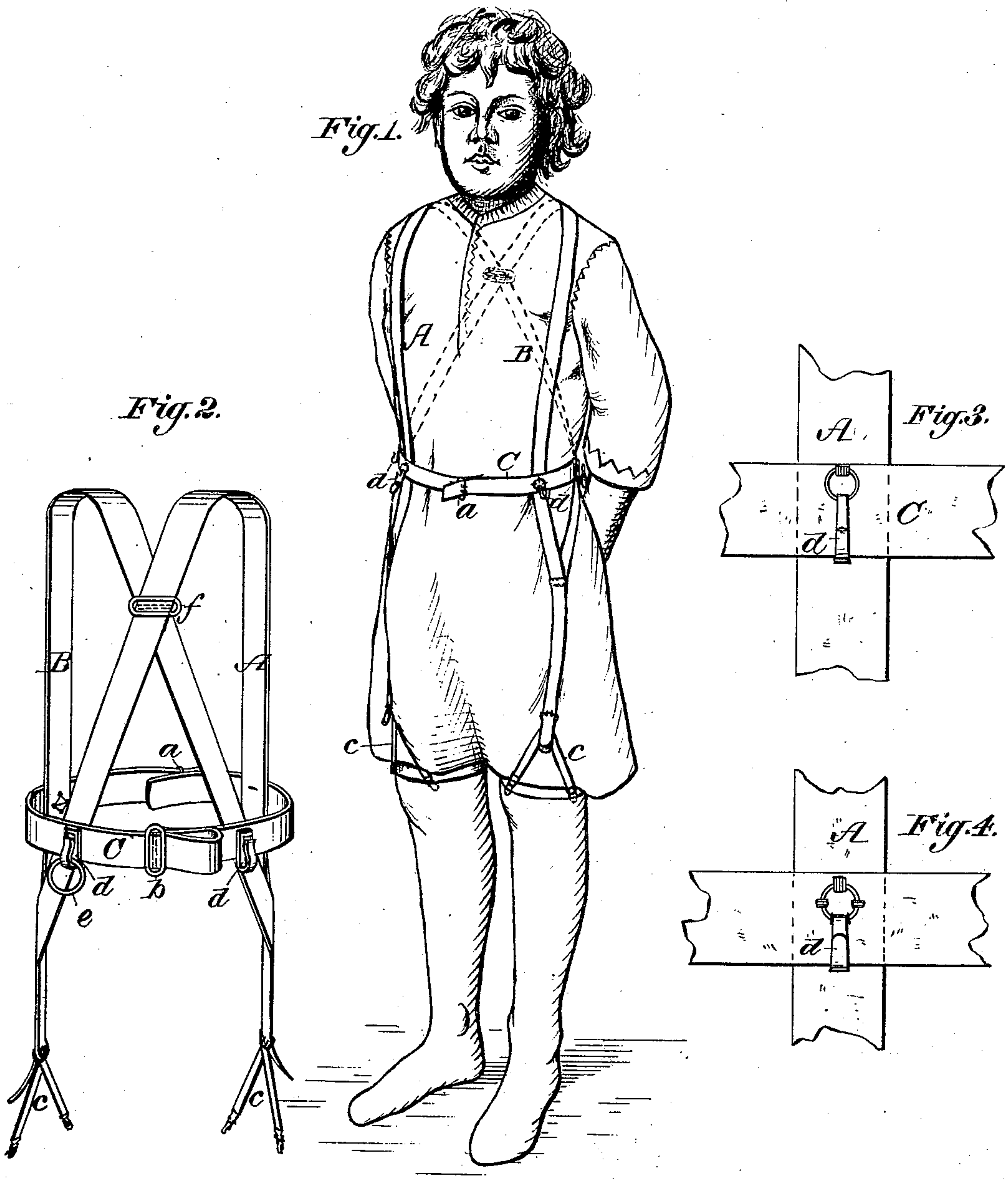


S. H. WHITCOMB.  
Garment Supporter.

No. 234,932.

Patented Nov. 30, 1880.



*Witnesses:*  
Dennis J. Twitchell.  
William W. Dodge.

*Inventor:*  
S. H. Whitcomb.  
By Dodge & Co.  
attys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SYBELL H. WHITCOMB, OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

## GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 234,932, dated November 30, 1880.

Application filed December 23, 1879.

*To all whom it may concern :*

Be it known that I, SYBELL H. WHITCOMB, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain  
5 Improvements in Garment-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to suspenders for the use of ladies and children; and it consists in a supporting device composed of two strips or  
10 bands of suitable material, each extending from just above the knee directly upward, over the shoulder, thence downward diagonally across the back and forward to a point between the waist and knee, where it joins with and is se-  
15 cured to the other band, the bands crossing at the back, and being secured to a belt or waistband at each point of crossing therewith.

The invention further consists in providing the belt with hooks to support the skirts and  
20 drawers, and providing both the belt and the bands at the point of crossing with slides, by which they may be adjusted to the wearer.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents my improved suspenders in position.  
25 Fig. 2 is a view of the same removed from the person of the wearer; and Figs. 3 and 4, detached views, illustrating different modifications of the manner of fastening the hooks to the suspenders.

30 The primary object of this invention is to produce a device for supporting the long hose commonly worn by women and children, and one by which all the weight and strain shall be received directly upon the shoulders of the  
35 wearer without interfering in any way with the freedom of movement of the body or limbs.

A secondary object is to afford a convenient and healthful means of supporting the various articles of underwear.

40 With these objects in view I construct my improved suspenders as represented in the drawings, in which—

A and B represent two bands or strips of webbing, which constitute, primarily, the sus-  
45 taining or supporting part of my device. Each of these bands is carried from a point somewhat above the knee of the wearer, as in Fig. 1, directly upward to and over the shoulder, thence diagonally downward across the back,  
50 and, finally, around to the other band at a short distance below the waist, where it is securely attached to said second band, as shown.

C represents a belt or waistband, which is firmly secured or attached to the bands A and B at each point of crossing therewith, said  
55 belt being provided at the front with a buckle or clasp, *a*, and at the back with a slide, *b*, by which latter the distance between the bands A and B at the back may be regulated to suit the wearer. 60

To the lower free ends of the bands A and B are attached the garters or stocking-sup-  
65 porters *c*, preferably by means of buckles or clasps, as shown, in order that their height may be regulated to suit different persons and different lengths of stockings. These garters may be of any suitable form—such, for in-  
stance, as those commonly in use with other forms of suspenders.

It will be observed that by arranging the  
70 bands A and B in the manner above described all the strain is brought upon the shoulders, where it can be received most advantageously.

In securing the end of one band to the other strip or band, after passing diagonally across  
75 the back, it is desirable that the connection be made at or about the point on the front of the leg touched by the base of the thumb when the arm is allowed to hang down straight, as in that case the union will be made where  
80 there is but little motion in walking or running, and consequently there will be little or no tendency on the part of the bands or strips A and B to draw or move out of position.

In order to adapt the suspenders for sup-  
85 porting the skirts and drawers, or the drawers and pantaloons when used by small boys, the belt or band C is furnished with a number of hooks, *d*, upon which are hooked or hung rings or eyes *e*, sewed or otherwise made fast to the  
90 garments.

The hooks *d* may be provided with perfora-  
95 tions, like a button, to receive the thread, as in Fig. 2, or provided each with a ring, as in Figs. 1, 3, and 4.

The bands or strips A and B may, instead  
of being each one continuous piece, be formed each of two pieces, all being attached to a com-  
mon ring or eye at the back. In practice, how-  
100 ever, I prefer to make them each of one continuous piece, as shown, and to pass them both through a slide, *f*, at their point of cross-  
ing, in order that by adjusting the slide they may be adjusted to the form of the wearer.



By using the suspenders constructed as above described the extra waist or body hitherto commonly used to support the drawers may be dispensed with.

5 As there is no tendency on the part of the bands or straps A and B to change their position, it follows that the belt, which is firmly attached thereto, will always remain in its proper position, instead of being drawn up or  
10 down at certain points, the hooks *d* being preferably attached where the belt and the shoulder-straps cross, to further insure this result.

I am aware that suspenders for pantaloons and skirts have been made of two bands  
15 crossed on the back and carried downward over the shoulders, and terminating at a point of union above the hips at or in rear of the hip-bone; also, that pendent straps to support stockings have been attached to suspenders of  
20 different kinds, and I make no claim to said arrangements or either of their individual features.

My invention is limited to the special and peculiar arrangement of straps shown in the  
25 accompanying drawings, and it is this special arrangement, the location of the various points therein, and the peculiar connection of the straps in relation to each other that give my contrivance its value.

30 It will be observed that the waist belt or band is not essential to the support of the stock-

ings, and that the bands A B and the devices at their ends constitute in themselves a complete device for sustaining the stockings.

Having thus described my invention, what 35 I claim is—

1. In a stocking-supporter, the combination of the two bands A B, each adapted and arranged to extend from a point just above the knee upward directly over the shoulder on the  
40 same side of the person, and thence diagonally downward across the back to the other band at a point below the waist-line, the two bands being firmly united at their points of intersection on the front of the leg, and being provided  
45 at the ends with means, substantially such as shown, to hold the top of the stockings, whereby the strain of the stocking is transmitted directly to the shoulders, a free motion of the legs permitted, and the straining and shifting  
50 of the bands avoided.

2. The combination of the two bands A B, crossed at the back, passed straight down the front, and united at or near the hip, with one  
55 end continued downward toward the knee, and the belt C, connected to the bands, and provided with skirt-supporting devices.

SYBELL H. WHITCOMB.

Witnesses:

SAML. H. CLAY,  
L. STELLA WHITCOMB.