G. H. BLAKESLEY & J. WRIGHT.

Garters.

No. 169,229. Patented Oct. 26, 1875.

Fig. 1.

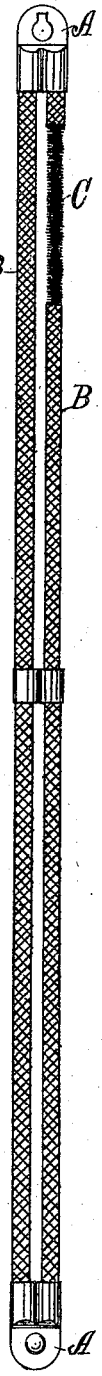

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses.

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GILBERT H. BLAKESLEY AND JULIUS WRIGHT, OF BRISTOL, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN GARTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **169,229**, dated October 26, 1875; application filed February 11, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, GILBERT H. BLAKESLEY and JULIUS WRIGHT, both of Bristol, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garters, of which the following is a specification:

Figure 1 is a side view of our improved garter. Fig. 2 shows a portion of the material as made to form the garter. Fig. 3 is a view of a metallic connection used in manufacturing the garter. Fig. 4 shows one end of the garter with the clasp attached thereto. Fig. 5 represents a view of the end of the wire and a side view of a piece of the wire, showing the twist of the same.

We make our garter in the following manner: Small spiral springs C C are produced by winding the wire on an oval mandrel, so that the spring is oval in shape until it leaves the mandrel, when the recoil will cause the spring to twist itself in the form shown in Fig. 5, leaving a tortuous groove the entire length of the coil, of a length suitable for garters. We then take metal connections G, which have a head, *a*, at each end, and insert the head into the ends of two lengths of springs, and coil the ends of the wire firmly around the body of the connection, so that the heads will not pull out, thereby connecting the sections of springs together, as shown in Fig. 2. A series of these springs are so connected and wound upon a roller or reel. They are then placed in a machine, known as a braiding-machine, and the springs are strained to the greatest degree of tension that it is designed to ever have them strained when in use. The machine is then put in operation, and a covering, B, is braided over said springs while thus strained, the covering being braided taut thereon, and conforming to the twisted shape of the wire, thereby taking into the spiral groove of the same, causing its retention in its place, and prevents the braid from slipping on the wire. This braiding also gives the garter a neat and unique appearance, and acts, in combination with the clasp, as an outside stay for the spring.

The size of the covering depends upon the size of the core being covered, so that when the connections G are reached, the covering contracts and snugly embraces the narrow neck of the connections.

When a series of these springs are so covered they are removed from the machine, and the springs are allowed to contract, when the covering will contract with them, and be somewhat slack, but not so slack as to look bungling.

The effect of so covering the spring is, that the covering is elastic to a limited degree—that is, it yields until it is strained to about the same degree that it was strained in braiding, when it will yield no farther, and consequently the spring cannot be subjected to any undue strain.

The lengths are then cut apart at about the middle of the connections G, when the ends so severed are placed in the coils of the clasp A, which are swaged tightly upon said ends, so as to firmly hold both the covering and the metal connection inside of the covering, so that the ends of the spring and the covering are both firmly secured to the clasp A or other suitable fastenings.

The advantages of our garter are, that every portion of the spring is protected, so that the covering acts as a stay to prevent undue strain upon the spring when only a portion of its length is strained, in precisely the same manner that it does when the whole length is strained; that by covering the spring there is no necessity for plating or washing it, and therefore it is not injured by acid necessarily used preparatory to plating, which acid destroys, in a measure, the elasticity of the wire, and renders it brittle; that the covering renders it less liable to slip down or out of place, and that the spring keeps the textile casing expanded, so as to allow free ventilation.

We claim as our invention—

1. The combination, in a garter, of a spring wound in oval shape, and twisted by its recoil in tortuous form, and a covering braided over said spring, all substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of the springs C and headed connections or end pieces G with a braid covering, which conforms to the size of said spring and end pieces, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

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