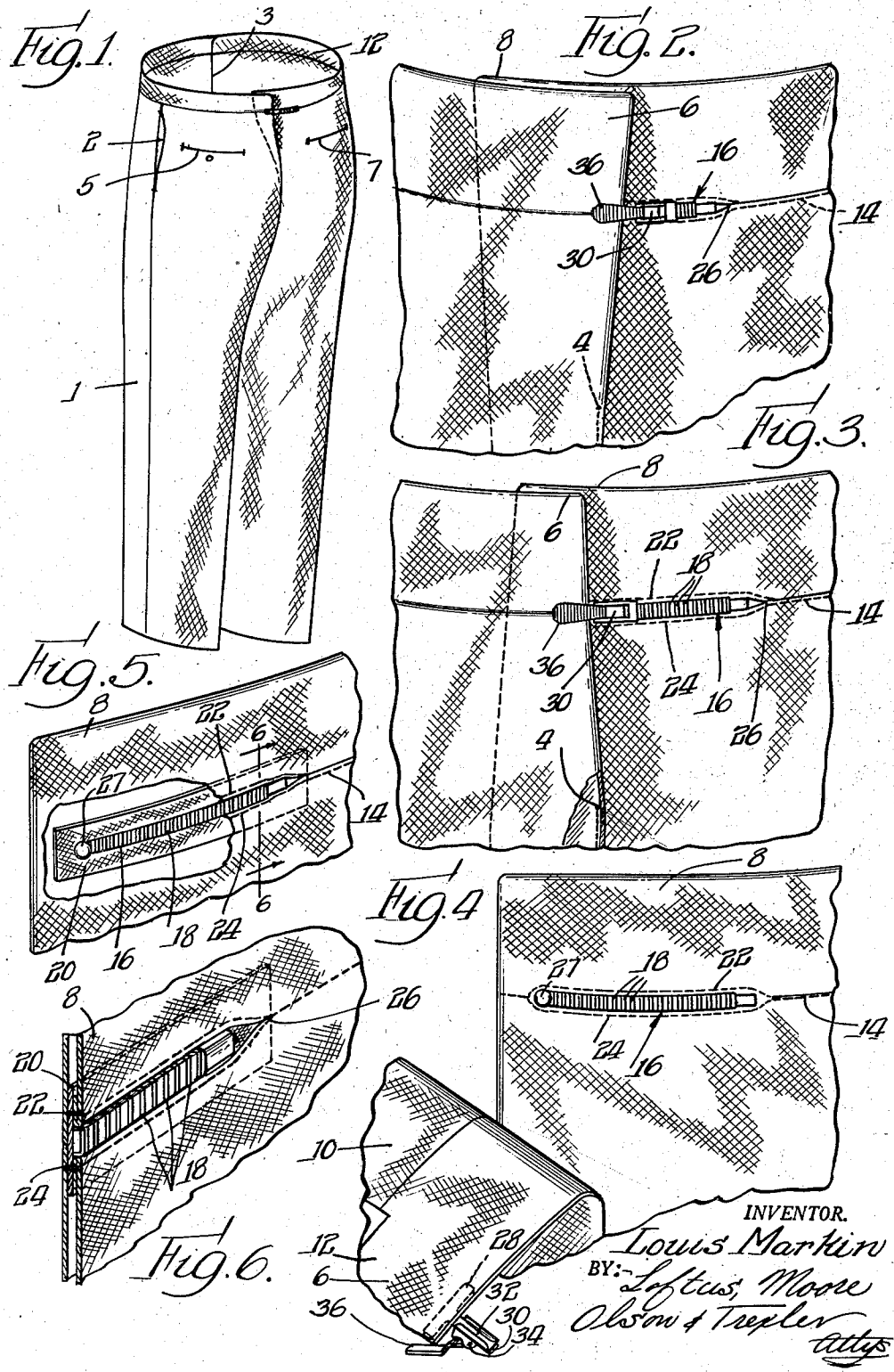
June 22, 1948. L. MARKIN 2,444,020

TROUSERS

Filed April 8, 1944 2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Fig. 7.

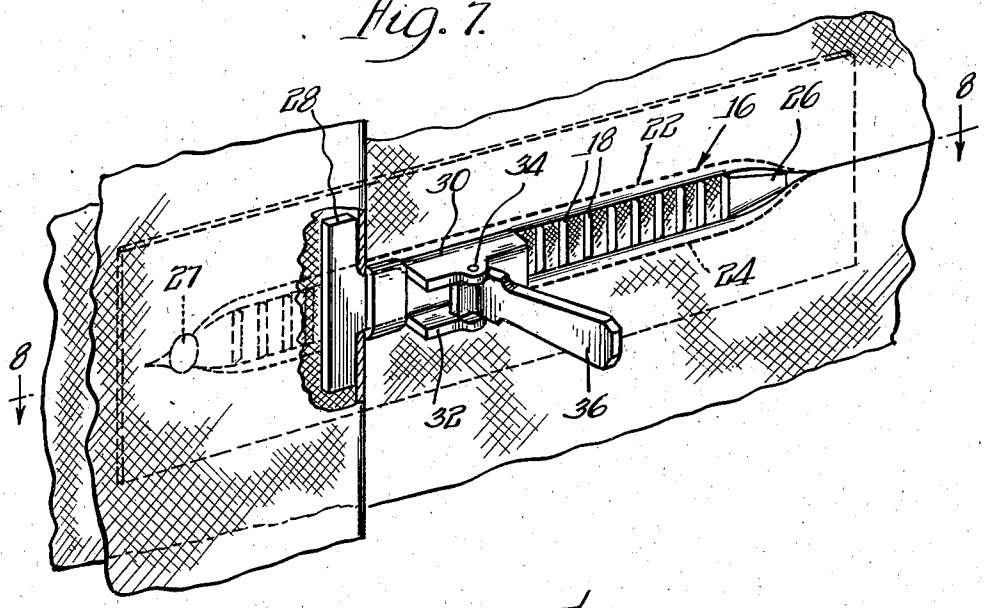


Fig. 8.

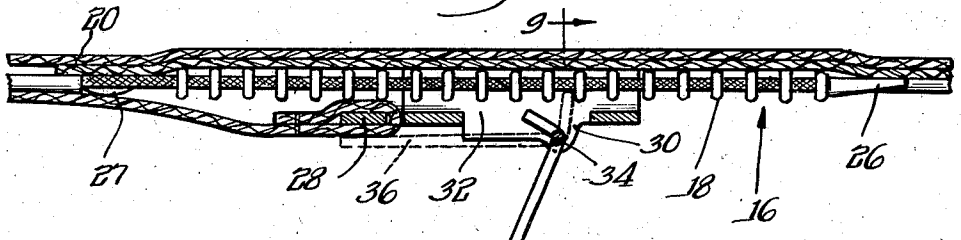
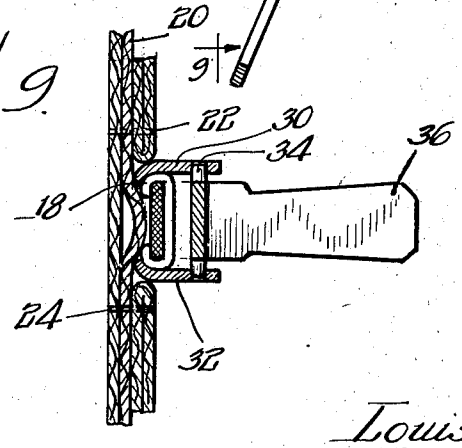


Fig. 9.



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Patented June 22, 1948 2,444,020

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,444,020

TROUSERS

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Application April 8, 1944, Serial No. 530,168

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—235)

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This invention relates to trousers, and the principal object of the invention is to provide trousers with adjustable means whereby the waistband may be adjusted within a sufficient range so that a pair of trousers may be instantly adjusted to fit the waistband of the wearer without disturbing or affecting the fit of the front part of the trousers, and whereby within a restricted range of adjustment it is unnecessary to take in or let out the trousers.

Another object of the invention resides in providing a pair of trousers with built-in means for adjusting the waistband of the trousers within a limited range of adjustment so that a particular length or size of trousers may be kept in stock by the retailer and yet can be instantly adjusted to fit a limited range of waistbands for that particular length or style, without any take in or let out, and without disturbing the normal fit or appearance of the trousers.

Yet another object of the invention resides in providing a pair of trousers or the like with a built-in waistband adjustment disposed at the back seam and arranged in such a way that the upper portion of the back seam, for a sufficient distance from the top down, comprises free, overlapping trouser flaps that are not stitched together, and which pivot from a point spaced downwardly from the top of the back seam wherein each part includes a portion of an adjustable fastener means which when interconnected may be adjusted, one relatively to the other, whereby to adjust the waistband within reasonable limits of adjustment without the necessity of permanently taking in or letting out the waistband, and whereby the normal appearance and fit of the trousers is undisturbed.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide a waistband construction for a pair of trousers having means for adjusting the size of the waistband of the trousers within a sufficient range of adjustment, the adjustment being located so that the normal fit and appearance of the trousers is not disturbed, but whereby the adjustment may be used in place of a belt or for altering the size of the waistband of the trousers, as in the case where a man takes on weight or loses weight, and which adjustment is not visible when the coat is taken off, and which adjustment does not entail the necessity of cutting the trousers in any different way from the cut of a standard pair of trousers, and which adjustment will provide at least a variation of two inches, more or less, in the size of the waistband,

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and without disturbing the normal appearance or fit of the trousers.

Further objects of the invention will be apparent from a perusal of the following specification when taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a pair of trousers, being taken from the rear to show the waistband adjusting means;

Figure 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the adjustment portion of the trousers;

Figure 3 is a view partly in section showing an adjusted position of the trousers shown in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a view showing the two flaps of the adjusting means of the trousers in open position;

Figure 5 is another view showing the trousers cut away to show the interior construction of the adjusting means;

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is an enlarged fragmentary view in perspective showing the detail of the mounting and construction of the fastening means;

Figure 8 is a view partly in section on the line 8—8 in Figure 7; and

Figure 9 is a view partly in section on the line 9—9 in Figure 8.

Referring now to the drawings and the invention in detail, the invention in general comprises means for providing an adjustment to a pair of trousers whereby it is not necessary for retail stores to keep so many different sizes of trousers on hand. At the present time, in retail stores, the retailer buys suits with differences in waist and chest sizes of four, five and six inches. The present invention resides in the construction of a pair of trousers built along the lines of the present construction of trousers, but arranged so that the waistband may be immediately adjusted for a variation in waistband of two inches, more or less, and without disturbing the fit or appearance of the trousers, whereby a retailer is enabled to purchase a much smaller number of trousers of different waistband sizes for any particular size of chest, or of any particular length and style. By this means he cuts down considerably the amount of capital invested in stock on hand.

Furthermore, the retailer also eliminates a considerable amount of expense not only to his customers, but also in repair men and tailors otherwise required for altering waistband sizes, and whereby also the public are given better service in that the stock on hand may be sold instantly, ready for wear, without the delay occasioned by

taking in or letting out waistband sizes to fit the requirements of each particular purchaser.

The means for accomplishing the hereinbefore mentioned objects is shown in the drawings, wherein in Figure 1 a pair of trousers of standard make is illustrated, having the usual side pockets 2 and front 3, and rear pockets 5 and 7, with the exception that instead of having the rear seam sewed completely to the top as is customary in other trousers, the rear seam of the trousers is sewed to the point 4 and is left free from this point to the top of the waistband, thereby providing two free flaps 6 and 8. In Figure 4 one of the folded back portions 10 on one side of the seam is folded back and stitched beneath the waistband lining 12. Preferably directly at the waistband seam 14 the free flap 8 is provided with one member of a flexible fastening device which comprises an elongated flexible track member 16 having transversely of its length a plurality of spaced apart transverse bars or stops 18, each forming one part of a locking device. The track member 16 is permanently carried upon a flexible, preferably rectangular, elongated piece or tape or fabric 20, which in the preferred form is sewed by lines of stitching 22 and 24 directly into the waistband seam. This is shown in Figure 6. One end of the flexible track member 16 terminates in a tapered or narrower end, as at 26, and the opposite end is provided with a head 27. The other flap 6 at the rear of the waistband is provided with a complementary fastening member comprising a shank 28 sewed into the waistband seam. This shank has a projecting fastener part 30 which is provided with a shiftable clamping jaw 32 pivotally mounted as at 34 to the portion 30 and shiftable by means of a lever 36, the lever having two positions, as shown in Figures 7, 8 and 9, one shown in dotted lines and another shown in solid lines, wherein the lever is swung to open position to release the clamping member. When the clamping member is swung to a flat position, as shown in dotted lines, the clamping latch is eccentrically thrown inwardly to clamp against and engage between the particular cross bars 16 of the tape 20 whereby to grip it and hold the parts from longitudinal sliding movement. When the lever 36 is swung to open position as shown in solid lines, then the slide portion 30 may slide longitudinally of the track to any adjustable position. The head 27 constitutes a stop which limits the sliding movement in one direction. When the lever 36 is swung to open position the slide member 30 may slide free from the tapered end so that that the flaps may then be opened, as shown in Figure 4. Any type of fastening member may be used, but I prefer to use the fastening means shown in the patent to Statham, 1,887,825, of November 15, 1932, or as shown in Re. 19,356, of October 30, 1934, to the same patentee.

Having in mind the construction of a pair of trousers made in accordance with the foregoing, it will be noticed that no other detail of the trouser need be altered, with the exception that the back seam is opened a short distance down from the top, for instance the stitching stops at the point 4, thus forming a pivot and forming a free flap of a length substantially four and one half inches long, one of said flaps overlying the other end and the arrangement being such that the slide member 30 can lie in any adjusted position along the length of the track to provide different adjustments for the size of the waistband, it being understood that the two flaps will relatively pivot at the point 4 which comprises the

end of the stitching of the back seam of the trousers. It will be appreciated that the only portion of the adjusting mechanism that is visible comprises a portion of the slide, the lever 36, and that portion of the track which projects beyond the edge of the overlying flap 6. The inner end of the lever 36 is provided with a lower or track engaging portion like the toe 35 of the patent to Statham 1,887,825, see Figure 9, which toe is adapted to engage between transversely spaced bar-like stops like the stop 60 of Figure 8 of said patent. The member corresponding to the toe 35 is operated by shifting the lever 36 which pivots about the pins 34 on the slide 30, see Figure 6 of the instant application.

The advantages of the present construction are many. First, any limited range of adjustment of the waistband is provided for, thereby eliminating the necessity of a tailored intake or let-out of the waistband, and whereby fewer trousers need be kept on hand. The adjustment mechanism may be utilized in place of a belt. The device may be utilized by the wearer after he has purchased the trousers to let out or take in the size of the waistband to accommodate changes in size after purchase; and all of these advantages are inherent without any other changes in construction or detail of any ordinary pair of trousers and without affecting the appearance or fit of the trousers. In fact, the appearance of the trousers is greatly enhanced, first because no buckles or straps are needed, and secondly because no belt is needed.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A pair of trousers having the usual rear seam free from stitching from a point sufficiently below the top of the waistband downwardly to provide a pair of overlapping flaps which pivot at the top of the rear seam of the trousers, one of said flaps carrying on its outer facing flexible tape provided with a series of spaced apart, transversely extending, bar-like members, said tape being sewn directly into the seam of the waistband and showing only the bar-like members through said waistband, one end of the tape having its ends tapered or converging inwardly and the opposite end of the tape including a stop, the other of said flaps including a slide adapted to enter upon that end of the tape having converging walls and to slide along said track, said slide carrying an actuating device pivotally mounted thereon and including a toe adapted to enter between any two spaced stops of the track to limit sliding movement of a slider along the track and thereby to adjust the relative positions of the flaps.

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