Jan. 3, 1950 C. D. GILBERT 2,493,400

PLEAT RETAINER FOR GARMENTS

Filed Dec. 29, 1948 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

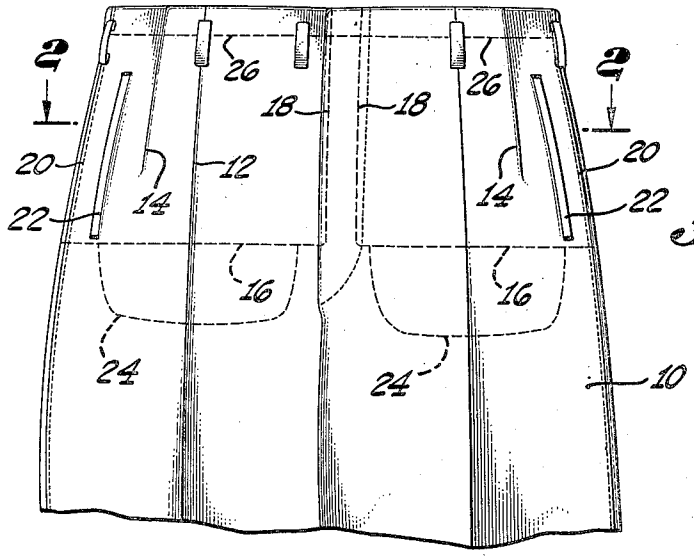


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

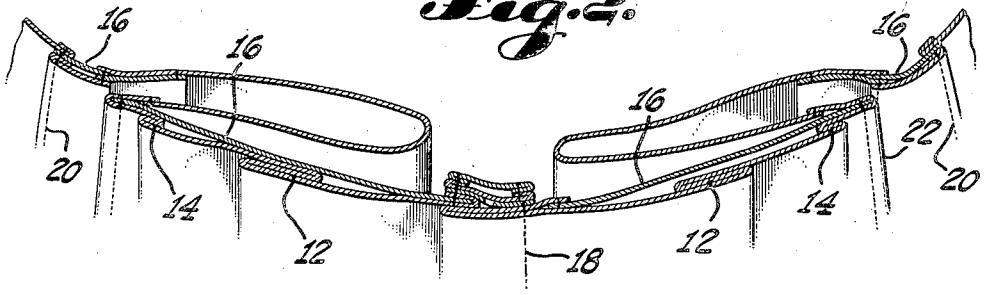
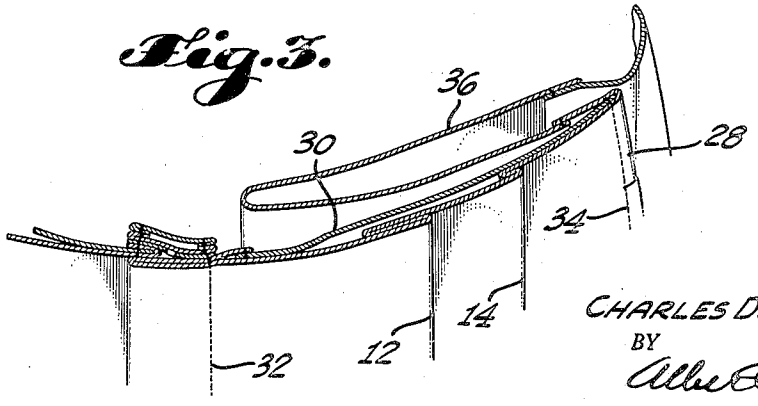


Fig. 3.



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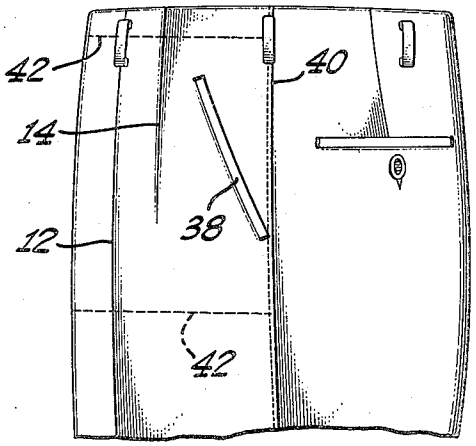


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

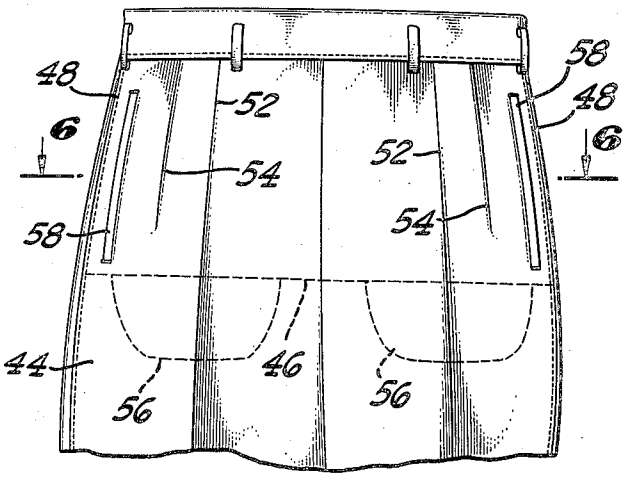
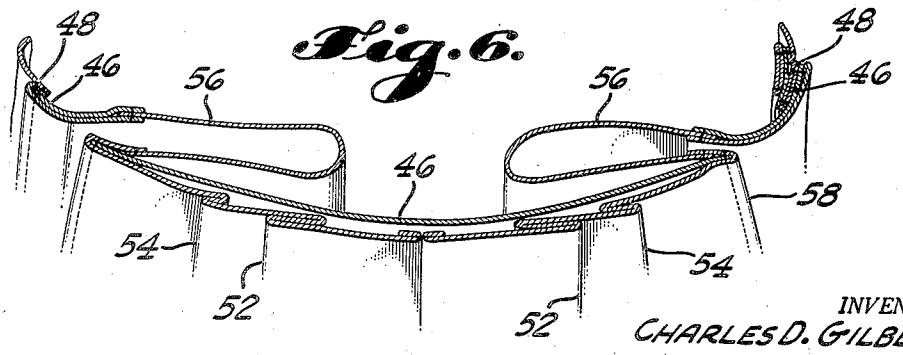


Fig. 6.



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PLEAT RETAINER FOR GARMENTS

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Application December 29, 1948, Serial No. 67,878

6 Claims. (Cl. 2—227)

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This invention relates to an improved pleat retainer for garments and has for one of its principal objects the provision of means whereby pleats when sewn into garments will be retained therein to the satisfaction of the user and in a simple yet efficient manner.

One of the important objects of this invention is to provide in a garment having pleats means for reinforcing the pleated structure whereby unsightly bulging of the pleats due to pressure is eliminated.

Another and still further object of the invention is to provide a reinforcing construction for garments, particularly trousers and slacks, whereby pleats built into the garments will always retain a neat appearance while at the same time an actual additional support for the adjacent portions of the body of the wearer is provided.

Yet another object of the invention is the provision in a pair of pleated trousers or slacks of reinforcing means whereby the pleats are held in desired relationship and which reinforcing means will not interfere in any way with the incorporation or use of the ordinary pockets which form a part of the garment.

Other and further important objects of the invention will be apparent from the disclosures in the accompanying drawings and following specification.

The invention, in a preferred form, is illustrated in the drawings and hereinafter more fully described.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of a pair of trousers having pleats and having incorporated thereinto the reinforcing structure of this invention whereby the pleats are held in desired relationship at all times.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of Figure 1 showing the pleat construction, the reinforcing element and the relationship of the pockets to the remainder of the structure.

Figure 3 is a sectional view somewhat similar to Figure 2 but showing the reinforcement of this invention applying to a pair of trousers wherein the pocket opening is located at the side seam of the trousers.

Figure 4 is a side view of the pair of trousers showing a further embodiment of the invention and illustrating the structure thereof as applied to trousers having a pocket located at an angle to the side seam.

Figure 5 is a front view of a pair of women's slacks showing the improved reinforcement of this

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invention applied thereto for the purpose of holding the pleats in desired relationship.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 6—6 of Figure 5 showing the reinforcement of this invention incorporated into the structure of the slacks of Figure 5.

As shown in the drawings:

The reference numeral 10 indicates generally a pair of trousers having pleats 12 and 14 incorporated thereinto adjacent the waistline and extending downwardly therefrom. The pleats 12 are of greater size and are longer than the pleats 14.

Mounted behind the pleated structure and on each side of the fly of the trousers is a sheet of reinforcing material, preferably strong cloth, as shown at 16. This cloth is so woven and so positioned that there will practically be no stretch thereof in a horizontal direction when the same is incorporated into the trousers.

One edge of the reinforcing sheet 16 is attached to the trousers adjacent the fly by a line of stitching indicated at 18 and the other edge is fastened to the trousers by another line of stitching 20 adjacent the side seam of the trousers. This construction is similar on both sides.

Pockets 22 are incorporated into the structure of the trousers, and in this particular case the pockets are shown as slightly forward of the side seam of the trousers with the pocket opening approximately parallel to the seam. The pocket openings are cut through the sheet of reinforcing material 16 so that the pocket structure itself can be incorporated into the trousers in the usual manner, as shown at 24.

However, it will be noted that the reinforcing element extends above the pocket opening, this being stitched to the trousers along a line closely adjacent to the top edge thereof as shown at 26. This line of stitching may be eliminated and obviously there is no connection between the lower edge of the reinforcing sheet 16 and the material of the trousers. The seams along the edge of the fly and the seams at the sides are sufficient to hold the sheet in desired position and to afford the necessary reinforcing action. The reinforcing sheet may also stop short of the upper edge of the trousers so long as it extends above the upper end of the pockets 22.

In Figure 3 the pocket 28 is located adjacent the side seam of the trousers, and reinforcing sheet 30 extends from the fly completely across the front half of the trousers to the side seam thereof adjacent the pocket opening. Lines of stitching 32 and 34 hold the sheet of reinforcing

material in desired position, there being no stitching at the top edge or at the lower edge. The pocket itself is illustrated at 36 and the pleats at 12 and 14 respectively.

In Figure 4 a further modification of the pocket structure is illustrated. In this embodiment the pocket opening 38 is at an angle to the side seam 40 of the trousers and the reinforcing sheet 42 extends from the fly to the side seam 40 being attached along these lines by vertical stitching. The upper edge of the reinforcing sheet 42 is, in this instance, below the top line of the trousers and is not attached thereto by stitching.

In Figures 5–6 the reinforcing sheet of this invention is shown as applied to a pair of women's slacks 44.

The reinforcing sheet is indicated at 46 and extends clear across the front of the garment from one side seam to the other being fastened at these points by lines of stitching 48. The pleats are shown at 52 and 54 and in this particular showing pockets 56 are indicated, the openings for these pockets being shown at 58 and in this particular embodiment located slightly forward of the side seams and parallel thereto.

Obviously the location and arrangement of the pockets can be varied in women's slacks as well as in men's trousers without interfering with the action of the reinforcing structure of this invention. In this embodiment unsightly bulging is effectively prevented and the pleats are always retained in their original neat form and relationship.

It will be evident that herein is provided a marked improvement in the construction of garments of this type, particularly trousers and slacks. No matter how carefully the pleats were incorporated into such garments it inevitably happened that they would pull open during wear particularly if a rather tight fit ensued and also whenever there was considerable movement on the part of the wearer. This resulted in unsightly bulging which was objectionable from the point of neatness, and even frequent pressings did not remedy the difficulty.

I am aware that many changes may be made and numerous details of construction varied throughout a wide range without departing from the principles of this invention and I therefore do not purpose limiting the patent granted thereon otherwise than as necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. Means for retaining pleats in trousers and slacks comprising a reinforcing sheet applied to the garment behind the pleated structure, the ends of said sheet being fastened to the garment by stitches along the side seams of the garment, said sheet having slitted openings therein for pocket entry.

2. Means for retaining pleats in trousers comprising a reinforcing sheet applied to the garment behind the pleated structure, said sheet being fastened to the garment at its ends, the fastening means comprising stitches along the side seams of the garment and adjacent the pocket openings, at one end and the fly opening at the other end.

3. Means for retaining pleats in garments, said means comprising a reinforcing sheet fastened to the garment adjacent the pleats, said sheet being practically non-stretchable in at least one direction, the ends of said sheet being fastened to the garment by stitches along the side seams of the garment, a slitted opening in the sheet for pocket entry and a pocket mounted in the garment adjacent the slitted opening.

4. In a pleated trousers and slacks construction means for reinforcing the pleats, said means comprising a sheet of cloth fastened to the garment behind the pleats, said fastening means comprising vertical lines of stitching at the ends of the sheet, a slitted opening in the sheet for pocket entry, a pocket fastened to the garment adjacent the slitted opening and further lines of stitching connecting the sheet to the pocket edges.

5. In a pleated trousers and slacks construction means for reinforcing the pleats, said means comprising a sheet of cloth fastened to the garment and positioned behind the pleats, said fastening means comprising vertical lines of stitching, a pocket opening in the sheet and additional lines of stitching between the garment and the sheet, said additional lines of stitching being adjacent the pocket opening.

6. In a pleated trousers and slacks construction means for reinforcing the pleats, said means comprising a sheet of cloth fastened to the garment and positioned behind the pleats, said fastening means comprising vertical lines of stitching, one of the said lines of stitching being at the side seam of the garment, a slit for a pocket opening in the sheet, said slit being adjacent the side seam of the garment, and additional lines of stitching between the garment and the sheet, said additional lines of stitching being adjacent the pocket openings, with a portion of the sheet extending above the upper end of the pocket.

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