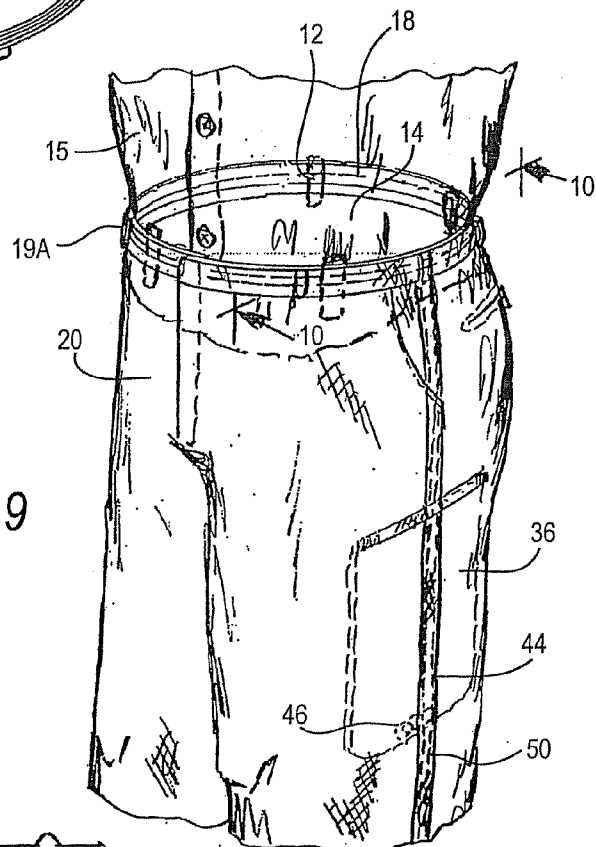


FIG. 9

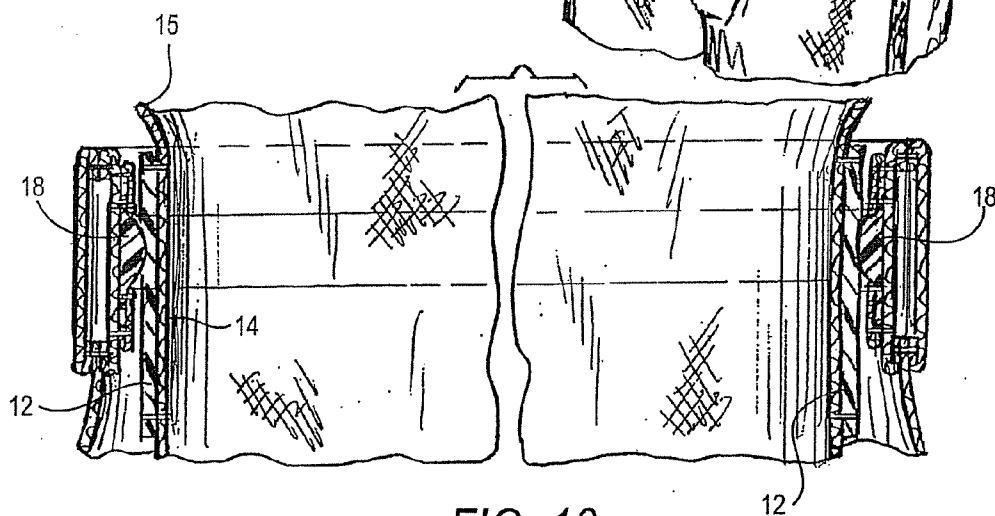


FIG. 10

FIG. 11

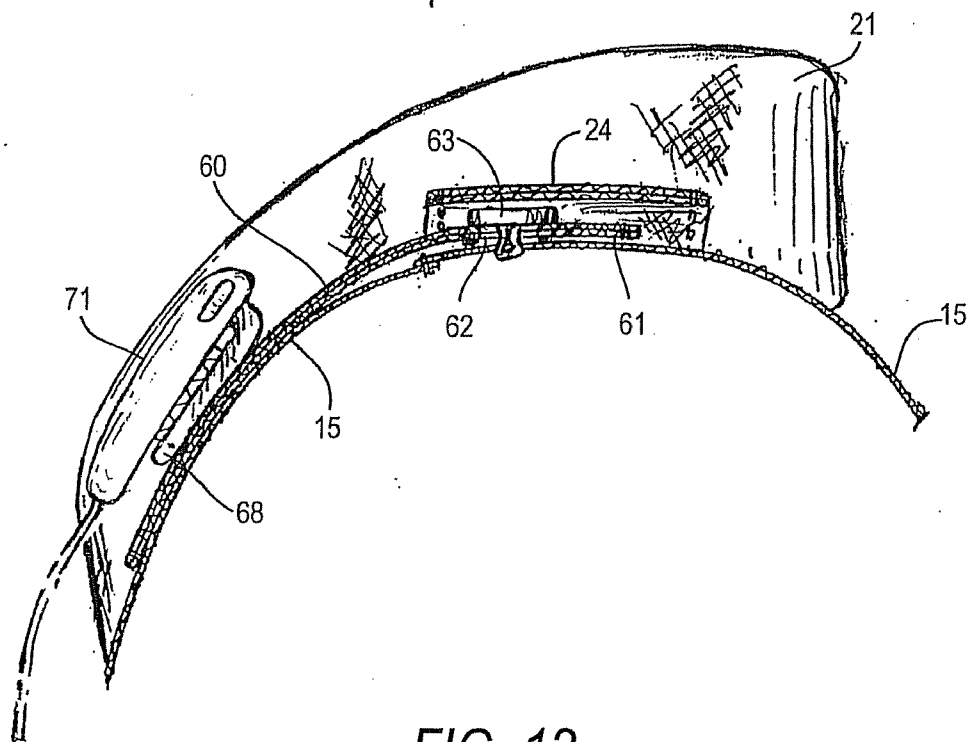
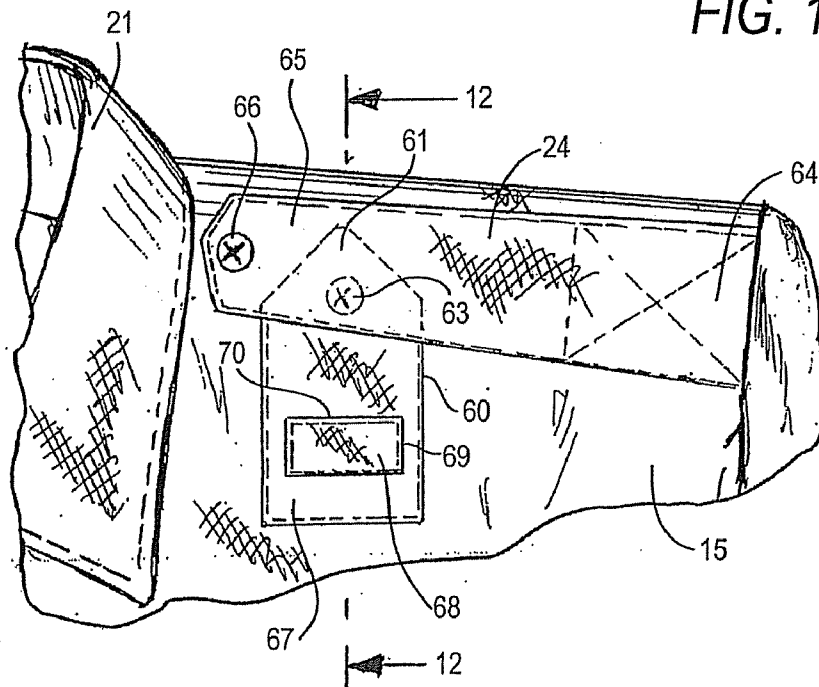


FIG. 12

DUTY UNIFORM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation on which priority is claimed from applicant's copending Ser. No. 11/233,860 having filing date Sep. 23, 2005, U.S. Pat. No. 7,793,359 and issue date of Sep. 14, 2010.

A. BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] This invention is in the field of uniforms worn by law enforcement, fire and other uniformed personnel, and particularly by persons who need to carry special equipment such as a two-way radio, a weapon, a bullet-proof vest or other body armor inside or on the uniform. This invention pertains to both Class A "Dress" or "Appearance" uniforms and Class B "Utility" or "Work" uniforms.

[0004] 2. Background of the Invention

[0005] In police departments across the country police personnel Class A or "dress" uniforms are the standard for normal workdays, whereas Class B or "work or utility" uniforms are usually limited in use for tactical functions, SWAT team, search, rescue and emergency service units and the like. The Class B "work" uniforms tend to be more comfortable and more functional, in contrast to the Class A "dress" uniforms that obviously need to provide an official and neat appearance. In actual use, however, Class A uniforms must also accommodate numerous items of special equipment which basic Class A shirt-and-pants uniforms were never intended to hold or hide. For example, a bulletproof vest, of necessity, is thick, bulky and somewhat stiff, so that shirttails of a uniform shirt covering such vest will tend to pull out from the pants' waistband. There are many circumstances where a policeman is wearing a Class A uniform without special equipment, but where the policeman is physically active, by running, squatting and/or bending, where normal shirt tails tend to come out. These uniforms will not only appear sloppy, which is inconsistent with typical police or military philosophy, but it may interfere with a policeman's ability to carry out his duties with his weapons, communication or other equipment. For many, shirttails even partially hanging out of a waistband are annoying, uncomfortable, and/or aesthetically displeasing.

[0006] Class A uniforms become further distorted by the equipment carried on or in the uniforms, such as a heavy belt around the waist for a gun, a nightstick or billy club, a two-way radio and a ticket pad. Many devices and shirt and/or pants constructions have been developed in efforts to try to retain shirttails neatly within pants' waistbands, examples being disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,088,831; 5,123,120; and 3,298,036. Still further but less relevant prior art patents include: U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,223,621; 3,590,390; 3,638,658; 3,930,090; 5,515,544; and Japan 10-130-901.

[0007] Obviously, a pants-and-shirt uniform will have numerous pockets, but there are practical limits. In shirts, for example, pockets are essentially limited to the upper front area, with the back, waist and collar being impractical areas for pockets and the sleeves being too small for useful pockets and also impractical for pockets if an outer jacket will be worn. Uniform pants have the usual front and rear pockets which are internal and essentially not visible except for the conventional access slits. Rear patch pockets, as seen on

typical dungarees, are not considered acceptable dress for Class A uniforms, and furthermore have very limited capacity, because they lie flat and close to the seat portion of the pants.

[0008] A pocket invention that has been used with military "field" uniforms, where appearance obviously defaults to utility, is an external cargo pocket which, due to side gussets or pleats, may have the ability to expand to hold very large capacity. Such cargo pockets have been positioned along the outside surface of each pant leg side, positioned near the thigh, the knee and/or the calf.

[0009] External cargo pockets not only have great utility, but have become immensely popular in casual non-military clothing and in Class B utility uniforms. These cargo pockets may in fact not even have side gussets or pleats, but are still known as cargo pockets due to their large storage capacity and positioning on the side of the pant leg. However, such external cargo pockets are not acceptable for use in Class A uniforms for police departments and for many other governmental or business organizations or military dress uniforms.

[0010] Many prior art shirt and/or pants construction have been developed in efforts to provide additional or different pocket spaces, examples being disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,977,602; 4,464,798; 4,498,200; 4,561,124; 5,669,078; 6,175,966; 6,253,379; US2003/0150042; and Japan 0221003.

[0011] A third problem area with current Class A uniforms is the conventional but awkward attachment of a microphone to a shirt collar or front breast pocket. Placement on collars and pockets is often not optimum for voice communication, and such placement with conventional clips eventually damages the fabric and thus damages the appearance of these most visible portions of the shirt. A number of prior art microphone attachment means have been developed in efforts to provide quick, easy and good functional attachment, examples being disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,641,760; 3,940,039; 5,111,981; 5,886,739; 5,915,609; US2003/0019015; and US2004/0187183.

[0012] In summary, the present invention addresses three problem areas:

[0013] a. shirttails coming out of waistbands because of active running, bending or squatting, or because of body armor and/or other equipment pulling or protruding,

[0014] b. dress pants having insufficient large capacity pockets for the greater amount of hidden utility equipment required to be carried, and

[0015] c. awkward and fabric damaging attachment of microphones to shirt collars and/or front pockets.

B. OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE NEW INVENTION

[0016] This invention is an improved uniform that provides both Class A appearance and Class B functionality in a new dress uniform for law enforcement and other uniformed personnel who need to carry, on or inside the uniform, special equipment such as a two-way radio, a weapon, a bullet-proof vest or other body armor and miscellaneous other items. This uniform invention comprises pants and shirts alone or in combination, having new structural features that address any one or any combination of the three problem areas described above. More specifically, a first feature to restrain shirttails neatly within a wearer's waistband is a pants-and-shirt shirt-tail retainer combination which includes a set of mating soft silicone (or other sticky or textured, friction producing mate-

rial) strips of particular size, shape and location on the internal surface of the pants' waistband and on the external surface of the shirttail, respectively. Preferably, the strips lie horizontally on the waistband and vertically on the shirttail, where pressure contact of one strip on the other creates a friction force that effectively bars the shirttail from rising from the waistband. This shirttail retainer functions passively, in that no awareness or action of the user is required for it to function as intended. Thus, there is no need for a user to join or separate coupling means or to even think about them.

[0017] The second feature of this invention is a hidden cargo pocket situated on the inside surface of the pants' outseam in the area extending from the thigh to the calf, or possibly lower. In one preferred embodiment the new hidden internal cargo pocket will be located on the inside of the pants, generally opposite the location of a common external cargo pocket. Such a hidden internal cargo pocket will provide capacity generally similar to that of a conventional external cargo pocket and will be accessible from the outside, but will be essentially not visible except for the access slit at the top (upper lip). The pocket may employ gussets along the side edges for expansion purposes and may employ a zipper or other closure means at the top. If the pocket is filled, there might be a bulge but due to its internal button securing the pocket to the outseam, as the pocket is filled it expands to the inside of the wearer's leg, and not to the outside, creating minimal visible bulge. And either way, the outside seam will still be neat and uninterrupted by a conventional visible external pocket

[0018] A third feature of this invention, in summary, is a microphone sling designed to replace conventional spring clips for attachment of a microphone to a collar or to a shirt pocket. The new microphone sling is an elongated strap having a proximal portion adapted to engage a microphone and a distal portion adapted to releasably engage a button or other coupling means situated beneath a shoulder epaulet. The coupling means could be a button sewn to the shoulder of the shirt beneath the epaulet for coupling to a button hole in the distal end of the sling, or the coupling means could be mating snap buttons or mating Velcro™ elements. In all cases, the coupling means beneath the epaulet, when not in use, is either not visible or is essentially not noticeable. When the microphone sling is used, its proximal end positions the microphone to be laterally spaced from the collar and at an elevation above the breast pocket, this location being functionally and aesthetically better than attachment to the collar or to the pocket. As indicated above, when the sling is not needed, it can be easily removed, leaving an official dress uniform appearance of the shirt.

[0019] It is thus an objective of this invention to provide a Class A duty uniform that has improved functionality and performance in any or all of the above-described three features, while maintaining a neat and official dress appearance. Since a police officer, for example, may wear a bullet proof vest and wear a microphone and carry so much equipment that a cargo pocket is needed, all the novel features of this invention are included and coordinated with the shirt and pants combinations; however, these three features could be employed in different combinations or separately. In all cases, an official and neat appearance can now be better maintained. Excellent appearance of the uniform helps maintain respect from the community and self-respect and pride by the wearer.

[0020] The new hidden and secure internal cargo pocket will avoid the interruption of the smooth line along the out-

side seam of a pants leg that occurs with a conventional external cargo pocket, and more significantly will allow a neater, uninterrupted external stripe down the outside seam of many uniforms which until now was achievable only with pants having no cargo pockets. Securing this internal pocket with a button to a buttonhole loop inside the pant outseam not only allows for post-production customization of the external stripe, but also allows the pocket to expand to the inside of wearer's leg instead of seeing a visible bulge on the outside, and secures the pocket from flopping about when the wearer walks or runs and from sagging down when the wearer sits.

[0021] The new shirttail retainer is particularly useful to overcome the problem of shirttails pulling out due to the body armor and other equipment worn inside the shirt or on the shirt or on the pants hanging from the waist.

[0022] The new microphone sling will avoid the prior art procedure where a microphone is clipped onto a collar, or an epaulet, or a pocket which causes the look of patchwork or "jerry rigging" with unsightly pulling on one of these attachment points, as opposed to an official uniform appearance.

[0023] The new duty uniform of this invention provides the comfort and functionality of a Class B uniform with the neat and professional appearance of a traditional Class A dress uniform.

[0024] A preferred embodiment of the shirttail retainer portion of this invention includes a shirt worn with pants,

[0025] a. wherein said shirt includes front and rear panels, each said panel having an upper portion, an opposite shirttail portion and a waist portion between said upper and shirttail portions, said waist portion having an outward facing surface, and

[0026] b. said pants include a waistband at the top with a radially inward facing surface adapted to contact said shirt waist portion when it is worn within said pants waistband, said shirttail retainer comprising:

[0027] i. a friction strip fixed to and extending around at least part of said inward facing surface of said pants waistband, and

[0028] ii. a plurality of friction elements circumferentially spaced around and fixed to said outward facing surface of said waist portion of said shirt, said friction strip and said friction elements each comprising a thin layer of silicone rubber, said friction elements, when pressed into contact with said friction strip, as a result of said pants waistband being urged radially inward against said waist portion of said shirt, establishing a frictional force that resists movement of said shirt waist portion upward relative to said pants waistband.

[0029] A preferred embodiment of the microphone sling portion of this invention is a shirt and microphone sling combination for releasably holding a microphone having an attachment clip, comprising:

[0030] a. a shirt having:

[0031] i. front and rear, right and left fabric panels, each panel having a top portion,

[0032] ii. a right shoulder between said top portions of said right front and rear panels and a left shoulder between said left front and rear panels, and

[0033] iii. a collar between said shoulders,

[0034] b. an epaulet affixed atop each of said shoulders,

[0035] c. a first coupling means affixed atop at least one of said shoulders and beneath said epaulet thereon, and

[0036] d. a microphone sling formed as a strip having top and bottom parts, said top part having a second coupling

means attachable to said first coupling means with said strip hanging downward therefrom to lie adjacent and against said shirt's front panel, and said bottom part adapted to be engaged by said microphone clip for releasably attaching said microphone to said sling.

[0037] A preferred embodiment of the internal cargo pocket portion of this invention which comprises a pair of pants including an internal cargo pocket comprises:

[0038] a. a pair of pants having an upper portion with a waistband, and left and right leg portions extending downward from said upper portion, each leg portion having a top part, a bottom cuff part and an intermediate part, each leg portion formed by front and rear panels which are joined along their side edges as inner and outer seams respectively, said seams extending from said cuff part upward to said upper portion of said pants, said inner seams of said two leg portions being adjacent each other, and said outer seams being remote from each other, and b. at least one internal cargo pocket formed by inner and outer panels, said panels having respective bottom and side edges joined together respectively as closed sides and a closed bottom of said cargo pocket, said panels having respectively top edges separate from each other and defining a top opening of said cargo pocket, each of said top edges extending transversely across said outer seam of said leg portion and overlying and joined to parts of said front and rear panels adjacent said outer seam.

C. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0039] FIG. 1 is a front elevation view of a shirt of the new shirt-and-pants combination with a shirttail retainer.

[0040] FIG. 2 is a rear elevation view of the shirt of FIG. 1.

[0041] FIG. 3 is a top front perspective view of the pants of the new shirt-and-pants combination with the new internal cargo pocket.

[0042] FIG. 4 is a side elevation view of the pants of FIG. 3.

[0043] FIG. 4A is a fragmentary detail of FIG. 4 showing the outseam, stripe and buttonhole tab.

[0044] FIG. 5 is a fragmentary view in section taken along line 5-5 in FIG. 4, showing the internal cargo pocket.

[0045] FIG. 6 is an elevation view of the internal cargo pocket alone.

[0046] FIG. 7 is a top front perspective view of the cargo pocket of FIG. 6.

[0047] FIG. 8 is a side elevation exploded view of a shirt-and-pants combination.

[0048] FIG. 9 is a fragmentary detail view of the shirt-and-pants combination.

[0049] FIG. 10 is a top plan view of an epaulet and microphone sling as seen in FIG. 1.

[0050] FIG. 11 is a fragmentary view in section taken along line 11-11 in FIG. 10.

D. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

1. Shirttail Retainer Feature

[0051] For convenience and clarity in describing these embodiments, similar elements or components appearing in different figures will have the same reference numbers.

[0052] The shirttail retainer feature 10 is illustrated in FIGS. 1-3 and 8-10. This feature functions by the cooperation of vertical friction strips 12 on the shirttail 14 of shirt 15 and a horizontal friction strip 16 on the inside surface of the pants waistband 17.

[0053] FIGS. 1, 2, 9 and 10 show the four vertical strips 12 on the front and rear, right and left portions of shirt tail 14. Each strip 12 is about 3 inches long and Y, inch wide and is comprised of soft silicone rubber about $1\frac{1}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick, with the four edges of each strip sewn to the shirttail.

[0054] The shirt is constructed typically of right and left front panels 16R, 16L, right and left rear parts 17R, 17L formed as a single rear panel, and various other component parts for the sleeves, cuffs, collar 20, pockets, epaulets 22, buttons, stitching and optional ornamentation.

[0055] The friction strips 12 are located generally in the middle of each front panel 16L, 16R on each of rear panel 17L, 17R and at an elevation intended for them to lie generally adjacent the inside surface of waistband 19 of pants 20 waist as seen in FIGS. 9 and 10. The number and placement and sizes of these strips 12 can vary, so long as there is enough frictional surface to effectively engage the pants waistband friction strip 18 for retention of the shirttail.

[0056] As seen in FIG. 3 and FIG. 8, the pants friction strip 18 extends around substantially the entire circumference, except for the break at the fly. Thus, this pants friction strip is essentially continuous; however, a strip of spaced-apart segments could be used. FIGS. 8 and 9 show conventional external belt loops 19A.

[0057] FIGS. 9 and 10 show the juxtaposition of vertical strips 12 of the shirttail with the horizontal strip 18 of the pants waistband, when such shirt and pants are worn by a person in a conventional way. Since the length dimension of shirt strips 12 is considerably greater than the height dimension of pants strip 18, the shirt-and-pants strips will become coupled even though there may be substantial variations in the dimensions of torsos, waists, chests, stomachs, etc.

[0058] The nature of these silicone rubber (or other sticky or textured substance) strips 12 and 18 is that with even mild surface-to-surface pressure contact, which will vary with the tightness or fit of the pants, frictional forces will develop, and the shirttail 14 will be retained from being pulled upward from waistband 19. Similarly, these frictional forces will help restrain the pants from slipping downward away from the shirt, even when the pants are urged downward by the weight of a gun belt, or a utility belt for other equipment, or by the weight of heavy objects in the pants pockets. They will likewise serve to keep the shirt tucked into the pants even while running or squatting or bending during work.

[0059] FIG. 10, dimensioned not necessarily to scale shows schematically, the engagement of waistband friction strip 18 with a shirttail friction strip 12. In FIG. 1 a the strip 18 is shown with a slightly accurate exposed surface pressing into a shirttail strip 12; however, strip 18 might be flat or have another contour, so long as it contacts the exposed surfaces of shirttail-12-vertical strips 12. Additional dimensional and shape variations are possible for strips 12, which may vary from the rectangular shape illustrated herein. With a shirttail so restrained, the result will be more comfortable attire for the benefit of the wearer, and a neater and more professional appearance, likely to please both the wearer and observers. Also, with this shirttail retainer, shirts can be made with shorter shirttails, which fit better and are more comfortable in warm weather. A still further benefit is that the cooperating shirt and pants of this invention have use not limited to being used together. The shirt of this invention can be used with any

pants, and the pants of this invention can be used with any shirt, obviously without the full benefit of the shirttail retaining invention.

2. Hidden Cargo Pocket Feature

[0060] The new hidden cargo pocket may be constructed in a variety of ways. FIGS. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 show aspects of one embodiment of the new hidden cargo pocket 36 in pants formed of opposite front and rear walls whose corresponding opposite longitudinal edges are joined respectively as the inner and outer seams. As seen, pocket 36 is generally rectangular and formed of outer and inner fabric panels 37, 38 joined at the sides 38S and bottom 39 and open at the top. The pocket has top and bottom lips 40, 41 defining the pocket opening 42. The pocket is closable by zipper 43 which is attached to the top and bottom strips 40A, 40B. Zipper is covered by pocket flap or welt 45. In the pocket shown each of the inner and outer panels has top and bottom regions and between them a main portion, with said main portion and closed sides 38S and bottom 39 being unattached to and free from said outer seam and from said front and rear walls of said pants leg. This pocket is located intermediate said top and bottom cuff parts of said leg portion. As indicated above, the pocket and its attachment to the pants may vary.

[0061] FIGS. 3, 5 and 9 show how cargo pocket 36 hangs downward. FIGS. 3, 5, 6 and 9 show a button 44 at the lower outside surface of pocket 36 for attachment into slot in tab 46 sewn to the inside surface of leg seam 48. By this feature cargo pocket 36 can be secured from flopping about when the wearer walks or runs, especially if the pocket contains one or more heavy objects, and from sagging down when the wearer sits.

[0062] Decoupling of button 44 obviously allows the pocket to be flipped away from its normal position lying adjacent seam 48 to its customization position so that during initial manufacture or post-manufacture customization, a uniform or identifying stripe 50 can be easily sewn onto the outside surface of the seam from the cuff upward to the pocket opening 42 and a second stripe segment is sewn from the waist down to the pocket opening and onto pocket flap 45. Without the releasable button 44, conventional sewing of a uniform stripe would either: (a) cause the pocket to be captured during the sewing and sewn flat and close to the seam, or (b) cause extremely impractical manipulation of the pocket to avoid being sewn closed. Placement of the tab 46 with button slot perpendicular to the outseam with the buttonhole extending beyond the outseam toward the pant front, as seen in FIG. 4A, allows for unimpeded sewing of the stripe (traditionally placed over the outseam slightly off-center toward the pant back), while still permitting ease of buttoning to re-secure the pocket. Also seen in FIG. 4A, the stripe 50 is offset slightly to the rear from the outseam.

[0063] The practical aspect of manufacture and post-manufacture customization of these uniforms cannot be disregarded, because without highly efficient manufacture (cutting, assembling and sewing) and post-manufacture customization by dealers/distributors, these uniforms cannot be customized and sold at a reasonable cost.

[0064] It is particularly common and usually required, by tradition and/or function, that these types of uniforms for law enforcement and other activities include stripes to identify the wearers as being authentic and professional, and sometimes being to identify rank and authority.

[0065] It has been determined that cargo pockets are extremely useful, favored and/or demanded by many wearers who must carry an excessive amount of equipment. However, conventional external and externally visible cargo pockets have been objected to by many law enforcement officials, where overall good appearance, including striping along the outer leg seam is mandatory. A cargo pocket that is hidden, internally restrained and/or allows for leg striping constitutes a novel and very useful construction.

3. Microphone Sling Feature

[0066] As seen in FIGS. 1, 11 and 12, the new microphone sling 60 is a generally elongated fabric strip whose top end 61 is removably positioned beneath epaulet 24 by attachment of the buttonhole 62 onto button 63 which is sewn onto the shoulder of 15 beneath epaulet 24. This is a conventional epaulet that lies atop the shirt shoulder, and in this case has outer end 64 sewn to the shoulder and inner end 65 buttoned down (or secured with snap or Velcro®) to the shoulder by button 66. Thus, button 63 is essentially hidden by epaulet 24, whether this button stands alone or is coupled to the top end 61 of microphone sling 60. The bottom part 67 of microphone sling includes a short horizontal strip 68 having its ends sewn to sling 60, thus leaving its top and bottom edges 70 unattached to the sling. Accordingly, a clip or other attached element can be easily connected to strip 68. In practice, a small microphone 71 (see FIG. 1) would include a clip for attachment to strip 68.

[0067] Many variations for attachment of the microphone to the sling are possible, but the objects here are:

[0068] a. to removably attach the microphone to the shirt without clipping to and damaging (or pulling for unsightly appearance) the collar, lapel, pocket or epaulet,

[0069] b. to position the microphone in a functionally preferable location adjacent the collar, below the epaulet and above the pocket,

[0070] c. to provide a coupling means (the sling) where the attachment means to the shirt is invisible (button hidden beneath epaulet), the sling may be totally removable when not needed with no residual evidence of its coupling, and may be replaced if and when damaged. The pants and shirt of this invention can be made of any conventional fabric, but in a preferred embodiment are made of a colorfast, breathable, comfortable, durable, wrinkle resistant fabric utilizing nano technology to provide water and stain resistance and/or moisture management. One further option with the microphone sling and with the hidden cargo pocket is to replace the button connections with Velcro® or other fastener means.

[0071] While the invention has been described in conjunction with several embodiments, it is to be understood that many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, this invention is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications, and variations which fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

1-41. (canceled)

42. A pair of pants formed of fabric cloth, comprising:

- a. a top part including a waistband,
- b. left and right legs extending downward from said top part, each leg having a top portion, a bottom edge and an intermediate portion between said top portion and said bottom edge,

each of said legs including front and rear walls which are joined along their side edges as inner and outer seams respectively,

one of said outer seams extending from said bottom edge upward to said top portion of each of said legs, and

c. an internal cargo pocket formed by inner and outer panels that define an enclosure open at the top, said panels having top edges that define said open top,

said cargo pocket located inside one of said legs at the intermediate portion thereof with said outer panel of said pocket adjacent said outer seam of said leg,

said leg having a slit-like opening defined by two edges extending transversely across said outer seam with said two edges of said slit-like opening secured to said top edges of said panels of said pocket, whereby said slit-like opening in the leg allows access to said pocket which is positioned to hang downward in said leg,

said inner and outer panels of said pocket having top and bottom regions and a main portion between said top and bottom regions,

said main portion of said pocket being unattached to and free from said outer seam and from said front and rear walls of said pants leg joined at said outer seam,

said main portion and bottom region having a normal position adjacent said outer seam and being displaceable to a customization position displaced away from said outer seam.

43. A pair of pants according to claim **42**, further comprising, closure means for releasably joining said top edges of said panels of said cargo pocket to each other to close and open said cargo pocket.

44. A pair of pants according to claim **43**, wherein said closure means comprises a zipper having releasably connectible strips joined to said top edges respectively of said panels of said cargo pocket.

45. A pair of pants according to claim **42**, further comprising coupling means for releasably attaching said bottom region of said pocket to said outer seam.

46. A pair of pants according to claim **42**, further comprising an elongated stripe fixed to each of said legs, covering said outer seam and extending from said bottom edge upward to said top portion of said leg.

47. A pair of pants according to claim **42**, having one of said internal cargo pockets attached to each of said legs.

48. A pair of pants according to claim **45** where said coupling means comprises a button on said bottom portion of said pocket, and a tab fixed to said outer seam of pants leg, said tab includes a button hole dimensioned to receive said button.

49. A pair of pants according to claim **48** where said tab is sewn to said outer seam.

50. A pair of pants according to claim **48** where said tab has a proximal part sewn to said outer seam and a distal part extending generally perpendicularly from said proximal part with said button hole in said distal part.

51. A pair of pants according to claim **48** where said button hole is transversely offset from said outer seam.

52. A pair of pants according to claim **45** wherein said coupling means comprises a first coupling element on said bottom of said cargo pocket and a second coupling element having a proximal part fixed to said inside seam and a distal part extendable transversely therefrom and being releasably coupleable to said first coupling element.

53. A pair of pants according to claim **42** further comprising a zippered front fly opening extending from the waistband downward a predetermined distance, and said hidden cargo pocket's slit-like opening is located at an elevation below said fly.

54. A pair of pants made of fabric, comprising:

a. a top part including a waistband,

b. left and right legs extending downward from said top part, each of said legs having a top portion, a bottom edge and an intermediate portion between said top portion and said bottom edge and including outer and inner seams extending from said bottom edge upward to said top portion, and

c. an internal cargo pocket formed by inner and outer panels that define an enclosure open at the top, said pocket located inside one of said legs at the intermediate portion thereof, with said outer panel of said pocket adjacent said outer seam, said inner and outer panels having respectively top edges separate from each other and defining said open top of said pocket,

said leg having a slit-like opening defined by two edges extending transversely across said outer seam with said two edges of said slit-like opening secured to said top edges of said panels of said pocket, whereby said slit-like opening allows access to said pocket which is positioned to hang downward in said leg.

55. A pair of pants according to claim **54** further comprising, closure means for releasably joining said top edges of said panels of said pocket to each other to close and open said pocket.

56. A pair of pants according to claim **54**, wherein said closure means comprises a zipper having releasably connectible strips joined to said top edges respectively of panels of said cargo pocket.

57. A pair of pants according to claim **54**, further comprising coupling means for releasably attaching said bottom region of said cargo pocket to said outer seam.

58. A pair of pants according to claim **54**, further comprising an elongated stripe fixed to each of said legs, covering said outer seam and extending from said bottom edge upward to said top portion of said leg.

59. A pair of pants according to claim **54** having one of said cargo pockets attached to each of said legs.

60. A pair of pants according to claim **57** where said coupling means comprises a tab has a proximal part sewn to said outer seam and a distal part extending generally perpendicularly from said proximal part with said button hole in said distal part and said pocket has a button at the bottom part thereof for coupling with said button hole.

61. A pair of pants formed of fabric cloth, comprising:

a. a top part including a waistband,

b. left and right legs extending downward from said top part, each leg having a top portion, a bottom edge and an intermediate portion between said top portion and said bottom edge,

each of said legs including front and rear walls which are joined along their side edges as inner and outer seams respectively,

said outer seam extending from said bottom edge upward to said top portion of each of said legs, and

c. an internal cargo pocket formed by inner and outer panels that define an enclosure open at the top, said panels having top edges that define said open top, said cargo pocket located inside one of said legs at the intermediate portion thereof with said outer panel of said pocket adjacent said outer seam of said leg, said leg having a slit-like opening defined by two edges extending transversely across said outer seam with said two edges of said slit-like opening secured to said top edges of said panels of said pocket, whereby said

slit-like opening in the leg allows access to said pocket which is positioned to hang downward in said leg, said inner and outer panels of said pocket having top and bottom regions and a main portion between said top and bottom regions, said main portion of said pocket being unattached to and free from said outer seam and from said front and rear walls of said pants leg joined at said outer seam.

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