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GARMENT SUPPORT DEVICE

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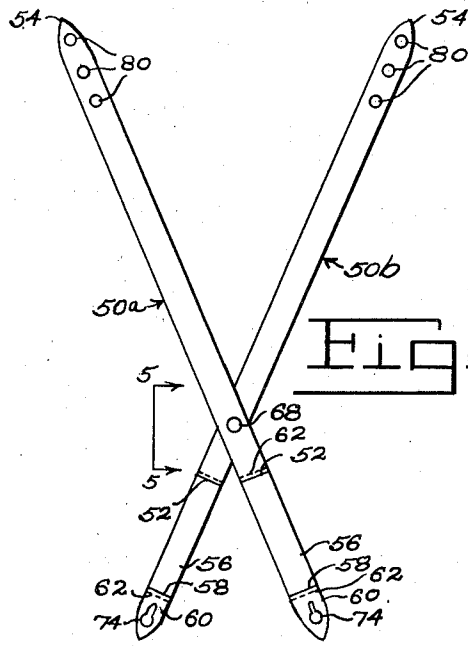


Fig-4

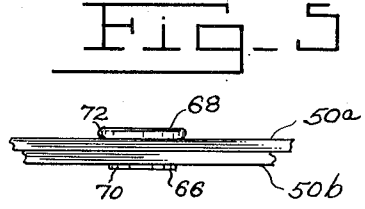


Fig-5

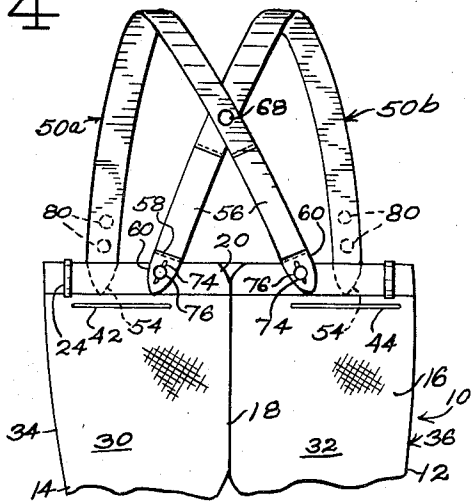


Fig-2

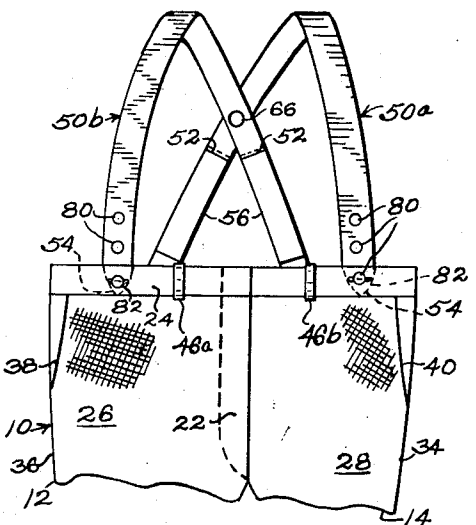


Fig-1

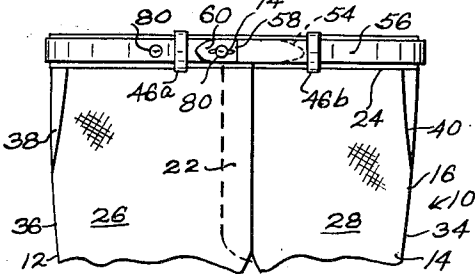


Fig-3

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2,777,134

GARMENT SUPPORT DEVICE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—301)

This invention relates to improvements in devices for supporting upon the body of the wearer, trousers, skirts and the like.

An object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment support device which includes a plurality of major elements and which are combinable in cooperative engagement with an upper marginal portion of a pair of trousers, a skirt or the like, for engaging the same with the body of the wearer, in non-rigid resilient disposition thereupon.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment support device in which there is a plurality of major elements, elongated for extension over the shoulders of the wearer, and adapted at their end portions, for cooperative prehensile engagement with upper marginal portions of a pair of trousers, skirt or the like, for supporting the same upon the body, and in which novel means is provided for releasable mutual engagement between the said major elements at locations intermediate their end portions.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment supporting device of the character described and illustrated herein, which is constructed and arranged for use in a plurality of ways, as a suspender type of garment support, and as a belt type of garment support, either mode of such use being possible without structural alteration of the device, as a result of its novel construction.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment in the nature of a pair of trousers, skirt or the like, which is provided at its upper marginal portion or waistband area, with body engaging means releasably carried thereby, said means being constructed for interchangeable use either in suspender fashion, or in belt fashion, by means of simple adjustment of the body engaging means, the trousers being thus inherently convertible from a suspenders-type trouser to a belted type trouser, and vice versa.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment of the character described, and body engaging means carried thereby, which is simple in design, inexpensive to manufacture, highly attractive in use and appearance, and in which, when used as a suspender-type trouser, the user always has at hand a belt, for use as he desires, and when used as a belted type trouser, the user can readily and easily convert it to a suspender type trouser.

Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved suspender device for apparel, which may be readily and easily converted and adjusted into a belt, the belt being adjustable for various waist sizes.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved garment and garment supporting means of the character described, which is usable as desired, for adult trousers or skirts, or for children's trousers or skirts.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description

of a preferred embodiment thereof, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, and in which,

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing the devices according to the invention, as applied to a pair of trousers, and as used as suspenders.

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the trousers of Figure 1, showing the garment supporting means in suspender type disposition thereon.

Figure 3 is a front elevational view showing the trousers with the garment supporting device arranged as a belt instead of as a suspender.

Figure 4 is a plan view showing the garment supporting means in outstretched disposition, apart from the trousers, both major elements being pivotally engaged.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary side elevational view taken substantially on viewing plane 5—5 of Figure 4.

In connection with the wearing of garments such as trousers, slacks, or skirts, the user commonly may employ means such as a belt or suspenders, for engaging the same with the body. Since the suspenders extend upwardly from the waist portion of the garment, and over the shoulders, while the belt extends only around the waist portion itself, the problems encountered in manufacturing such garment supporting devices are commonly considered widely different from each other. Many men commend the use of suspenders in supporting their trousers, as providing for somewhat more correct formal hang of the trousers when worn under a jacket, and prefer to wear suspenders under such conditions. However, when the coat or jacket is removed, either while indoors, due to the temperature of their surroundings, or for greater freedom of movement in an office or the like, or while in the home, then a problem arises, since it is commonly thought to be more correct to remove the suspenders and wear a belt when no jacket or coat is worn. As a result, many persons, who are wearing suspenders for their trousers, will hesitate to or refrain from removing their coat or jacket, since their suspenders will become visible, and will instead suffer either the excessive heat, or other inconvenience, while continuing to wear the coat.

According to the present invention, a person who likes to wear suspenders, or prefers to do so, may, if he so desires, remove his coat or jacket at any time, confident in the knowledge that he may immediately convert his trousers support from suspenders into an attractive and comfortable belt, which is adjustable to fit his waist, and, then restore it to use as a suspender when he puts on his coat again, all this without any constructional bother or need for special tools or the like. In order to understand clearly the nature of the invention, and the best means for carrying it out, reference may now be had to the drawings, in which like numerals denote similar parts throughout the several views.

As shown, there is a pair of trousers generally indicated at 10; and including trousers legs 12 and 14 which are joined at the upper portion and thus merge with the seat portion of the trousers as at 16 to accommodate the body of the wearer. At the rearward portion of the trousers, there is a permanent seam 18, which may terminate at its upper portion in a V-shaped cutout or notch 20 in some styles of trousers, and at the front as seen in Figures 1 and 3, there is a fly or placket closure as at 22, which may be formed with button and buttonhole closure construction, a slide fastener, or other convenient and well known form of such closure means.

At the upper marginal portion of the trousers, there may be formed a waistband 24, extending all around the margin of the garment, and arranged, with the placket fly to overlap slightly as shown, that is to say, the left trousers panel 26 overlaps at the fly with the underlying

leftward margin of the rightward trousers panel 28. Similarly, the rearward trousers panels 30 and 32, as seen in Figure 2, which are joined at marginal seam 18, are also joined by side seams 34 and 36 respectively, to the front panels 28 and 26. Side pockets 38 and 40, as well as rear pockets 42 and 44, may also be provided, being secured through openings formed in the various panels of the trousers, as located on the drawings, by means of suitable stitching of the pockets to the panels.

Belt loops 46a, 46b, 46c, etc., may be secured at their upper and lower ends to the various locations around the waistband 24 of the trousers, to accommodate the supporting means when used as a belt, as hereinafter described in detail. In order to engage the trousers with the body of the wearer, I provide novel trousers supporting means. As seen in Figures 4 and 5, such trousers supporting means includes a pair of elongated supporting members generally indicated at 50a and 50b. Such major elements 50a and 50b, may be made of any suitable material, which is flexible, such as cloth, fabric, leather, plastic, or other suitable material, and may be surfaced to match with or contrast with the fabric forming the trousers themselves. Thus those portions of elongated major elements 50a and 50b, which lie between locations 52 and their end tips 54, may be made of such cloth, fabric, leather or plastic material, while according to a preferred form of the invention, there may be elastic or resilient stretchable material sections as at 56, and between locations 58 and 52, with second end tips 60 secured by stitching 62 or other means, to the resilient sections 56. The tips 60 and the end portions 54 of the elongated major elements may be suitably rounded off as shown.

Intermediate portions of the two major elongated members or elements 50a and 50b are brought into mutually overlapping positions, as seen in Figures 4 and 5, and are releasably secured together making them an assembled trousers suspension unit, in the manner shown. Thus I provide cooperating male and female snap fastener elements 66 and 68, which are secured respectively to and through the overlapping portions of the elongated major elements 50b and 50a, respectively. The male snap fastener element 66 is provided on its lower end with a flange 70, and on its upper end with an upwardly projecting stud, which is adapted to snap into engagement with a matching socket carried and formed on the lower portion of the female snap fastener element 68, which, on its upper portion, is provided with a suitable roof or cap member 72.

Button-hole openings 74 are formed through each of the end tabs 60 of the elongated major elements 50a and 50b, for engagement with buttons 76 carried on the rearward portions of the waistband of the trousers as seen best in Figures 2 and 4. Similarly, a series of buttons 80 is secured in mutually interspaced relationship to the end portions near locations 54, of the major elongated elements 50a and 50b, for engagement with buttonholes 82 formed through the frontal portions of the waistband 24 of the trousers. When thus engaged, as seen in Figures 1 and 2, it is clear that the elongated elements 50a and 50b, extend over the shoulders of the wearer, in suspender fashion, to support the trousers on his body, and that the length of the suspender type supporting means is adjustable by selection of the desired button 80 which is to engage the buttonholes 82. In addition, the resilient insert sections 56 permit yielding when needed, without binding. As seen in Figure 1, the tips 54 of the suspender elements may be inserted inside the waistband, with the buttons 80 projecting through the buttonhole 82 as selected, and as seen in Figure 2, the tabs 60 may be

outside the waistband, with the buttons 76 projecting therethrough as shown.

When the wearer finds it necessary or desirable to wear a belt type trousers supporting means, it is only necessary to unsnap the snap fastener elements 66 and 68, separating the two major elements 50a and 50b from each other. Since each of the elements 50a and 50b is of a length approximating the length of a belt which would be needed to encircle the waist of the wearer, it is seen that he can now take either of the separated members 50a or 50b, and use it belt fashion, by inserting it through the belt loops 46a, 46b, etc., in the manner shown in Figure 3. As thus seen, the end 54 of the member 50a, is overlapped by the tabs 60, and one of the buttons 80 is engaged in a corresponding manner, in the buttonhole 74 of the tab 60. The elastic section 56 now provides elasticity for the belt, and there is the utmost of convenience. Also, the user has two belts, which he can interchange at will, or combine them again as explained above, for use suspender fashion.

While the device can be used on mens trousers, and slacks, it is also usable on childrens slacks, and likewise on girls' skirts, being secured thereto at the waistband in the manner described hereinabove. At low cost, the consumer is provided with a combination device at no greater cost than that which he would pay for either a suspender or belt alone.

Although I have described my invention in specific terms, it will be understood that various changes may be made in size, shape, materials and arrangement without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:

A garment support device for use as a suspender and a belt, comprising a first major garment elongated support means, a second major garment elongated support means, complementary snap fastener element means carried jointly by both said elongated support means intermediate their end portions, and adapted for snap pivotal releasable engagement when disposed in mutually overlapping suspender type disposition, said major elongated support means being of equal overall length, and sufficiently long to encircle the waist of the wearer when separated and in mutually overlapping belt-like relation, said major elongated support means being constructed and arranged for sequential alternate wearing as a belt and as suspenders, a plurality of spaced button means carried on a first end portion of each of said garment support means for selective engagement with buttonholes carried on a waist portion of a garment, resilient extension members carried at the second end portions of said major elongated support means outwardly of their said location of releasable pivotal mutual engagement, for allowing their overall length to be increased upon application of stretching force, and end tab means carried on the outer ends of said resilient extension members, said end tab means having buttonholes formed therein for direct engagement with buttons carried on opposite waist portions of a garment to be supported, said resilient extension members being free of any covering or encasement.

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