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L. W. JOYCE

2,138,453

ELASTIC GARMENT BAND

Filed June 5, 1935

Fig. 1.

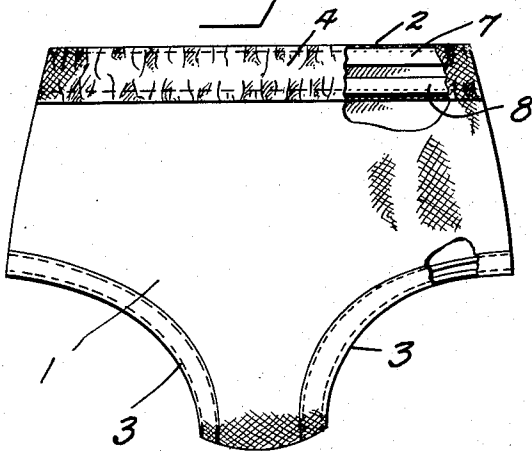


Fig. 2.

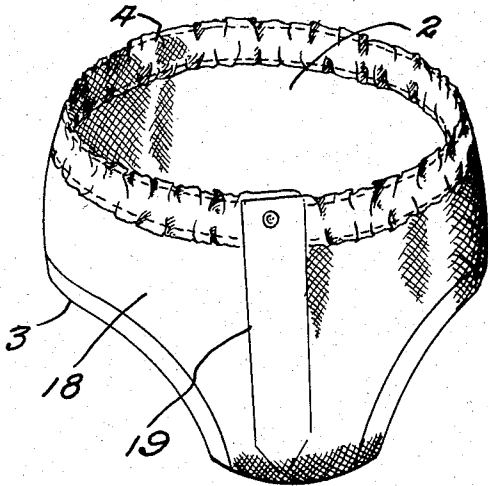


Fig. 3.

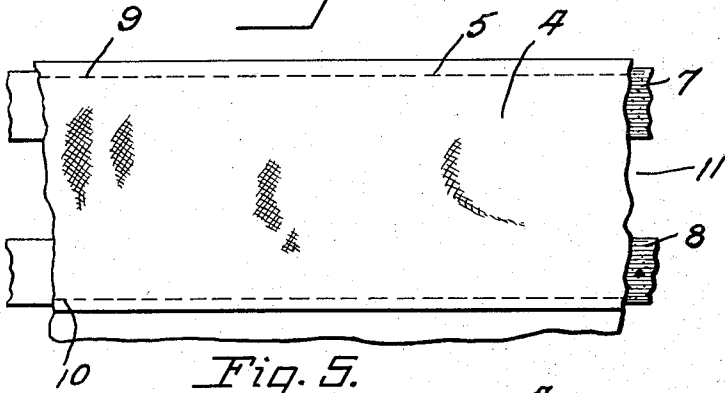


Fig. 4.

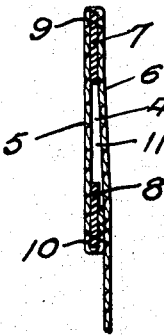


Fig. 5.

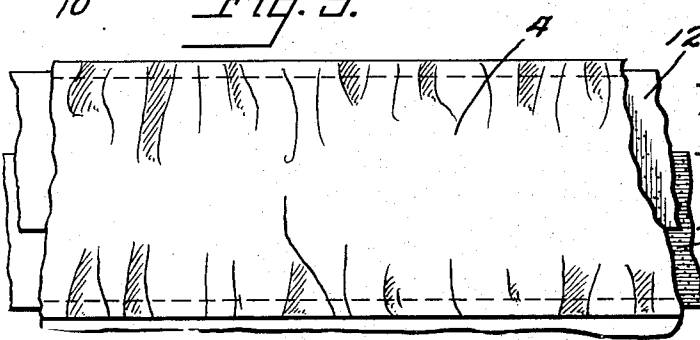
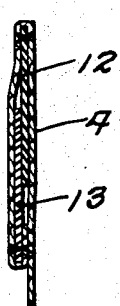


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ELASTIC GARMENT BAND

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The Faultless Manufacturing Company, Baltimore, Md., a corporation of Maryland

Application June 5, 1935, Serial No. 25,143

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—237)

This invention relates to the employment of sheet rubber in the body or limb encircling bands of garments.

One of the objects of the invention is to take advantage of the superior stretching qualities of rubber, starting from a condition of repose, over rubber which is normally under tension, and therefore the invention proposes the use of relatively wide sheet rubber, ribbons or strips instead of the usual elastic webbing in which the rubber filaments are interwoven or otherwise incorporated in the webbing in a normally tensioned condition.

Another object of the invention is to provide a garment band including a hem, and independent strips of sheet rubber arranged adjacent the upper and lower seams of said band whereby the band may be made as wide as desired irrespective of the width of the strips of rubber.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a garment band including a tubular hem enclosing strips of sheet rubber arranged adjacent the upper and lower seams of the hem, the latter being wider than the aggregate width of the rubber strips so that an intermediate ventilated zone is defined in said band between said strips.

Another object of the invention is the use of a plurality of spaced strips of sheet rubber in a garment band, as an alternative to the employment of a single strip of rubber the width of said band, so that the thickness of each band may be increased without the tension exceeding the tension of the single rubber strip, thus increasing the life of the rubber, which is proportional to its thickness.

Another object of the invention is to provide a tubular band enclosing one or more wide strips of sheet rubber, anchored at intervals only by rows of stitching extending transversely of the band.

Other objects of the invention will appear as the following description of several exemplary and practical embodiments thereof proceeds.

In the drawing which accompanies and forms a part of the following specification and throughout the several figures of which the same characters of reference have been employed to designate identical parts:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of an article of apparel illustrating the principle of the invention, the waist band being continuous;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a similar article of apparel, the waist band opening in front;

Figures 3 and 4 are respectively views in front elevation and cross section of a portion of a

waist band illustrating one form of my invention;

Figures 5 and 6 are similar views illustrating another form of the invention.

Referring now in detail to the several figures the numeral 1, Figure 1, illustrates a garment known variously as jockey pants, jockey shorts, etc., having both the body opening 2 and the leg openings 3 equipped with bands exemplifying the principles of my invention. It will be understood that the garment shown is merely illustrative of any type of garment to which body or limb encircling bands may be applied.

The form of band shown both at the waist and leg openings in Figure 1 is shown in detail in Figures 3 and 4 in which it will be observed that the material of the garment at the edges of the openings is turned so as to form a tubular hem 4 having inside and outside plies 5 and 6. Wide strips 7 and 8 of sheet rubber or the like are arranged circumferentially in the upper and lower zones of said hem and secured thereto by rows of stitches 9 and 10 which pass through the strips of sheet rubber and both plies of the fabric of the hem.

The stitches as shown in Figure 3 extend rectilinearly and consequently the rows of stitches are substantially non-elastic. It follows therefore that in order to construct an elastic band, the rubber strips 7 and 8 are stretched when the stitching is done and afterwards allowed to contract to a state of repose, causing the band to assume the shirred form shown in Figure 1. It is understood that Figure 3 shows the rubber strips 7 and 8 stretched and the material of the hem and the stitching 9 and 10 in fully extended relation.

The rubber strips may be made of any desired type of rubber, but are preferably cut from latex sheets, the superior elastic qualities of latex rubber being well understood. It is characteristic of the strips 7 and 8 that they are essentially of considerable width adding to comfort, since they lie flat against the body, do not roll, twist or bury into the flesh. Figures 3 and 4 show a form of the invention in which the hem 4 is of such width as to provide an unoccupied space 11 between the rubber bands forming a ventilating zone. The use of two or more bands permits the hem to be made of any desired width irrespective of the width of the rubber, it being universally conceded that up to practical limits the wider the hem the more comfortable is the band. The elasticity of the knit fabric in the zone between the rubber strips permits prac-

5 tically unrestrained relative circumferential displacement of the rubber strips, in the flexing of the body, the knit fabric being freely deformed obliquely in permitting this displacement. It is observable from Figure 1 that the band is as well adapted to the leg openings as to the waist line.

10 Figures 5 and 6 show a form of the invention in which each of the rubber bands 12 and 13 is wider than one-half the width of the hem so that the bands overlap in a circumferential zone indicated by the bracket 14. While this dispenses with the ventilating feature, it provides an extra heavy and sturdy elastic band in which 15 all of the advantages of sheet rubber are exercised. Since there is free sliding movement permitted between the overlapping edges of the rubber bands, this band allows particularly great freedom in flexing the body since the top edge 20 of the band can move laterally relative to the bottom edge without stressing the rubber. In Figures 5 and 6 the rubber bands are assumed to be in condition of repose and therefore the band itself is in contracted condition which will 25 give it a shirred appearance if the material is inherently inelastic.

30 While I have in the above description disclosed a number of practical embodiments of my invention, it will be understood to those skilled in the art that the details of construction and arrangement are merely by way of

example and that many other forms may be worked out in which the broad concept of my invention can be embodied and that the details of construction as shown and described are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention as claimed. 5

What I claim is:

A garment band comprising textile fabric folded upon itself and with the free edge of the fabric turned inwardly within the fold forming 10 a flat tubular hem at an edge of the garment, a pair of strips of sheet rubber spaced apart within said flat tubular hem, one strip of sheet rubber being adjacent one edge of said flat tubular hem and the other strip of sheet rubber being 15 adjacent the other edge of said flat tubular hem, a pair of rows of stitches passing through the edges of said strips of sheet rubber, one row of stitches being located at one edge of said flat tubular hem and passing through the edge 20 of the strip of rubber adjacent the same edge of the hem, the other row of stitches being located at the other edge of the hem and passing through the edge of the strip of rubber adjacent to the corresponding edge of the hem, the last 25 mentioned row of stitches securing the folded over inturned edge of the fabric to the main body of the fabric in order to form the closure for the open edge of the hem.

LYNDON W. JOYCE. 30