Nov. 6, 1928. 1,690,138

V. R. SLADEK

APRON

Filed May 16, 1927

Fig. 1.

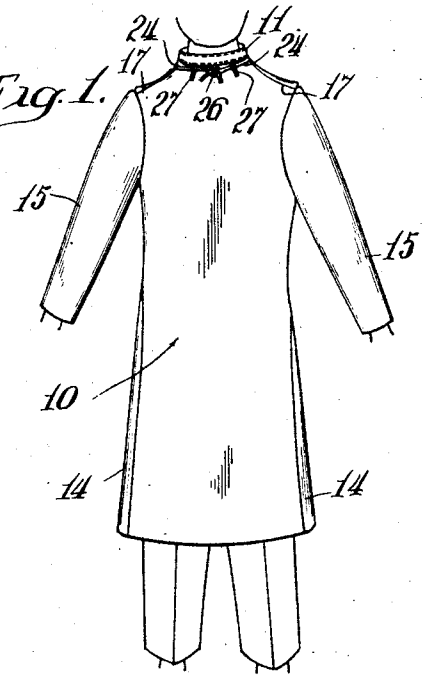


Fig. 2.

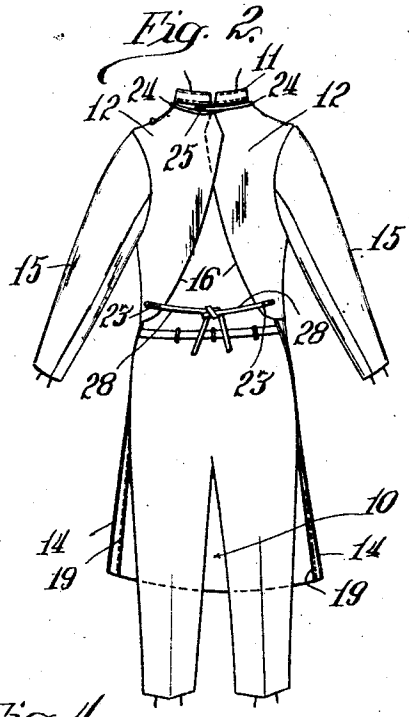


Fig. 3.

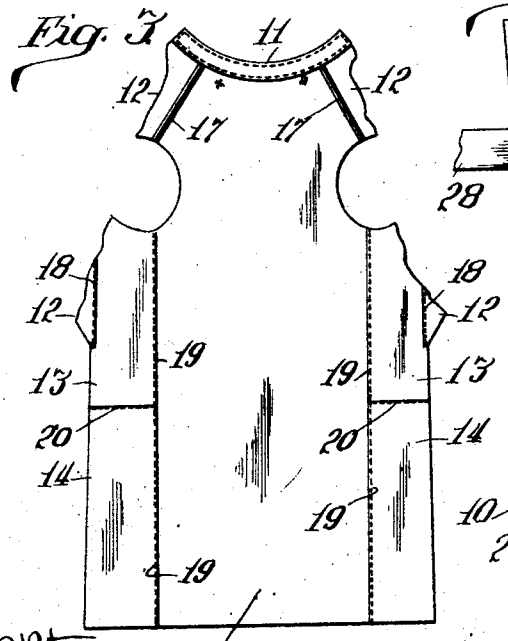


Fig. 4.

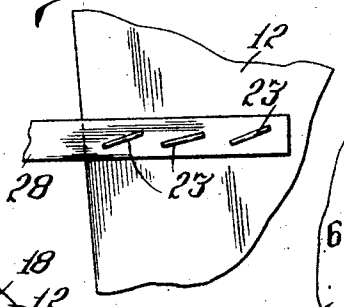


Fig. 5.

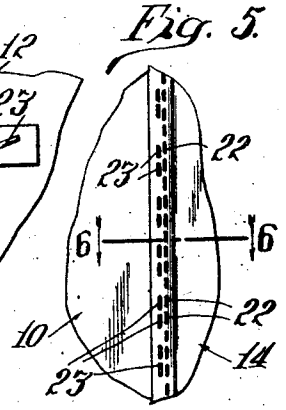
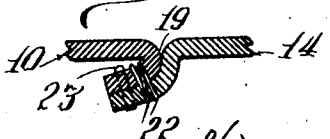


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APRON.

Application filed May 16, 1927. Serial No. 191,614.

My invention relates to a protective apron more especially intended for use by power station workers or electrical workers whose duties involve the manipulation of electric switches and fuses where the frequent emission of electric sparks and flashes are encountered and the worker subjected to the danger of burns resulting from the ignition of his clothes.

My invention has for its object the provision of a garment of sufficiently pliable material and of heat resisting quality and at the same time so constructed that it may be easily applied and worn without in any way hindering the wearer, while at the same time permitting its quick removal when desired.

The objects and advantages of my invention will be readily comprehended from the detailed description of the drawing, wherein—

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved garment applied to a figure of a man.

Figure 2 is a rear view of the figure provided with my improved apron.

Figure 3 illustrates the garment opened out, in elevation, with the sleeve and shoulder portions broken away; the figure showing the inside.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary view illustrating the method of securing one of the fastening straps or thongs.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary view illustrating the method of forming the seams in the main portion of the garment.

Figure 6 is a detail sectional view taken for example on the line 6—6 of Figure 5.

My improved garment is preferably in the nature of an apron which may be easily and quickly donned by those for whom it is intended, as for example by power station workers and electrical workers whose duties involve their presence near switch-boards, the manipulation or pulling out of switches or fuses where frequent sparking and flashing is encountered. The garment must be of such nature that it will not only permit free, unhampered movement of the wearer, but also be easily applied and quickly removed to meet requirements.

I therefore prefer to make the garment in apron form out of suitable heat or spark resisting pliable material or cloth, such as soft leather, asbestos cloth, or the like, cut to more or less standard length to form the main front portion 10, intended to extend from the neck of the wearer to a point preferably slightly beneath the knees as illustrated, thereby covering the part of the body which normally would be exposed to flashes or sparks. This main front body portion 10 consists preferably of a single piece of width to fully cover the chest and front of the wearer's body. For economy, this body portion is shown preferably formed out of one piece cut into substantially rectangular form of equal width throughout, except at the upper end where I show it slightly tapered toward the neck-band 11; the tapered portions extending from the cut-out sleeve receiving portions, having the shoulder and back panels 12, 12, whose upper ends, like the upper end of the body portion 10, are cut in proper arcuate manner to receive the neck-band 11.

In order to cover the hips and sides of legs, I provide the side panels 13, 13 and 14, 14, on each side; the panels 14 being preferably slightly flared toward the bottom to provide freedom in the movement of the legs of the wearer.

The shoulder portions 12, 12 and the upper ends of the panels 13, 13 are cut-out in proper manner so as to provide, in conjunction with the cut-out portions of the main body portion 10, proper arm holes to receive the sleeves 15, 15. The shoulder portions 12, 12, for economy sake, are shown tapering toward the bottom as indicated at 16, as it is not essential to completely cover the back of the wearer; the upper ends of these shoulder portions 12, 12 being stitched at 17 to the upper end of the body portion 10, while the lower tapered ends are stitched at 18 to the panels 13, 13, see Figure 3.

The inner longitudinal margins of the panels 13, 14 are stitched to the adjacent margins of the body portion 10; and the respective seams 17, 18, 19 and 20, as well as the stitching whereby the sleeves 15 are secured in place, are all of the inside seam type as more clearly shown in Figure 6.

As these aprons must be made of comparatively heavy material, such as soft leather and the like, it is necessary to employ means, in addition to the usual thread stitching shown at 22, to prevent ripping or tearing of the seams. I show this means in the nature of wire staples shown at 23 arranged at closely spaced intervals adjacent to and parallel with the stitching 22.

The respective seams in the apron are made by the lapping of the adjacent edges

of the various portions so as to extend toward the inner side of the garment as shown in Figure 6; stitching or sewing the parts together as shown at 22 and then applying the wire stitching or staples shown at 23; thus providing inside seams which are not exposed to the electric sparks, as the thread employed for the stitching 22 would readily burn if the seams were exposed. Furthermore, it is essential that the wire stitching or staples 23 be entirely concealed where they cannot conduct the electric sparks, that may strike or be emitted in proximity to the places where the various pieces constituting the garment are secured together, to the clothing or body of the wearer.

The sleeves 15, 15 are preferably each made of a single piece of material, with the seam 19 thereof arranged at the rear side of the arm; the seams being made and arranged as previously described and as shown in detail in Figure 6.

The neck band 11 is preferably also of a single piece of the same material as the body portion and adapted to stand up vertically about the neck of the wearer as shown; and in order to provide a snug fitting condition, the shoulder portions 12, 12, adjacent to the point of attachment of the neck band 11 thereto, are each provided with a thong or strap 24 of soft leather or the same heat resisting material as the body portion; these thongs or straps 24 being preferably wired, stitched or stapled to the garment as shown at 25 in Figure 2. The thongs or straps 24 are each of such length that they may pass about the opposite side of the neck and enable the same to be tied at the front of the garment as shown at 26 in Figure 1; and in order to snugly hold the upper end of the apron about the neck so as to prevent possibility of sparks entering at the neck, I prefer to provide a pair of loops 27, 27 of heat resisting material on the front of the apron, see Figure 1. The thongs or straps 24, 24 after being passed about the opposite sides of the neck are each slipped through one of the loops 27 before the ends are tied at 26, see Figure 1.

The apron, at the waist-line, is provided with thongs or straps 28, 28, preferably of the same material as the apron and wire stitched or stapled thereto; the thongs 28 being of sufficient length to permit proper tying at the rear of the wearer so as to hold the apron in place and yet permit free movement of the wearer.

It is apparent from the construction shown and described that an apron is provided, the front whereof presents an uninterrupted surface and therefore greatly reduces the possibility of any sparks becoming lodged or held in contact with the garment, as all seams and securing means are so arranged as to present no obstruction or spark-holding surface.

For purposes of economy in the cutting of material, I have shown the skirt portion of the apron formed by the use of panels 13, 14, but it is apparent that the skirt portion may be differently provided; and while I believe the apron as shown to be the best embodiment of the invention, modifications in certain details may be made without, however, departing from the spirit of my invention.

What I claim is:

An electric worker's apron comprising a sheet of pliable heat resisting material constituting the body portion adapted to extend from the wearer's neck to below the waist with an outer smooth uninterrupted surface, sleeves of similar material, an upstanding neck-band portion, thongs secured to the upper portion of the body portion adapted to pass oppositely around the wearer's neck, loops, secured to the upper end of the body portion, through which the thongs are adapted to pass, and thongs secured to body portions adjacent to the wearer's waist-line.

VICTOR R. SLADEK.