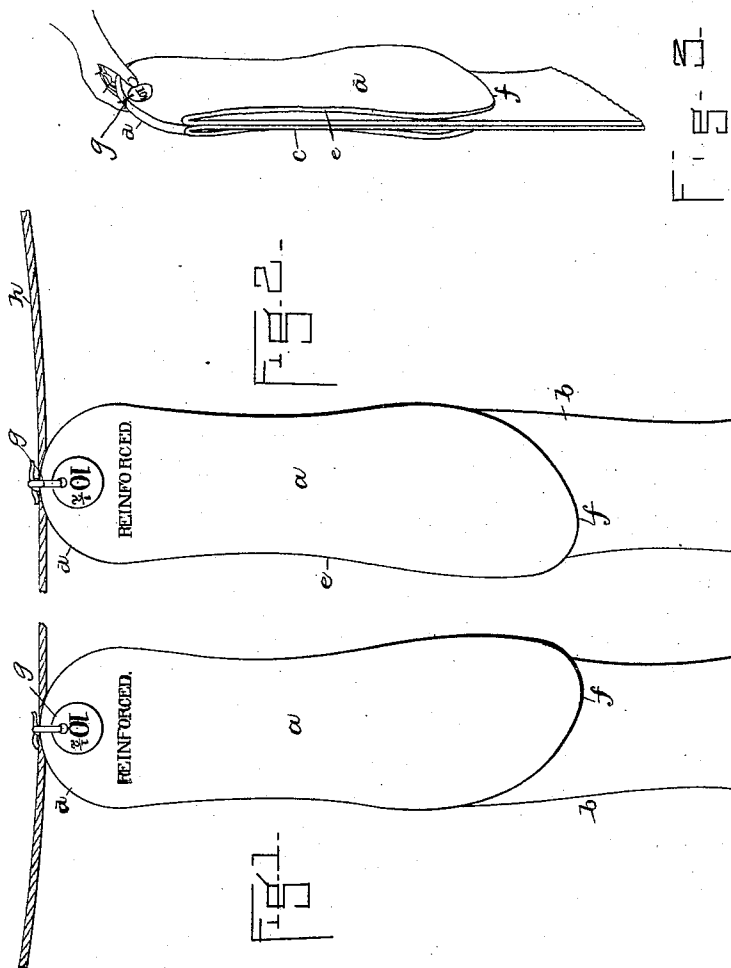


W. H. HOWARD.
ASSORTMENT OF STOCKINGS.

Patented July 12, 1892.



WITNESSES.
A. D. Harrison.
C. J. Bault.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. HOWARD, OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO THE
WAUKENHOSE COMPANY, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

ASSORTMENT OF STOCKINGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 478,751, dated July 12, 1892.

Application filed May 17, 1890. Serial No. 352,211. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. HOWARD, of Lowell, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Assortment of Stockings, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide stockings so folded and relatively arranged and united in pairs as to secure those portions exposed to view when on the foot against being soiled or otherwise harmed through handling by or exhibition to would-be purchasers or otherwise, and which arrangement will avoid the necessity of printing or stamping the size-numbers upon any portion of the stockings themselves, with which points of advantage may also be combined that of permitting a ready, thorough, and comprehensive examination of each stocking of the pair, and which will also permit the stockings to be arranged upon a line in a store or elsewhere for exhibition to the trade.

The invention will first be described in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and then be pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of one side and Fig. 2 is a view of the opposite side of a pair of stockings folded, assembled, and tacked together in accordance with my invention, the stockings being represented as arranged upon and suspended from a line for the purpose of exhibition to the trade. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a pair of stockings folded and assembled in accordance with my invention, showing how the stockings may be held to examine the same.

The same letters of reference designate the same parts or features, as the case may be, wherever they occur.

My improvements are especially adapted for use upon "Waukenhose" stockings, so called—that is, stockings knit or fashioned as rights and lefts, so that in a pair one stocking may be shaped to fit the right foot and the other to fit the left foot—and the invention is herein shown as applied to this kind or class of stockings, though it will appear

obvious that it may be employed upon other kinds or shapes of stockings.

In the drawings, *a* designates the sole of the foot portion of a stocking, and *b* the leg portion.

In carrying out my improvements I fold each stocking of a pair with the creases extending along the sides *c* of the leg, around the point *d* of the heel, along the sides *e* of the foot, and around the toe, as at *f*, and then fold the upper or instep portion of the foot against the forward portion of the leg part, so as to cause the sole portion and rear portion of the leg part to face outward. I next proceeded to assemble the stockings in pairs by arranging each of the two forming the pair with the faces of the rear portion of the leg part in juxtaposition, which arrangement will cause the sole portion *a* of each stocking to face outwardly one on one side and the other on the other side. I finally tack the pair together at the heel-point, as at *g*, tagging them at the same time at said points, as shown. This tag bears the size-number, and may also have upon it the trade-mark of the maker and such other printing as may be considered necessary. By this mode of procedure I am enabled to make the sole-surfaces constitute, for the most part, the exposed sections, so that any fading of the goods due to long exposure in a suspended position will take place upon said sole-surface, where it will be least objectionable, and at the same time the portions of the stocking that will be exposed when on the wearer's foot will be protected against likelihood of being soiled by the handling of the stockings in the course of trade. I am, furthermore, enabled by tacking and tagging the stockings at the heel-point to keep the stockings of a pair together and also afford an arrangement which will permit of their most ready and thorough inspection, since a would-be purchaser may hold a pair of stockings between the thumb and fingers at the tagged and tacked or heel point, as shown in Fig. 3, and by turning over the parts somewhat similarly to turning over the leaves of a book may fully examine all portions of each stocking of the pair.

Having thus explained the nature of my invention and described a way of practicing the same, I declare that what I claim is—

5 The combination, with two stockings, each of which is creased along the sides of the leg, around the point of the heel, along the sides of the foot, and around the toe, and each of which is folded with the top or instep portion of the foot against the forward part of
10 the leg, and a tag, of means for fastening the tag and the heel-points of the two stockings to-

gether, the said two stockings being so secured with the soles of the foot portions outward, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 14th day of May, A. D. 1890.

WILLIAM H. HOWARD.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR W. CROSSLEY,
A. D. HARRISON.