

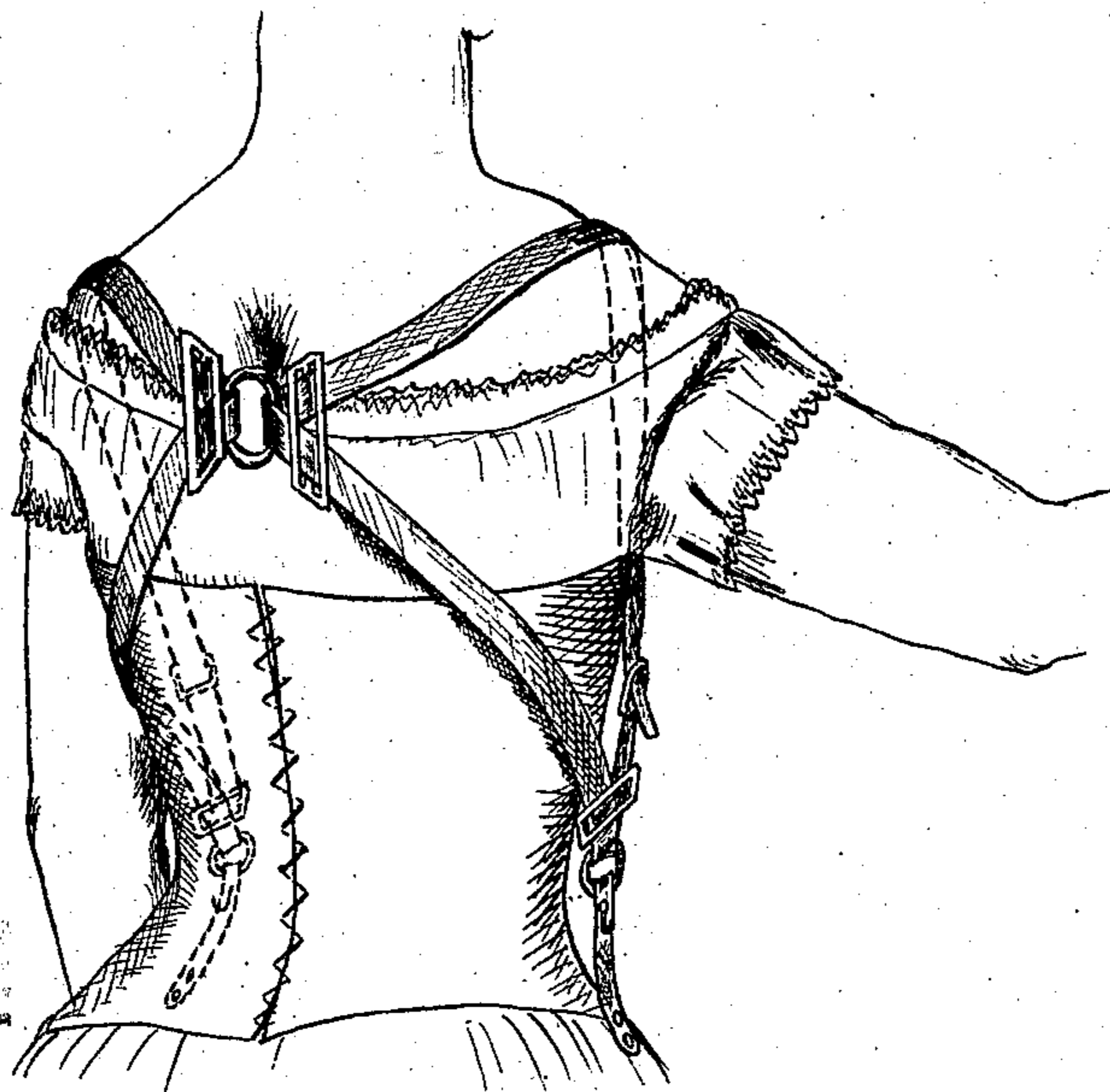
J. H. STERLING.

SUSPENDERS.

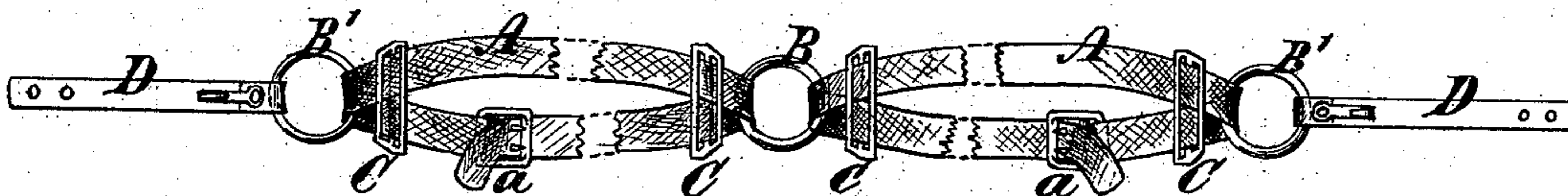
No. 173,513.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.

*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2*



*Witnesses:*

*H. Holdrege,*  
*Elliot Williams.*

*Inventor*

*John H. Sterling*  
*by A. S. Gurley Atty.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. STERLING, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SUSPENDERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,513**, dated February 15, 1876; application filed January 30, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN H. STERLING, a citizen of the Dominion of Canada, residing in Brooklyn, Kings county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Suspenders and Garment-Supporters, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Suspenders and supporters for garments, as heretofore constructed, have been so arranged that the parts passing down the front of the body pass or lie, more or less, over and upon the breasts of the wearer, and the objection to supporters so constructed is, that such parts chafe and irritate the breasts, especially of persons having the breasts largely developed.

The object of my improvement is to produce a suspender or supporter for garments so arranged for use that no part thereof will lie upon or pass across the breasts of the wearer, and that the weight suspended shall be supported entirely by the shoulders. While my supporter may be worn by males and females, it is especially adapted to use of females for supporting their skirts.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a view of my improved suspender arranged upon the wearer, the strap D hanging down. Fig. 2 is a perspective view thereof, showing all the parts.

The shoulder-straps A are made of ordinary suspender-webbing, and are furnished with a buckle, *a*, at one end to permit their adjustment to persons of different sizes. B is an elastic rubber ring, which rests in the hollow between the shoulders when the suspender is arranged on the body of the wearer, and affords elasticity for easily following any movement of the body, and through this ring the straps A are loosely passed to allow the suspender to be readily adjusted. B' B' are other similar elastic rings, through which the straps A are also loosely passed, and which occupy positions under the arms of the wearer, and these also give elasticity to the suspender when the body is moved.

In place of these rings B B' B' elastic web-

bing or other elastic bands may be used, if desired; but I find that these rings answer every purpose very well.

C are friction-slides to keep the parts of the straps A in position, and lying smoothly upon the body, which I find convenient in use; but the suspender may be made without or with these slides, as desired.

D is a supporting-strap attached to the rings B' B', having a hook at its fastened end, and eyelets at its loose end. The loose end of this strap is passed through button-holes or loops in the bands of the skirts, and is then hooked up through the eyelets. This strap affords a very pliable connection, does away with buttons on the skirt-band, and may be passed through the bands of a number of skirts, if required. In place of this supporting-strap D, a double strap, like the ordinary double end of men's suspenders, or any other suitable end or strap, may be used on the rings B', when it is desired to use the suspender for supporting men's pantaloons.

In arranging this suspender upon the body of the wearer the straps A are so adjusted by the buckles *a* that when the wearer stands erect there is no strain or drawing toward the back by the part B, this connection of the shoulder-straps being simply for the purpose of keeping them well upon the shoulders, and this part B lies in the hollow part of the back between the shoulders, and is therefore out of the way. The straps D are then passed through the skirt-bands and hooked up. This arrangement of suspender fixes the point from which the weight of the suspended garment hangs or draws directly under the shoulder, and at that part of the body where there is the least movement of or strain upon the suspender when the body is in motion, and consequently the body is free to move without any chafing or drawing of the suspender, the parts B' being substantially the only parts affected by the movements of the body. By having the attaching parts under the arms connection with the garments is also much more easily made than when the suspender is so constructed that parts thereof are attached to the garment at the back of the wearer.

Having thus described my invention and its method of operation, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a suspender or garment-supporter, the combination of the shoulder-straps A, elastic rings or bands B B' B', and suspending-straps D, constructed and arranged substantially as described and shown.

2. In a suspender or garment-supporter, the combination of the shoulder-straps A, elastic rings or bands B B' B', slides C, and suspend-

ing straps D, constructed and arranged substantially as described and shown.

3. In a suspender or garment-supporter, the strap D for attaching to the garment, having a hook at its fixed end, and eyelets in its loose end, substantially as described and shown.

JOHN H. STERLING.

Witnesses:

A. T. GURLITZ,  
ELLIOT WILLIAMS.