

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OWEN F. OAKES, OF WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

## THREAD FOR MAKING KNITTED GARMENTS.

1,228,126.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 29, 1917.

No Drawing.

Application filed June 11, 1913. Serial No. 773,147.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, OWEN F. OAKES, a citizen of the United States, and resident of West Roxbury, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Threads for Making Knitted Garments, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to spun thread for knitting or weaving and is peculiarly useful in the manufacture of fabrics for garments or life preservers, in which buoyancy or imperviousness to water is necessary or desirable.

In order that the principle of the invention may be readily understood, I shall describe a single embodiment thereof, and the best mode known to me for carrying the same into effect.

I have found for use in the manufacture of life preservers or other articles, wherein it is desirable that buoyancy be preserved, that I can provide a fabric which is in and of itself buoyant by weaving the same partially with threads composed of kapok.

Kapok, or so-called silk floss, grown in the Philippines, is impervious to water and buoyant to a high degree, but the fibers are short and possess very little tensile strength, so that it is difficult to spin thread therefrom, except by the use of an adhesive, which to a large extent impairs the utility of the thread.

I have found that by spinning a thread having a core of kapok and a coating or covering of worsted, woolen, cotton, or the like, a thread is provided in which the inherent advantages of the kapok are availed of and in which its inherent defect, weakness in structure, is overcome.

Such thread may be woven or knitted into any desired form, although it is peculiarly useful in the manufacture of sweaters, coats, vests, life preservers, belts, bathing suits, overcoats or raincoats.

While I have described one illustrative embodiment of my invention, I desire it to be understood that although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claim:

A spun thread for knitting or weaving, consisting of a core of kapok fibers in non-adhesive relation and a protective coating of greater tensile strength or absorption-capacity such as worsted or cotton.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

OWEN F. OAKES.

Witnesses:

EVERETT S. EMERY,  
T. IRENE CHANDLER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."