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(54) Undergarment

(57) A man's or woman's pant-like undergarment having a waistband (5), preferably made of a stretch material, is provided with one or more pockets (7) adjacent the waistband of which an open top edge (8) is securable for a fraction of its length adjacent its central region to the underlying part of the garment by VELCRO (RTM) (9) or other securing means. The top edge (8) is reinforced by a less extensible material which limits the stretched length of the top edge which extends to its full length to hold the pocket closed when the garment is worn. The garment may be provided with pockets at its rear. The pockets are conveniently dimensioned for carrying paper money, avoiding loss by bag-snatching and pocket picking.

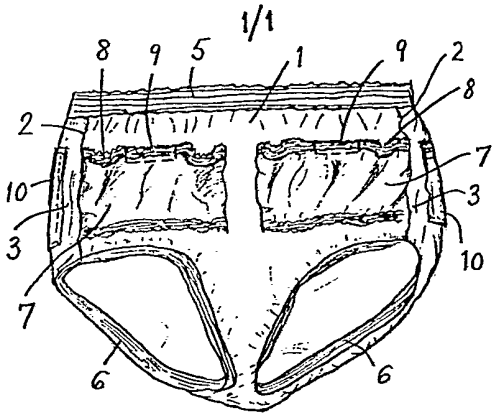


Fig.1

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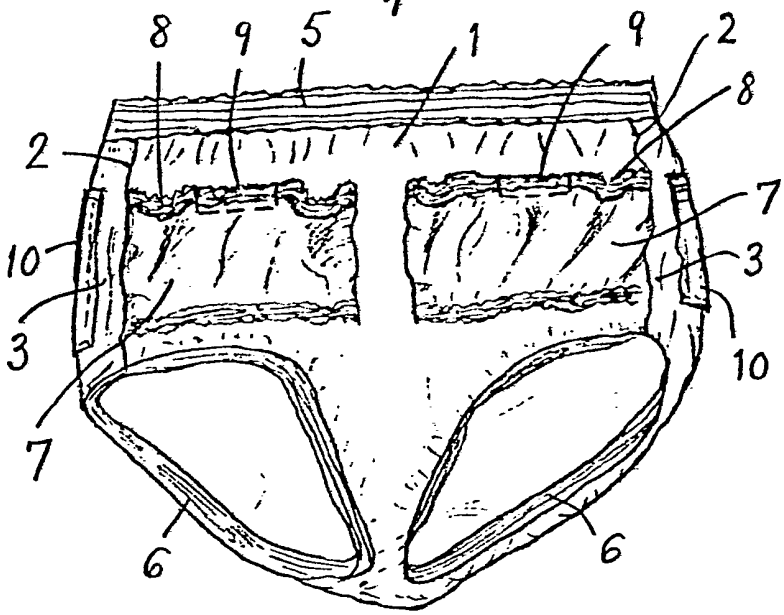


Fig.1

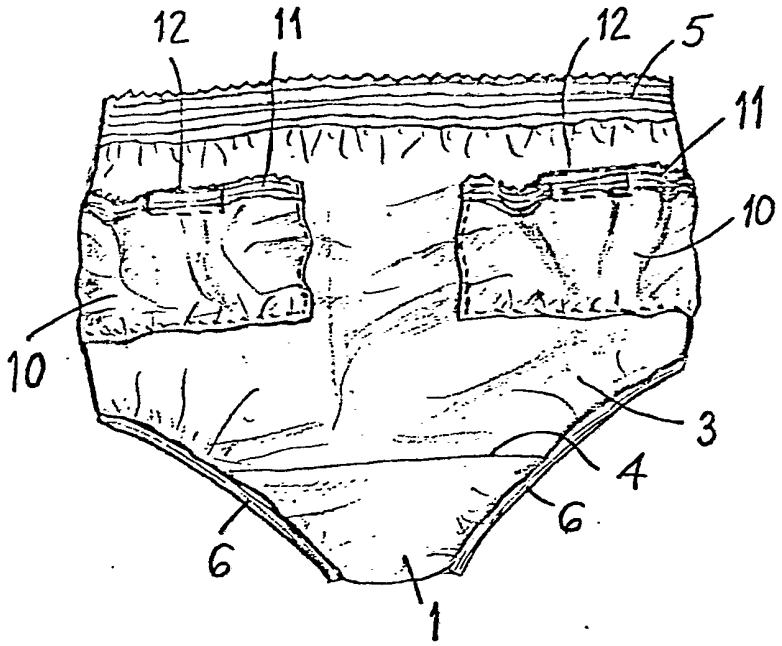


Fig.2

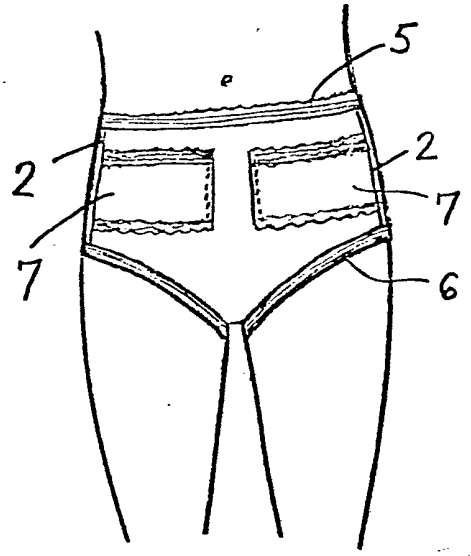


Fig.3

SPECIFICATION

Undergarment

The invention relates to mens or womens pants, panties, boxer shorts, knickers and like undergarments having a waistband, and is characterised in that at least one pocket is provided adjacent the waistband, at the front and/or back of the garment, said at least one pocket being open along its upper edge, said upper edge being securable for a fraction of its length adjacent its central region to the underlying part of the garment by securing means, preferably self-securing means such as VELCRO. The garment may be provided with two pockets at the front and/or two pockets at the back.

The garment is preferably made of jersey or similar stretch material with an elasticated waistband and dimensioned to fit snugly to the wearer. The or each pocket may be made of a similar stretch material and preferably has its upper edge reinforced or decorated by a less extensible material which limits the length of the upper edge of the pocket and extends to its full length to hold the pocket closed when the garment is worn.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front view of one embodiment of the pair of ladies panties according to the invention, the garment being shown in the loose condition.

Figure 2 is a back view of the garment of Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a front view of the garment, as worn.

Referring to the drawings, the panties shown are conveniently made of a jersey material, such as polyester or nylon jersey, with a front portion 1 joined by side seams 2 to a back portion 3, the lower cental part of the front portion forming a gussett and being joined to the back portion 3 by a seam 4. The garment is provided with an elasticated waistband 5. Elastication is also provided around the leg openings 6.

At either side of the front portion 1 and just below the waistband are sewn two front pockets 7 of generally rectangular shape. They may be made of the same material as the front portion and are sewn to the front portion along their bottoms and two side edges; the outer side edges may be sewn into the side seams respectively. The upper edge of each pocket is open and is reinforced or decorated with an edging of lace or other suitable and relatively inextensible material of a length defining the length of the pocket when fully extended when the garment is being worn, as shown in Figure 3. To the inside surface of the upper edge of each pocket is sewn a short length 9 of the tape material known as "Velcro", and a similar short lenth of "Velcro" is sewn to the opposing surface of the front portion 1 so that the opposing short lengths of tape will interlock to close the top of the pocket along its central region.

When the garment is not being worn (Figure 1) the portions of the edging 8 at opposite sides of the central region lie in folds whereby opening of a pocket 7, by separating the opposing lengths of "Velcro" is facilited. When the garment is being worn (Figure 3) the edging 8 is extended, pulling out the folds so that it and the pocket lie snugly against the wearer, consequently making opening of a pocket less easy and reducing the possibility of the pockets forming undesirable and tell-tale bumpy patterns on the outer garment.

The garment may also be provided with two similar pockets 10 sewn on to the back portion 3, the upper edges of which may be similarly reinforced or decorated by edging 11 and provided at their central regions with short lengths of "Velcro" 12.

A convenient size for the pockets, suitable for carrying paper money, is from about 15.24 cms (6") to about 17.15 cms (6¾") wide with a finished depth of about 10.8 cms (4¼"). The length of the "Velcro" strip is conveniently from about 3.8 cms (1½") to 5.08 cms (2").

The garment is suitable for carrying sums of money, avoiding loss by bag-snatching and pocket-picking. It is more comfortable and convenient to wear than a wallet belt.

While a particular embodiment has been described it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. For example the upper edge of a pocket may be secured to the underlying portion of the garment by means other than "Velcro", for example by press studs or by a button and button hole. Further, the invention can be applied to men's undergarments, such as Y-front pants, which can conveniently be made of cotton jersey.

CLAIMS

1. A pant-like garment having a waistband which is provided with at least one pocket adjacent the waistband, at the front and/or back of the garment, said at least one pocket being open along its upper edge, said upper edge being securable for a fraction of its length adjacent its central region to the underlying part of the garment by securing means.

2. An undergarment according to claim 1, wherein the securing means is self-securing, such as VELCRO (RTM).

3. An undergarment according to claim 1 or 2, which is provided with two pockets at the front and/or two pockets at the back.

4. An undergarment according to claim 1, 2 or 3, which is made of jersey or similar stretch material with an elasticated waistband.

5. An undergarment according to any preceding claim, in which the or each pocket is made of a similar stretch material and has its upper edge reinforced or decorated by a less extensible material which limits the length of the upper edge of the pocket.

6. An undergarment according to claim 5, wherein said upper edge reinforcement or decoration is dimensioned to extend to its full length to hold the pocket closed when the garment is worn.

7. An undergarment substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawing.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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