

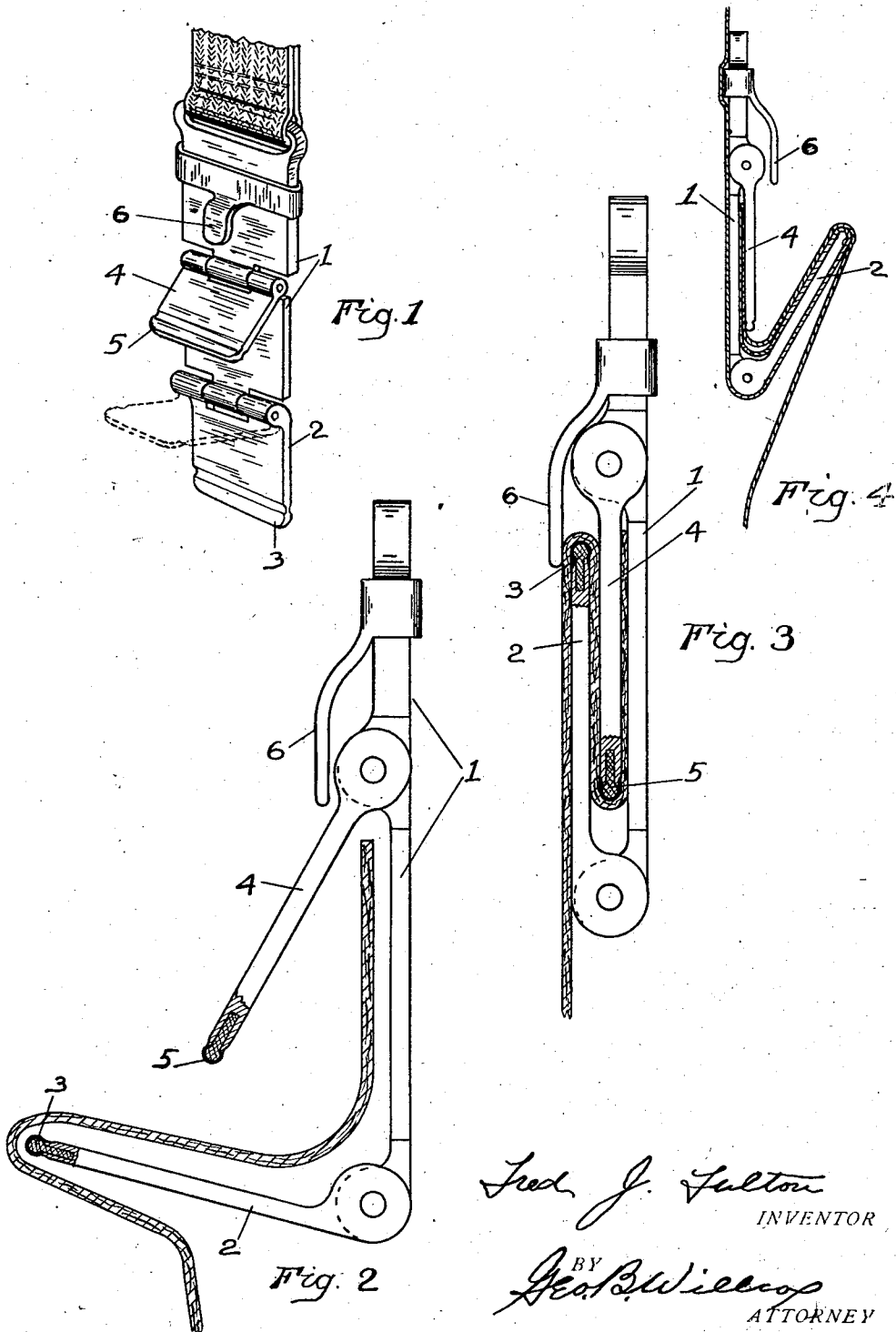
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F. J. FULTON

SUPPORTER

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK J. FULTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Saginaw, in the county of Saginaw and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Supporters; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to hose supporters and pertains more particularly to an improved construction and arrangement of parts of a hose supporter whereby the objects of my invention are attained.

These objects are, first, to provide a hose supporter of simple construction that can be quickly applied as a clasp to stockings or other garments and adapted to lie flat against the limb of the wearer so as to show practically no unevenness in the fit of the garment.

My improvement is especially adapted to meet the requirements of dancers.

A further object is to provide a clasp for hose supporters that will firmly grip the material of the stocking without stretching or tearing it, thus preventing runs in the material.

My improved clasp holds the material firmly without putting undue strain or pressure upon it and to that end the clasp device holds the goods by folding the material as distinguished from that type of clasp devices in which the material is held by a clamp or vice-like grip produced by the pressure or clamping action of the clasp members.

With the foregoing and certain other objects in view which will appear later in the specification, my improvement comprises the devices herein described and claimed and the equivalents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, Fig. 1 is an enlarged perspective view of the preferred form of my improved clasp, the partially raised position of the lower clasp member being indicated by dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged side view showing the clasp members in the positions they occupy when the top of the stocking is being inserted in the clasp.

Fig. 3 is a similar view, showing the clasp closed.

Fig. 4 is a side view of the clasp, partly open, as applied to intermediate the length of a long stocking or tight.

As is clearly shown in the drawings, the device consists in a flat body 1, for example a sheet metal plate, to the lower end of which is pivoted a leaf 2 consisting preferably of a flat frame or sheet of metal having a soft edge 3 of rubber, or equivalent material, which may be inserted in the frame as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, or attached in any other suitable manner.

A second leaf or flap 4, also fitted with a soft edge 5, is pivoted to the body 1 at a point above the hinge of member 2, so that when the member 2 is turned upwardly, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1, and is thereby made to overlap the lower part of body 1, it will also overlap the leaf 4, as indicated in Fig. 3.

To apply the clasp, the lower leaf 2 and the lower end of body 1 are slipped down inside the stocking until the edge of the stocking comes under leaf 4. This leaf is then closed down upon body 1 and leaf 2 is raised outwardly and upwardly, bringing the stocking fabric with it, as shown in Fig. 2. When closed, the clasp and stocking fabric occupy the position shown in Fig. 3, and are held in place by any suitable fastener 6, which may be a latch, or finger, slidably or otherwise movably secured upon the body 1.

It frequently occurs that actors, acrobats and dancers have tights that are too long. After washing, the tights are stretched to prevent shrinking, and if stretched too much the wearer finds the leg too long. My improved clasp is adapted to be applied to the tight near the thigh, to pull up the leg portion. In that case the clasp is applied inside the thigh portion of the tight and the body of the clasp lies flat against the wearer's body. The application of the device for this purpose is shown in Fig. 4, in which the material of the tight is shown extending above and also below the body 1 of the clasp.

It has heretofore been common for dancers to pull up the tight and roll the tight around a belt at the waist, making a large roll under or over the corset and usually drawing the garment too tight for convenient use of the limbs. My improved clasp, used as indicated in Fig. 4, will pull the tight up to the proper tension without interfering with the action of the legs, the crease in the

material being covered by the usual ruffle trunk.

My device is also adapted to catch a hip length stocking at the knee or ankle, as well
5 as at the top, and the top clasp and the knee clasp may be fastened to the same tape or harness, if desired. The knee or ankle clasp and the hip clasp are independent of each other as to the strain. Regardless of the
10 strain or pull on the hip clasp, the ankle need not respond, although both clasps may be mounted on the same tape or harness.

In the preferred form illustrated, I have shown the parts of the device as made of
15 thin sheet metal, but any suitable material may be employed and any other construction of hinge may be used than that shown in the drawing, without departing from the spirit of my invention, as set forth in the
20 claims.

By the means above described, I have produced a simple, convenient, yet strong and durable clasp that can be manufactured at small expense and that will not become ac-
25 cidentally unfastened. It is not liable to tear the goods or cause runs in the material, and having no outwardly projecting parts is practically invisible when in use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is— 30

1. In a garment supporter, a body, a leaf hinged to the lower part of said body, a second leaf pivoted to said body above the point of attachment of said lower leaf, said
35 leaves adapted when closed to overlap each other with the upper leaf between the lower leaf and the body and a fastening device adapted to releasably secure said leaves in closed position. 40

2. In a garment supporter, a body, a leaf hinged to the lower end of said body, said leaf having a soft outer edge, a second leaf pivoted to said body above the point of attachment of said lower leaf and having a
45 soft outer edge, said leaves adapted when closed to overlap each other and said body, and a fastening device adapted to removably secure the free end of said lower leaf to said body, for the purposes set forth. 50

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK JAMES FULTON.

Witnesses:

ALBERT PATTERSON,
STANLEY BREAUGH.