No. 621,089. Patented Mar. 14, 1899.

L. E. HOWE.

SKIRT OR GARMENT BINDING.

(Application filed July 11, 1898.)

(Specimens.)

Fig. 1.

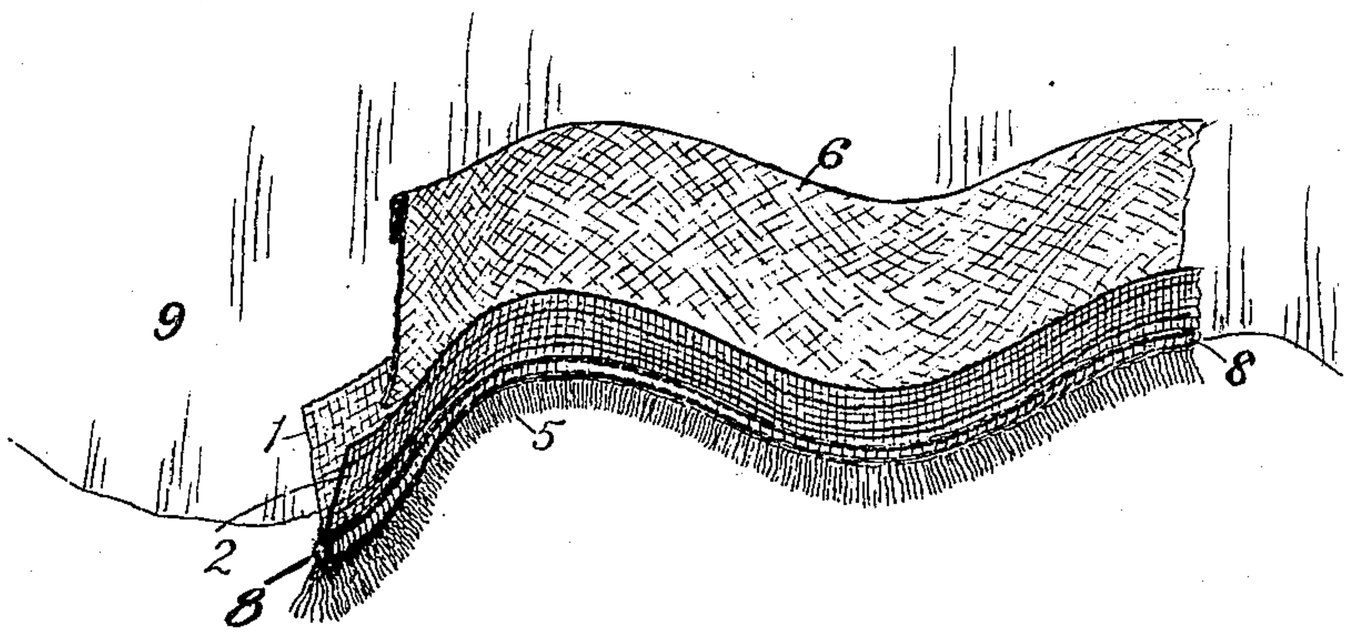


Fig. 2.

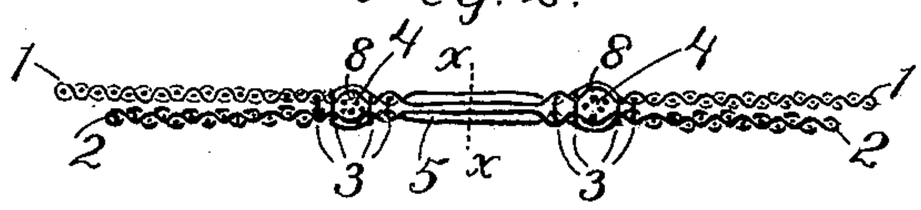


Fig. 3.

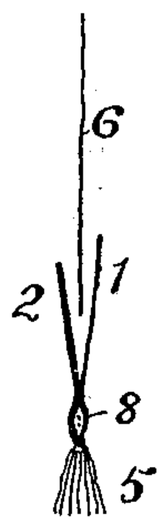


Fig. 4.

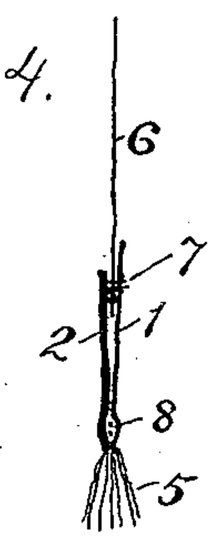
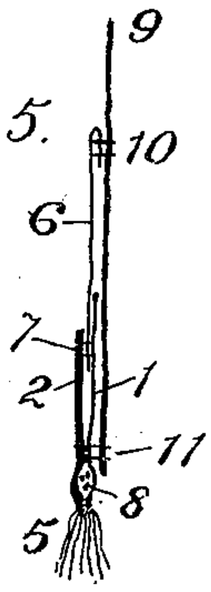


Fig. 5.



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SKIRT OR GARMENT BINDING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 621,089, dated March 14, 1899.

Application filed July 11, 1898. Serial No. 685,603. (Specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LIZZIE ELLA HOWE, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Skirt or Garment Bindings, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is particularly directed to that class of bindings for skirts having a "pile" or "brush" edging. A well-known method of forming such bindings with the brush in one with the fabric or web portion of the binding is to weave a strip of fabric of double width, the warp-threads being omitted from a longitudinal portion down the center of the double-width strip. When this double-width strip is divided into two strips by a longitudinal cut, two pieces adapted to serve as binding strips are formed, each having a woven web and a fringe or brush on one edge of such web. To provide enough fiber for a heavy brush, the web portion of the strip has to be made correspondingly heavy. It is advantageous to have the portion of this web immediately adjacent to the brush rather heavy and unyielding as a backing for the brush; but the edge which when applied to the garment becomes the upper or inner edge should be as soft, flexible, light, and extensible as possible, and this portion of the web is therefore preferably made thinner than the portion adjacent to the brush. Where this result has been achieved by weaving the whole strip in such manner as to put less material into the upper or inner edge of the web than into the part adjacent to the brush, difficulties in manufacturing have had to be overcome, and the resulting product, an all-woven binding, is not as salable an article as one having the upper or inner edge of some such very soft, flexible, light, and extensible fabric as bias-cut velveteen, velvet, or corduroy.

Some of the disadvantages above pointed out are avoided when the binding is prepared in another manner, which is also well-known and in which the portion of the binding adjacent to the brush is made quite narrow and of thick enough fabric to provide a thick brush and an upper or inner portion or strip has been sewed or otherwise attached to one side of it. Where the two strips of fabric are so sewed or attached together, heavy and unsightly ridges or thickened parts are formed, caused by the extra thickness of the outside or brush portion and the doubling of the upper or inner portion, so as to conceal the raw edge, and these ridges or thickened parts not only make the article unsalable by reason of its unsightliness, but when the binding is applied to the garment interfere with the proper smoothing of the garment down to the edge and causes ridges or marks on the dress material or distortion of the lining where the metal passes over the thickened parts or where its motion is interrupted thereby.

The object of the present invention is to obviate all of these objections and to produce a binding having a heavy or thick lower or outer edge and a thinner, softer, lighter, and more flexible and better-appearing upper or inner edge and which when applied to the garment presents no unsightly and inconvenient ridges or thickened portions. To these ends I preferably weave, braid, or otherwise form that portion of the binding which is to form the lower or outer edge when attached to the garment of a double web, united along the part adjacent to the brush. The upper portion of the binding, preferably a strip of bias-cut velveteen, velvet, or corduroy, is placed with its lower edge between the two members of this double web and attached thereto by sewing or otherwise. Of the double webs I prefer to make the one which will be exposed when the binding is applied to the garment somewhat narrower than the other, and it may be and preferably is made somewhat thicker and of better material than the other. A binding constructed in this manner may have a brush of any thickness desired, a correspondingly heavy "head" or backing immediately adjacent thereto, and a suitably thin, soft, flexible, and extensible web or upper portion. It permits the use of velveteen or corduroy to form the main body of the web. It presents no ribs or thickened portions, and therefore when it is used on a garment the latter may be smoothed right down to the edge without the causing of any marks on its surface or the distorting of the binding. A saving in width, and therefore in the cost of the velveteen or corduroy portion without diminution of the width of the binding, arises from the fact that the velveteen or corduroy does

not have to be turned over or folded so as to conceal the raw edge, but is laid straight between the two parts or webs of the head or lower portion. As above stated, the two webs of the head portion may be of different thickness and of different material. Thus the narrower one may be woven of superior material and with an ornamental finish or design, not necessary for the other web, which will be hidden from view when the binding is used. It is a peculiarity of the binding made in accordance with my present invention that the binding has a tendency to conform to the edge of the garment instead of tending to fall away from the edge, as do other bindings. It is thus more easily applied and is less apt to distort the edge of the garment. It is also a peculiarity of my new binding that the bias-cut velveteen forming the upper or inner part of it does not curl, pucker, or fall over, as it does on bindings where the edge of the velveteen is turned over preparatory to attaching the brush or wear edge.

Other advantages of my method of construction will be stated hereinafter.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a section of skirt-binding attached to a section of a skirt. Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic section of the duplicate web form in which the fabric is originally made up. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 show successive steps in the making up and application of the skirt-binding.

I first form by any suitable means a duplicate web, such as shown in Fig. 2, the same including two webs 1 and 2, each of which is formed in duplicate on each side of the center line *x x*. One of the webs, as 1, may extend out farther on either side than the other web 2, and the weft-threads of each web will extend from one extreme side to the other. The webs are, however, not woven or braided at the central portion and the two webs are woven or braided together on each side of this central portion and immediately adjacent thereto by threads, (indicated at 3.) This portion of the fabric is thereby rendered of double thickness, and it may be further thickened up by the insertion of extra warp-threads, which may be arranged in bundles, as indicated at 4, so as to give a substantial, heavy, and comparatively stiff head or edge. The narrow web 2 is preferably woven thicker than web 1 and may have any desired ornamental finish or design. On cutting this fabric along the line *x* in Fig. 2 two identical fabrics are secured, the loose threads 5 at the inner sides forming a pile or fringe and the two flaps or divisions of the fabric being joined together along the head or thick portion 8 adjacent to this fringe and extending outward therefrom in a bifurcated manner, as indicated in Fig. 3. The upper part 6 of the skirt-binding, preferably a strip of bias-cut velveteen, is then inserted in this bifurcation of the binding between the web portions 1 2 and is sewed thereto, as indicated in Fig. 4, by stitches 7 or otherwise attached. This completes the skirt-binding, the same consisting of the bias-cut strip 6, the two web portions 1 2, the thickened head 8 formed by their junction and by the extra warp-threads 4 and the fringe 5, extending from said head.

This binding is attached to the skirt or garment (indicated at 9 in Figs. 1 and 5) by sewing its lower edge thereto, as indicated at 11 in Fig. 5, and then sewing it to the skirt at the upper edge, as indicated at 10. The thickness of the woven or braided portions 1 2 is divided on the two sides of the velveteen strip 6, giving a very smooth finish, and it will be noted that the extension of web portion 1 beyond web 2 adds to the smoothing-out effect of the binding and enables the binding to be more easily handled, adjusted, and attached to other fabrics, for the webs 1 2 can be more readily separated than would be the case if their edges were even. The lower edge of the bias-cut strip 6 does not need to be, and preferably should not be, turned over in this binding, as it is protected by the webs or flaps 1 2, and this further contributes to the smoothness of the binding by avoiding any unsightly bulge and saves expense by lessening the width of velveteen necessary.

In the claims a "web" portion is intended to include that flat portion of the article above or within the brush however it be produced.

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

1. A skirt or garment binding consisting of a web portion having its threads interwoven for a portion of its width to form a thick head and having an outer brush edge or finish and woven for the remaining portion of its width so as to form two adjacent parallel webs.

2. A skirt or garment binding consisting of a web portion having its threads interwoven for a portion of its width to form a thick head and having an outer brush edge or finish and woven for the remaining portion of its width so as to form two adjacent parallel webs of different widths, and having a strip of fabric inserted between and attached to such separate web portions.

LIZZIE ELLA HOWE.

Witnesses:
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G. FURTY.