

*Kirby*

Sept. 2, 1941.

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2,254,863

SUSPENSORY FOR UNDERGARMENTS

Filed April 22, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

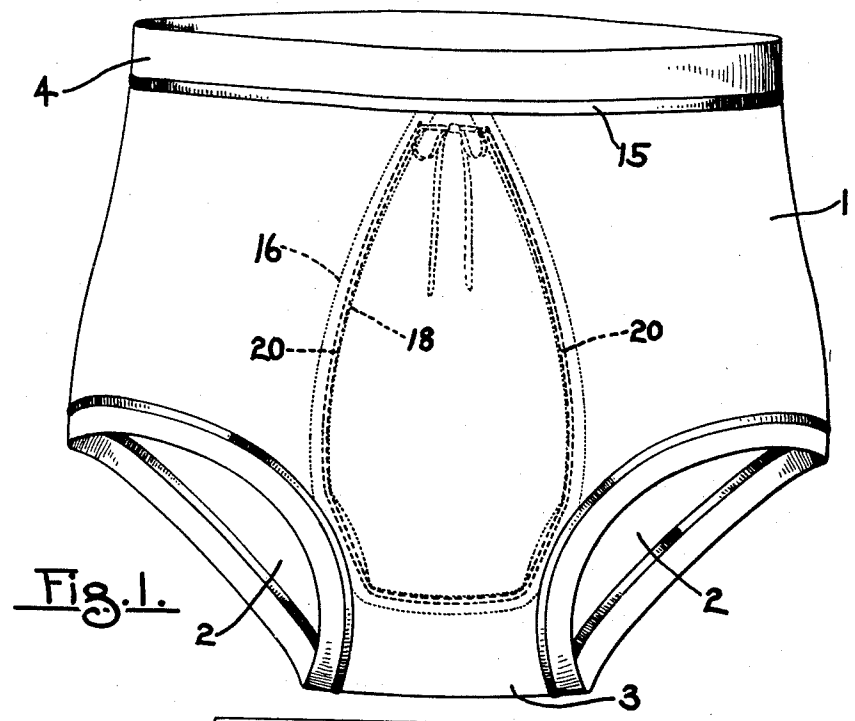


Fig. 1.

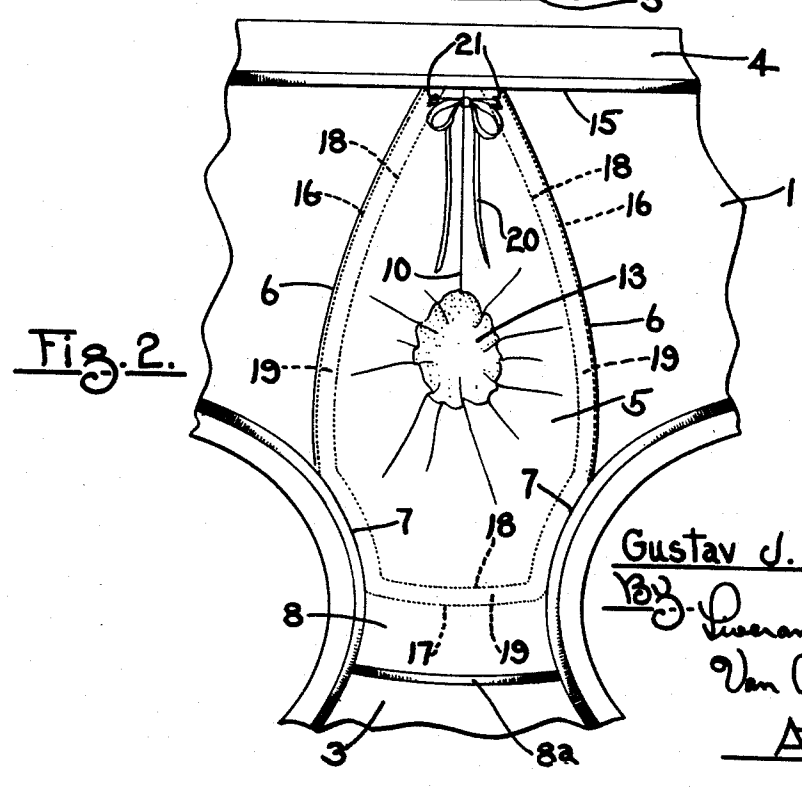


Fig. 2.

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159

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

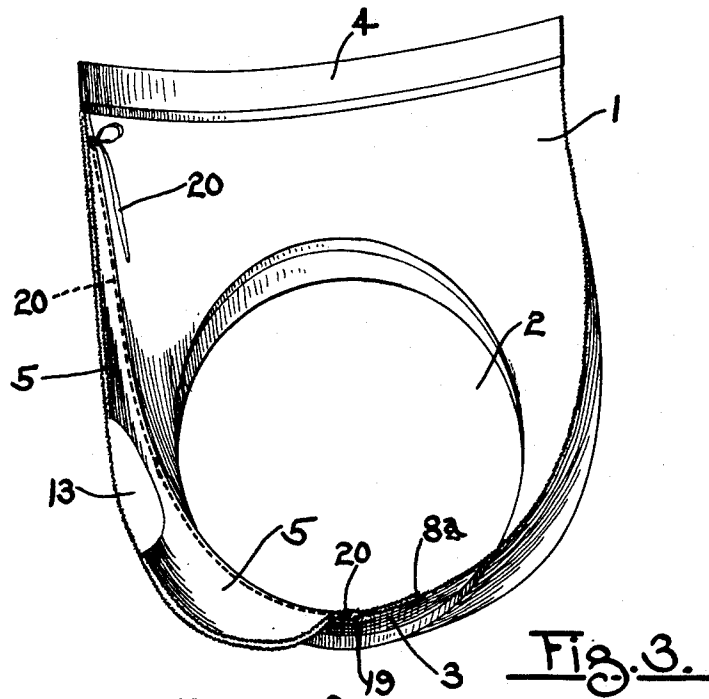


Fig. 3.

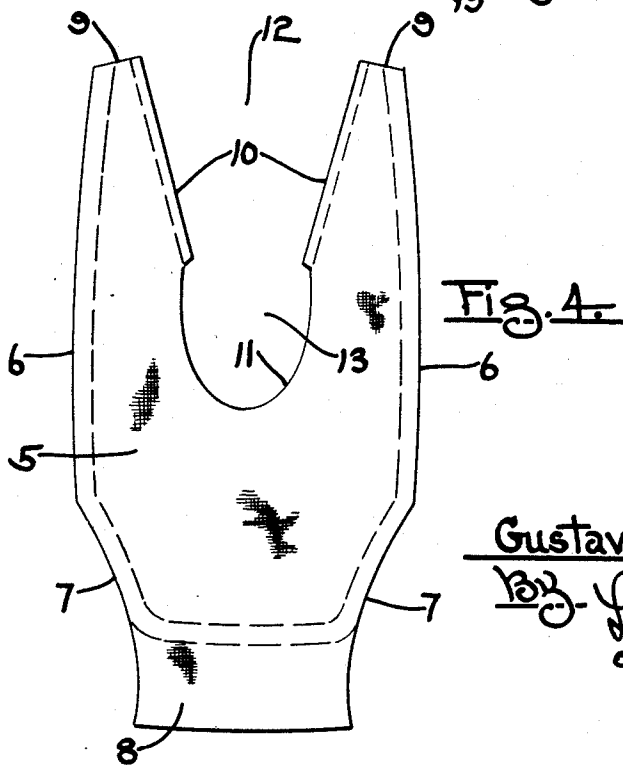
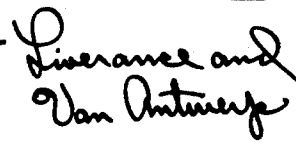


Fig. 4.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,254,863

## SUSPENSORY FOR UNDERGARMENTS

Gustav J. Weihe, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Application April 22, 1940, Serial No. 330,832

4 Claims. (Cl. 128—159)

This invention relates to suspensories and is particularly directed to a suspensory adapted to be secured to and made an integral part of an undergarment.

It is a well known fact that persons who are forced to be on their feet for long periods at a time are accustomed to wearing suspensories to prevent fatigue and it is therefore a particular object of this invention to provide an undergarment which has as an integral part thereof a suspensory of this nature to obviate the necessity of utilizing a separate one.

Another object of the invention is the provision around the suspensory in the garment of a channel within which a drawstring is placed so that the tightness of the suspensory may be adjusted to suit the needs of the wearer.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a separate element cut in such a fashion so that when it is secured in place on the garment it will naturally form a bag-like structure.

Other objects and purposes of the invention will appear more fully as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, said invention, then, consists of the means hereinafter more fully described and particularly pointed out in the claims. The annexed drawings and following description set forth in detail, certain means for carrying out my invention, said means constituting, however, but one of various ways in which the principle of the invention may be employed.

In said annexed drawings, wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the various views.

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of an undergarment showing in dotted lines the suspensory of my invention in place thereon.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary elevation of the inner side of the front of the undergarment showing the suspensory and more particularly the perforated element therein.

Fig. 3 is a central vertical section from front to rear of the undergarment showing the appearance thereof when in actual use, and

Fig. 4 is an elevational view of the suspensory element before being secured to the garment.

While in the preferred embodiment of my invention, I have disclosed a suspensory as particularly employed with undergarments commonly known as "shorts," it is to be understood that the invention may be employed equally as well with full length undergarments and so called "union suits."

The garment itself is comprised of the usual body portion 1 having at its lower end and at each side thereof the openings 2 to receive the legs of the wearer. Between the leg openings 2 and at the bottom of the body portion is located the crotch member 3. Around the top of the body portion may be located the elastic band 4.

Referring now particularly to Fig. 4, the insert or suspensory element itself is indicated by the numeral 5 and is preferably of the form shown therein. The sides 6 of this element are slightly convex as shown and terminate in inwardly curved edges 7 to provide the lower end 8 thereof. At the upper end of the element 5 the spaced apart edges 9 extend inwardly toward each other from the sides 6 for a short distance only and then extend downwardly and inwardly toward each other to form the edges 10. The lower ends of these edges 10 are connected by the curved edge 11 so that before the suspensory is actually formed and secured to the garment there will be provided in its upper end the space 12 bounded by the two inclined edges 10 and the opening 13 connected with the space 12 and bounded by the curved edge 11.

In actual practice, this suspensory element 5 is placed so that the two edges 10 overlap slightly and are then sewn together. It will be obvious that after this step has been taken, the suspensory will assume a bag-like form, having an opening 13 near its center.

After these steps have been taken and the element or insert 5 has been formed into a bag-like structure, the piece is placed within the body portion 1 of the garment at the inner side of the front thereof so that the upper edges 9, which are now in a continuous line, will be located adjacent the lower edge 15 of the elastic belt 4 and secured in place. The inwardly curved edges 7 thereof will then lie adjacent the hem surrounding the leg openings 2 and the lower end 8 thereof extends downwardly a short distance into the crotch portion 3.

The suspensory then is secured in place to the garment in this position and by viewing Fig. 2 it will be seen that an outer seam 16 is located adjacent the outer edges 6 and follows the contour thereof down to the edge of the leg portions 2. The lower seam is indicated at 17 which is in the crotch portion 3. Of course, the lower edge of the bottom portion 8 will also be secured to the garment as indicated at 8a.

Then, spaced inwardly from the seams 16, another seam 18 is placed which also secures the suspensory to the garment and which seam fol-

lows the contour of the seams 16 and 17 in the manner shown in Fig. 2. The space between the seams 16 and 18 and the seams 17 and 18 provides the continuous channel 19 which also follows the contour of the various seams above mentioned.

Within the channel 19 is located the drawstring 20 and at the upper ends of the channel 19, which terminate at the elastic band 4, and at the inner side of the garment, the openings 21 are provided to permit the ends of the drawstring 20 to extend outwardly therethrough. It will then be seen that the wearer of the garment, by pulling upon the ends of the drawstring 20 may adjust the suspensory to any desired tightness and may then tie the ends of the string together to hold the suspensory in this position.

It is contemplated that if the invention is applied to underwear of the so-called "union suit" type wherein a part of the garment also extends upwardly and around the shoulders, for convenience sake the openings 21 may be placed at the outside of the garment so that the drawstring 20 will be available from the outside instead of the inside as shown in the preferred embodiment of the invention.

It will be obvious that the use of an undergarment of this nature by those persons who are accustomed to using suspensories, will obviate the necessity of utilizing a separate suspensory. The invention is very practical and the manner in which it is formed and secured to the garment itself is very practical as well as economical.

It is not necessary that the suspensory element be attached at its edges to the undergarment completely around it but its intermediate portion between its upper and lower ends may be left unattached if desired. In this form of the invention the channel 19 will be continuous as before and the drawstring 20 will extend through the channel and will function in the same manner.

It is further conceived that the garment may be constructed without the use of a separate piece of fabric to form the suspensory element. In this form the suspensory portions is formed integral with the fabric of the garment and is surrounded by the channel 19 through which the drawstring extends.

Although the garment has been described as having the suspensory element located on the inside of it this element may be located on the outside of the garment if desired and otherwise conform to the foregoing description.

Other modes of applying the principle of my invention may be employed instead of the one explained, change being made as regards the structure herein disclosed provided, however, that the means stated by any of the following claims or the equivalent of such stated means be employed.

I claim:

1. A suspensory adapted to be secured to the body portion of an undergarment comprising, an insert having edge portions extending downwardly from the upper edge thereof to provide two spaced apart upper edge portions with a cut-out portion therebetween, and means to secure said downwardly extending edge portions together to form a bag-like structure.

2. A suspensory adapted to be secured to the body portion of an undergarment comprising, an insert having two upper spaced apart edge portions, other edges extending downwardly and inwardly from the inner ends of said upper edge portions, and means to secure said other edge portions together to form a bag-like structure.

3. An undergarment comprising, a front portion, a suspensory element having a tapered opening at its upper portion, the respective edges of said tapered opening being brought together and connected to each other, the edges of said suspensory element being sewed to said front portion to provide a channel at the edges thereof and a drawstring located in said channel and having its ends projecting therefrom.

4. An undergarment comprising, a front portion, a suspensory element having a central opening and a tapered opening extending therefrom upwardly to the upper edge of said element, the respective edges of said tapered opening being brought together and connected to each other leaving a central opening, the outer edges of said suspensory element being sewed to said front to form a channel and a drawstring located in said channel and having its upper ends projecting therefrom.

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