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(54) **Improved elastic material and curved garment elements and method and apparatus for their manufacture**

(57) A narrow fabric elastic material comprises elastomeric elements (30) which are covered with a stretch yarn (40) of polybutylene terephthalate. The stretch yarn (40) may be applied in a knitting or weaving process and allows a significant increased grip of the elastomeric elements during the covering of the elastomeric elements. The elastic material (150) can have a variable modulus across its width and is included in a waistband (124) having a predefined curvature or shape. The waistband (124) is formed by a folder (110) on a sewing machine having at least one needle. A blind stitch is formed on the front face (122) of the waistband (124) and a chain or lock stitch (125) is formed on the rear face (122). The curved waistband (124) can also be formed on a sewing machine having at least two needles by rows of stitching (127 and 128).

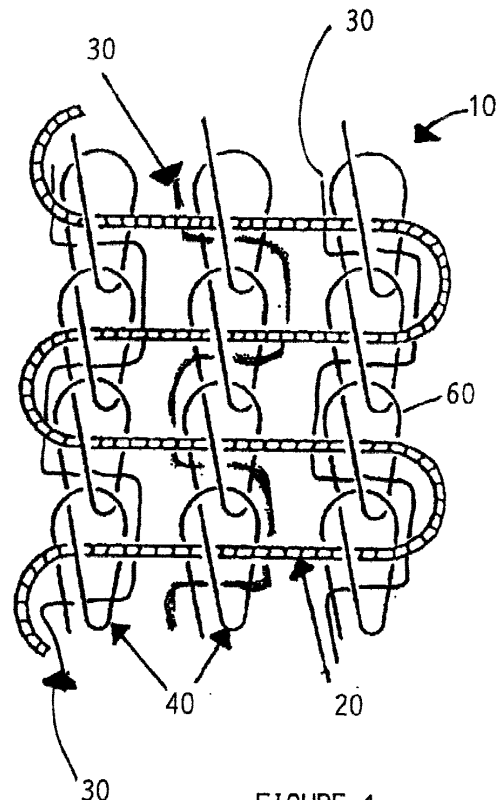


FIGURE 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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A	US 4 248 064 A (ODHAM CARL J) 3 February 1981 (1981-02-03) * column 2, line 25-32 * ---		
A	US 4 606 287 A (PAPAJEWSKI REINHOLD ET AL) 19 August 1986 (1986-08-19) * column 1, line 6-25 * ---		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
A	US 3 258 941 A (FORMENTI A.) 5 July 1966 (1966-07-05) * the whole document * -----		D04B A41F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 15 February 2001	Examiner Sterle, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 99 65 0029

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-5, 13-17

A narrow fabric elastic material, preferably forming an interlining of a garment element (Figs 1, 2, 8, 9), and a method of manufacturing same by knitting or weaving

2. Claims: 6-12, 18-21

A garment element of folded over single piece or two piece construction having a predefined curvature (Figs. 4 to 7, 10 to 12) preferably comprising an inelastic tape or interlining (see claim 11), and an apparatus for making such garment element (see Figs 3, 13) by sewing the garment element as a curved waistband in a folded configuration to a garment fabric

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 65 0029

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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15-02-2001

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