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(54) **A GARMENT**

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to a garment.

[0002] Skin-tight garments such as wetsuits are notoriously difficult to put on, and pose particular difficulties for those who are inflexible and / or have physical disability.

[0003] US 3,771,169 discloses a shirt or jacket and pants for use as a diver's wet suit, which is provided with a system of zippers to allow the garment to be comfortably worn out of the water.

[0004] FR 2863456 discloses aerodynamic sportswear, including pants. The pants have a zipper that opens up the lower leg to facilitate boot shoes, and another zipper is also provided on the upper leg.

[0005] In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a skin-tight garment according to the appended claim 1. Embodiments of the first aspect are provided according to the appended claims 2 to 8. The skin-tight garment is in the form of a wet suit having a body portion; arms portions and an arm zip extending from the distal end of an arm portion and terminating at a neck area of the body portion.

[0006] Ideally, there are two arm zips, one for each arm portion. Furthermore, when worn, the arm zip(s) may extend along the outer profile of an arm portion.

[0007] The inventor has realised that provision of such arm zips enables a skin-tight wetsuit to be more readily put on and taken off.

[0008] Such a garment may further comprise leg portions and a leg zip extending from the hip area of the body portion to the end of a leg portion. Ideally, there are two such leg zips, one for each leg portion. Furthermore, when worn, the leg zip(s) may extend from a hip area along the outer profile of a leg portion.

[0009] The inventor has realised that provision of such leg zips further enables a skin-tight wetsuit to be more readily put on and taken off.

[0010] A garment of the above type may have arm portions extending to the wrist and / or leg portions extending to the ankle, or be a "shorty", i.e. have arm portions extending only part way along the arm and / or leg portions extending only part way along the leg.

[0011] In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a skin-tight garment in the form of a wet suits according to the appended claim 9. Embodiments of the second aspect are provided according to the appended claims 10 to 15. The garment has a body portion; arm portions; and at least one pair of arm zips wherein the or each pair of arm zips extends along an arm portion in respective opposite directions from an elbow region of that arm portion.

[0012] In one embodiment, there are two such pairs of arm zips for respective arms portions. Furthermore, when worn, for each pair of arm zips for an arm portion, one arm zip may extend from the elbow to the neck area of the body portion and the other arm zip may extend from the elbow to the distal end of the arm portion. Ideally,

each arm zip for an arm portion may extend along the outer profile of that arm portion.

[0013] The inventor has realised that provision of such pairs of arm zips for an arm portion enables a skin-tight wetsuit to be more readily put on and taken off.

[0014] In another embodiment, there are two pairs of leg zips for respective leg portions. Furthermore, when worn, for each pair of leg zips for a leg portion, one leg zip may extend from the knee to the hip area of the body portion and the other leg zip may extend from the knee to the distal end of the leg portion. Ideally, each leg zip may extend along the outer profile of a leg portion.

[0015] The inventor has realised that provision of such pairs of leg zips for a leg portion further enables a skin-tight wetsuit to be more readily put on and taken off.

[0016] The invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the figures in which:

Figure 1a is a front view of a wetsuit containing arm zips and leg zips in accordance with the first aspect of the present invention;

Figure 1 b is a side view of the wet suit of figure 1 a illustrating the left leg zip in greater detail (omitting the left arm zip for clarity);

Figure 1c is a side view of the wet suit of figure 1 a illustrating the left arm zip in greater detail (omitting the left leg zip for clarity);

Figure 2a is a front view of a wetsuit containing pairs of limb zips for arm and leg portions in accordance with the second aspect of the present invention;

Figure 2b is a side view of the wet suit of figure 2a illustrating a pair of limb zips for the left leg portion in greater detail (omitting the limb zips for the left arm portion for clarity); and

Figure 2c is a side view of the wet suit of figure 2a illustrating a pair of limb zips for the left arm portion in greater detail (omitting the limb zips for the left leg portion for clarity).

[0017] Similar features of the embodiment according to the first aspect of the present invention shown in figures 1a, 1b and 1c and the embodiment according to the second aspect of the present invention shown in figures 2a, 2b and 2c are referred to by the same reference number.

[0018] Referring to figures 1a, 1b and 1c, a wet suit 10 is shown having a body portion 11, arm portions 12, 12' extending to the wrist 14, 14' and leg portions 15, 15' extending to the ankle 17, 17'.

[0019] Along the outer periphery of the arm portions 12, 12' are arm zips 13, 13' which when closed extend from the neck area of the body portion 11 to the end of respective arm portions.

[0020] The arm zips 13, 13' are permanently retained at the end of an arm portion 12, 12' and closed by drawing the zip up from the end of an arm portion to the neck area of the body portion 11.

[0021] Along the outer periphery of the leg portions 15, 15' are leg zips 16, 16' which when closed extend from

the hip areas of the body portion 11 to the end of respective leg portions.

[0022] The leg zips 13, 13' are permanently retained at the hip areas of the body portion 11 and are closed by drawing the zip down towards respective ends of the leg portions.

[0023] Exploded views A and B shown the neck area and ankle area in greater detail and illustrate arm zip 13' and leg zip 16' protected by respective flaps 19, 18 which may be releasibly secured to the garment by Velcro ®.

[0024] Referring to figures 2a, 2b and 2c, a wet suit 10 is shown having a body portion 11, arm portions 12, 12' extending to the wrist 14, 14' and leg portions 15, 15' extending to the ankle 17, 17'.

[0025] Along the outer periphery of the arm portions 12, 12' are respective pairs of zips 13 & 21, 13' & 21'. These pairs of zips extends in respective opposite directions from the elbow (20, 20', 22, 22') wherein both sides of these pairs of zips remain permanently attached at the elbow and are closed by drawing the them away from the elbow (to the neck area of the body portion (11) and the distal end (14, 14') of the arm portion respectively).

[0026] Along the outer periphery of the leg portions 15, 15' are respective pairs of zips 16 & 23, 16' & 23'. These pairs of zips extends in respective opposite directions from the knee (22, 22') wherein both sides of these pairs of zips remain permanently attached at the knee and are closed by drawing the them away from the knee (to the hip area of the body portion (11) and the distal end (17, 17') of the leg portion respectively).

[0027] Exploded views A and B shown the neck area and ankle area in greater detail and illustrate arm zip 13' and leg zip 23' protected by respective flaps 19, 18 which may be releasibly secured to the garment by Velcro ®.

[0028] There is also provided a garment as claimed in any of the appended claims 9 to 15, wherein the garment is reinforced at a least one elbow region from which a pair of arm zips extends.

Claims

1. A skin-tight garment (10) in the form of a wetsuit having a body portion (11); arms portions (12, 12'); and an arm zip (13, 13'), **characterised in that** the arm zip extends from the distal end of an arm portion and terminates at a neck area of the body portion, wherein both sides of the arm zip (13, 13') remain permanently attached to each other at the distal end of an arm portion and are closed by drawing the zip up from the distal end of an arm portion (12, 12') to the neck area of a body portion.
2. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 1 comprising a further one of the arm zips (13, 13') wherein each arm zip extends from the distal end of a respective arm portion (12, 12') and terminates at the neck area of the body portion (11).

3. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein, when worn, the or each arm zip (13, 13') extends along the outer profile of an arm portion (12, 12').
4. A garment (10) as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein, when worn, the arm portions extend to the wrist (14, 14').
5. A garment (10) according to any of the preceding claims further comprising leg portions (15, 15') and a leg zip (16, 16') extending from the hip area of the body portion (11) to the end of a leg portion.
6. A garment (10) as claimed in 5 comprising two leg zips (16, 16') wherein each leg zip extends from a hip area of the body portion (11) to the end of a respective leg portion (15, 15').
7. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 wherein, when worn, the or each leg zip (16, 16') extending from a hip area of the body portion (11) to the end of a leg portion (15, 15') extends along the outer profile of a leg portion.
8. A garment (10) as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7 wherein, when worn, the leg portions (15, 15') extend to the ankle.
9. A skin-tight garment (10) in the form of a wetsuit having a body portion (11); arm portions (12, 12'); and at least one pair of arm zips (13 & 21; 13' & 21') **characterised in that** the or each pair of arm zips extends along an arm portion in respective opposite directions from an elbow region (20, 20') of that arm portion, and wherein both sides of the or each pair of arm zips (13, 13') remain permanently attached at the elbow region and are closed by drawing the arm zips away from the elbow portion.
10. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 9 comprising two pairs of arm zips (13 & 21; 13' & 21') for respective arms portions (12, 12').
11. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 10 wherein, for each pair of arm zips (13 & 21; 13' & 21'), one arm zip (13, 13') extends from the elbow region (20, 20') to the neck area of the body portion (11) and the other arm zip (21, 21') extends from the elbow to the distal end (14, 14') of the arm portion.
12. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein each arm zip (13 & 21; 13' & 21') extends along the outer profile of an arm portion.
13. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 9 further comprising two pairs of leg zips (16, 23; 16', 23') for respective leg portions (15, 15').

14. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 13 wherein, for each pair of leg zips (16 & 23; 16' & 23'), one leg zip (16, 16') extends from a knee (22, 22') to a hip area of the body portion (11) and the other leg zip (23, 23') extends from the knee to the distal end (17, 17') of a leg portion.
15. A garment (10) as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14 wherein each leg zip (16 & 23; 16' & 23') extends along the outer profile of a leg portion.

Patentansprüche

1. Hautenges Kleidungsstück (10) in Form eines Nassanzugs mit einem Körperteil (11); Armteilen (12, 12'); und einem Armreißverschluss (13, 13'), **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sich der Armreißverschluss vom entfernten Ende eines Armteils erstreckt und in einem Nackenbereich des Körperteils endet, wobei beide Seiten des Armreißverschlusses (13, 13') am entfernten Ende des Armteils dauerhaft aneinander befestigt bleiben und durch Hochziehen des Reißverschlusses vom entfernten Ende eines Armteils (12, 12') zum Nackenbereich des Körperteils geschlossen werden.
2. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 1, weiter umfassend einen weiteren der Armreißverschlüsse (13, 13'), wobei sich jeder Armreißverschluss vom entfernten Ende des jeweiligen Armteils (12, 12') erstreckt und am Nackenbereich des Körperteils (11) endet.
3. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei sich im getragenen Zustand der oder jeder Armreißverschluss (13, 13') längs des äußeren Profils eines Armteils (12, 12') erstreckt.
4. Kleidungsstück (10) nach einem der voranstehenden Ansprüche, wobei sich im getragenen Zustand die Armteile zum Handgelenk (14, 14') erstrecken.
5. Kleidungsstück (10) nach einem der voranstehenden Ansprüche, weiter umfassend Beinteile (15, 15') und einen Beinreißverschluss (16, 16'), der sich vom Hüftbereich des Körperteils (11) zu einem Ende eines Beinteils erstreckt.
6. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 5, umfassend zwei Beinreißverschlüsse (16, 16'), wobei sich jeder Beinreißverschluss von einem Hüftbereich des Körperteils (11) zu dem Ende des jeweiligen Beinteils (15, 15') erstreckt.
7. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei im getragenen Zustand der oder jeder sich von einem Hüftbereich des Körperteils (11) zum Ende ei-

nes Beinteils (15, 15') erstreckende Beinreißverschluss (16, 16') sich längs des äußeren Profils eines Beinteils erstreckt.

8. Kleidungsstück (10) nach einem der voranstehenden Ansprüche 5 bis 7, wobei sich im getragenen Zustand die Beinteile (15, 15') bis zum Fußgelenk erstrecken.
9. Hautenges Kleidungsstück (10) in der Form eines Nassanzugs mit einem Körperteil (11); Armteilen (12, 12') und mindestens einem Paar von Armreißverschlüssen (13 & 21; 13' & 21'), **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sich der oder jedes Paar von Armreißverschlüssen längs eines Armteils von einem Ellbogenbereich (20, 20') in jeweils entgegengesetzte Richtungen des jeweiligen Armteils erstreckt, und wobei beide Seiten des oder jedes Paares von Armreißverschlüssen (13, 13') dauerhaft an den Ellbogenbereichen befestigt bleiben und durch Ziehen des Armreißverschlusses von dem Ellbogenbereich weg geschlossen werden.
10. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 9, umfassend zwei Paare von Armreißverschlüssen (13 & 21; 13' & 21') für jeweilige Armteile (12, 12').
11. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 10, wobei sich für jedes Paar von Armreißverschlüssen (13 & 21; 13' & 21') ein Armreißverschluss (13, 13') vom Ellbogenbereich (20, 20') zum Nackenbereich des Körperteils (11) erstreckt und sich der andere Armreißverschluss (12, 21') vom Ellbogen zu dem entfernten Ende (14, 14') eines Armteils erstreckt.
12. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 10 oder 11, wobei sich jeder Armreißverschluss (13 & 21; 13' & 21') längs des äußeren Profils eines Armteils erstreckt.
13. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 9, weiter umfassend zwei Paare von Beinreißverschlüssen (16, 23; 16', 23') für jeweilige Beinteile (15, 15').
14. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 13, wobei sich für jedes Paar von Beinreißverschlüssen (16 & 23; 16' & 23') ein Beinreißverschluss (16, 16') von einem Knie (22, 22') zu einem Hüftbereich des Körperteils (11) erstreckt und sich der andere Beinreißverschluss (23, 23') vom Knie zum entfernten Ende (17, 17') eines Beinteils erstreckt.
15. Kleidungsstück (10) nach Anspruch 13 oder 14, wobei sich jeder Beinreißverschluss (16 & 23; 16' & 23') längs des äußeren Profils eines Beinteils erstreckt.

Revendications

1. Vêtement moulant (10) se présentant sous la forme d'une combinaison ayant une partie de corps (11) ; des parties de bras (12, 12') ; et une fermeture éclair de bras (13, 13'), **caractérisé en ce que** la fermeture éclair de bras s'étend à partir de l'extrémité distale d'une partie de bras et se termine au niveau d'une région de cou de la partie de corps, dans lequel les deux côtés de la fermeture éclair de bras (13, 13') restent fixés de manière permanente l'un par rapport à l'autre au niveau de l'extrémité distale d'une partie de bras et sont fermés en tirant la fermeture éclair à partir de l'extrémité distale d'une partie de bras (12, 12') jusqu'à la région de cou d'une partie de corps.
2. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre une autre fermeture éclair des fermetures éclair de bras (13, 13'), dans lequel chaque fermeture éclair de bras s'étend à partir de l'extrémité distale d'une partie de bras (12, 12') respective et se termine au niveau de la région de cou de la partie de corps (11).
3. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans lequel, lorsqu'il est porté, la ou chaque fermeture éclair de bras (13, 13') s'étend le long du profil externe d'une partie de bras (12, 12').
4. Vêtement (10) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel, lorsqu'il est porté, les parties de bras s'étendent jusqu'au poignet (14, 14').
5. Vêtement (10) selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre des parties de jambe (15, 15') et une fermeture éclair de jambe (16, 16') s'étendant à partir de la région de hanche de la partie de corps (11) jusqu'à l'extrémité d'une partie de jambe.
6. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 5, comprenant deux fermetures éclair de jambe (16, 16'), dans lequel chaque fermeture éclair de jambe s'étend à partir d'une région de hanche de la partie de corps (11) jusqu'à l'extrémité d'une partie de jambe (15, 15') respective.
7. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 5 ou la revendication 6, dans lequel, lorsqu'il est porté, la ou chaque fermeture éclair de jambe (16, 16') s'étendant à partir d'une région de hanche de la partie de corps (11) jusqu'à l'extrémité d'une partie de jambe (15, 15') s'étend le long du profil externe d'une partie de jambe.
8. Vêtement (10) selon l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 7, dans lequel, lorsqu'il est porté, les parties de jambe (15, 15') s'étendent jusqu'à la cheville.
9. Vêtement moulant (10) se présentant sous la forme d'une combinaison, ayant une partie de corps (11) ; des parties de bras (12, 12') ; et au moins une paire de fermetures éclair de bras (13 & 21 ; 13' & 21'), **caractérisé en ce que** la ou chaque paire de fermetures éclair de bras s'étend le long d'une partie de bras dans des directions opposées respectives à partir d'une région de coude (20, 20') de cette partie de bras, et dans lequel les deux côtés de la ou de chaque paire de fermetures éclair de bras (13, 13') restent fixés de manière permanente au niveau de la région de coude et sont fermés en éloignant les fermetures éclair de bras de la partie de coude.
10. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 9, comprenant deux paires de fermetures éclair de bras (13 & 21 ; 13' & 21') pour des parties de bras (12, 12') respectives.
11. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 10, dans lequel, pour chaque paire de fermetures éclair de bras (13 & 21 ; 13' & 21'), une fermeture éclair de bras (13, 13') s'étend à partir de la région de coude (20, 20') jusqu'à la région de cou de la partie de corps (11) et l'autre fermeture éclair de bras (21, 21') s'étend à partir du coude jusqu'à l'extrémité distale (14, 14') de la partie de bras.
12. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 10 ou la revendication 11, dans lequel chaque fermeture éclair de bras (13 & 21 ; 13' & 21') s'étend le long du profil externe d'une partie de bras.
13. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 9, comprenant en outre deux paires de fermetures éclair de jambe (16, 23 ; 16' , 23') pour des parties de jambe (15, 15') respectives.
14. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 13, dans lequel, pour chaque paire de fermetures éclair de jambe (16 & 23 ; 16' & 23'), chaque fermeture éclair de jambe (16, 16') s'étend à partir d'un genou (22, 22') jusqu'à une région de hanche de la partie de corps (11), et l'autre fermeture éclair de jambe (23, 23') s'étend à partir du genou jusqu'à l'extrémité distale (17, 17') d'une partie de jambe.
15. Vêtement (10) selon la revendication 13 ou la revendication 14, dans lequel chaque fermeture éclair de jambe (16 & 23 ; 16' & 23') s'étend le long du profil externe d'une partie de jambe.

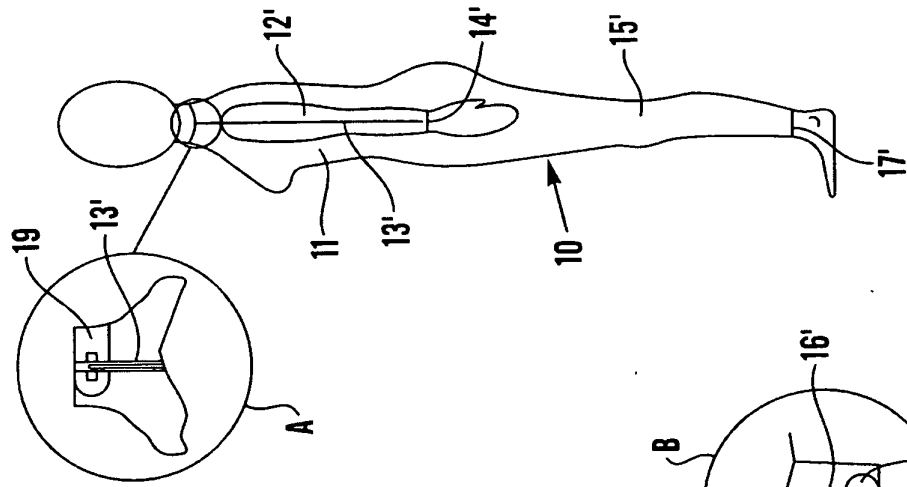


Fig. 1C

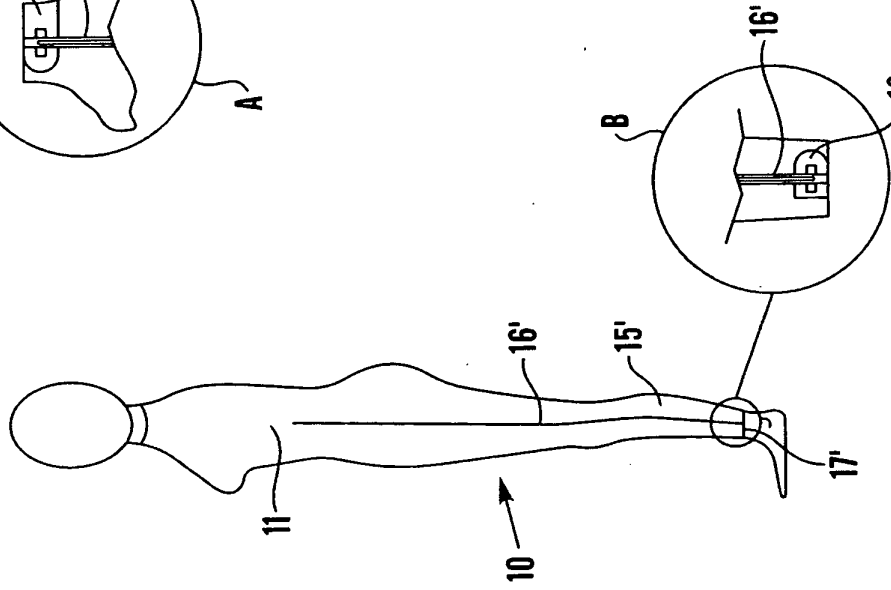


Fig. 1B

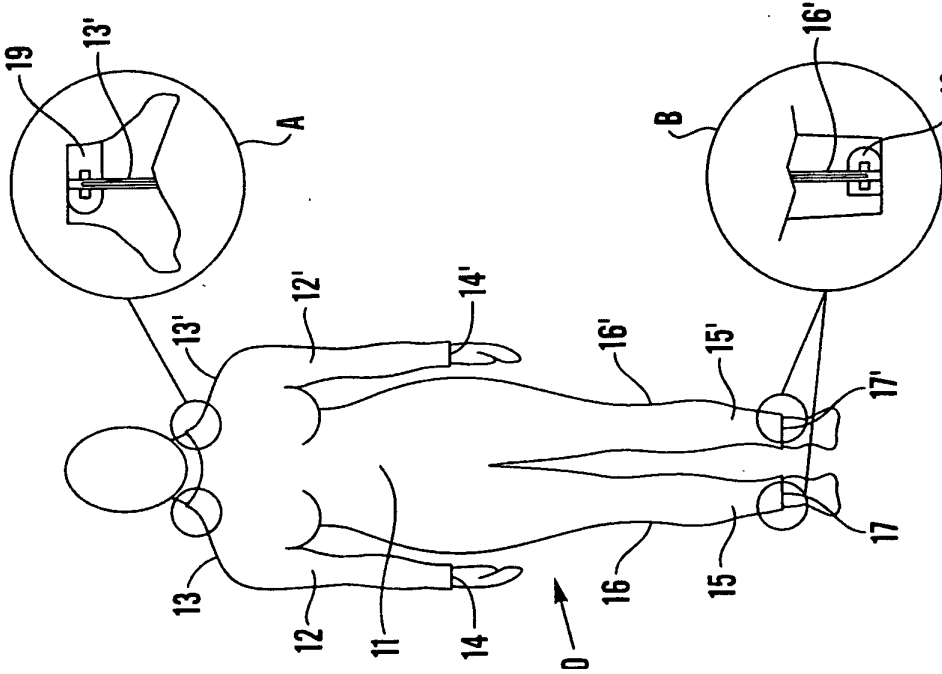


Fig. 1A

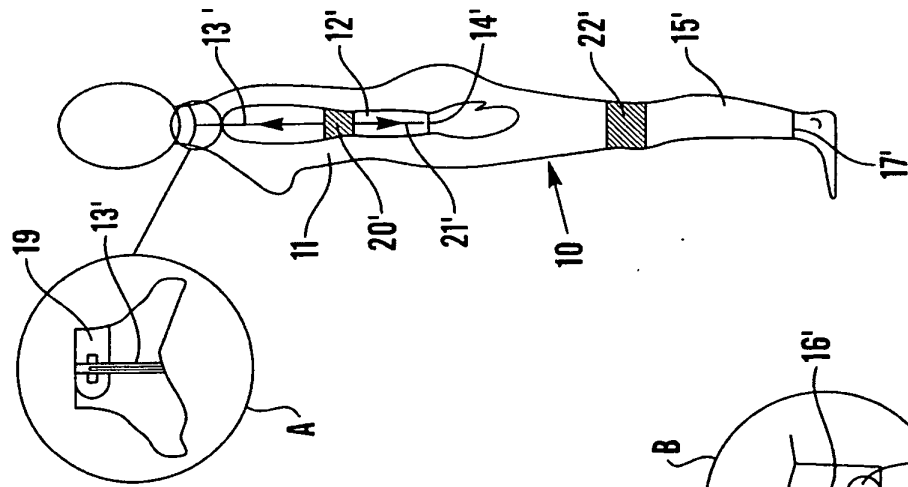


Fig. 2C

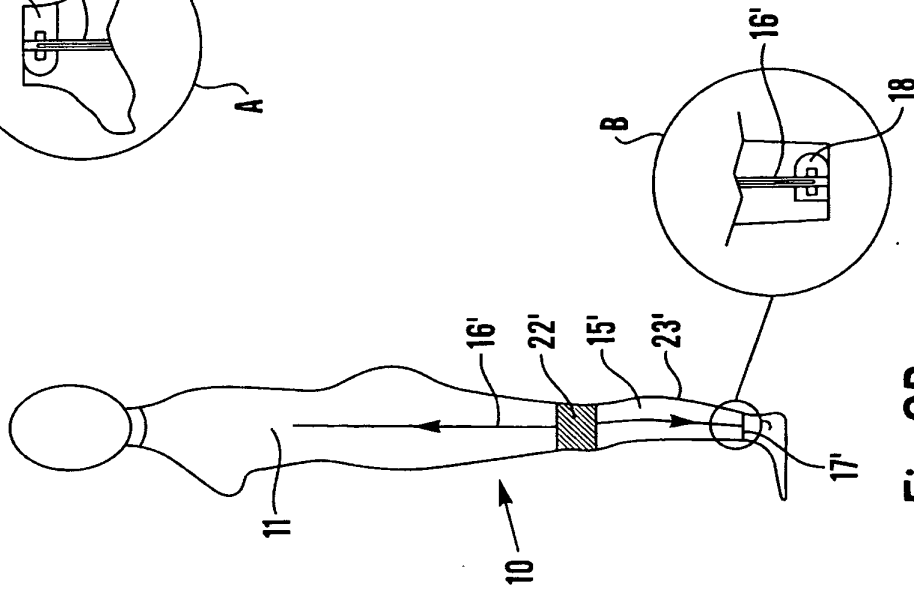


Fig. 2B

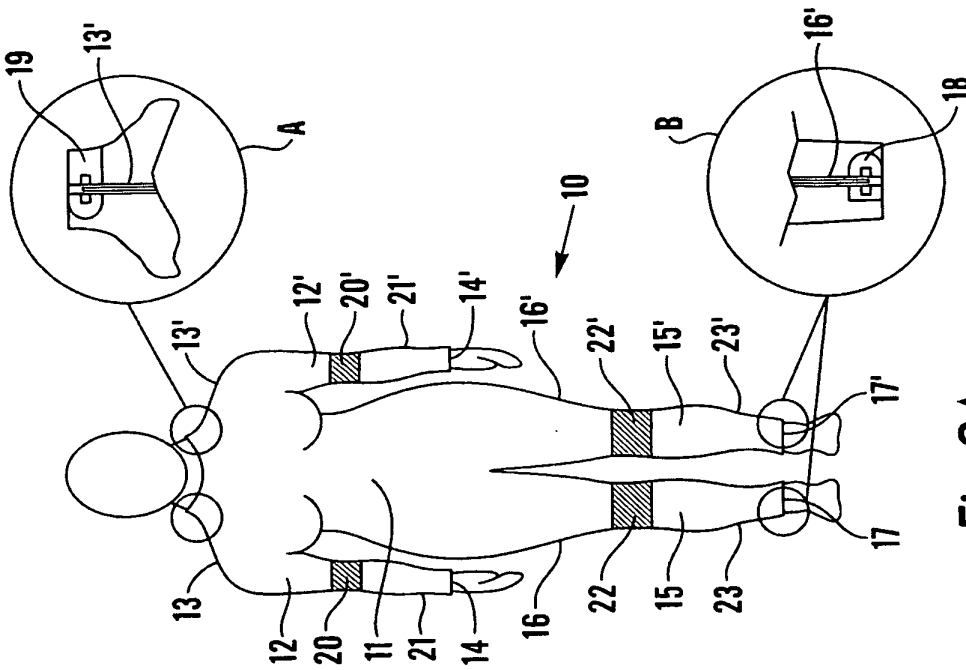


Fig. 2A

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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