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(54) BRIEFS

(71) I, CHARLES BELPAUME, of French Nationality, of 13, Bouc-Bel-Air, (Bouches-du-Rhone) France, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to briefs and more particularly to sports briefs.

A conventional pair of briefs has two symmetrical leg borders for stretching over the upper thighs of a wearer the front of each leg border being disposed below the upper extremity of the respective thigh. The portions of the briefs situated between the leg borders and the parts overlying the top of the wearer's thighs at the front, through covering the inguinal fold or groin of the wearer, cause discomfort during the wearer's movements, particularly if the wearer jumps and runs during which movements his thighs are abruptly and repeatedly extended and flexed relative to his trunk. This disadvantage leads to a second disadvantage, in that as the front of the briefs is being stretched at thigh level, the rear of the briefs is equally subjected to tension, as a result of which the rear of each leg border rises. Eventually the leg borders are positioned across, and crease, the corresponding buttocks.

Accordingly the present invention provides a pair of briefs having the front edge of each leg opening provided with a concave middle portion recessed towards the waistband of the briefs so that, when worn, the briefs do not impede leg movement, the rear of the briefs having contouring buttock seams symmetrical relative to a front central seam of the briefs joining side parts of the briefs to a rear part of the briefs, and the leg openings being arranged so that the buttocks are entirely covered by the body of the briefs.

A pair of briefs embodying the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front view of the briefs on a wearer;

Figure 2 is a perspective rear view of the briefs shown in figure 1.

The pair of briefs is made up from textile pieces suitable for underwear. The textiles may be produced from one type of fibre or from a combination of several types of fibres, such as animal, vegetable and synthetic fibres.

With reference to figure 1, the briefs are so cut that each leg border 1 circling a respective thigh of the wearer has, in the middle of its front, a deeply concave portion extending towards a waistband 8 and so shaped that when the briefs are worn, the associated part of the groin 4 and top part 2 of the front of the respective upper thigh 3, of the wearer are uncovered thereby leaving the inguinal fold of the wearer free from contact with the briefs.

This feature does not restrict the design of the front face of the briefs. Typically a front compartment 5 contoured to suit the wearer, is provided on the front of the briefs, and is made up from one or more panels 6 faced or lined on their or its inside. In the briefs shown, two panel halves are joined together by way of a central seam 9 and the sides of of the front compartment thereby formed are joined to the sides of the body of the briefs by way of seams 7 extending from the respective leg borders 1 to the waistband 8 of the briefs.

With reference to figure 2, the rear of the pair of briefs has contouring buttock seams 10 joining side parts and a rear part of the briefs and each seam extends from a point on the waistband 8, substantially overlying the iliac area of the wearer when the briefs are worn, to a rear portion 1*a* of the respective leg border enflanking the gluteal fold area of buttock of the wearer.

In the case of conventional briefs, tugging and tensional forces originating from the front of the briefs if the wearer jumps or runs, cause the leg border portion 1*a* to rise across the buttock of the wearer, but in briefs embodying the invention this risk is reduced or eliminated since these tugging forces are reduced and sufficient material is provided through the use of each contouring

seam 10 to have the associated buttock of the wearer covered entirely by the body of the briefs. The two leg border portions 1*a* are located under the corresponding buttock and help to keep the buttock completely covered.

The contouring seams 10 extend substantially symmetrically relative to the front central seam 9 along semi-parabolae convex towards each other, whether the briefs are on a wearer or not, the radius of curvature of which semi-parabolae progressively decrease from the waistband 8 towards the leg border portion 1*a*, the upper portion 11 of the contoured seam 10 being substantially rectilinear.

Briefs are made in a variety of sizes, each size suitable for wearers with waist dimensions etc. within specified limits. All references to a wearer's anatomy in the description and claims refer to a wearer of average dimensions within the relevant size group.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A pair of briefs having the front edge of each leg opening provided with a concave middle portion recessed towards the waistband of the briefs so that, when worn, the briefs do not impede leg movement, the rear of the briefs having contouring buttock seams symmetrical relative to a front central seam of the briefs joining side parts of the briefs to a rear part of the briefs, and the leg openings being arranged so that the buttocks are entirely covered by the body of the briefs.

2. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said buttock seam is so shaped as to extend, when the briefs are worn, from the wearer's iliac area to the area of the wearer's gluteal fold.

3. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein each buttock seam extends from the waistband of the briefs to the respective leg opening.

4. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the buttock seams curve towards each other, the seam portions near the waistband of the briefs being substantially rectiliner and the radii of curvature of the seams progressively decreasing towards the respective leg openings.

5. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 4 wherein the buttock seams are in the form of semi-parabolae.

6. A pair of briefs as claimed in any preceding claim wherein at least a part of the front of the briefs is faced or lined.

7. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 6 having a faced or lined front part joined by means of seams to front edges of side parts of the briefs.

8. A pair of briefs as claimed in any preceding claim having a front compartment consisting of two lateral halves joined by a central seam.

9. A pair of briefs substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

MARKS & CLERK,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Agents for the Applicant.

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The contouring seams 10 extend substantially symmetrically relative to the front central seam 9 along semi-parabolae convex towards each other, whether the briefs are on a wearer or not, the radius of curvature of which semi-parabolae progressively decrease from the waistband 8 towards the leg border portion 1*a*, the upper portion 11 of the contoured seam 10 being substantially rectilinear.

Briefs are made in a variety of sizes, each size suitable for wearers with waist dimensions etc. within specified limits. All references to a wearer's anatomy in the description and claims refer to a wearer of average dimensions within the relevant size group.

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2. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said buttock seam is so shaped as to extend, when the briefs are worn, from the wearer's iliac area to the area of the wearer's gluteal fold.

3. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein each buttock seam extends from the waistband of the briefs to the respective leg opening.

4. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the buttock seams curve towards each other, the seam portions near the waistband of the briefs being substantially rectiliner and the radii of curvature of the seams progressively decreasing towards the respective leg openings.

5. A pair of briefs as claimed in claim 4 wherein the buttock seams are in the form of semi-parabolae.

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