

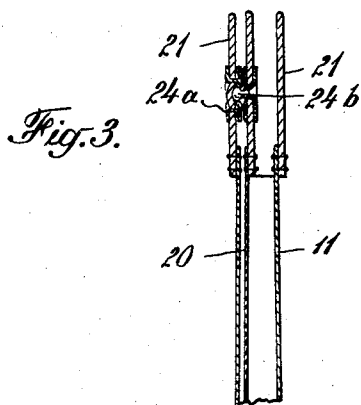
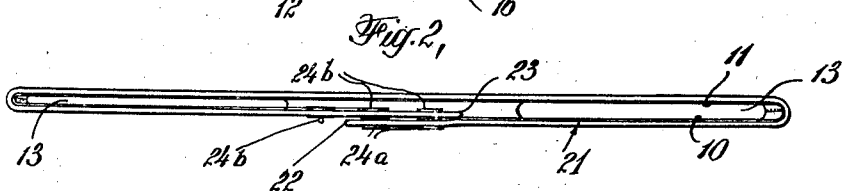
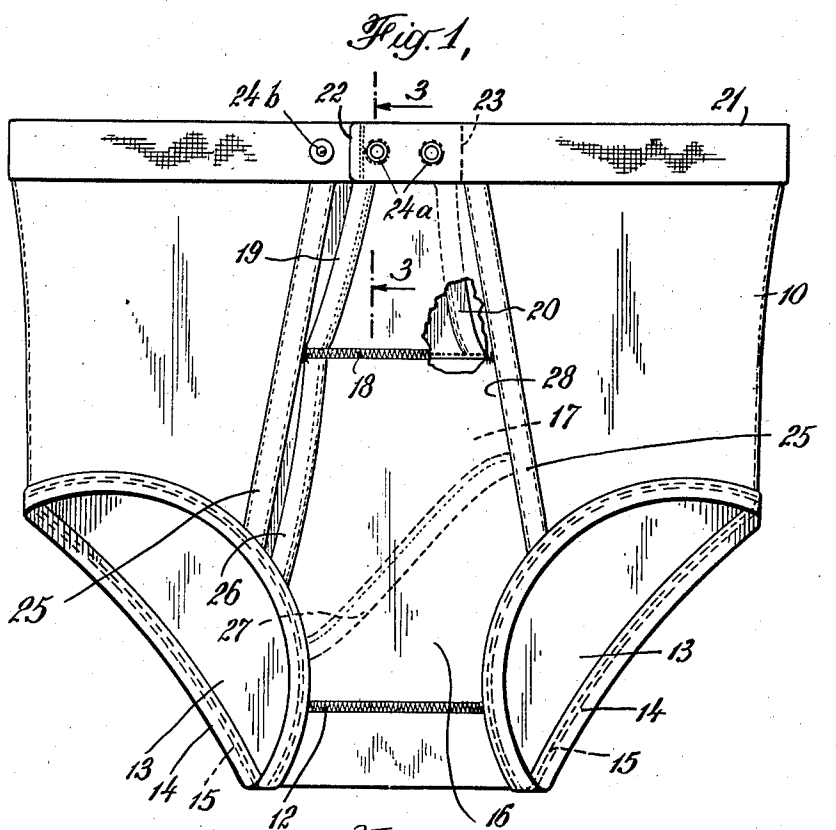
Dec. 7, 1943.

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2,336,248

UNDERGARMENT

Filed March 3, 1942



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2,336,248

UNDERGARMENT

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Application March 3, 1942, Serial No. 433,196

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—224)

This invention relates to nether garments, such as undergarments of the short and trunks types, and is concerned more particularly with a novel nether garment for men which is provided with means making possible adjustment in the length of the waistband and also temporary enlargement of the waist opening by a considerable amount. Such adjustability of the waistband permits the garment to be worn with comfort by men whose girth varies somewhat from standard sizes and the garment is so constructed that it fits well and without gaping, regardless of variations that have been made in the length of the waistband. In addition, the enlargement of the waist opening by manipulation of the means referred to facilitates putting on and taking off the garment, despite its ultimate snug fit.

The desired results are obtained in the new garment by incorporating a pair of overlapping panels in the front section of the garment and forming the waistband with overlapping ends which are attached to the top edges of the respective panels. The ends of the waistband are provided with connecting means permitting the ends to be secured together in different relative positions and the overlap of the adjacent portions of the panels is such that, with the ends of the waistband secured together to give the greatest waist measurement, the panels remain overlapped and there is no gaping. The panels are connected together below the areas which are to vary in the extent of their overlap, and such connections may be formed, if desired, to provide a fly opening through which access to the interior of the garment may be had. In addition, means are provided to reinforce and prevent sagging of the front of the garment.

The garment may be made of various kinds of material, such as woven fabrics or knitted goods, but since special advantages with respect to appearance and fit are afforded by the use of knitted goods cut in a particular manner, the garment constructed of such goods in accordance with the invention will be illustrated and described in detail for purposes of explanation.

For a better understanding of the invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawing in which

Fig. 1 is a view of the garment in front elevation;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

The garment shown in Fig. 1 is of the shorts type and has no legs but it is to be understood

that the provision of legs of any length in the garment is optional. The garment includes front and back sections, designated 10 and 11, respectively, and these sections are preferably formed of knitted material cut with the wales running vertically, so that the garment is extensible circumferentially of the body of the wearer. The sections are united along the side edges and may be cut of separate pieces of material secured together by side seams extending vertically or may be cut from a piece of tubular material of proper dimensions. The lower edges of the sections are connected along their central portions by a seam 12 to close the crotch of the garment and, in the construction shown, the rear section is somewhat longer than the front so as to provide additional fullness in the seat and to bring the seam in the middle of the crotch when the garment is worn. On either side of their connected portions, the lower edges of the sections are cut to form leg openings 13 and these openings are finished by hems 14 which are extensible circumferentially and may include elastic tapes 15 which cause the hems to fit the legs of the wearer snugly.

The central part of the front section is formed of a pair of panels 16 and 17, these panels extending downwardly from the top edge of the section and lying in overlapping relation. In the construction shown, the outer panel 16 extends down to the crotch and is that part of the front section united to the back section by the seam 12, while the inner panel 17 terminates above the crotch. The panels are secured together by a transverse seam 18 which lies downward from the waistband a substantial distance and the lateral edges 19, 20 of the respective panels above the seam are free of one another.

A waistband 21, preferably made of a suitable inelastic material, is attached to the top edges of the front and back sections and its end portions 22 and 23 are connected to the top edges of the respective panels and normally lie in overlapping relation. The overlapping ends of the waistband are provided with means by which they can be connected together in different positions of adjustment and, in the construction shown, these means take the form of cooperating snap fastener elements 24a, 24b on the respective ends. There are two such elements on the outer end 22 of the band and three or more elements on the inner end 23, and the ends of the bands may thus be secured together with different degrees of overlap. It is to be understood that other fastening means than snap fasteners may be used for the purpose, as, for example, the end 22 of the band

may be provided with buttonholes through which may be passed buttons arranged in a row on the end 23 of the band. With the construction described, the ends of the bands, together with the overlapping portions of the panels down to the seam 18, may be separated by being folded back away from each other and this increases the waist opening to such an extent that the garment may be readily put on and taken off, even though it fits snugly when worn. The adjustable connecting means on the overlapping ends of the waistband permit variations in the length of the band, so that the garment may be worn comfortably by men of varying girth.

Garments of the shorts type are ordinarily intended to be worn with the hems of the leg openings fitting snugly in the groins of the wearer and, to prevent sagging of the hems, the garment is provided with reinforcing members 25 which extend between the waistband and the hems and are formed of a material which is relatively inextensible lengthwise. Each member preferably lies along a line of union of one of the panels to the remainder of the front section and the members thus serve to conceal the seams. The members may be made of any suitable fabric and are ordinarily tapes of the same material as that of which the garment is made.

The portions of the panels below the transverse seam may, if desired, be employed for the purpose of providing a fly opening and that construction is used in the garment illustrated. Thus, the edge 26 of the outer panel below the transverse seam 18 is free of the inner panel and the lower end of the inner panel is cut on a diagonal, as indicated at 27. The short edge 28 of the inner panel below the transverse seam is then connected to the outer panel along the line of union of the outer panel with the remainder of the front section and the lower end of the inner panel is free of the outer panel. With this arrangement, the portions of the panels below the transverse seam may be separated so that access to the interior of the garment is afforded through the space lying between the free lateral edge of the outer panel and the free diagonal edge of the inner panel. In order that separation of these portions of the panels may be easily effected, the edges of the panels referred to are preferably provided with hems which are stretchable lengthwise of the edges to which they are applied.

The portions of the panels lying above and below the transverse seam may be made of the same material or, if desired, those portions below the seam may be formed to provide a supporter effect. For this purpose, the invention set forth in the co-pending application of Alfred L. Flesh, Serial No. 366,545, filed November 22, 1940, may be employed. In a garment constructed in accordance with the Flesh invention, the portion of the outer panel lying below the transverse seam is of a material substantially more elastic vertically of the garment than the portion of the inner panel lying below that seam. Preferably the lower portion of the outer panel is formed of a fabric in which vertical strands of rubber are incorporated.

I claim:

1. A nether garment comprising front and back sections made of knitted material extensible circumferentially of the garment, the sections being united along the sides of the garment and having their bottom edges connected along central portions only thereof to form a closed crotch

and cut to form leg openings on either side of the crotch, a pair of front panels of a width at least equal to that of the crotch forming the central part of the front section and extending from the top edge of the front section downwardly and overlapping throughout substantially their entire width, a transverse seam extending across the panels between their upper and lower ends and permanently connecting them together across their entire width, the panels being wholly free of one another above said seam and having both connected lateral edge portions and opposed free edge portions below said seam, said free edge portions lying at opposite sides of a space through which access to the interior of the garment may be had between said panels, an inelastic waistband connected to the top edges of the sections and having overlapping end portions connected to the top edges of the respective panels, and means on the end portions of the waistband for detachably connecting the end portions together.

2. A nether garment comprising front and back sections made of knitted material extensible circumferentially of the garment, the sections being united along the sides of the garment and having their bottom edges connected along central portions only thereof to form a closed crotch and cut to form leg openings on either side of the crotch, a pair of front panels of a width at least equal to that of the crotch forming the central part of the front section and extending from the top edge of the front section downwardly and overlapping throughout substantially their entire width, a transverse seam extending across the panels between their upper and lower ends and permanently connecting them together across their entire width, the panels being wholly free of one another above said seam, seams connecting together portions of the lateral edges only of the panels below the transverse seam, the panels having opposed free edge portions below the transverse seam which lie at opposite sides of a space through which access may be had to the interior of the garment between said panels, an inelastic waistband connected to the top edges of the sections and having overlapping end portions connected to the top edges of the respective panels, and means on the end portions of the waistband for detachably connecting the end portions together.

3. A nether garment comprising front and back sections made of knitted material extensible circumferentially of the garment, the sections being united along the sides of the garment and having their bottom edges connected along central portions only thereof to form a closed crotch and cut to form leg openings on either side of the crotch, a pair of front panels of a width at least equal to that of the crotch forming the central part of the front section and extending from the top edge of the front section downwardly and overlapping throughout substantially their entire width, the outer panel being connected at its lower end to the central portion of the back section and the inner panel terminating above the closed crotch and having its lower end free and extending diagonally upward from the inner edge of one leg opening to a point above the plane of the top of the other leg opening, a transverse seam extending across the panels between their upper and lower ends and permanently connecting them together across their entire width, the panels being wholly free of one another above the transverse seam, the outer panel having a

free lateral edge portion below the transverse seam which edge portion is opposed to the free diagonal edge of the inner panel, whereby access to the interior of the garment may be had through the space between the panels defined by said free edge portion and said free edge, the remainder of the lateral edges of the panels below the transverse seam being connected together, an inelastic

waistband connected to the top edges of the sections and having overlapping end portions connected to the top edges of the respective panels, and means on the end portions of the waistband 5 for detachably connecting the end portions together.

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