

March 23, 1937.

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2,074,574

BREECHES CONSTRUCTION

Filed March 26, 1935

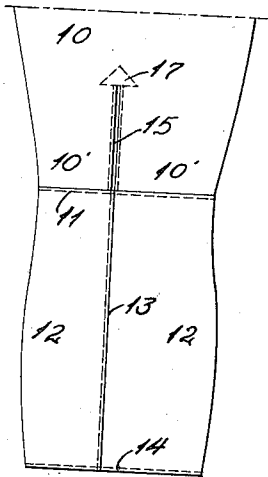


Fig. 1

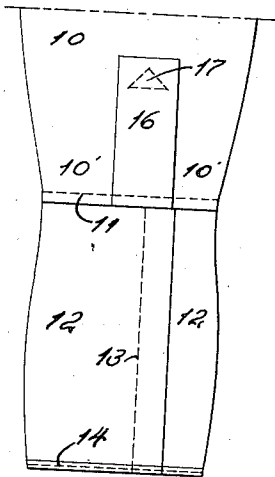


Fig. 2

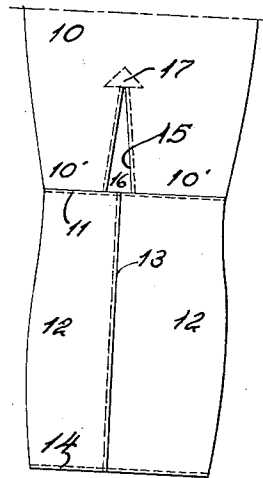


Fig. 3

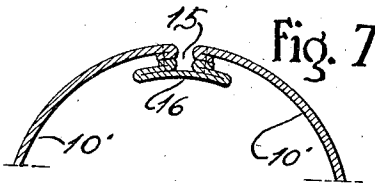


Fig. 7

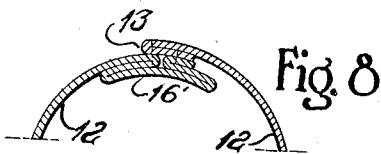


Fig. 8

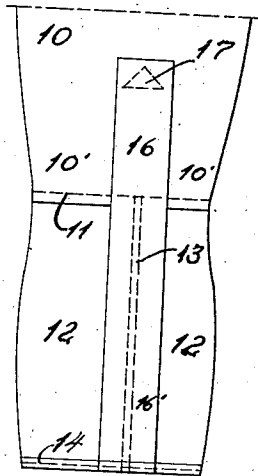


Fig. 4

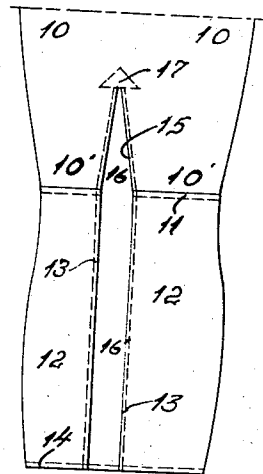


Fig. 5

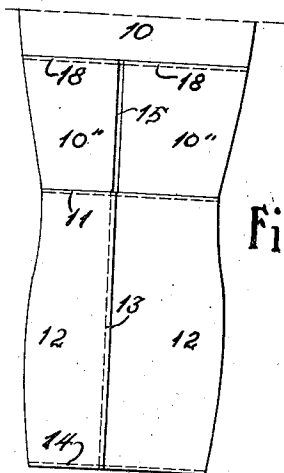


Fig. 6

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2,074,574

BREECHES CONSTRUCTION

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Application March 26, 1935, Serial No. 13,053

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—228)

This invention relates to breeches construction, and more particularly to a construction for breeches of that type variously known as riding breeches, sport breeches, military breeches, hiking breeches, and the like, wherein the knee portion of the breeches leg is arranged to fit snugly about the knee of the wearer and the breeches leg terminates in a sleeve-like member, known as the calf portion, arranged for manual closing to a snug fit about the calf of the wearer, and has as an object to provide an improved construction for the knee portion of such breeches, whereby a smooth, snug and pleasing fit of such knee portion can be had with enhanced ease and comfort on the part of the wearer.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved construction for the knee portion of breeches, which construction greatly facilitates alteration of the knee and calf portions of such breeches for adjustment thereof to an exact and pleasing fit on a given wearer.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved breeches construction wherethrough free and unlimited knee action of the wearer may be had.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved breeches construction wherethrough binding and cramping of the breeches knee portion about the flexed knee of a wearer is eliminated.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved breeches construction operable to relieve the excessive strains to which knee portions of conventionally-constructed breeches are commonly subjected.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved breeches construction applicable to either custom-made or ready-to-wear garments, which is readily incorporated during manufacture of the garment, and which is, in use, efficient to the ends set forth.

My invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of elements hereinafter set forth, pointed out in my claim and illustrated by the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the knee and calf portions of a breeches leg constructed in accordance with the principles of my invention. Figure 2 is an elevation of the showing of Figure 1 turned inside out. Figure 3 is an elevation of the elements shown in Figure 1 as altered for adjustment of fit. Figure 4 is an elevation similar to Figure 2 and illustrating a modified arrangement of the improvement. Figure 5 is an elevation

similar to Figure 3 illustrating an altered condition of the modification according to Figure 4. Figure 6 is an elevation similar to Figure 1 illustrating a still further modified arrangement of the invention. Figure 7 is a cross section, on an enlarged scale, through the knee portion of a breeches leg constructed according to the showing of Figure 1. Figure 8 is a cross section similar to Figure 7 taken through the calf portion of a breeches leg constructed according to the showing of Figure 4.

In the manufacture of knee-fitting breeches, it is conventional practice to form the thigh and knee portions of each breeches leg of suitably shaped front and rear panels interconnected by means of inner and outer side seams, the knee portion terminating in a straight edge just below the knee position of a wearer and being secured along its lower margin to the terminal calf portion of the garment, which latter is usually provided with a longitudinal opening arranged for manual closing after the garment has been donned, lacings, suitably arranged buttons and buttonholes, and slide fasteners, being variously employed to effect closure of the garment calf portion. With such a construction, a smooth, snug fit of the garment knee portion can be had through suitable cut of the front and rear panels and adjustment thereof at the interconnecting seams during manufacture, but such a fit permits of no fullness or slack in the knee portion and results in binding and cramping of the wearer's knee and excessive strains on the knee portion fabric of the garment when the knee is flexed. When the garment is cut for comfort and relief of the strains just above mentioned, the fullness necessarily left in the knee portion of the garment destroys any semblance of a smooth, snug fit there. Conventional breeches construction normally provides a longitudinal back seam in the calf portion of the garment where alterations for adjustment in calf size can be had, but no provision other than the side seams, which are normally welted, finished, or covered with overlies, is made for adjustable alteration of the knee portion.

In the construction of the improvement as shown in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 7, the usual rear panel of a conventional breeches construction is indicated by the numeral 10, which panel is suitably tapered to a knee portion 16' and secured by means of stitching indicated at 11 to a conventional breeches calf portion 12, which latter is provided with the usual alterable back seam 13 and is preferably bound or otherwise finished

at its lower margin as indicated at 14. The seam 11 is designed to come just below the knee of the wearer, so that the knee portion of the garment is formed by the lower portions of the front and rear panels. In giving effect to my improvement, a longitudinal slit 15, vertical in respect to the garment wearer, is formed in the portion 10' of the rear panel 10 and extends from the lower margin of said portion 10' across the normal knee portion of the garment, said slit preferably aligning with the back seam 13 of the calf portion 12 so as to appear as a continuation of said seam 13. Margins of the slit 15 are suitably finished or inturned and stitched to opposite parallel edges of an insert panel 16, which latter is folded and positioned to form a box plait in backing and covering relation with said slit. The upward extent of the slit 15 is limited by suitable stitching 17 which preferably extends through the insert panel 16, thus securely fastening the upper end of said panel 16 to the rear panel 10 of the garment. The lower end of the slit 15 and insert panel 16 is open prior to attachment of the calf portion 12, the seam 11 interconnecting the knee portion 10' and calf portion 12 being carried directly across the slit 15 and box plait formed by the insert 16 to close the latter, as is clearly shown in Figure 2. Constructed as above described, the slit 15 in the finished garment is open to the box plait between the seam 11 and stitching 17 and is free to expand or open when circumferential strains are applied to the knee portion 10' of the garment, as is the case during knee flexure of the wearer, said slit tending again to close when such strains are relieved, stiffening of the slit margins, by stitching or suitable reinforcing, being provided with certain materials, if necessary to aid the said slit in its return to normal, substantially closed position. As is clearly shown in Figure 3, alteration in the size of the knee portion 10' can be made independently of or to correspond with alterations in the size of the calf portion 12 by simply spacing the lower ends of the slit 15 to the extent desired when the seam 11 has been opened and repressing of the box plait formed by the insert 16, thus providing convenient adjustment in breeches knee size without any necessity for disturbing the principal side seams of the garment.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the insert panel 16 may be of a length to extend from the upper end of the slit 15 to the lower margin of the calf portion 12, in which case adjoining margins of the calf portion 12, normally meeting in the seam 13, are separately secured to side margins of the extended insert panel 16 in the same manner as described for margins of the slit 15 and said calf portion margins then stitched to and through the box plait formed by the lower portion of the said panel 16, the seam 11 being continued through and across said panel to close the box plait at the lower end of the slit 15, the modified construction thus functioning exactly as would the construction first described. When it is desired to alter the size of the knee or calf portions, or both, of the modified construction, the stitching holding the lower portion of the box plait against opening is ripped out, the calf portion margins and lower end margins of the slit

15 separated the desired amount, and the said calf portion margins restitched through the panel 16 from the seam 11 to the lower end of the portion 12, as is clearly shown in Figure 5.

As indicated in Figure 8, the panel 16 of the construction according to Figures 4 and 5 may be formed as a flap 16' cut integrally with one of the portions of the calf portion 12, thus eliminating one of the seams between margins of the panel 16 and calf portion 12, the flap 16', naturally, being cut with an upwardly extending offset arranged to form the box plait portion behind the slit 15.

In the modified construction according to Figure 6, the rear leg panel 10 is cut off above the knee portion and the rear knee portion of the construction is formed as a separate insert 10'' secured to the panel 10 by a seam 18 connecting its upper margin with the lower edge of said panel 10, the seam 11 and calf portion 12 being arranged exactly as described in the showing of Figures 1, 2 and 3. When the insert 10'' is employed, the insert panel 16 may be dispensed with and the box plait formed by folding of the material of the insert 10'' prior to closing of the side seams connecting said insert with the front leg panel, the slit and plait thus provided functioning in use and for alterations exactly as would the slit 15 and insert panel 16 first above described. If found desirable, the separable margins of the plait formed in the insert 10'' may be stiffened by stitching, or otherwise, to enhance their tendency to return to parallel, adjacent relation.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that the improved construction, in any of the specific modifications illustrated, permits of snug, sightly fit of a breeches knee portion about the knee of the wearer, eliminating unsightly fullness of material, without in any way hampering or promoting discomfort in the full and free knee action of the wearer, and at the same time provides simple and expeditious means for close and accurate adjustment of the knee size of the garment to the requirements of a given wearer.

Since many changes, modifications and alterations in the specific form, arrangement and combination of the elements shown and described may be had without departing from the spirit of the invention, I wish to be understood as being limited solely by the scope of the appended claim rather than by any details of the illustrative showing and foregoing description.

I claim as my invention—

In breeches having a leg portion terminating in a fitted knee portion and a calf portion formed with a vertical rear seam and stitched to and in depending relation with the lower end of said knee portion, means to accommodate knee flexure of a wearer, said means comprising a slit opening rising from the seam interconnecting said calf and knee portions in alignment with the rear seam of said calf portion to intersect said knee portion, means closing the upper end of said slit opening, and folded material interiorly of said knee portion marginally cooperating with said slit opening to form a box plait in covering relation with said opening.

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