

July 25, 1950

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PROTECTING GARMENT  
Filed Aug. 14, 1947

2,516,598

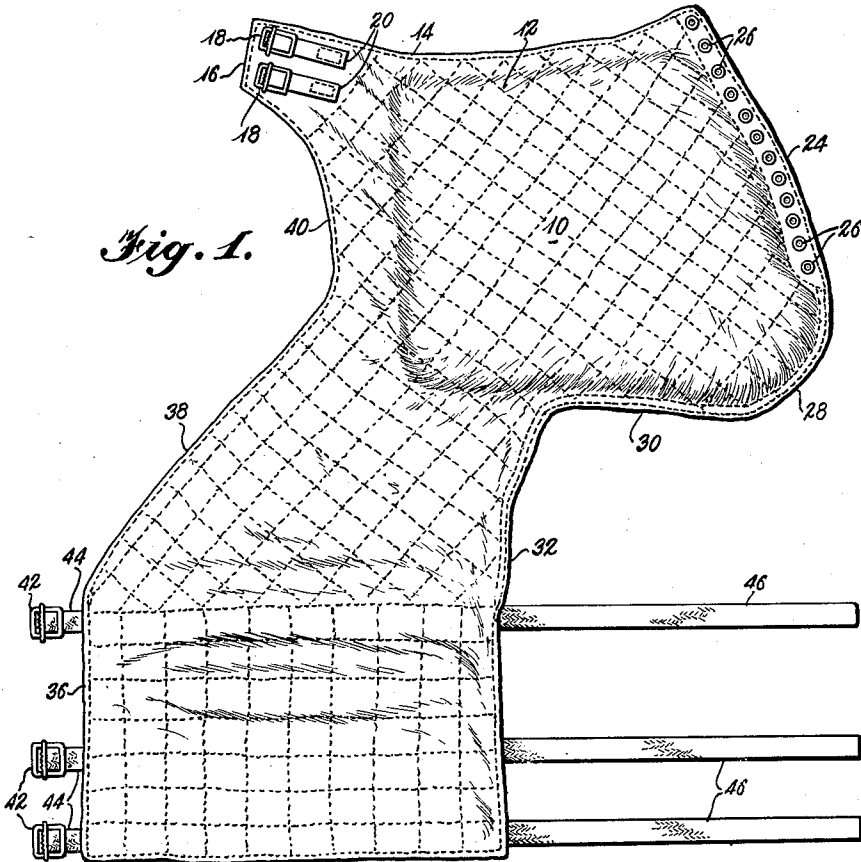


Fig. 1.

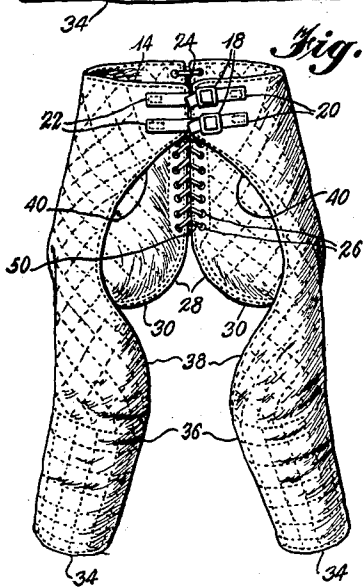


Fig. 2.

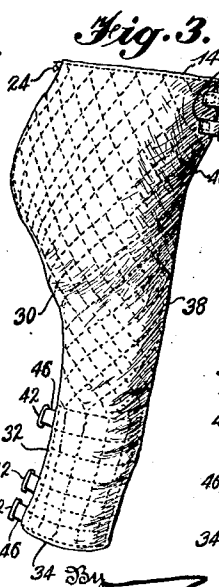


Fig. 3.

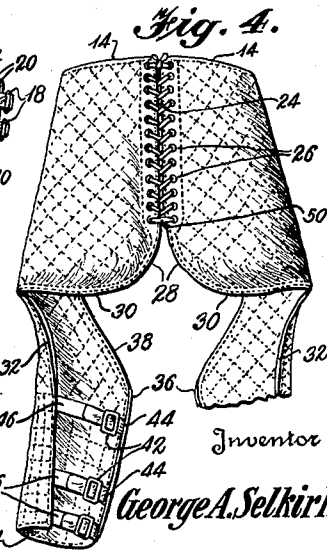


Fig. 4.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,516,598

## PROTECTING GARMENT

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Application August 14, 1947, Serial No. 768,534

4 Claims. (Cl. 2—2)

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This invention relates to personnel protecting garments, particularly those adapted to be worn over a baseball player's uniform for use during practice sliding. Garments of the type contemplated herein will not only protect a player from injury, but will likewise serve as a padding to protect existing injuries, and protect the uniform against soiling.

A review of existing protective garments of this class would indicate them to be too local in their coverage on the one hand, or excessively restrictive to the movements of the wearer on the others. Garments of the category contemplated herein have been conceived with the objective of affording a maximum degree of protection to the parts of the body and uniform most likely to engage the ground, and at the same time maintain restriction to movement of the wearer at a minimum.

The protective garment or "slide harness" according to this invention comprises a waist embracing portion and portions depending therefrom to regions below the knees of the wearer, the depending portions having areas for covering the buttocks, hips, portions of the thighs, and knee caps, these depending portions being discontinuous ventrally from the abdominal region to regions above the knees, and dorsally below the buttocks. The various portions of the garment are preferably padded and the padding may be increased at those regions requiring more frequent protection. The garment is preferably constructed from a pair of members, which may be substantially similar in form, separably joined together with means for adjusting the various parts to conform with the size requirements of the wearer. The waist embracing portion may be adjusted ventrally while the thigh and knee portions may be adjusted dorsally. And adjustable securing means may extend throughout the major dorsal portion of the garment and may assume the form of lacing extending downwardly from the waist embracing portion to an extent desired for best conforming the garment to the wearer.

A more complete understanding of the invention will follow from a description of the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of one of the members of the pair used in producing the garment;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the assembled garment as worn;

Fig. 3 is a side elevation based upon Fig. 2; and  
Fig. 4 is a rear elevation based upon the showing of Fig. 2.

The member depicted in Fig. 1 of the drawings

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is intended to cover the left side of a wearer and is substantially a counterpart of the member applied to the right side. The member 10 provides a waist engaging portion 12 defined by a concave upper edge 14 terminated at its forward portion by a short downwardly directed edge 16 bearing buckles 18 secured to the body of this portion by means of straps 20. The outstanding difference between the members constituting the pair is the provision of straps 22 instead of the buckles on the cooperating member. The upper edge 14 is terminated rearwardly at its intersection with the downwardly inclined dorsal edge 24, adjacent to which and over a major portion thereof, eyelets 26 are provided. The dorsal edge 24 merges into a curved edge 28 which joins a substantially horizontal edge 30 constituting the lowermost rear portion of the garment which extends to a point slightly below the buttocks of the wearer.

This lower edge 30 extends forwardly to intersect the downwardly directed edge 32 of the thigh portion of the garment which is in turn terminated at its intersection with a substantially horizontal edge 34 defining the lowermost portion of the garment which extends below the knee cap of the wearer. This lowermost edge 34 extends forwardly and then rearwardly to cover the fore part of the thigh to intersect an upwardly directed edge 36 which extends to a point intermediate of the thigh to join an edge 38 inclined forwardly and upwardly to meet a substantially vertical edge 40 delimiting the forward portion of the thigh engaging area and curving reversely to join the edge 16 of the waist engaging portion.

Spaced buckles 42 are attached to the inner edges 36 of the thigh and foreleg engaging portions of the garment by suitable means such as loops 44, and correspondingly spaced webs or straps 46 are secured to the outer edges 32 of the thigh and foreleg engaging portions, serving to secure this portion of the garment to each leg of the wearer in an adjustable fashion, providing a snug fit at a requisite number of points both above and below the knees.

The garment has been depicted as being of substantially quilted form, characterized by the usual intersecting rows of stitches, with suitable padding, not shown in detail, interposed between the facing elements from which the garment is fabricated. The padding may be uniform or increased at such regions as the hips and knees at which impact and abrasion are most frequently encountered.

The members 10 from which the completed garment is constructed are connected dorsally by means of a tape 50 threaded through the two sets of eyelets 26, facilitating adjustment of the garment to accommodate the breadth of various wearers. Since the two members will normally remain interconnected by such a tape or lacing, the garment can be applied quite rapidly by fastening the straps 22 and buckles 18 at the waist and the straps 46 and buckles 42 about the legs.

Garments of the type proposed herein have been constructed satisfactorily by interposing white felt padding of five eighths inch thickness in the hip areas and of one quarter inch thickness in the knee areas, between a heavy canvas facing and an unbleached cotton lining. After cutting the lining and facing portions to size, the padding is inserted and secured by rows of intersecting stitching spaced by approximately one and one fourth inches, the knee portion being darted externally with the lining gathered within. The garment may be edged with a twill binding and the buckles, straps and eyelets secured in a suitable manner.

Whereas only one form of the garment has been described in detail, variations within the concept of this invention will suggest themselves to those skilled in the art as they have been recognized already by the present inventor, and accordingly the invention should not be restricted in scope beyond the terms of the appended claims.

1. A personnel protecting garment for covering the buttocks, hips, portions of the thighs, and knee caps, comprising a pair of members each having a waist engaging upper edge and a depending portion forwardly offset with respect to said upper edge; said depending portions having lower edges extending below the knees of the wearer, forward edges recessed rearwardly to define a ventral gap from the abdominal region to regions above the knees of the wearer, and rear edges recessed forwardly to define a dorsal gap downwardly from the buttocks of the wearer.

2. A personnel protecting garment for covering the buttocks, hips, portions of the thighs, and knee caps, comprising a pair of members each having a waist engaging upper edge and a padded depending portion forwardly offset with respect

to said upper edge; each of said depending portions having a lower edge extending below the knee of the wearer, a forward edge recessed rearwardly to define a ventral gap from the abdominal region to a region above the knee of the wearer, and a rear edge recessed forwardly to define a dorsal gap downwardly from the buttocks of the wearer.

3. A personnel protecting garment for covering the buttocks, hips, portions of the thighs, and knee caps, comprising a pair of members each having a waist engaging upper edge, adjusting means for said upper edge, a depending portion forwardly offset with respect to each upper edge, and adjusting means for said depending portions; said depending portions having lower edges extending below the knees of the wearer, forward edges recessed rearwardly to define a ventral gap from the abdominal region to regions above the knees of the wearer, and rear edges recessed forwardly to define a dorsal gap downwardly from the buttocks of the wearer.

4. A personnel protecting garment for covering the buttocks, hips, portions of the thighs, and knee caps, comprising a pair of substantially similar members separably connected, each member having a waist engaging upper edge and a depending portion forwardly offset with respect to said upper edge; and adjustable securing means for connecting said members, said depending portions having lower edges extending below the knees of the wearer, forward edges recessed rearwardly to define a ventral gap from the abdominal region to regions above the knees of the wearer, and rear edges recessed forwardly to define a dorsal gap downwardly from the buttocks of the wearer.

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