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[DESCRIPTION]

[Title of the Invention]

HOSIERY WEARING AID

[Technical Field]

【0001】 The present invention relates to a hosiery wearing aid which aids wearing hosiery, and in particular, to a wearing aid for long hosiery including stockings and panty hose.

[Technical Field]

【0002】

This type of conventional aid is known as an aid which uses a base member made from a metal wire rod, a pipe, a plastic plate or others. Socks are turned inside out and loaded on the aid.

【0003】

A hosiery wearing aid has been proposed (for example, refer to patent literature 1), which is provided with a body portion which is approximately cylindrical in a planar view and a half-cylindrical hosiery support portion formed integrally on the upper side of the body portion such that the front of the hosiery support portion is open. A base portion, at least, whose front side is open is formed on the bottom side of the body. The body portion, the hosiery support portion and the base member are configured to be disassembled and assembled into right and left two parts, centering approximately on the center line position in the front-back direction.

Another hosiery wearing aid has been proposed (for example, refer to patent literature 2), which is provided with a base, at least one a hosiery support, and at least one handle support. The hosiery support has a support element supported by the base, and the handle support has a handle which is adjacently located to the hosiery support so as to extend outward from the base.

【0004】

Further, another wearing aid for hosiery such as socks has been proposed (for example, refer to patent literature 3), which is provided with an elongated rod and a half-cylindrical body substantially supported at one end of the rod. The body of this aid can be swung on an axial line which is perpendicular to the axial line of the body itself and also perpendicular to the axial line of the rod.

【0005】

Another hosiery wearing aid has also been proposed (for example, refer to patent literature 4), which is provided with a frame type of base, two upright stems, and an opening portion. The upright stems are jointed, respectively, on both sides of the base so as to take upward postures and are provided with a gripping portion arranged horizontally. The opening portion is arranged between the two upright systems, and includes two support frames curved upward and a sock wearing member formed at upper parts of the support frames.

[Citation List]

[Patent Literature]

【0006】

PTL 1: JP-A-2009-261745

PTL 2: JP-A-2004-230170

PTL 3: JA-A-55-008792

PTL 4: JP-U-3182857

[Summary of the Invention]

[Technical Problem]

【0007】

Any of the foregoing patent literatures 1 – 4 uses a base member made from a metal wire rod, a pipe, or a plastic plate. Of these, the patent literature 1 provides a configuration which can be assembled so that good portability is secured, but this configuration is still confronted with a difficulty of larger size and heavier weight, so that the hosiery wearing aid is not insufficient for carrying it, at least, by hand.

【0008】

In particular, the wearing aid for panty hoses which are used more frequently than stockings is disclosed as a modification in the patent literature 2. However, in this wearing aid, the height and weight are approximately doubled compared with the conventional, so that the problem of the portability is not improved yet.

【0009】

In addition, with the wearing aids disclosed by patent literatures 1, 2 and 4, it is required that a user has to rotate the user's toe and lower thigh concentrically during the wearing action. This rotation burdens users who may find it difficult to rotate their ankles. To avoid this burden, it is required that the wearing aid follows smoothly a line passing through the foot and the lower thigh depending on differences of wearing angles between the foot and the lower thigh. Meanwhile, in the configuration disclosed by patent literature 3, there is still a problem that the wearing aid is larger in size and needs a larger number of parts, whereby production costs are still higher in addition to poorer portability.

【0010】

Hence, an object of the present invention is to provide a hosiery wearing aid which can be easily produced at lower cost and which has good portability. A further object of the present invention is to provide a wearing aid which can cope with wearing the hosiery such as pantyhose, which needs to be loaded on both of a user's legs at one time, i.e., not hosiery which needs loading on each leg separately, and which can still obtain the same advantages as the above.

[Solution to Problem]

【0011】

With consideration of the foregoing difficulties, the hosiery wearing aid according to the present invention is characterized mainly in that the hosiery wearing aid comprises: a sock wearing member which is flat and made of flexible elastic material; a sole guide member (a guide member for the sole of a user's foot) which is located in a central part of the sock wearing member and formed by a U-shaped cut; and a pair of tie band members which link, member by member, a corresponding one of end portions of mutually-opposed parts formed via the sole guide member in the sock wearing member and a corresponding one of two apexes of the sole guide members, wherein the sole guide member is kept in the flat shape and the sock wearing member is able to provide i) an opening in a side in which the sole guide member is formed, and ii) a hollow halved bottomless cylindrical shape, when the end portions of the mutually-opposed parts are mutually bent in an opposed direction.

【0012】

The sock wearing member can be provided in any developed shape as long as the sock wearing member can be formed to have a halved bottomless cylindrical shape by bending and curving thereof. It is preferred that the sock wearing member is formed into a rectangular shape. It is thus easier to form the halved bottomless cylindrical shape. In addition, when pulling the tie band members, a pulling force exerted on the aid is easier to spread equally over the wearing aid. Moreover, in order to exert an equal pulling force on the wearing aid, the sole guide member can be formed such that one side of the rectangular sock wearing member and an upper side connecting two apexes of the sole guide member are opposed and parallel to each other, wherein the one side of the sock wearing member provides an upper side, a side opposed to the upper side provides a bottom side, and the tie band members are linked with both end portions of the bottom side.

【0013】

The upper side of the sock wearing member can be formed such that the sock wearing member is curved, with a predetermined curvature, into an arch extending along a protruded direction. In this configuration, when wearing the hosiery, it is possible to reduce scratches, thus providing a smooth wearing action.

【0014】

Preferably, a tongue-shaped section can be attached to each of the two apexes of the sole guide members and the tie band members can be linked with the tongue-shaped sections, respectively. A user can hold the tongue-shaped section by the foot which is not wearing the hosiery now, whereby the sock wearing member and the sole guide member can be separated for obtaining a smoother wearing action.

【0015】

Still preferably, protrusions can be arranged, respectively, to protrude from both end portions of the bottom side in a longitudinal direction, and both of the end portions can have engaging cut portions, the engaging cut portions of both of the end portions being meshed with each other to sustain the halved bottomless cylindrical shape of the sock wearing member. According to this configuration, when the hosiery is reversed to be loaded on the sock wearing member, it is not required to hold the sock wearing member by one hand in an attempt to sustain the halved bottomless cylindrical shape of the hosiery wearing aid. It is thus possible for users to use both hands for the wearing action, facilitating the wearing action.

【0016】

In addition, for the hosiery, such as panty hose, being worn on both legs at one time, there can be provided a linkage section mutually linking two of the hosiery wearing aid such that the two hosiery wearing aids are linked integrally at the bottom sides in a linear form, wherein a portion between mutually opposed edges of the two sock wearing members is shaped into a U-shape reaching the linkage section.

【0017】

As for the hosiery wearing aid for the panty hoses, it is preferred so sustain the halved bottomless cylindrical shape. Hence, instead of using the engaging cut portions, there can be provided various alternative members. Such members include a member comprising concave portions, the concave portions being made to fit the bottom sides of the respective sock wearing members; a lateral bridge member having pinching members pinching both end portions of the bottom sides of the respective sock wearing members, the respective pinching members being laterally bridged by a straight

rod-shaped member; or a lateral bridge member which uses, in place of the above rod-shaped member, band members for the lateral bridge.

[Advantageous Effects of the Invention]

【0018】

According to the present invention, the hosiery wearing aid can be flattened when being not used, so that it is easier to carry and put away the hosiery wearing aid.

【0019】

Additionally, there is provided advantages that the number of parts of the hosiery wearing aid is lower and the hosiery wearing aid is easily-produced, which enables lower-cost production of the hosiery wearing aid.

【0020】

The hosiery wearing aid can be flattened, so that the degree of freedom of design on the hosiery wearing aid increases. It is thus possible to make the designs attractive for consumers and to print advertisements or others for sales promotion.

【0021】

The material of the hosiery wearing aid is elastic having flexibility, which can be used independently of the size of the hosiery, thus being economically advantageous.

【0022】

In addition, the two hosiery wearing aids can be linked, thus making use of the hosiery wearing aid for panty hoses which have higher demand than stockings. Hence, such a hosiery wearing aid is advantageous to seeking an enlarged market.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

【0023】

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing an overall hosiery wearing aid exemplified according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 illustrates perspective views each showing a sock wearing member provided with protrusions in which engaging cut portions are formed, wherein (a) of Fig. 2 is a view showing development of the sock wearing member and (b) of Fig. 2 is a view showing an engaged state of the engaging cut portions of the sock wearing member;

Fig. 3 illustrates functions of the hosiery wearing aid according to the present invention, wherein (a) of Fig. 3 is a view illustrating a state where hosiery is loaded on a hosiery wearing member, (b) of Fig. 3 is a view illustrating a state where the hosiery is loaded on the foot, and (c) of Fig. 3 is a view illustrating the the hosiery is loaded on the lower thigh;

Fig. 4, (a), is a front view showing a hosiery wearing and for panty hose which is produced by integrally linking two hosiery wearing aids with each other, and Fig. 4, (b), is a front view showing a hosiery wearing aid produced by arranging the engaging cut portions explained in Fig. 2, in the hosiery wearing aid explained in (a) of Fig. 4; and

Fig. 5 illustrates views showing retaining members which retain, in cylindrical shapes, a hosiery wearing aid for panty hoses, in which (a) of Fig. 5 shows a concave member which is fit to the bottom side, (b) of Fig. 5 shows a lateral bridge member, and (c) of Fig. 5 shows band members used in place of the rod-shaped member of the lateral bridge member shown in (b) of Fig. 5.

[Description of Embodiments]

【0024】

Referring to Fig. 1, a hosiery wearing aid 1 according tot the present invention is provided. The hosiery wearing aid 1 includes a sock wearing member 11 serving as a

body portion. The sock wearing member is flat and made of elastic material with flexibility. When this aid is not used, the aid can be flattened as a whole, the aid is advantageous to portability and storage. The material composing the sock wearing member 11 is not limited to particular ones, as long as the material is elastic material with flexibility which allows the sock wearing member to be flat in the ordinary state and to be bent for use. When taking various factors such as manufacturing cost, easiness in production, and lighting into account, it is preferable that the sock wearing member is made of resin materials including polypropylene.

【0025】

Provided that the sock wearing portion 11 can be formed a halved bottomless cylindrical shape when being bent as will be described later, the sock wearing portion 11 can be formed into any shape in the ordinary state, but it is preferable that the shape is a rectangle because the halved bottomless cylindrical shape can be produced relatively easily. In the present embodiment, the sock wearing member 11 has a rectangular shape, which will now be described.

【0026】

The sock wearing member 11 has an upper side 11a and a bottom side 11b, where the upper side 11a is formed to be arched into the projecting direction at a predetermined curvature and the bottom side 11b is formed to be linear. The upper side 11a provides an upper-end circumferential edge of the sock wearing portion 11 when this sock wearing member 11 is developed to the foregoing halved bottomless cylindrical shape.

【0027】

In an approximately central portion of the sock wearing portion 11, there is arranged a sole guide member (a guide member for the sole of a user's foot) 15 formed by a U-shaped cut 14. The sole guide member 15 is partly separated from a remaining portion of the sock wearing member 11 by the U-shaped cut 14. The U-shaped cut 14 stems from an open side end which is not cut, which is referred to as an open end side of the U-shape. Thus this open end side continues to the sock wearing member 11 in the flat plane. As an alternative example, the cut 14 and the sole guide portion 15 can be separated by cutting, a given width, with a portion present between the cut 14 and the sole guide portion 15.

【0028】

In the sock wearing member 11, mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13 are formed on the lateral right and left sides of the cut 14, which are located via the sole guide member 15. The mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13 serve as side portions of the foregoing halved bottomless cylindrical shape when the sock wearing member 11 is developed to the foregoing halved bottomless cylindrical shape.

【0029】

Both end portions 16 of the bottom side 11b are open and both apex portions 17 of the sole guide member 15, which are positioned closer to the closed edge of the U-shape, are also opened. When wearing socks, both ends of each of tie band members 18, which are used to pull the sock wearing member 11, pass through the respective openings of the end portions 16 and the apex portions 17. Both end portions of each of the tie band members 18 which are made to pass through the openings are tied with each other by for example making a knot, so that the link is larger in diameter than the openings, thereby preventing the tie band members 18 from coming off from the

openings. The tie band members 18 are composed of a pair of tie bands. Both ends of one of the tie band members 18 are made to engage with not only one of the end portions 16 of the bottom side 11b, which is closer to one, 12, of the mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13, but also one of the apex portions 17 of the sole guide member 15. Meanwhile, both ends of the other of the tie band members 18 are made to engage with not only the other of the end portions 16 of the bottom side 11b, which is closer to one, 13, of the mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13, but also the other of the apex portions 17 of the sole guide member 15. Each of the tie bands composing the tie band members 18 is folded back by the engagement at an approximately half-divided position in its longitudinal direction, so that each tie band is made into a ring shape which is via the sock wearing member 11. Accordingly, each tie band has a portion extending from the folded-back position to the end portion 16, which composes a lower thigh pulling portion 18b and a portion extending from the folded-back position to the apex 17, which composes a foot pulling portion 18a

【0030】

The apex portions 17 of the sole guide member 15 may be produced into tongue-shaped sections 15a and 15b.

【0031】

Fig. 2 exemplifies a modification of the hosiery wearing aid. Components similar or identical to those shown in Fig. 1 are given the same reference numbers for the sake of omitting the unnecessarily detailed explanation.

【0032】

In the sock wearing portion 11, the mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13 are made to be bent in mutually-opposed directions when the sock wearing portion 11 is developed to the halved bottomless cylindrical shape. However, the sock wearing member 11 is made of elastic material, so that a person has to wear socks or others with, at least, a person's one hand sustaining the halved bottomless cylindrical-shaped portion 11 in order to keep the halved bottomless cylindrical shape thereof.

【0033】

In the present embodiment, in order to keep the halved bottomless cylindrical shape, a protrusion 19 is formed from each of both end portions 16 of the bottom side 11b in the longitudinal direction of the bottom. One of the two protrusions 19 (in the present embodiment, the protrusion 19 closer to the part 12 of the mutually-opposed parts than to the other part 13) has a slit 19a formed in a direction from the bottom side 11b to the upper side 11a, while the other of the two protrusions 19 (in the present embodiment, the protrusion 19 closer to the part 13 of the mutually-opposed parts than to the other part 12) has a slit 19b formed in a direction from the upper side 11a to the bottom side 11b. Both slits are thus opposite in directions to each other and are positionally symmetrical to each other in the longitudinal direction of the bottom. When the sock wearing portion 11 is bent to provide it with the foregoing halved bottomless cylindrical shape, the two protrusions 19 are superposed one on the other, and the slits 19a and 19b are meshed with each other to have elastic force. This elastic force suppresses resistance against return force exerted between the protrusions, so that the slits can be engaged with each other, which makes it possible that the sock wearing portion 11 retains its cylindrical shape. Fig. 2 (a) shows an ordinary state, i.e., a developed state, of the sock wearing member 11, whilst Fig. 2(b) shows a state in which the slits 19a and 19b are meshed with each other for the mutual engagement.

【0034】

Using Fig. 3, how to use (functions) of the sock wearing aid according to the present invention will now be described. In the present embodiment, the hosiery which allows wearing up to the thigh, for example, a thigh-high stocking S is exemplified.

【0035】

As shown in Fig. 3(a), a sock wearing member 11 is first bent into the halved bottomless cylindrical shape. Specifically, the edge portions of the mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13 are separated from each other in the opposed direction and then bent to be curved, which changes the sock wearing member 11 into a halved and bottomless cylindrical-shaped portion. In the present embodiment, the protrusions 19 explained with Fig. 2 are employed, the slits 19a and 19b sustain this cylindrical shape when the slits are made to engage with each other.

【0036】

When this halved bottomless cylindrical shape is established, the upper side 11a composes the upper circumferential edge portion of the cylindrical shape. As described, since the upper side 11a is formed to be arched with a specified curvature in its protruded direction, the upper circumferential edge portion descends from the top of the arch to each of the edge portions in a side view.

【0037】

The stocking S is reversed and rolled up, approximately, at the open end thereof (i.e., from which a user's foot is inserted), and the reversed and rolled-up stocking S is loaded on the sock wearing portion 11 from its upper circumferential edge portion. The loaded stocking S is withdrawn by hand toward the bottom side 11b so that the stocking S can cover the overall sock wearing member 11. As the upper side 11a has the descending slope as described, it is easier for the user to load the stocking S onto the sock wearing portion 11 and scratches are reduced, thus causing no damage to the stocking S as much as possible during the loading operation.

【0038】

When the halved bottomless cylindrical shape is provided to the sock wearing member 11, the sole guide member 15 is kept almost flattened with no influence of the bending work, because the sole guide member 15 is cut to separate from the remaining portion in the sock wearing member 11 except for one end, i.e., the open end side of the U-shape of the cut 14. Accordingly, when the sock wearing member 11 is developed to have the halved bottomless cylindrical shape, the sole guide member 15 becomes oblique to be separated gradually from the cylindrical-shaped portion 11 as advancing from the open end of the U-shape to the closed end formed with the apexes 17. The stocking S is loaded on the cylindrical-shaped portion 11 so that the stocking S avoids interference of the sole guide member 15, which produces a space between the sock wearing member 11 and the sole guide member 15.

【0039】

As the stocking S is rolled up at the bottom side 11b or adjacently thereto, the stocking S has an upper face, in an almost tensed state, at the upper circumferential edge portion of the upper side 11a. However, by leaving slight slack in the upper face, the linking (i.e., the tip portion of the toe) forms an insertion recess Si which sinks toward the inside of the cylindrical shape.

【0040】

In the state shown by Fig. 3(a), the user inserts the user's toe tip through the

insertion recess Si to insert the user's foot F into the stocking S. In this insertion stage, as shown in Fig. 3(b), the cylindrically shaped sock wearing portion 11 provides its upside-down state where the insertion recess Si faces the toe tip of the foot F and the sole guide member 15 touches the sole of the foot F during the insertion. For smoothing the insertion of the foot F, the user can hold the tongue-shaped section 15a or 15b to fix the sock wearing member 11 by, for example, the big toe which is not wearing the stocking S now. For instance, when the user's right foot is wearing the stocking S, the user can hold the tongue-shaped section 15b by the big toe of the left foot, while when the user's left foot is wearing the stocking S, the user can hold the tongue-shaped section 15a by the big toe of the right foot.

【0041】

The foot F is then inserted into the insertion recess Si and the tie band member 18 is pulled up toward the lower thigh L, which enables the sole guide member 15 to slide on the sole of the foot F for loading the stocking S thereon. For wearing the stocking S on the foot F, the foot pulling portions 18a of the tie band members 18, which are coupled with the apex portions 17 of the sole guide member 15, is pulled up in a direction D1 shown by an arrow. This pulling-up operation makes it possible that, mainly, the sole guide member 15 is strongly pulled up, so that a force is applied to the sole guide member 15 in a direction along the insertion direction of the foot F, thus enabling the foot F to wear the stocking S smoothly.

【0042】

When the heel of the foot F reaches the U-shaped open end portion of the sole guide member 15, that is, the portion which continues to the sock wearing member 11 in the flat plane, the stocking S should be worn in the direction along the lower thigh L. That is, the sock wearing portion 11 should be lifted from the forgoing fallen state, along an oblique direction of by the lower thigh L. To perform this lift operation, as shown in Fig. 3(c), both the foot pulling portions 18a and the lower thigh pulling portions 18b, which compose the tie band members 18, are pulled up in arrow directions D1 and D2 by forces almost equally applied by the user. As a modification, any kind of markers may be given to the foot pulling portions 18 and the lower thigh pulling portions 18b such that both pulling portions 18a and 18b can be distinguished easily from each other by a user. Such modifications include application of different colors to both pulling portions 18a and 18b. When completing this pulling operation up to the thigh in the directions D1 and D2, the open end of the stocking S will appear on the thigh. In this way, the stocking S is loaded on the user's leg and the hosiery wearing aid 1 is removed from the user's leg.

【0043】

The hosiery wearing aid 1 according to the present invention is configured to follow smoothly both the foot F and the lower thigh L which needs the pulling-up directions which are mutually different. Accordingly, without moving the foot and leg of a user in conformity with shapes given by a wearing aid, the user can wear the stocking S in an easier manner. This advantage can provide greater convenience to users who cannot his or her foots or legs freely, such as elderly persons and disability persons.

【0044】

Fig. 4 shows a pant type of hosiery wearing aid which is for hosiery such as panty hoses. Fig. 4(a) shows a connection of two hosiery wearing aids 1 shown in Fig. 1, while Fig. 4(b) shows a connection of the hosiery wearing aids 1 shown in Fig. 1. In

these figures, the tie band members are omitted from drawn for simplifying the explanations.

【0045】

Specifically, the pant type of hosiery wearing aid 100 has components corresponding to those of the foregoing hosiery wearing aid 1 such that a sock wearing member 101 corresponds to the foregoing sock wearing member 11, upper and bottom sides 11a and 11b correspond to the foregoing upper and bottom sides 11a and 11b, respectively, and mutually-opposed parts 102 and 103 correspond to the foregoing mutually-opposed parts 12 and 13. Further, a cut 104 corresponds to the foregoing cut 14, a sole guide member 105 corresponds to the foregoing sole guide member 15, and apex portions 107 correspond to the foregoing apex portions 17. End portions 106 correspond to the foregoing end portions 16, protrusions 109 correspond to the foregoing protrusions 19, and slits 109a and 109b correspond to the foregoing slits 19a and 19b. The components having the above correspondences are able to provide the same functions as those in described in the foregoing embodiment, whereby detailed explanation are omitted here.

【0046】

The pant type of hosiery wearing aid 100 includes a linkage section 120 for linkage of the two sock wearing members. The linkage section 120 is used to, in a linear form, link the two bottom sides 101b of the two sock wearing members 101 in the longitudinal direction, and provide a U-shaped space 121 formed between the two opposed sides 103 of the mutually adjacent hosiery wearing aids 100 such that opposed edges of the two opposed sides 103 are separated from each other by a given width of space. By forming the space 121, it is possible for users to secure a space between the user's legs during the users' wearing action, whereby the users can wear the hosiery such as panty hoses in a smoother manner.

【0047】

In addition, the panty hose is to be worn on both legs, so that the foregoing pulling-up operation is performed at the same time for the both legs. Hence, it is sufficient that the end portion sides of the tie band members are linked at only outer end portions 106 of the two sock wearing portions 101. Thus, openings with which the tie band members are tied are present at two locations of the end portions 106. Each of the tie band members is divided into two portions at each of the apex portions 107 of each of the sole guide members 105.

【0048】

In the configuration of Fig. 4(b), the slits 109a and 109b are formed to sustain the halved bottomless cylindrical shape during the wearing action, but can be replaced by the following alternative means shown in Fig. 5, in which external members can be used as such alternative means.

【0049】

Fig. 5(a) shows a fitting member 3, whose shape is made to fit to the shape of the bottom sides 101b provided when the pant type of hosiery wearing aid 100 is developed to have the halved bottomless cylindrical shapes. The fitting member 3 is composed of a frame 31, and the frame 31 is formed to have concave portions 32 each of which is approximately a U-shaped in section when viewed in the lateral direction thereof. The sock wearing members 101 which have been developed to have the halved bottomless cylindrical shapes are made to fit the concave portions 32, which is able to sustain the

cylindrical shapes. In the present embodiment, the frame 31 is produced to have the concave portions 32 but this can still be modified into another structure. For example, a plate member whose thickness is approximately the same as that of the frame 31 is produced to have grooves corresponding in size and shape to the concave portions 32 (not shown).

【0050】

Fig. 5(b) shows a lateral bridge member 4, which is able to laterally bridge both end portions of the bottom side 101b which are separated, which the halved bottomless cylindrical shapes are established. The lateral bridge member 4 is a straight rod-shaped member 41 and pinching members 42, 43, 44 and 45 arranged on the rod-shaped member 41 to stand perpendicularly therefrom. Of the pinching members, the two pinching members 42 and 43 are located so as to be opposed to the outer end portions 106 of the respective wearing portions 101 and the two pinching portions 44 and 45 are located so as to be opposed to the inner end portions 106 of the respective wearing portions 101, when the halved bottomless cylindrical shapes are established. In the present embodiment, the lateral bridge member 4 has the pinching members 42 to 45 standing from the rod-shaped member 41, but may be changed into another structure. For example, a rod-shaped member whose thickness is almost equal to that of the pinching members 42 to 45 is cut to have grooves corresponding in depth to the pinching members 42 to 45.

【0051】

Fig. 5(c) shows a structure in which band members 51 and 52 are adopted in place of the rod-shaped member 41 shown in Fig. 5(b). The band members 51 and 52 have a length which is set to be equal to the distance between both end portions 106 of the base sides 101b, in which those end portions 106 are separated when the halved bottomless cylindrical shapes are established. By setting of this length, it is possible that the band members 51 and 52 lay across both end portions 106 in a tensioned state, with the result that the identical effects to those gained from use of the lateral bridge member 4. In this modification, pinching members 53, 54 and 55 are secured on the tips of the band members 51 and 52. The inner end portion(s) 106 is supported by being pinched by the single pinching member 55. In this embodiment, the pinching members 53 to 55 are provided as elastic members which are clip-shaped to have a pinching space narrowed as advancing to the tip. But this is just an example, and may be produced as a member with a spring having a bias force, such as clothes pins (not shown).

【0052】

To employ the external members results in an increase in the number of parts of the hosiery wearing aid, but the band members 51 and 52 can be configured as described. This configuration allows the hosiery wearing aid to be made compact in size for storage when not being used, thus providing users with greater portability.

[Reference Sign List]

【0053】

- 1 hosiery wearing aid
- 11 sock wearing member
- 12, 13 mutually-opposed parts
- 14 cut
- 15 sole guide member
- 15a, 15b tongue-shaped section

- 16 end portion
- 17 apex portion
- 18 tie band members
- 19 protrusion

CLAIMS

1. A hosiery wearing aid, characterized in that the hosiery wearing aid comprises:

a sock wearing member which is flat and made of flexible elastic material;

a sole guide member which is located in a central part of the sock wearing member and formed by a U-shaped cut; and

a pair of tie band members which link, member by member, a corresponding one of end portions of mutually-opposed parts formed via the sole guide member in the sock wearing member and a corresponding one of two apexes of the sole guide members,

wherein the sole guide member is kept in a flat shape and the sock wearing member is able to provide i) an opening in a side in which the sole guide member is formed, and ii) a hollow halved bottomless cylindrical shape, when the end portions of the mutually-opposed parts are mutually bent in an opposed direction.

2. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 1, characterized in that the sock wearing member is formed into a rectangular shape.

3. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 2, characterized in that the sole guide member is formed such that one side of the rectangular sock wearing member and an upper side connecting two apexes of the sole guide member are opposed and parallel to each other,

wherein the one side of the sock wearing member provides an upper side, a side opposed to the upper side provides a bottom side, and the tie band members are linked with both end portions of the bottom side.

4. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 3, characterized in that the upper side of the sock wearing member is formed such that the sock wearing member is curved, with a predetermined curvature, into an arch extending along a protruded direction.

5. The hosiery wearing aid of any one of claims 1 – 4, characterized in that a tongue-shaped section is attached to each of the two apexes of the sole guide members and the tie band members are linked with the tongue-shaped sections, respectively.

6. The hosiery wearing aid of any one of claims 3 - 5, characterized in that protrusions are arranged, respectively, to protrude from both end portions of the bottom side in a longitudinal direction, and both of the end portions have engaging cut portions, the engaging cut portions of both of the end portions being meshed with each other to sustain the halved bottomless cylindrical shape of the sock wearing member.

7. The hosiery wearing aid of any one of claims 3 - 7, characterized in that the hosiery wearing aid comprises

a linkage section mutually linking two of the hosiery wearing aids such that the two hosiery wearing aids are linked integrally at the bottom sides in a linear form, wherein a portion between mutually opposed edges of the two sock wearing members is shaped into a U-shape reaching the linkage section.

8. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 7, characterized in that the hosiery wearing

aid comprises the linkage section and, instead of the engaging cut portions, a fitting member comprising concave portions, the concave portions being made to fit the bottom sides of the respective sock wearing members when each of the hosiery wearing aids is developed to have the halved bottomless cylindrical shape.

9. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 7, characterized in that the hosiery wearing aid comprises the linkage section and, instead of the engaging cut portions, a lateral bridge member comprising pinching members pinching both end portions of the bottom sides of the respective sock wearing members, the respective pinching members being laterally bridged by a straight rod-shaped member.

10. The hosiery wearing aid of claim 9, characterized in that the lateral bridge member is laterally bridged by band members provided instead of the straight rod-shaped member.