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J. F. HARGREAVES

2,343,374

GARMENT SUPPORTING BAND

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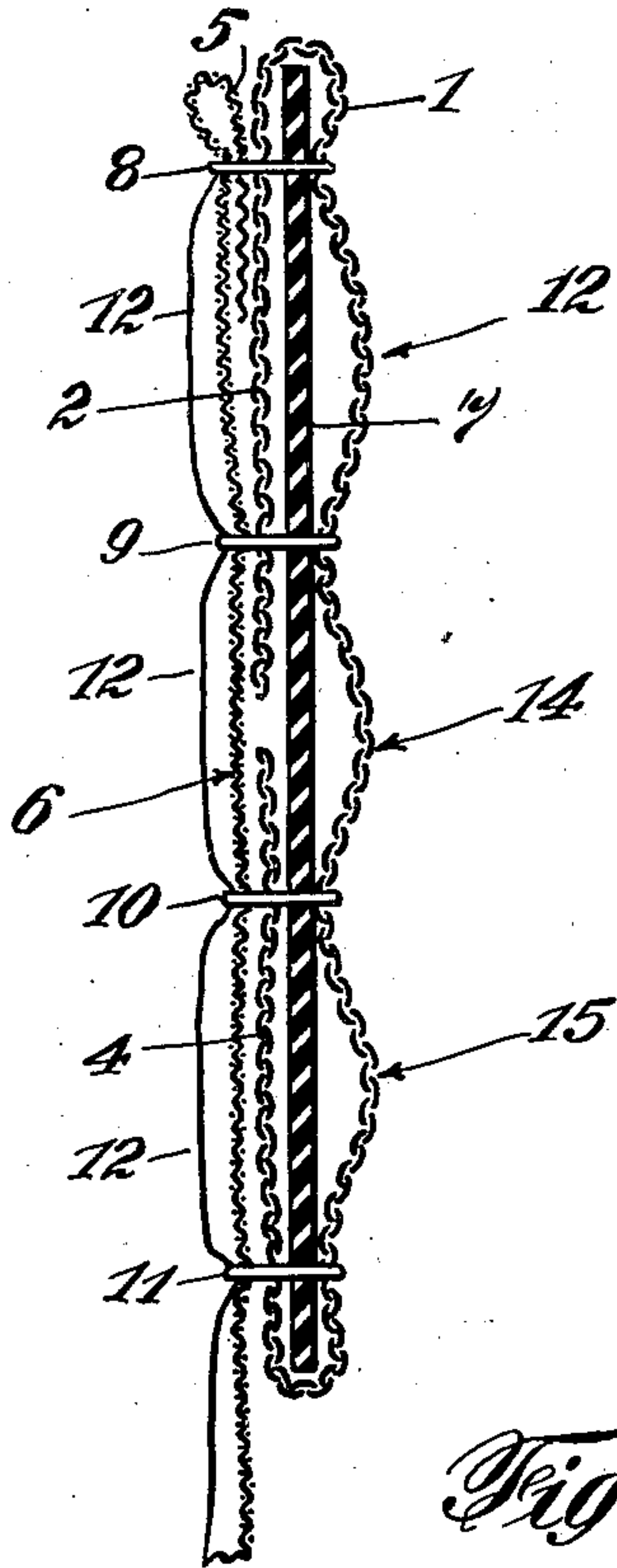


Fig. 1.

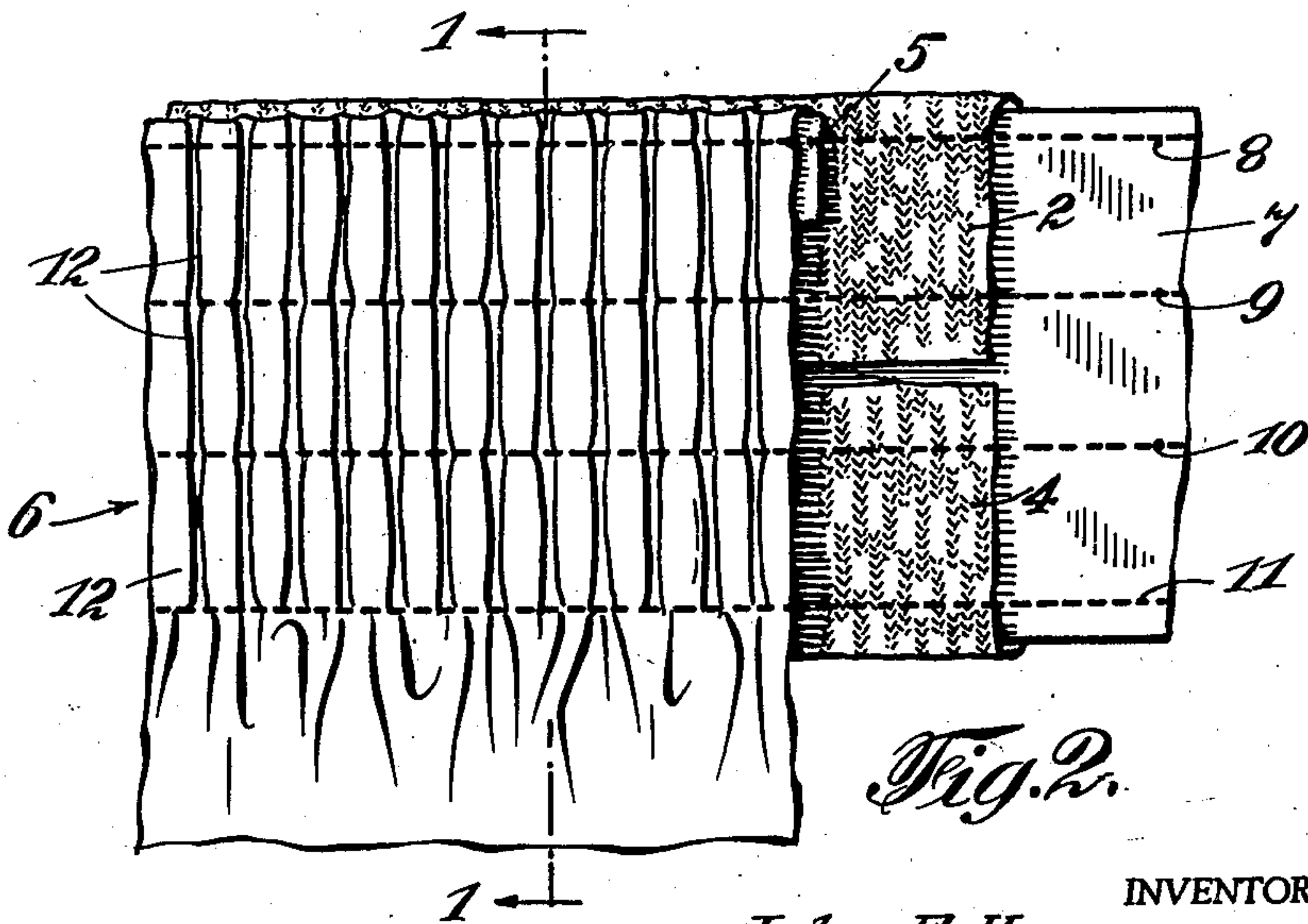


Fig. 2.

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GARMENT SUPPORTING BAND

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—237)

The present invention relates to garments and more especially to a band such as a waistband or wrist band.

The present invention is an improvement upon the construction disclosed in Hardie Patent No. 2,132,616, patented August 11, 1938.

Fig. 1 is a cross-section on line 1—1 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a band in accordance with the present invention showing portions of the band broken away in order to more clearly illustrate the construction.

The band illustrated in Hardie Patent No. 2,132,616 was satisfactory for many purposes, but it had a tendency to bow at the edges, especially when the band was used as a waistband on garments such as pajama pants or the like.

This undesirable action presented a problem of some difficulty to solve until the present construction was invented wherein the inturned hems of the sheath fabric were extended sufficiently to include a plurality of stitches through each hem. This construction completely solved the difficulty and resulted in a band which was substantially flat on the outside when fabricated and remained flat during use. Preferably in this new construction, the inturned hems of the sheath fabric comes close together so as to nearly meet without overlapping. This results in a band of even thickness.

The preferred construction comprises a strip 1 of stretchable fabric of any desirable construction, preferably knit material. The edges of this strip 1 comprise wide inturned hems 2 and 4 which face against the narrow inturned hem 5 of the garment fabric 6. The garment fabric 6 may be, and preferably is, a non-stretchable fabric, although the invention is equally useful when stretchable fabric is used for the entire construction where fabric is an element of the device. The hems 2 and 4 of the facing or sheath strip 1 enclose a strip 7 of sheet rubber. Stitches 8 and 9 pass through the facing 1, the rubber strip 7, the hem 2, and the garment material 6. Stitches 8 also pass through the narrow hem 5 on the garment material 6. Stitches 10 and 11 pass through the facing 1, the rubber strip 7, the wide hem 4, and the garment material 6. It will be observed that the stitches 8 and 9 both pass through the wide hem 2 and the stitches 10 and 11 both pass through the wide hem 4. This construction produces even thickness of material and a balance of forces on each side of the strip of rubber 7 so consequently there is no tendency of the band to bow or curve. Prefer-

ment is shirred at 12 while the band is being made in order that small gathers of material overlie the zone of the band and comprise an area which may be elongated as the garment band is stretched.

Preferably, the device is manufactured by a single operation of sewing in that the facing 1 and the strip of rubber 7 are passed through a suitable forming device, which forming device feeds the wide hems 2 and 4 over the back of the rubber strip 7. At the same time, the edge of the garment material is suitably shirred and has a hem formed on the edge portion thereof so that the parts are assembled and passed through a four needle or more sewing machine to sew the parts securely together while the rubber strip 7 is under tension. The stitching is of a type known as straight stitching or non-elastic stitching. There is no danger of the stitches breaking when the band is stretched as it normally is when in position on the wearer since the garment band is made while the rubber is under tension. Elastic stitching may be used when desired, and is preferable where the garment is made from elastic textile fabric such as knitted fabric.

When the assembled band is sewed, the soft elastic knitted material 1 is formed into cushions 12, 14, and 15 between the rows of stitches 8, 9, 10, and 11. These cushions 12, 14, and 15 are toward, or in contact with, the skin of the wearer and contribute to the very soft and comfortable action of the garment band.

While the present invention is not limited to specific dimensions, garment belts for pajama pants have been satisfactorily made wherein the rubber strip was one and one-fourth inches wide, and twelve gauge in thickness. This rubber strip was sewed by straight stitches while being drawn under tension from substantially six and two-thirds inches to ten inches. The rows of stitches were substantially three eighths of one inch apart, making one and one-eighth inches between the outside rows, the knit sheath strip 1 being substantially two and three-sixteenths of an inch wide so that the edges nearly meet when the hems 2 and 4 are inturned. The hems are greater than one-quarter of the width of the band and slightly less than one-half the width of the band. The garment fabric was laid on the top of the rubber sheath and was in some cases sewed by the first row of stitches and in others by the first and second rows of stitches. Immediately after the sewing operations were com-

between corrugated wheels or rollers which pressed into the garment fabric even shirrings that gave the finished product a beautiful even appearance.

The sheet of sheet rubber used in this band is thin and the facing material is also a thin piece of soft knitted cloth. The band is not bulky and its construction is such that it lies substantially flat at all times so that it is very satisfactory for the purposes intended.

What I claim is:

A garment band comprising a flat strip of sheet rubber, a sheath for said flat strip of sheet rubber, said sheath being formed of a strip of stretchable textile fabric having edge portions folded around said flat strip of sheet rubber to substantially enclose said strip of rubber and to form hems adjacent each edge thereof and with the edges of the hems approaching each other without overlapping, a garment formed of tex-

5 tile material to which said band is permanently attached by stitching, the upper edge of the garment material having a hem folded inwardly adjacent the upper hem on said stretchable textile fabric and being in contact with the said hem of the sheath, a plurality of rows of stitches extending longitudinally of said sheath and passing through said flat strip of rubber and said sheath and forming longitudinally extending cushions 10 in the stretchable textile fabric on the inner side of said sheath and between the rows of stitches while said strip of rubber remains substantially flat; said strip of rubber, said garment material and each hem on said sheath 15 being sewn through by a plurality of said rows of stitches whereby each of said rows of stitches passes through four layers of material, and one row of stitches also passing through the hem on the garment material.

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