The belt kit that comprises a belt body adapted and configured to extend at least substantially around a person’s waist. The belt kit further comprises at least two interchangeable covers that are distinctive in appearance from each other and that are each configured and adapted to be attached to and supported by the belt body in a manner such that the cover at least partially conceals the belt body when the belt body is being worn around a person’s waist. The kit provides a method for people to construct a plurality of visually distinguishable belt assemblies for aesthetically coordinating their apparel using only a single belt body.
ALTERABLE BELT KIT AND METHOD OF ALTERING THE APPEARANCE OF A BELT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] (1) Field of the Invention

[0002] This invention pertains to the field of belts worn as apparel. More particularly, the invention pertains to a belt kit comprising a belt body and a plurality of interchangeable covers configured to attach to the belt body. The kit provides a method for a person to create a plurality of visually distinguishable belt assemblies for aesthetically coordinating the belt assemblies with various outfits worn by the person.

[0003] (2) Description of the Related Art

[0004] Different styles and forms of belts are well known in the art. Many belts are configured to serve a functional purpose of supporting clothing, such as pants, skirts, and dresses, about a person’s waist or hips. Yet other belts are configured to be worn merely as an accessory to a person’s apparel. Regardless of whether a belt is being worn in a functional capacity or merely as an accessory, it is desirable to aesthetically match or coordinate a belt being worn with other apparel being worn. To this end, people often purchase a variety of visually distinguishable belts.

[0005] A typical belt assembly comprises a belt body and a connector configured to attach the opposite ends of the belt body to each other so as to form a loop that can extend around a person’s waist. The belt body of a belt assembly is often formed of materials such as leather, plastic, chain, fabric, or a combination thereof. Likewise, typical connectors are formed of metal, plastic, or fabric and can vary widely in appearance. By forming the belt bodies and connectors of different materials and/or by providing the belt bodies and connectors with different finishes, textures, shapes, and/or colors, a wide range of visually distinguishable belt bodies can be formed.

[0006] Despite the availability of numerous visually distinguishable belt assemblies, people often limit the number of belts they own due to the costs associated with purchasing numerous belts and the space required for storing such belts when the belts are not being worn. Thus, there remains a need for an economical means of owning a plurality of visually distinguishable belt assemblies and a need for reducing the space required to store a plurality of belts.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The belt kit of the present invention overcomes the disadvantages associated with prior art belts by providing a kit that is used to change the appearance of a single belt body. The kit includes a plurality of interchangeable covers that are visually distinguishable from each other and that are configured to attach to the belt body of a belt assembly so as to alter the appearance of the belt assembly. Using the belt kit of the present invention, a person can construct a plurality of visually distinguishable belt assemblies using only a single belt body. Furthermore, although the belt kit may include a conventional belt body having an attached connector, the kit may alternatively comprise a plurality of interchangeable, visually distinguishable connectors that are selectively attachable to a single belt body. The plurality of connectors multiplies the number of visually distinguishable belt assemblies that can be formed using the belt kit. Additionally, because the covers and connectors are relatively inexpensive compared to a typical prior art belt assembly, the belt kit of the present invention provides an economic means of owning a plurality of visually distinctive belt assemblies. Furthermore, the belt kit of the invention requires much less storage space than would the number of conventional belts required to achieve similar results.

[0008] In general, the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a belt body having opposite first and second end portions and a length that is dimensioned to extend at least partially around a person’s waist. The belt kit also includes at least two interchangeable covers that are distinctive in appearance from each other. Each of the covers is configured and adapted to be selectively and releasably attached to and supported by the belt body. When attached to the belt body, each cover conceals at least a portion of the belt body when the belt body is being worn around a person’s waist. Yet further, the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises at least two connectors that are distinctive in appearance from each other. Each of the connectors is adapted and configured to releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body in a manner such that the belt body can be worn around a person’s waist.

[0009] The method of altering the appearance of a belt in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises the step of providing a belt body having longitudinally opposite first and second end portions and a length that is dimensioned to extend at least partially around a person’s waist. Furthermore, the method comprises the steps of providing at least first and second interchangeable covers that are distinctive in appearance from each other and attaching the first cover to the belt body in a manner such that the first cover conceals at least a substantial portion of the belt body. The method of altering the appearance of a belt further comprises the steps of removing the first cover from the belt body and then attaching the second cover to the belt body in a manner such that the second cover conceals at least a portion of the belt body. Yet further, the method of altering the appearance of a belt comprises the steps of providing first and second connectors that are distinctive in appearance from each other and attaching the first connector to the belt body. Still further, the method comprises the steps of removing the first connector from the belt body, and then attaching the second connector to the belt body.

[0010] While the principle advantages and features of the invention have been described above, a more complete and thorough understanding of the invention may be attained by referring to the drawings and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments which follow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a belt assembly in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention showing a connector attached to a belt body and a cover surrounding the belt body.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the belt body of the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of two connectors of the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention.
FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the belt body of FIG. 2 shown joined to the connector of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of two covers of the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a plan view of a partially constructed cover of the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention.

FIG. 7 is a rear plan view of the cover of FIG. 5 shown turned inside-out.

Reference characters in the written specification indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention comprises a belt body, a plurality of interchangeable connectors, and a plurality of interchangeable belt body covers. By interchanging connectors and covers, a plurality of belt assemblies can be formed, each comprising the belt body, one of the connectors, and one of the covers. Each of the covers is visually distinguishable from the others as is each of the connectors such that numerous visually distinguishable belt assemblies can be formed. Thus, the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention allows a person to form a variety of belts to match the various outfits he or she wears, in lieu of purchasing numerous individual belts at significant costs.

In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention, a belt assembly 10 comprising the belt body 12, one of the connectors 14, and one of the covers 16, is shown in FIG. 1. When assembled, the cover 16 closely conforms around the belt body 12, providing the belt assembly 10 with the appearance of a conventional belt. The belt kit includes at least two belt covers 16,16' as shown in FIG. 5, and at least two connectors 14,14' as shown in FIG. 3. The kit could include a greater number of belt covers and connectors. Because the belt covers and connectors are visually different but structurally the same, only one cover 16 and one connector 14 will be described in detail.

The belt body 12 utilized with the preferred embodiment of the belt kit has the general shape of a strap and is preferably formed of leather, vinyl, plastic, or other suitable materials known in the art for producing belts. The belt body 12 has a longitudinal length that extends from a first end portion 18 to a second end portion 20. The first end portion 18 of the belt body 12 has a slot 22 for securing mechanisms as described below, and a pair of cooperating fasteners 26. The slot 22 is oval in shape and is positioned between the cover securing mechanisms 24 that are themselves positioned between the cooperating fasteners 26. Each of the cover securing mechanisms 24 preferably comprises a rectangular patch of VEILCRO® type fastener material sewn to the belt body 12. The cooperating fasteners 26 preferably comprise a pair of cooperation male and female snaps of the type commonly used on garments. The snaps are attached to the belt body 12 by conventional means known in the art for attaching such snaps. The opposite second end portion 20 of the belt body 12 has a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes 28 that extend through the thickness of the belt body. A tapered tip 30 is provided at the distal end of the second end portion 20.

The connectors 14 of the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention are preferably each formed of a metal such as steel, silver, or brass. As shown in FIG. 3, each connector 14 is preferably a conventional buckle type connector having a loop 32 and a line 34. As with conventional buckles, the line 34 is preferably pivotally secured at one of its ends to a cylindrical rod portion 35 of the loop 32.

Each of the covers 16 of the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention, as shown in FIG. 5, comprises a sleeve 36. The sleeve 36 of each of the covers 16 has a length with longitudinally opposite first 38 and second 40 ends. The sleeve is preferably constructed from a rectangular piece of resiliently stretchable fabric 42, such as spandex, as shown in FIG. 6. A plurality of eyelets 44 are added to the piece of fabric 42 in a manner such that the eyelets form two parallel rows 46 of axially spaced eyelets on opposite sides of a fold line F-F as shown in FIG. 6. The number of eyelets 44 in each of the rows 46 corresponds to the number of spaced holes 28 of the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12. The rows of eyelets 46 and the fold line F-F are offset toward one of the longitudinal edges 48 of the piece of fabric 42 to provide for a desired positioning of a seam in the cover 16 which is explained below.

The piece of fabric 42 is then folded about the fold line F-F centered between the rows 46 of eyelets 44 so that the rows of eyelets are aligned with each other. This also positions the longitudinal edges 48 of the piece of fabric adjacent each other so that they can be sewn together. By offsetting the rows 46 of the eyelets 44 and the fold line F-F toward one of the longitudinal edges 48 of the piece of fabric as described above, the seam 50 created by sewing the longitudinal edges together is positioned entirely on one side of the sleeve 36 when the two rows of eyelets are aligned with one another as shown in FIG. 7. This is done so that the seam can be positioned toward the belt wearer and concealed from view when the belt assembly is being worn.

The longitudinal edges 48 of the piece of fabric sewn together and the two rows 46 of eyelets 44 aligned, the second end 40 of the sleeve 36 is sewn shut. As shown in FIG. 7, the second end is sewn in a manner to provide the second end of the sleeve with a shape corresponding to the tapered tip 30 of the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12. The first end 38 of the sleeve 36 is left open, thereby providing an opening 52 to an interior 54 of the sleeve. Additionally, a pair of cover securing mechanisms 56 are attached adjacent the first end 38 of the sleeve 36 on opposite sides of the sleeve. The cover securing mechanisms 56 are preferably rectangular patches of VEILCRO® type fasteners configured to releasably attach to the VEILCRO® type fasteners of the cover securing mechanisms 24 of the belt body 12. The fasteners can be adhered to the sleeve 36 but preferably are sewn thereto.

With the sleeve 36 of the cover 16 assembled as described above and as shown in FIG. 7, the sleeve is then turned inside-out such that the seams are less visible and such that the cover attachment mechanisms are positioned on the inside of the sleeve of the cover. Once the sleeve 36 is turned inside-out, construction of the cover 16 is complete.

Each belt assembly 10 constructed from the preferred embodiment of the belt kit of the invention is assembled by first selecting a particular one of the connec-
tors 14 and a particular one of the covers 16 to be assembled to the belt body 12. The tine 34 of the connector 14 is then inserted through the slot 22 of the first end portion 18 of the belt body 12 from the back side of the belt body until the rod portion 35 of the loop 32 engages the back side of the belt body. The first end portion 18 of the belt body 12 is then folded over itself about the rod portion 35 of the loop 32 as shown in FIG. 4. When this is done, the cooperating fasteners 26 of the first end portion 18 of the belt body 12 are aligned with one another and can be releasably fastened to each other to secure the connector 14 to the belt body. It should be appreciated that when the cooperating fasteners 26 are fastened to each other, the cover securing mechanisms 52 are each positioned on opposite sides of the belt body 12 from each other.

[0028] With the connector 14 secured to the belt body 12 as described above, the selected cover 16 is then attached to the belt body by first inserting the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12 through the opening 52 at the first end 38 of the slot 32 and into the interior 54 of the sleeve 36. It should be appreciated that, as this is done, the side of the sleeve 36 having the longitudinal seam 50 is preferably positioned adjacent the back side of the belt body 12. The belt body 12 is then further inserted through the interior 54 of the sleeve 36 until the second end portion 20 of the belt body eventually engages the second end 40 of the sleeve. The first end 38 of the sleeve 36 is then pulled toward the first end portion 18 of the belt body 12 until the cover securing mechanisms 56 of the sleeve are aligned with the cover securing mechanisms 24 of the belt body. Finally, the belt assembly 10 is completed by engaging the cover securing mechanisms 56 of the sleeve 36 with the cover securing mechanisms 24 of the belt body 12 to secure the first end 38 of the sleeve to the first end portion 18 of the belt body.

[0029] It should be appreciated that the sleeve 36 of the cover 16 is dimensioned and configured such that the sleeve is resiliently stretched, both circumferentially around the belt body 12 and longitudinally from its first end 38 to its second end 40, when assembled to the belt body. This ensures that the sleeve 36 conforms to the belt body 12 without forming undesirable wrinkles or sags that would detract from the aesthetic appearance of the belt assembly 10. It should also be appreciated that the eyelets 44 of sleeve 36 are positioned on the sleeve such that each spaced hole 28 in the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12 has an eyelet aligned therewith and positioned on either side thereof.

[0030] Once assembled as described above, the belt assembly 10 can be worn in a manner similar to a conventional belt. To wear the belt assembly 10, the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12 is passed around the wearer's waist and partially through the loop 32 of the connector 14. The connector 14 is then releasably secured to the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12 by passing the tine 34 of the connector 14 through one of the spaced holes 28 of the second end portion and the pair of eyelets 44 aligned therewith. Adjustments to the circumferential dimension of the belt assembly 10 can be made by passing the tine 34 of the connector 14 through an alternative one of the spaced holes 28 of the second end portion 20 of the belt body 12.

[0031] As mentioned above, the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a plurality of connectors 14, 14' and a plurality of covers 16, 16' with each of the covers and each of the connectors being distinct in appearance. Thus, the appearance of the belt assembly 10 can easily be changed by replacing the connector 14 and/or the cover 16 of the belt assembly 10 with an alternative one of the covers and/or connectors. This is done by simply reversing the assembly procedure of the belt assembly 10 as described above and then reassembling the belt assembly using a different connector 14, 14' and/or cover 16, 16'. By selecting a particular connector 14, 14' and a particular cover 16, 16' to match a particular outfit, a person can quickly construct a belt assembly 10 that is ideally suited for the outfit without having to purchase and store the numerous convention belts that would otherwise be required. Thus, the belt kit of the preferred embodiment of the invention provides an economic advantage over conventional belts presently available. Furthermore, it is believed that the act of altering the appearance of the belt assembly 10 would be entertaining and enjoyable to many persons, especially young girls.

[0032] In view of the above, it will be seen that the several objects of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results attained. However, it should be appreciated that numerous alternative embodiments of the belt kit of the invention could be constructed and numerous alternative methods of altering the appearance of a belt in accordance with the invention could be performed without departing from the scope of the invention.

[0033] As an example of an alternative embodiment, the belt body of the belt kit of the preferred embodiment is specifically configured to be selectively and releasably attached to a plurality of buckle-style connectors, and yet various other styles of connectors, releasably attachable or not, could also be used. Such other styles of connectors are well known in the art and include items such as clasps, buttons, lace, VELCRO® type fasteners, hook-and-loops, quick-releases, snaps, zippers, magnets, and other devices known in the art. It should also be understood that the belt body of the kit of the invention could be configured without the various specific features of the preferred embodiment that are attributable to the detachable buckle-style connectors. Likewise, it should be understood and appreciated that alternative belt bodies could have other features specifically adapted for the particular connector being used therewith.

[0034] Aside from the alternatives mentioned above, it should be appreciated that the covers of the belt kit need not necessarily have sleeve portions, as does the preferred embodiment. As an example of an alternative cover, the cover could comprise a shroud portion which merely conceals a substantial portion of one side of the belt body, since only one side of the belt body would normally otherwise be exposed when the belt body is being worn. Furthermore, it should be appreciated that not all of the belt body necessarily needs to be concealed by the cover to change the appearance of the belt assembly and thus, the cover could have openings that expose portions of the belt body.

[0035] Yet further, it should be appreciated that even alternative embodiments of the belt kit that comprises a cover having a sleeve portion and buckle-type connector, similar to the preferred embodiment, could utilize and comprise various alternative features for releasably securing the connector and the cover to the belt body. Such features could include fasteners such as clasps, buttons, lace, VELCRO® type fasteners, hook-and-loops, quick-releases, snaps, zippers, magnets, and other devices known in the art. It should also be understood that the belt body of the kit of the invention could be configured without the various specific features of the preferred embodiment that are attributable to the detachable buckle-type connectors. Likewise, it should be understood and appreciated that alternative belt bodies could have other features specifically adapted for the particular connector being used therewith.
CRO® type fasteners, hook-and-loops, quick-releases, snaps, zippers, or magnets as discussed above and could also include other less conventional devices. For example, the sleeve of the cover could include an elastic annular member sewn around its first end and the belt body could have a necked portion around its first end portion. In this configuration, the elastic member could be positioned in or around the necked portion of the belt body to secure the first end of the sleeve of the cover to the first end portion of the belt body when the cover is attached to the belt body. As yet another alternative, the first end of the sleeve of the cover could have a pair of tabs extending longitudinally from its front side. Such tabs could be configured to wrap around the edge of the first end portion of the belt body where they could then be attached to the back side of the sleeve so as to secure the first end of the sleeve to the first end portion of the belt body. Thus, it should be understood that numerous features of the preferred embodiment could be eliminated and others added in various alternative embodiments of the invention.

[0036] While the present invention has been described in reference to specific embodiments, in light of the foregoing, it should be understood that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings is intended to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense and that various modifications and variations of the invention may be constructed without departing from the scope of the invention defined by the following claims. Furthermore, it should be understood that when introducing elements of the present invention in the claims or in the above description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention, the terms “comprising,” “including,” and “having” are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements other than the listed elements.

What is claimed:

1. A belt kit comprising:
   a belt body, the belt body having a longitudinal length and lateral width, the longitudinal length of the belt body having opposite first and second end portions, the belt body being flexible to enable the belt body to be wrapped at least partially around a person's waist;
   a connector, the connector being adapted and configured to releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body in a manner such that the belt body can be worn around a person's waist; and
   a plurality of interchangeable covers, each of the covers being adapted and configured to be selectively and releasably attached to and supported by the belt body in a manner such that the cover conceals at least a portion of the belt body when the belt body is being worn around a person's waist, at least two of the plurality of the covers being different from each other.

2. The belt kit as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

3. The belt kit as set forth in claim 3, wherein:
   the sleeve is constructed from a single piece of resiliently flexible material having laterally opposite parallel longitudinal edges that are sewn to each other along a longitudinal seam to form the sleeve, the sleeve being dimensioned such that the sleeve is resiliently stretched to conform around the belt body when the belt body is inserted into the sleeve, the seam of the sleeve being positioned on the sleeve so that the seam can be concealed when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve and the belt body is being worn around a person's waist.

4. The belt kit as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
   the sleeve is constructed from a single piece of resiliently flexible material having laterally opposite parallel longitudinal edges that are sewn to each other along a longitudinal seam to form the sleeve, the sleeve being dimensioned such that the sleeve is resiliently stretched to conform around the belt body when the belt body is inserted into the sleeve, the seam of the sleeve being positioned on the sleeve so that the seam can be concealed when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve and the belt body is being worn around a person's waist.

5. The belt kit as set forth in claim 2, wherein:
   the connector comprises a buckle attached to the first end portion of the belt body and a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes that extend through the second end portion of the belt body, the buckle comprising at least one of the following: a buckle comprising a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes that are positioned on the sleeve where the holes will be aligned with the holes of the belt body when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve, each of the holes of the sleeve thereby allowing the buckle to extend through one of the holes of the belt body when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve and the belt body is being worn around a person's waist.

6. The belt kit as set forth in claim 5, wherein:
   the second end of the sleeve is closed in a manner such that the second end portion of the belt body will engage the second end of the sleeve in the sleeve interior and will thereby be prevented from passing through the second end of the sleeve when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve.

7. The belt kit as set forth in claim 6, wherein:
   the connector comprises a buckle attached to the first end portion of the belt body and a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes that extend through the second end portion of the belt body, the buckle comprising at least one of the following: a buckle comprising a plurality of longitudinally spaced holes that are positioned on the sleeve where the holes will be aligned with the holes of the belt body when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve, each of the holes of the sleeve thereby allowing the buckle to extend through one of the holes of the belt body when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve and the belt body is being worn around a person's waist.

8. The belt kit as set forth in claim 7, wherein:
   at least one cover further comprises a releasable securing mechanism attached to the first end of the sleeve, the securing mechanism being configured and adapted to selectively and releasably secure the first end of the sleeve to the first end portion of the belt body when the belt body is inserted in the sleeve.

9. The belt as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
   at least two of the plurality of the covers are different in color from each other.

10. The belt kit as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
   the connector constitutes a first connector, the belt kit further comprising at least one second connector being adapted and configured to releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body in a manner such that the belt body can be worn around a person's waist, the first and second connectors being different in appearance from each other.
11. A method of altering the appearance of a belt comprising:

providing a belt body having a longitudinal length and lateral width, the longitudinal length of the belt body having longitudinally opposite first and second end portions of the belt body, the belt body being flexible to enable the belt body to be wrapped at least partially around a person’s waist;

providing at least first and second interchangeable covers, the first and second covers being different in appearance from each other; and

attaching the first cover to the belt body in a manner such that the first cover conceals at least a portion of the belt body.

12. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 11, further comprising:

removing the first cover from the belt body; and then

attaching the second cover to the belt body in a manner such that the second cover conceals at least a portion of the belt body.

13. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 12, wherein:

the step of providing first and second interchangeable covers comprises providing each of the first and second interchangeable covers as a flexible sleeve, the sleeve having an interior and longitudinally opposite first and second ends, the first end of the sleeve having an opening to the sleeve interior to allow the second end portion of the belt body to be longitudinally inserted into the sleeve interior through the opening; and

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise longitudinally inserting the second end portion of the belt body into the sleeve interior at the first end of the sleeve of the respective cover and passing the belt body through the interior of the sleeve until the first end portion of the belt body is positioned at least partially within the first end of the sleeve.

14. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the step of providing first and second interchangeable covers comprises providing the sleeve of each of the first and second covers with a closed second end; and

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise passing the second end portion of the belt body through the sleeve interior of the respective cover portion until the second end portion of the belt body engages the closed second end of the sleeve.

15. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 14, wherein:

the step of providing first and second interchangeable covers comprises forming the sleeve of each of the first and second covers from a resiliently stretchable material; and

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise stretching the sleeve of the respective cover to conform around the belt body when the belt body is inserted into the sleeve interior.

16. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 15, wherein:

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise axially stretching the sleeve of the respective cover once the second end portion of the belt body engages the closed second end of the sleeve in a manner such that the first end portion of the belt body can be positioned at least partially within the first end of the sleeve.

17. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 16, wherein:

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise releasably securing the first end of the sleeve of the respective cover to the first end portion of the belt body once the first end portion of the belt body is positioned at least partially within the first end of the sleeve.

18. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 12, further comprising:

providing first and second connectors, each of the first and second connectors being different from each other and each being adapted and configured to releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body in a manner such that the belt body can be worn around a person’s waist; and

attaching the first connector to the belt body in a manner such that the first connector can releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body.

19. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 18, further comprising:

removing the first connector from the belt body; and then

attaching the second connector to the belt body in a manner such that the second connector can releasably and selectively secure the first end portion of the belt body to the second end portion of the belt body.

20. The method of altering the appearance of a belt as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

the step of providing first and second interchangeable covers comprises providing each of the first and second interchangeable covers as a flexible sleeve, the sleeve having an interior and longitudinally opposite first and second ends, the first end of the sleeve having an opening to the sleeve interior to allow the second end portion of the belt body to be longitudinally inserted into the sleeve interior through the opening; and

the steps of attaching the first cover to the belt body and attaching the second cover to the belt body each comprise longitudinally inserting the second end portion of the belt body into the sleeve interior at the first end of the sleeve of the respective cover and passing the belt body through the interior of the sleeve until the first end portion of the belt body is positioned at least partially within the first end of the sleeve.

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