June 7, 1938. E. F. ROBERTS ET AL 2,119,602

RIDING BREECHES AND THE LIKE

Filed June 26, 1937

Fig. 1.

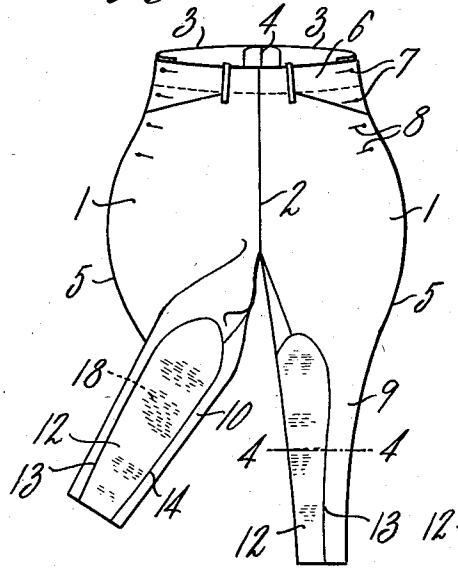


Fig. 2.

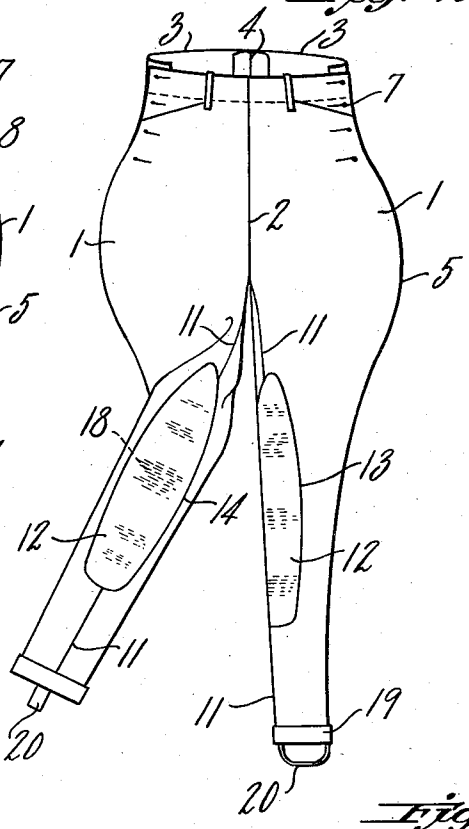


Fig. 3.

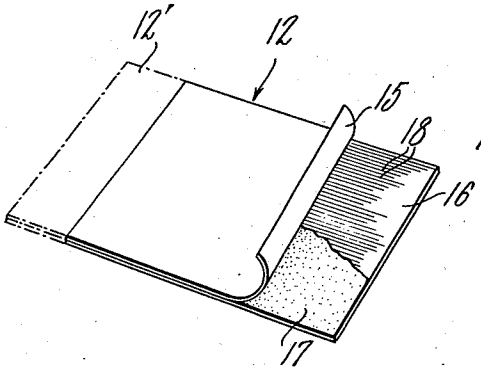
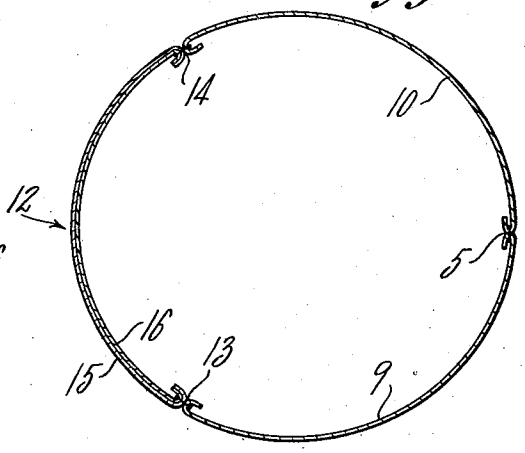


Fig. 4.



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RIDING BREECHES AND THE LIKE

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Application June 26, 1937, Serial No. 150,450

6 Claims. (Cl. 2—227)

This invention while applicable to various garments relates more particularly to riding breeches and jodhpurs where a tight or snug fit is desired in the vicinity of the knee and calf, and the protection afforded by leather is desired along the inside of the leg in the vicinity of the knee to take the wear of the saddle.

The present invention contemplates an extremely simple and practical construction whereby this leather protection along the inside of the leg is provided and a snug but comfortable fit of the garment about the knee and calf of the leg is secured.

In the Alfred Vamos application Serial No. 133,122 filed March 26, 1937 there is shown, described and claimed a stretchable laminated leather fabric consisting of a leather sheet that has been treated to cause it to have a substantial range of stretch and which is provided with a backing of elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it. Such stretchable laminated leather fabric is admirably adapted for use in carrying out this invention.

In accordance with the present invention the desired protection along the inside of the leg and the improved fit of the garment about the calf and in the vicinity of the knee are readily secured by cutting away each leg of the garment in the vicinity of the knee and calf and by securing in this cut away portion an insert formed of the above mentioned stretchable laminated leather fabric.

Such a garment will possess a number of advantages over the breeches or jodhpurs provided heretofore and having a leather patch at the inside of the leg. In the first place since the stretchable leather fabric above mentioned may have any desired stretch up to 50% or more this stretch and contractive force in the leg encircling direction will cause the leg of the garment to fit neatly and snugly about the calf of the leg without exerting an uncomfortable binding pressure. In the second place since the present leather fabric is not sewed to the garment in the form of a patch overlying the fabric of the garment, but is used as an insert placed in a cut-out portion of the garment a better seam and neater appearing garment will be produced; and furthermore the use of this elastic leather fabric serves to make the leg portion of the garment elastic just where it is most desired.

The above and other features of the invention will be more further understood from the following description when read in connection with the accompanying drawing illustrating good practical forms thereof.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a pair of lady's riding breeches embodying the present invention, one leg of the garment being twisted to show the leather insert along the inner side of the leg;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of a pair of jodhpurs embodying the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a piece of stretchable, laminated leather fabric used in carrying out the present invention; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

The present invention may be employed in connection with various types of trousers or in the sleeves of a coat or jacket, when it is desired to provide both the stretch and leather protection of the present construction in the vicinity of a knee or at the elbow of a garment. The present construction, however, is particularly well adapted for use in riding breeches and jodhpurs.

Referring to the construction of Fig. 1, the upper portion of the breeches may have the usual or any preferred construction and as here shown the front of the breeches is formed of the panels 1 secured together along the vertical front seam 2. The rear of the garment is formed of the rear panels 3, sewed together along a vertical central seam 4. The front panels 1 and rear panels 3 are secured together at the sides of the garment along the vertical seams 5. These side seams 5 in the construction shown terminate some distance below the waist band 6 to provide for the side fastening means such as buttons 7 and button holes 8 in the vicinity of the hips.

The breeches of Fig. 1 may extend downwardly the usual distance below the knee and each front panel 1 is shown as having a leg portion 9 of reduced width extending downwardly to the end of the leg, and each rear panel 3 is likewise provided with a portion 10 of reduced width extending downwardly to the bottom or hem of the leg as shown. The front leg portion and rear leg portion may be connected below the crotch by the in-seam 11.

The upper portion of these breeches may be constructed as usual, and as a matter of fact the riding breeches of Fig. 1 need not differ in any way from the ordinary riding breeches now in use, except that each leg portion thereof is cut away at the inside of the leg from a point above the knee downwardly to the bottom of the leg. The amount of the leg portion thus cut away

will depend upon the size of the leg area in which it is desired to provide the combined leather protection and contractive force of the present invention. In the construction shown the portion of the leg cut away is about the size of the leather patch which is commonly provided at the inside of the leg, except that in the present construction the cut away portion of the leg extends downwardly to the bottom of the leg. Within this cut away portion of each leg is provided an insert of stretchable laminated leather fabric 12. This insert 12 may be sewed to the front leg portion 9 of the breeches along the seam 13 and may be sewed to the rear leg portion 10 along the seam 14, using the flat seam shown in Fig. 4. As a result of this construction the desired protection afforded by leather is provided along the inside of the leg of the breeches in the vicinity of the knee and calf, while at the same time this portion of each leg is rendered elastic or stretchable in the leg encircling direction to cause the garment to fit snugly but comfortably about the calf and knee of the wearer.

The stretchable laminated leather fabric 12 having any desired amount of stretch up to 50% or more may be constructed, as pointed out in the above mentioned Vamos application by taking a sheet or skin of ordinary tanned leather of the type that has been commonly used heretofore to provide the usual patch at the inside of the legs of riding breeches or jodhpurs. Such leather may then be skived at its flesh side or otherwise treated to improve the penetration of liquid into the leather. This tanned leather sheet may then be rendered stretchable to a pronounced degree by soaking the same for a few minutes in water which has had dissolved therein about equal quantities of common salt and bicarbonate of soda, or instead of soaking the tanned leather in this liquid the leather may be simply wetted with this liquid for a few minutes. After subjecting the leather to this wetting treatment for a few minutes it should be wiped off to remove any excess deposits of the salt or soda from the faces thereof, and is then permitted to dry in an unstretched condition. When the leather has been dried it will be found that it can be stretched in any direction to a substantial degree, but that it will tend to remain in this stretched or extended condition unless means is provided for returning it to its former contracted condition. The treated stretchable leather is therefore provided with a backing of elastic fabric to normally hold the leather in its contracted condition.

A piece of this stretchable laminated leather fabric 12 is illustrated in Fig. 3, wherein the treated leather sheet 15 is shown as partly rolled back to show the underlying backing fabric 16 which is firmly secured to the leather by an elastic cement such for example, as latex cement 17. The elastic fabric 16 is preferably a woven elastic fabric provided with the elastic thread 18 either as warped or weft. The elastic threads 18 may be constructed as described in the Adamson Patent No. 1,822,847. The leather insert 12 should be so arranged in the leg of the garment that the elastic threads 18 will extend in the leg encircling direction as will be apparent from Fig. 1. The dot and dash lines 12' in Fig. 3 are intended to convey the idea that the fabric 12 is stretchable. This leather fabric 12 will remain smooth and free from wrinkles throughout its range of stretch.

The jodhpurs illustrated in Fig. 2 may be constructed the same as the breeches of Fig. 1, except for the increase in the length of the legs of the garment. The jodhpurs are shown as having the leg portion 9 of the front panel and leg portion 10 of the rear panel as extending downwardly to the cuff 19 and each cuff may have extending downwardly therefrom the usual strap 20.

In the construction of Fig. 2 the trouser legs are cut away adjacent the in-seam 11 from a point above the knee to a point below the calf and in this cut away portion is inserted the stretchable leather 12. These inserts 12 will protect the leg of the rider from the friction of the saddle and will also contract this portion of the leg of the garment about the knee and calf to give the garment a snug fit in this vicinity.

The leather 12 if desired may be perforated for ventilating purposes. It is found in practice that small perforations may be cut through the leather and underlying elastic fabric without appreciably weakening the strength of either the leather or the fabric since the firmness with which the elastic fabric is woven and the binding action of the adhesive 17 will prevent slippage of the rubber threads 18 which may have been cut by the perforating operation.

The features of the present invention may be employed not only in trousers, breeches and jodhpurs, but also in coats and jackets. For example, the coat or jacket worn in target shooting is frequently provided with a leather patch at the elbow to protect the arm when the elbow rests upon the ground. The elbow vicinity of these jackets might well be provided with the stretchable leather fabric of the present invention. This stretchable fabric 12 may also be used in other types of garments where the protecting property and elasticity of the present fabric is desired.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim and desire to protect by Letters Patent is:

1. A pair of breeches or jodhpurs provided with legs extending below the knees and each leg having a transversely stretchable portion in the vicinity of the knee, said stretchable portion consisting of a stretchable insert or area formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the leg embracing direction and backed throughout with woven elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it.

2. A pair of trousers, breeches or jodhpurs provided with legs extending below the knees and each leg having a transversely stretchable portion consisting of a stretchable insert or area formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the leg encircling direction and backed throughout with elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it.

3. A pair of breeches or jodhpurs provided with legs extending below the knees and adapted snugly to embrace the leg of the wearer in the vicinity of the knee and calf and provided in said vicinity with an insert formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the leg embracing direction and backed throughout with elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it.

4. A pair of fabric trousers, breeches or jodhpurs provided with leg portions extending below the knee, each leg portion having an area thereof cut away in the vicinity of the knee and having secured in said cut away area an insert formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the leg encircling direction and backed throughout with elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it.

5. A garment having long tubular limb-embracing portions, each limb embracing portion being partially cut away in the vicinity of the bend of the limb and having secured in said cut away portion an insert formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the limb embracing direction and backed throughout with elastic fabric secured to the leather to contract it.

6. A garment having long tubular limb-embracing portions, each limb embracing portion being provided in the vicinity of the bend of the limb with an insert formed of a flat sheet of leather having a substantial stretch in the limb embracing direction and provided with a sheet of elastic fabric adhesively secured to the entire inner face of the leather to contract it.

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