

Nov. 20, 1951

W. W. ARTZT

2,575,701

NETHER UNDERGARMENT FOR MEN

Filed July 25, 1950

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

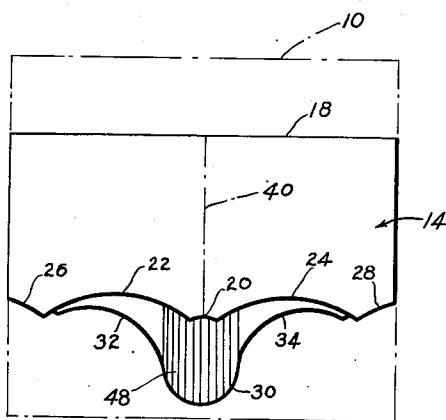


Fig. 1~

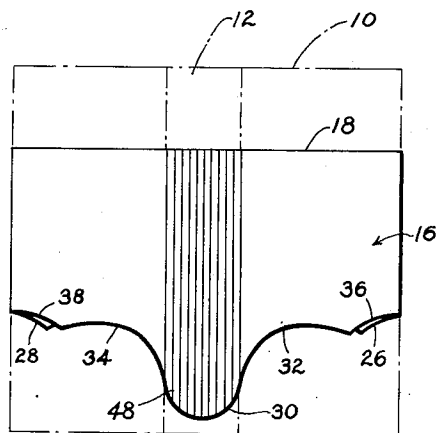


Fig. 2~

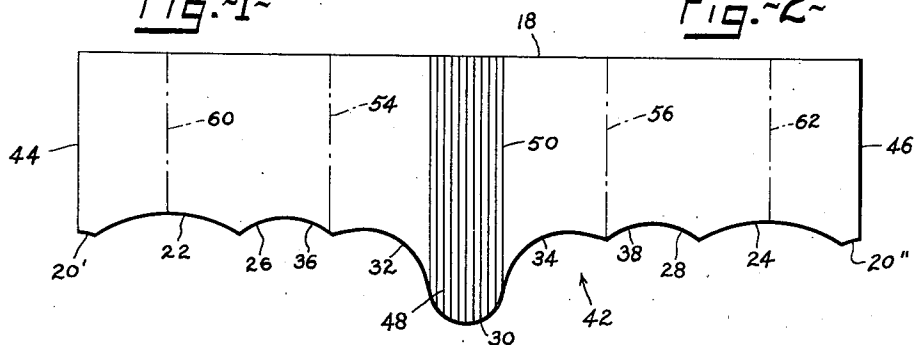


Fig. 3~

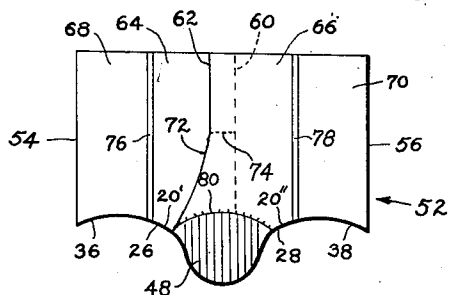


Fig. 4~

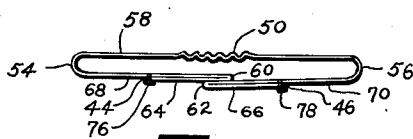


Fig. 5~

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

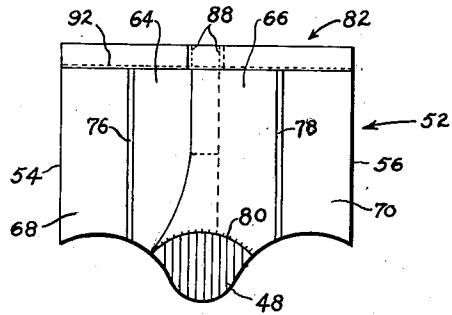
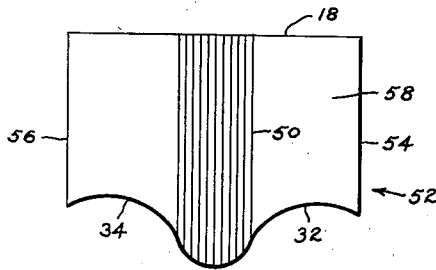


Fig. 5~

Fig. 6~

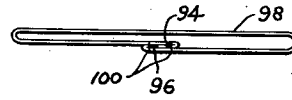
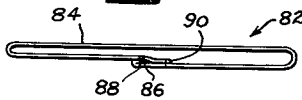


Fig. 7~

Fig. 8~

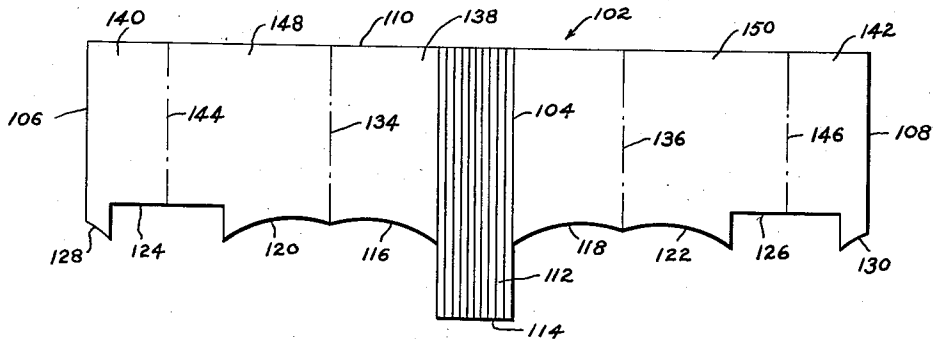


Fig. 9~

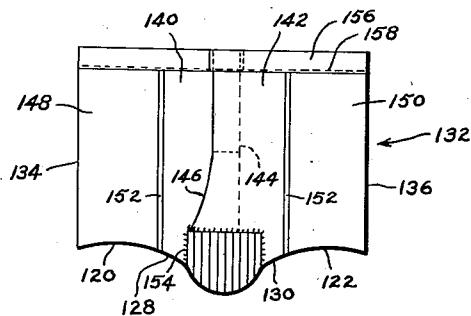


Fig. 10~

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,575,701

NETHER UNDERGARMENT FOR MEN

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Application July 25, 1950, Serial No. 175,759

13 Claims. (Cl. 2—224)

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The present invention relates to wearing apparel and is particularly directed to improved garments, such as underdrawers or shorts.

One of the objects of the invention resides in the provision of form fitting garments of the character indicated which afford maximum comfort to the wearer in the seat, crotch and back areas and yet retain their shape after repeated use and laundering thereof.

Another object resides in the provision of garments of the character indicated which include multiple layers of knitted fabric extending across the abdominal area, and which, when worn, will readily and automatically conform to the various other parts of the wearer.

Another object resides in the provision of a garment of the character indicated having a fly which will not gap open when the garment is worn.

Another object resides in the provision of such a garment having a waist band forming a portion thereof which provides greater comfort to the wearer than conventional waist bands.

Another object is to provide such garments which are constructed of an integrally, continuously knitted piece of fabric.

Another object is to provide such garments in a simple and economical manner.

Other and further objects of the invention will be manifest from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

In accordance with the invention, the foregoing objects are accomplished by providing a garment of the character indicated which is constructed of a knitted fabric comprising a one-piece integral body portion or form including a crotch portion or flap, wherein the back portion has a longitudinal zone, contiguous with and including the crotch portion, which is of a knit more yieldable laterally than adjacent portions and the remainder of the body portion, the zone being preferably plait-knitted and adapted to retain its shape when relaxed and the remainder of the garment being of a conventional plain or jersey knit or other fabric or material, and wherein the front has a zone above the crotch portion which consists of multiple layers of fabric for the protection, comfort and better support for the abdomen of the wearer, the said layers being provided by folding the fabric upon itself thereby forming a fly which will remain closed while the garment is being worn.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein I have illustrated preferred embodiments of my invention:

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Fig. 1 is a front view of a folded one-piece form for undergarments or shorts embodying the present invention as cut from a flat tube of circularly knitted fabric, shown in broken lines;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the folded form illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of an open blank provided by severing the one-piece form of Figs. 1 and 2 along the vertical center line of the front layer thereof;

Fig. 4 is a front view of a partially completed undergarment or shorts formed from the blank illustrated in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a top view of the shorts in the state of completion of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a rear view of the shorts in the state of completion illustrated by Fig. 4;

Fig. 7 is a front view of a completed undergarment or shorts embodying the invention after the attachment of a waist band to the shorts of Figs. 4, 5 and 6;

Fig. 8 is a top view of the waistband on the shorts of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a top view, similar to that of Fig. 8, of a modified form of waist band;

Fig. 10 is a plan view, similar to that of Fig. 3, of an open blank from which a modified garment embodying the invention may be formed; and

Fig. 11 is a front view of a modified undergarment or shorts formed from the blank shown in Fig. 10.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 thereof, there is shown, in broken lines, a flat tube of circularly knitted fabric 10 having a longitudinal zone 12 of a knit which is more yieldable laterally than adjacent portions and the remainder of the tube. To accomplish this, the zone 12 is plait-knitted in a manner to stretch readily, whereby in a garment made from the tube 10 in the manner hereinafter described, the zone 12 will yield to afford maximum comfort to the wearer in the seat, crotch and back areas of the garment; will conform readily to the parts of the body of the wearer while being worn; and will return to its original shape upon removal from the body of the wearer and after repeated washings. The remainder of the tube 10 may be of a conventional knit.

More particularly, the zone 12 may be of an accordion knit such as that illustrated and described in United States Letters Patent No. 2,201,980, wherein a self-pleating machine-knitted double-rib fabric has fewer wales on the inside surface at the fold lines than at the outside sur-

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face of the fold line. For example, the fabric may have one or more wales missing on one surface at every sixth, eighth or tenth wale position and have two adjacent wales missing in the other surface at every fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth, or ninth and tenth wale position, respectively, with the missing wales on one surface being generally equidistantly staggered in relation to the missing wales of the other surface. The thread forming the fabric is sufficiently tight in relation to the gauge and thickness of the thread to cause the fabric to fold itself in accordion fashion along the lines of the missing wales.

Such a knit permits localized stretch at any point or area within zone 12 providing greater comfort to the wearer of the garment than is provided by conventional garments of this character. This is highly desirable, particularly in back, seat and crotch areas.

The tube 10, including the plait knit or double-rib knit portion 12 thereof, may be formed on a circular, double-needle row machine, such as that manufactured by the Wildman Manufacturing Company of Morristown, Pennsylvania, wherein both rows of needles are arranged in a continuous uninterrupted circle, and in which one row of needles is arranged generally vertical, such needles being referred to as the cylinder needles, while the other row of needles is arranged generally radially and more or less at right angles to the cylinder needles, the needles of this other row being generally referred to as the dial needles. Circular double needle row machines may be either of the type in which the needle banks rotate in relation to non-rotating cams and thread carriers, or of the type in which the needle banks do not rotate and instead the actuating cams rotate along with the thread carriers or thread guides. Any of such machines may be readily arranged to knit the plait knit or double-rib knit at one zone and a plain or jersey knit at the remainder of the tube, to thereby produce a circularly-knitted fabric tube such as that shown in broken lines in Fig. 1.

The double-rib knit zone 12 is produced by removing, or rendering ineffective and inoperative, one or two needles at regular intervals in each of the two rows or sets of needles in the corresponding zone of the machine, but with the spaces of the removed needles of one row being staggered in relation to the spaces of the removed needles of the other row, and then feeding the thread or yarn alternately over all of the remaining needles in the two rows with sufficient tension to cause the fabric to fold by itself around the points where the one or two needles are missing. In the double-rib knit zone 12, formed as above, the thread forming each course forms a loop alternately on opposite sides of the fabric over a suitable width and then for either two or three stitches only on one face of the fabric and then again on both faces for the same width and then again only on the opposite face for either two or three stitches, the portions having such loops only on one side or the other constituting the fold lines.

In cutting the tube 10 to form a blank from which undergarments or shorts embodying the invention may be formed, the tube is initially flattened to provide superposed layers 14 and 16 with the plait-knit zone 12 disposed centrally in one of the resulting layers 16. It should be noted at this point that the circumference of tube 10 is substantially greater than the final circumference of the undergarment to be formed there-

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from. The reason for this excess circumference will be fully described hereinafter when the manner in which the double layers of fabric in the abdominal area of the garment are provided is explained.

In forming the blank, both layers of the flattened tube 10 are cut along a straight transverse line to provide a top edge 18. The layer 14 of the flattened tube (Fig. 1) is cut at the center along a transverse, concave line 20, spaced downwardly from top edge 18, along transverse, concave lines 22 and 24 extending from the opposite ends of line 20, and along concave, upwardly inclined lines 26 and 28 extending from the outer ends of lines 22 and 24, respectively to the adjacent folded side edges of the flattened tube. The layer 16 of the flattened tube 10 (Fig. 2) is cut transversely at its center, in plait-knit zone 12, along convex line 30, which is spaced from the top edge 18 and is below the lowest portion of the lower edge of the layer 14 cut as previously described, along concave lines 32 and 34 extending from the opposite sides of line 30, and along concave lines 36 and 38 which extend upwardly and outwardly from the outer ends of lines 32 and 34, respectively, to the adjacent folded side edges of the flattened tube. As seen in Fig. 2, the outer ends of lines 36 and 38 are contiguous to the outer ends of lines 26 and 28, respectively.

The layer 14 of the circularly-knitted tube 10 is then severed along its longitudinal medial line 40 (Fig. 1) and opened flat to provide the blank 42 of Fig. 3 having a top edge 18, opposite side edges 44 and 46, resulting from the severing of the layer 14 along line 40, and a lower edge defined by line 30 at the center, by lines 32, 36, 26, 22 and 20', the latter being a segment of line 20 of Fig. 1, at one side, and by lines 34, 38, 28, 24 and 20'', the latter being a segment of line 20 of Fig. 1, at the other side.

In commercial practice, the tube 10 may first be severed along a longitudinal line coincident with line 40 of Fig. 1 and opened flat before cutting the upper and lower edges to provide the form shown in Fig. 3. In which case, the upper and lower edges are preferably formed simultaneously by stamping the opened tube by means of blanking dies. It will be understood, however, that the same operations may be performed by manually severing the tube as indicated, for example by shears or scissors.

As seen in Fig. 3, blank 42 includes a depending crotch forming portion or flap 48 in the middle, and by reason of plait-knitted zone 12 of the tube 10, the blank further has a zone 50 of plait-knit, such as that previously described, preferably of the same width as the flap and in alignment therewith, which extends from the top edge 18 to the portion 30 of the bottom edge and includes the flap.

To form the body portion 52 (Fig. 4), the outer portions of blank 42 are folded inwardly, along lines 54 and 56 extending vertically from the junctions of lines 36 and 32, and of lines 38 and 34, respectively, to positions overlying the portion of the blank between the fold lines which portion forms the back 58 (Figs. 5 and 6) of the garment. Fold lines 54 and 56 then form the opposite side edges of the garment. Additional vertical fold lines 60 and 62 extend from the center of lines 22 and 24, respectively, forming parts of the lower edge of blank 42, and the outermost portions of the blank are folded or reverted, towards the respective side edges 54

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and 56 to provide portions 64 and 66 (Fig. 5) overlying sections of the front forming portions 68 and 70, respectively. As seen in Fig. 5, the front forming portions 68 and 70 have a combined width which is greater than the width of the back 58 so that the inner edge 62 of portion 70 overlaps the inner edge 60 of portion 68 to provide a fly opening at the front of the garment. The bottom of the edge 62 of the overlying section 66 is stretched to further overlie the portion 64, whereby the fly opening designated 72 will be disposed at an angle, as seen in Fig. 4. The overlapping front forming portions 68 and 70 are secured together at the top by the stitching of a waist band thereto, as will be described presently, and are secured at a point intermediate the top and bottom thereof by stitching 74 with the opening 72 of the fly being defined between stitching 74 and a seam 80. The outer free edges of the overlying sections 64 and 66 are secured to front forming portions 68 and 70, respectively, by non-elastic binding tapes 76 and 78, respectively. The body portion 52 of the garment is completed by securing the rounded end 30 of the flap 48 to the central concave portion of the lower edge of the front, formed by sections 22 and 24 of the bottom edge of the blank, along the seam 80, so that the crotch portion 48 separates leg openings at the opposite sides thereof defined in the rear by sections 32 and 34 of the bottom edge and in the front by sections 26, 36 and 28, 38 of the bottom edge.

In conventional garments, stretching of the body portion during movements of the wearer causes the fly to gap open. In the garment of the present invention any such stretching is confined to the plait-knitted zone 50, so that the fly opening, constructed in the manner described, will not gap open.

To complete the undergarment or shorts embodying the invention, a waist band 82 of elasticized fabric is secured to the top edge 18 of the body portion 52 (Fig. 7). The waist band 82 may be formed of an elongated strip 84 of suitably elasticized fabric, having a length greater than the circumference of the completed body portion to provide an overlap at the front of the garment when the ends of the strip are secured together, as in Fig. 8, to form a waist encircling band. As seen in Fig. 8, one end of strip 84 is folded back at 86, and the folded end is then secured by stitching 88 to the other end, with the end edge 90 of the latter extending beyond the end edge of the folded portion to prevent unravelling of the latter. Finally, a circumferential line of stitching 92 secures waist band 82 to the top edge of the body portion, and also secures the overlapping front portions 68 and 70 together at their top edges.

In conventional garments the ends of the waist band are generally folded over each other at the back of the garment and a label secured thereto to provide a finished appearance and to prevent unravelling. Such multiple layers at the rear of the garment render the same uncomfortable when the wearer leans against the back of an unpadded seat. The waist band of the present invention not only presents a neater appearance, but provides greater comfort by reason of its construction and the location of the joined overlapping ends.

In Fig. 9, a modified construction for the waist band is illustrated, in which both ends 94 and 96 of strip 98 are folded back, and the folded ends are secured together by stitching 100 with the

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folded portions adjacent each other and the end edges of each withdrawn from the fold edge of the other to thereby prevent unravelling of each of the end edges. In this modified form the ends of the waist band are also joined at the front of the garment.

The completed undergarment illustrated in Fig. 7, and provided by the present invention, affords maximum comfort to the wearer, and prevents gaping open of the fly by reason of the laterally yieldable section 50 extending down the back, to the seat and crotch areas, and also assists in supporting the abdomen of the wearer by providing a double thickness of knitted fabric at the central portions of the front above the crotch.

In Fig. 10 a blank 102 is illustrated, from which a modified undergarment or shorts embodying the invention, and seen in its completed state in Fig. 11, may be formed. The blank 102 is preferably provided from a circularly-knitted tube of fabric, similar to tube 10 of Figs. 1 and 2, having a longitudinal zone 104 of a laterally yieldable knit, such as the plait-knit previously described, which tube is longitudinally severed along a line diametrically opposed to the plait-knit zone to form the side edges 106 and 108 of the blank. The top edge 110 of blank 102 is preferably straight and forms a trunk opening when the blank is fabricated into a complete body portion. The blank is formed with a crotch portion or flap 112, which depends from the lower edge of the blank, and is preferably of a width equal to that of plait-knit section 104 and including the latter. In contrast to the first described embodiment of the invention, the bottom edge 114 of flap 112 is cut straight across, rather than being rounded. The remainder of the bottom edge of blank 102 is formed by cutting along concave lines 116 and 118 extending outwardly from the opposite side edges of flap 112, concave lines 120 and 122 extending outwardly from the outer ends of lines 116 and 118, respectively, the rectangular cutouts 124 and 126 disposed at the outer ends of lines 120 and 122, respectively, and the concave lines 128 and 130 extending upwardly and outwardly from the outer ends of cutouts 124 and 126 to the side edges 106 and 108, respectively.

In forming the body portion 132 of Fig. 11, the portions of blank 102 disposed outwardly of vertical fold lines 134 and 136, which extend from the junctions of bottom edge sections 116 and 120 and sections 118 and 122, respectively, are folded inwardly to overlie the portion 138 between the fold lines, which portion is adapted to provide the back of the body portion, with fold lines 134 and 136 forming the opposite side edges of the completed body portion. The free end portions 140 and 142, disposed outwardly of vertical fold lines 144 and 146, respectively, which intersect the centers of cutouts 124 and 126, are folded back along lines 144 and 146 to overlie the front forming sections 148 and 150, which are bounded at their sides by fold lines 134 and 144 and fold lines 136 and 146, respectively, to thereby provide a double layer of knit fabric at the front of the undergarment. As seen in Fig. 11, the various sections making up blank 102 are proportioned so that the folded edges 144 and 146 overlap to provide a fly opening at the front, the bottom edge of the overlapped portion 142 being stretched, in the same manner as in the form shown in Fig. 4, in forming the fly opening. The free edges of overlying portions 140 and 142 are secured to the front forming sections 148 and 150,

respectively, by suitable binding non-elastic tape 152. The body portion of the modified garment is completed by securing the free end of tab or flap 112 in the rectangular recess at the front, formed by cutouts 124 and 126 of the blanks along the seam 154. The flap 112 when secured as above, provides the crotch portion of the garment and serves to separate the leg openings defined by bottom edge sections 116 and 118 at the rear, and sections 120 and 128 and sections 122 and 130 at the front. The modified undergarment is completed by securing an elasticized waist-band 156, formed in the manner described in connection with either Fig. 8 or Fig. 9, to the top edge of the body portion with stitching 158.

From the foregoing description, it will be seen that the present invention provides improved undergarments which afford maximum comfort to the wearer, provide multiple layers at the abdominal region, retain their shape, prevent gaping open of the fly, permit laundering without affecting their shape, and which can be manufactured in a simple and economical manner.

While I have illustrated and described preferred embodiments of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not wish to be limited to those precise embodiments, as obviously various modifications and changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention.

What I claim is:

1. A garment of the class described formed of a knitted fabric and comprising a body having a back portion and a front portion, said front portion including two parts overlapping at the center thereof, the outer one of said parts being stretched laterally at the lower end thereof to further overlie the inner one of said parts, and means securing together the overlapping inner part and outer part at said laterally stretched lower end of the latter and at a location spaced substantially upwardly therefrom to define a fly-opening between said securing means having the overlapping edge of said outer part disposed at an angle relative to the vertical axis of the garment and longitudinally tensioned to resist gaping of said fly-opening.

2. An undergarment formed of a fabric comprising an integral body portion having a rear side and a front side including a pair of sections contiguous at their outer edges with the side edges of said rear side and overlapping at their inner edges to provide a fly opening, an overlying layer integral with the inner edge of each of said sections and secured at its free edge to the respective section, each of said overlying layers extending from said inner edge of the related one of said sections substantially midway to the related side edge of said rear side to provide a zone having multiple layers covering the abdominal area, the lower edges of said rear side and of said sections and overlying layers being shaped to form leg openings, and a crotch portion between said leg openings contiguous with said rear side and joined with said sections and overlying layers at the front.

3. A garment of the class described formed of a knitted fabric and comprising an integral body having a back portion and a front portion, said front portion including a section formed to extend across the abdominal area thereof of multiple layers overlapping at the center, the outermost multiple layers being stretched laterally at the lower ends thereof to further overlie the innermost multiple layers, and means securing

together the overlapping innermost multiple layers and outermost multiple layers at said laterally stretched lower ends of the latter and at a location spaced substantially upwardly therefrom to define a fly-opening between said securing means having the overlapping edges of said outermost multiple layers disposed at an angle relative to the vertical axis of the garment and longitudinally tensioned to resist gaping of said fly-opening.

4. An undergarment formed of a knitted fabric comprising an integral body portion having a rear side and a front side including a pair of sections contiguous at their outer edges with the side edges of said rear side and overlapping at their inner ends to provide a fly opening, an overlying layer integral with the inner edge of each of said sections and secured at its free edge to the respective section, each of said overlying layers extending from said inner edge of the related one of said sections substantially midway to the related side edge of said rear side to provide a zone at the front having multiple layers covering the abdomen of the wearer, the lower edges of said rear side and of said sections and overlying layers being shaped to define leg openings, said rear side having a longitudinal zone at the middle thereof of a knit more yieldable laterally than the remainder of said body portion, and a crotch portion between said leg openings of the same knit as said zone and being a continuation thereof and being joined with said sections and overlying layers at the front.

5. An undergarment formed of a fabric comprising an integral body portion having a rear side and a front side including a pair of sections contiguous at their outer edges with the side edges of said rear side and overlapping at their inner edges to provide a fly opening, an overlying layer integral with the inner edge of each of said sections and secured at its free edge to the respective section, each of said overlying layers extending from said inner edge of the related one of said sections substantially midway to the related side edge of said rear side to provide a zone at the front having multiple layers of fabric for supporting the abdomen of the wearer, the lower edge of the rear side being shaped to define the rear portions of leg openings and the lower edges of said sections and said overlying layers being shaped at the parts thereof adjacent said outer edges and free edges, respectively, to define the front portions of leg openings and being upwardly concaved at the center, and a crotch portion between said leg openings contiguous with said rear side and having a rounded front end joined to said sections and overlying layers at said upwardly concaved portion of the lower edges thereof.

6. An undergarment formed of a fabric comprising an integral body portion having a rear side and a front side including a pair of sections contiguous at their outer edges with the side edges of said rear side and overlapping at their inner edges to provide a fly opening, an overlying layer integral with the inner edge of each of said sections and secured at its free edge to the respective section, each of said overlying layers extending from said inner edge of the related one of said sections substantially midway to the related side edge of said rear side to provide a zone at the front having multiple layers of fabric for supporting the abdomen of the wearer, the lower edge of said rear side being shaped to define the rear portions of leg openings and the lower

edges of said sections and overlying layers being shaped at their outer portions to define the front portions of leg openings and at the center to define a rectangular cutout, and a crotch portion between said leg openings contiguous with said rear side and having a straight front end fitting into said rectangular cutout and joined to said sections and overlying layers.

7. The method of forming the body portion of an undergarment of the class described comprising circularly knitting a tube of fabric with a circumference substantially larger than the desired circumference of the finished garment, cutting said tube along a transverse line to provide a top edge, along a transverse line spaced downwardly from said top edge and having arcuate leg opening forming sections and a depending flap forming section in the middle, and along a longitudinal line diametrically opposed to said flap, opening said tube to form a flat blank with the central portion forming the rear side of the body portion, folding the outer portions of said blank inwardly to overlie the central portion to provide the front side of the body portion, reverting the free end portions of said folded outer portions along overlapped fold lines to provide a fly opening at the center and double thicknesses of fabric at the front, securing the overlapped portions together at the top and bottom of the fly opening, securing the free edges of the reverted portions to said folded outer portions, and stitching the free end of said flap to said folded outer portions and reverted portions to thereby provide a crotch portion.

8. The method of forming the body portion of an undergarment of the class described comprising circularly knitting a tube of fabric with a circumference substantially larger than the desired circumference of the finished garment and with a longitudinal zone of a knit more yieldable laterally than the remainder of the tube, cutting said tube along a transverse line to provide a top edge, along a transverse line spaced downwardly from said top edge including a depending flap forming portion contiguous to and including said zone and leg opening forming portions at the opposite sides of said flap, and along a longitudinal line diametrically opposed to said zone, opening said tube to provide a flat blank with the central portion thereof forming the rear side of the body portion, folding the outer portions of said blank inwardly to overlie the central portion and provide the front side of the body portion, reverting the free end portions of said folded outer portions along overlapping fold lines to provide a fly opening at the center and double thicknesses of fabric in a section of the front side, securing the overlapped portions together at the top and bottom of the fly opening, securing the free edges of the reverted portions to said folded outer portions, and stitching the free end of said flap to said folded outer portions and reverted portions at the middle of the front side to thereby provide a crotch portion.

9. The method of forming the body portion of an undergarment of the class described comprising circularly knitting a tube of fabric with a circumference substantially larger than the desired circumference of the finished garment and with a longitudinal zone of a knit more yieldable laterally than the remainder of the tube, cutting said tube along a transverse line to provide a top edge, along a transverse line spaced downwardly from said top edge including a depending flap forming portion contiguous to and in-

cluding said zone and leg opening forming portions at the opposite sides of said flap, and along a longitudinal line diametrically opposed to said zone, opening said tube to provide a flat blank with the central portion thereof forming the rear side of the body portion, folding the outer portions of said blank inwardly to overlie the central portion and provide the front side of the body portion, reverting the free end portions of said folded outer portions along overlapping fold lines to provide a fly opening at the center and double thicknesses of fabric in a section of the front side, stretching the lower ends of the folded outer portions laterally to further overlap the fold lines of the free end portions thereof, securing the overlapped portions together at the top thereof and at the bottom of the stretched portions adjacent the bottom of the fly opening, securing the free edges of the reverted portions to said folded outer portions, and stitching the free end of said flap to said folded outer portions and reverted portions at the middle of the front side to thereby provide a crotch portion.

10. The method of forming the body portion of an undergarment of the class described having multiple layers of fabric at the abdominal area, comprising circularly knitting a tube of fabric with a circumference greater than the desired circumference of the finished body portion, severing the tube along transverse spaced lines to provide a top edge for defining a trunk opening and a bottom edge for defining a crotch forming flap at the middle and leg openings at the sides of said flap, severing the tube along a longitudinal line diametrically opposed to the flap and opening the tube to provide a flat blank, folding the outer ends of said blank to provide double thicknesses of knit fabric, folding the doubled portions inwardly to overlie the central section of the blank and with the fold lines of said doubled portions overlapped to provide a front side having a fly opening at the center, and securing the free end of the flap to the bottom edge of said front side at the center thereof to provide a crotch.

11. A garment of the class described formed of a knitted material and comprising an integral body having a back portion and a front portion, said front portion including a section formed to extend substantially across the abdominal area thereof of multiple layers overlapping at the center, the outermost multiple layers being stretched laterally at the lower ends thereof to further overlie the innermost multiple layers, means securing together the overlapping innermost multiple layers and outermost multiple layers at said laterally stretched lower ends of the latter and at a location spaced upwardly therefrom to define a fly-opening between said securing means having the overlapping edges of said outermost multiple layers disposed at an angle relative to the vertical axis of the garment and longitudinally tensioned to resist gaping of said fly-opening, a longitudinal zone disposed centrally in said back portion and formed of a material more yieldable laterally than the remainder of said body, and a crotch portion contiguous with said zone and formed of the same material as the latter, said crotch portion being joined to said front portion below said fly-opening.

12. An undergarment formed of a knitted material and comprising an integral body portion having a rear side and a front side, said front side including a pair of sections contiguous at their outside edges with the side edges of said

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rear side and overlapping at their inside edges, an overlying layer integral with said inside edge of each of said sections and secured at its free edge to the respective section, each of said overlying layers extending from said inside edge of the related one of said sections substantially midway to the related outside edge of the latter to provide a zone covering the abdominal area having multiple layers overlapping at the center, the outermost of said overlapping multiple layers being stretched laterally at the lower ends thereof to further overlie the innermost of said multiple layers, means securing together the overlapping innermost multiple layers and the outermost multiple layers at said laterally stretched lower ends of the latter and at a location spaced upwardly therefrom to define a fly-opening between said securing means having the overlapping fold edge of said outermost layers disposed at an angle relative to the vertical axis of the garment and longitudinally tensioned to resist gaping of the fly-opening, the lower edges of said rear side and of said multiple layers being shaped to form leg openings and a crotch portion between said leg openings contiguous with said rear side and joined to the lower edges of said multiple layers at the central part of said front side.

13. The method of forming the body portion of an undergarment of the class described comprising circularly knitting a tube of fabric with a circumference substantially larger than the desired circumference of the finished garment; cutting said tube along a transverse line to provide a top edge, along a transverse line spaced from said top edge and having arcuate leg opening forming sections and a projecting flap forming section in the middle, and along a longitudinal line diametrically opposed to said flap; open-

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ing said tube to form a flat blank with the central portion forming the rear side of the body portion; folding the outer portions of said blank inwardly to overlie the central portion and form the front side of the body portion; reverting the free end portions of said folded outer portions along overlapped fold lines to provide multiple layers of fabric at the front overlapping at the center; laterally stretching the outermost of said overlapping multiple layers at the lower ends of the latter to further overlie the innermost of said overlapping multiple layers; securing together said innermost multiple layers and said outermost multiple layers adjacent the laterally stretched lower ends of the latter and at a location spaced upwardly therefrom to define a fly-opening between the secured together parts of the overlapping multiple layers having the fold line of said outermost multiple layers disposed at an angle relative to the vertical axis of the body portion and tensioned longitudinally to resist gaping of the fly-opening; securing the free edges of the reverted portions to said folded outer portions; and stitching the free end of said flap to the lower edges of said overlapping multiple layers to thereby provide a crotch portion.

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