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(54) **GARMENTS FOR MEN**

(71) Applicant: **0912139 B.C. LTD.**, Kelowna (CA)

(72) Inventors: **Dustin Douglas Bigney**, West Vancouver (CA); **Shawn Robert Ellis**, Kelowna (CA)

(73) Assignee: **0912139 B.C. LTD.**, Kelowna (CA)

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A41B 9/02 (2006.01)

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CPC ***A41B 9/02*** (2013.01); ***A41B 9/023*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A41B 9/02; A41B 9/023; A41B 9/026; A61F 5/40
USPC 2/400–405, 78.1
See application file for complete search history.

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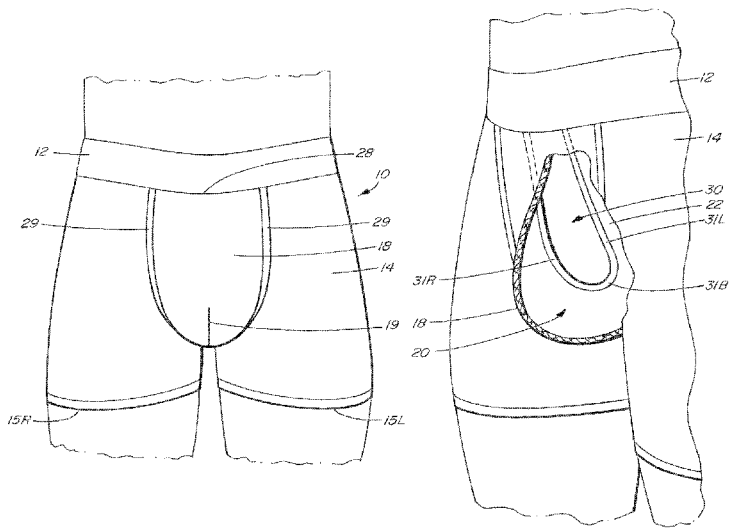
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Primary Examiner — Katherine M Moran
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Next-to-skin garments for men include an internal stretch panel. An opening in the stretch panel receives a wearer's external genitalia. A three-dimensional pouch is defined between the stretch panel and a front portion of the body of the garment. Embodiments provide garments such as undershorts, boarding shorts, and athletic shorts.

17 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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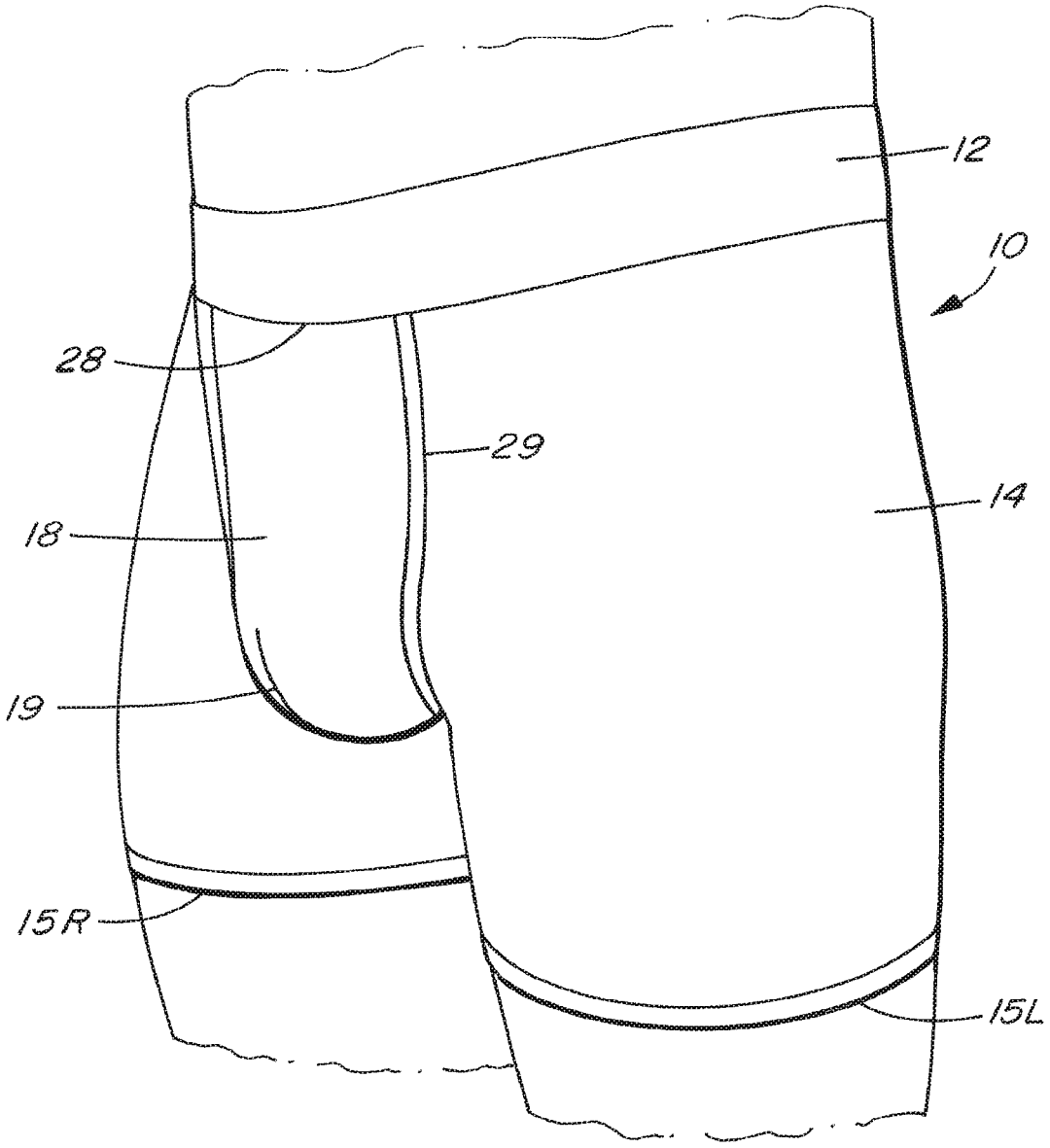


FIG. 1

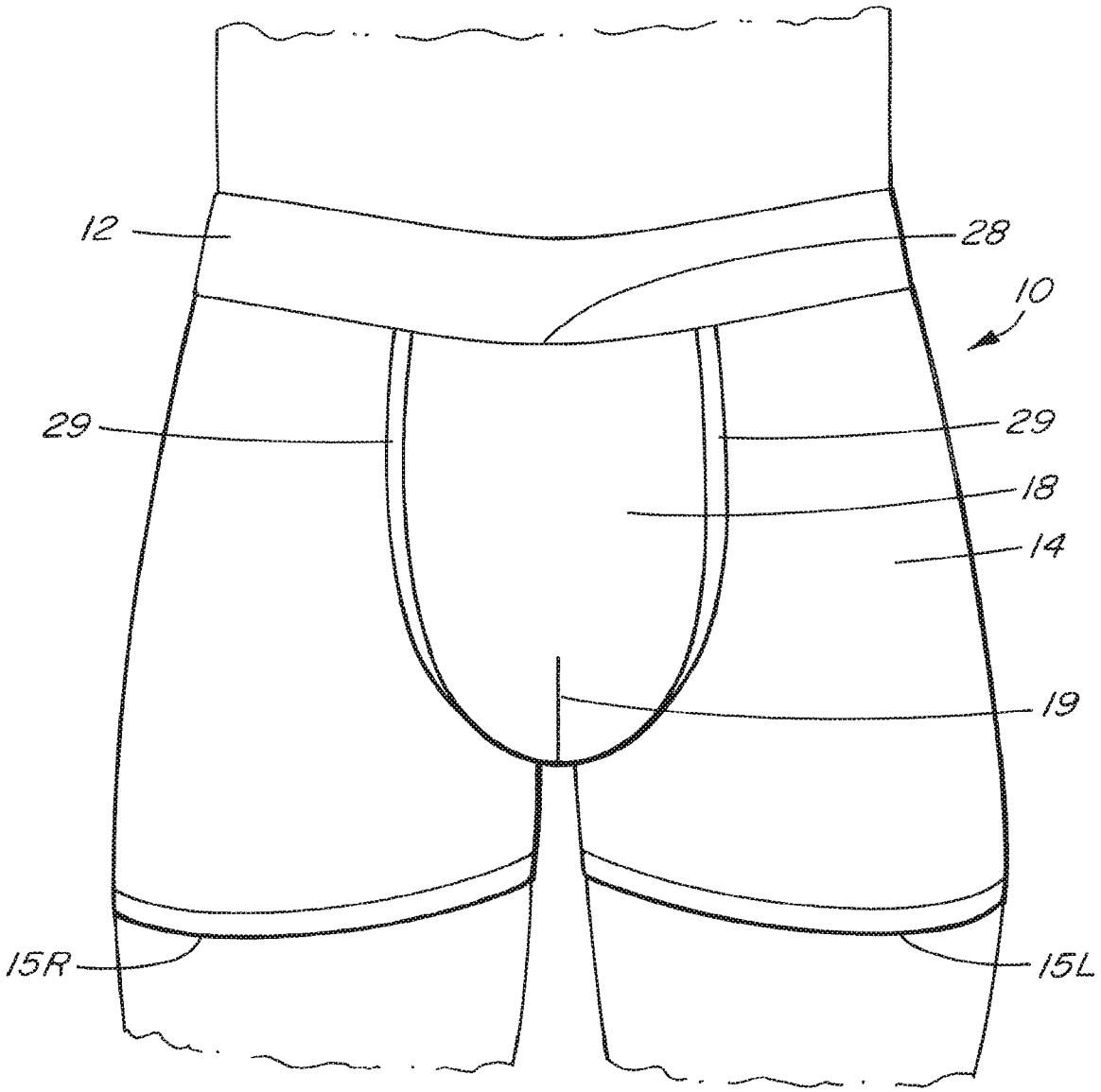


FIG. 2

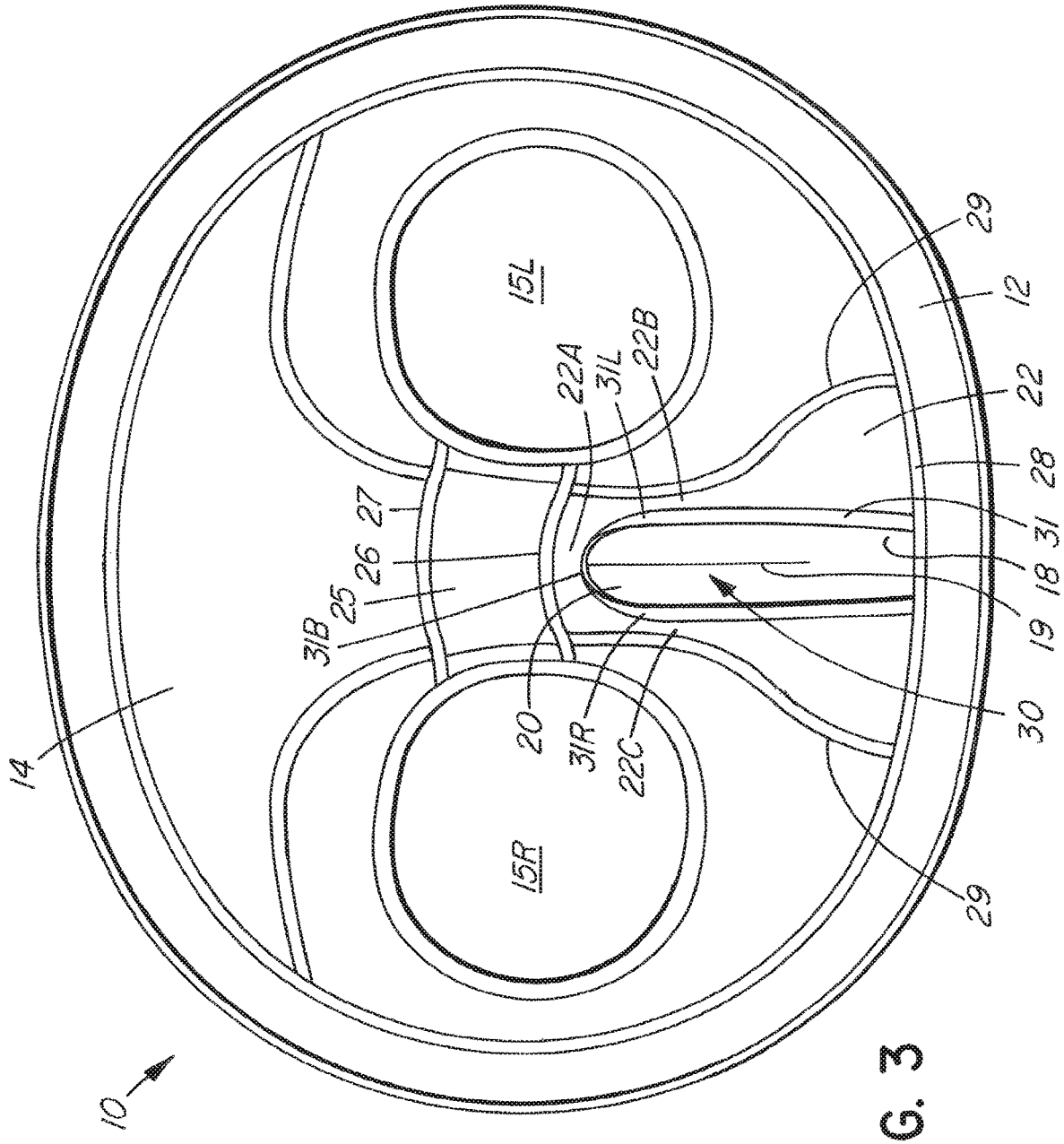

10
14
15L
15R
20
22A
22B
22C
25
26
27
29
29
30
31
31B
31L
31R
12
22
28
18
19

FIG. 3

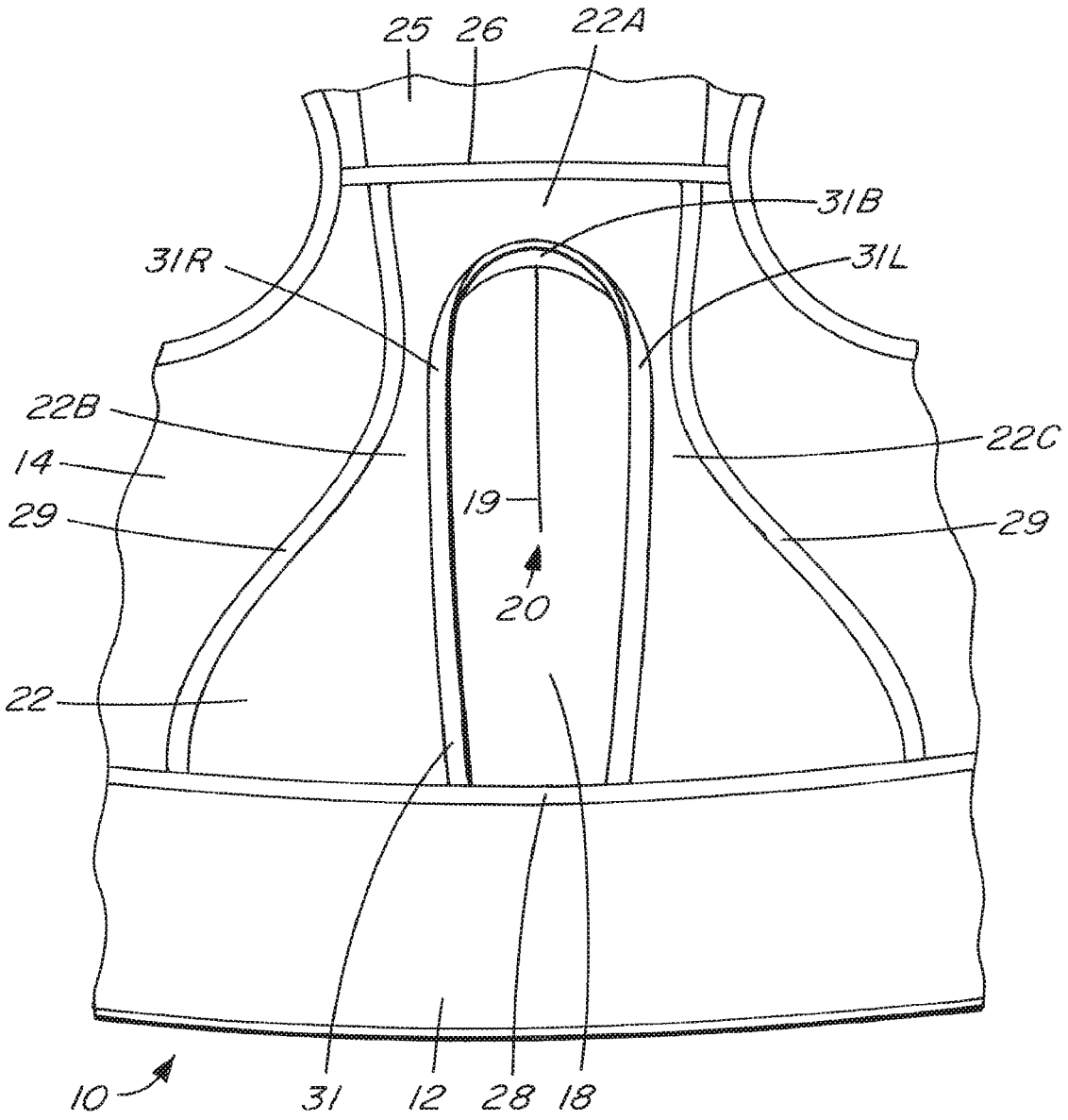


FIG. 4

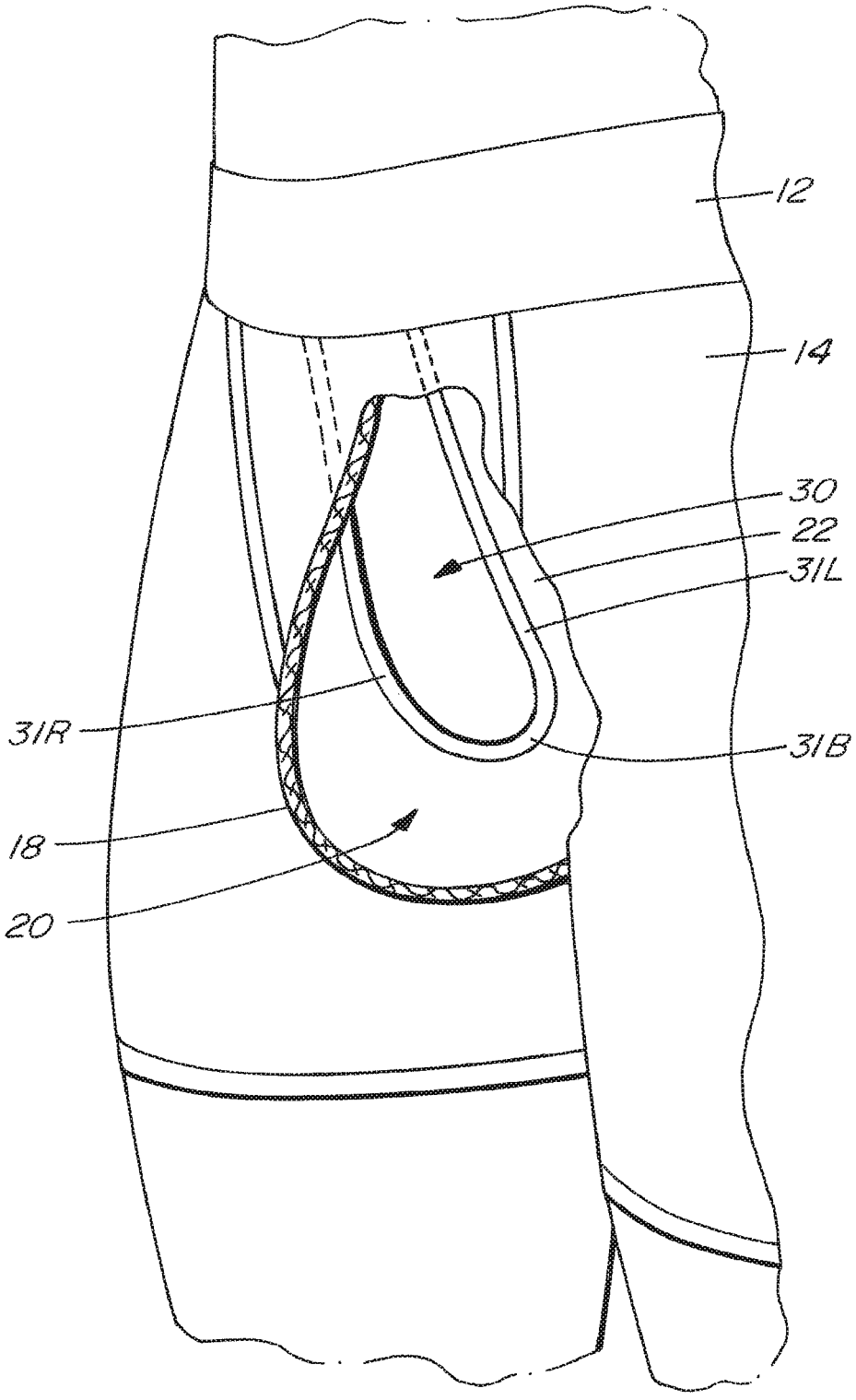


FIG. 5

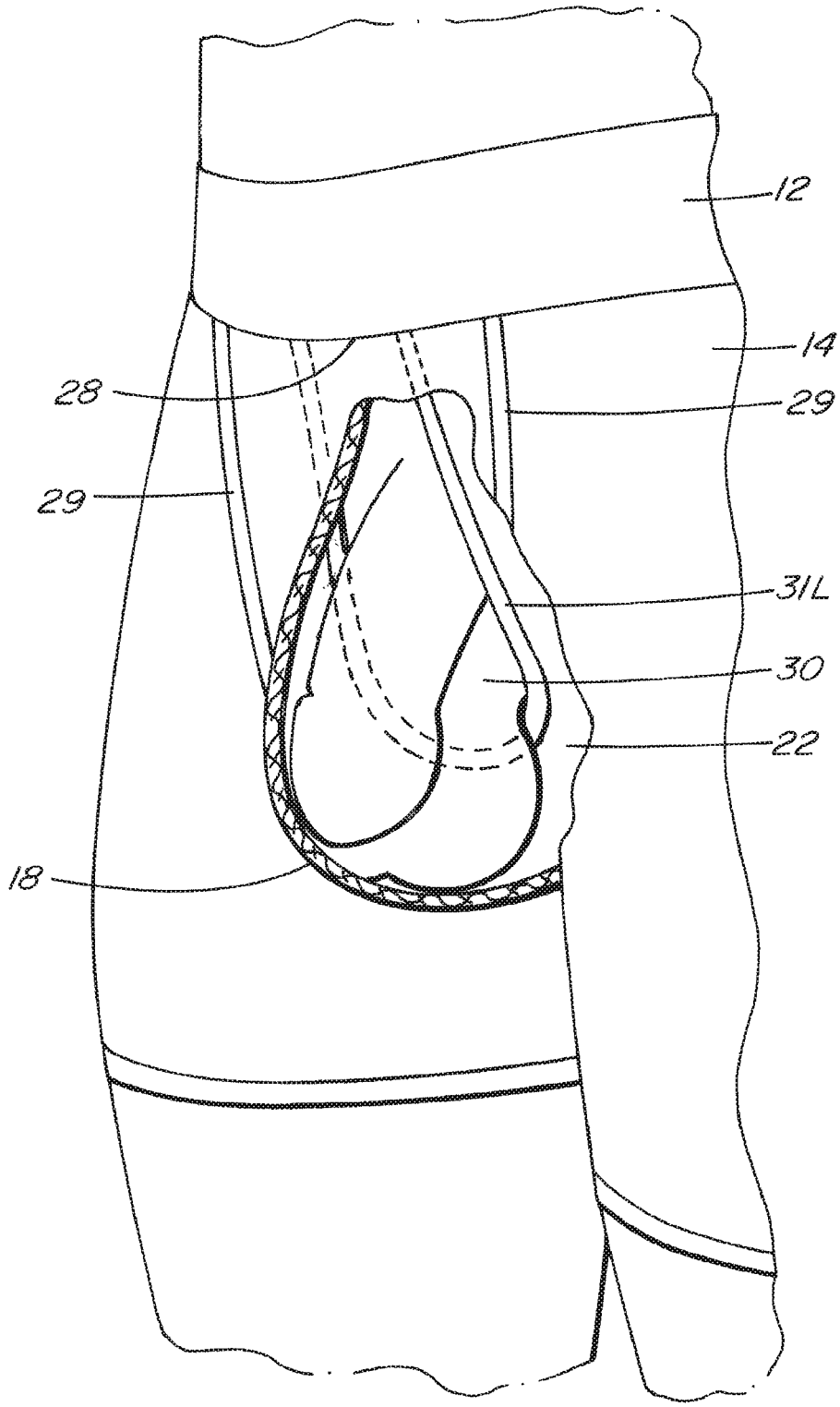


FIG. 6

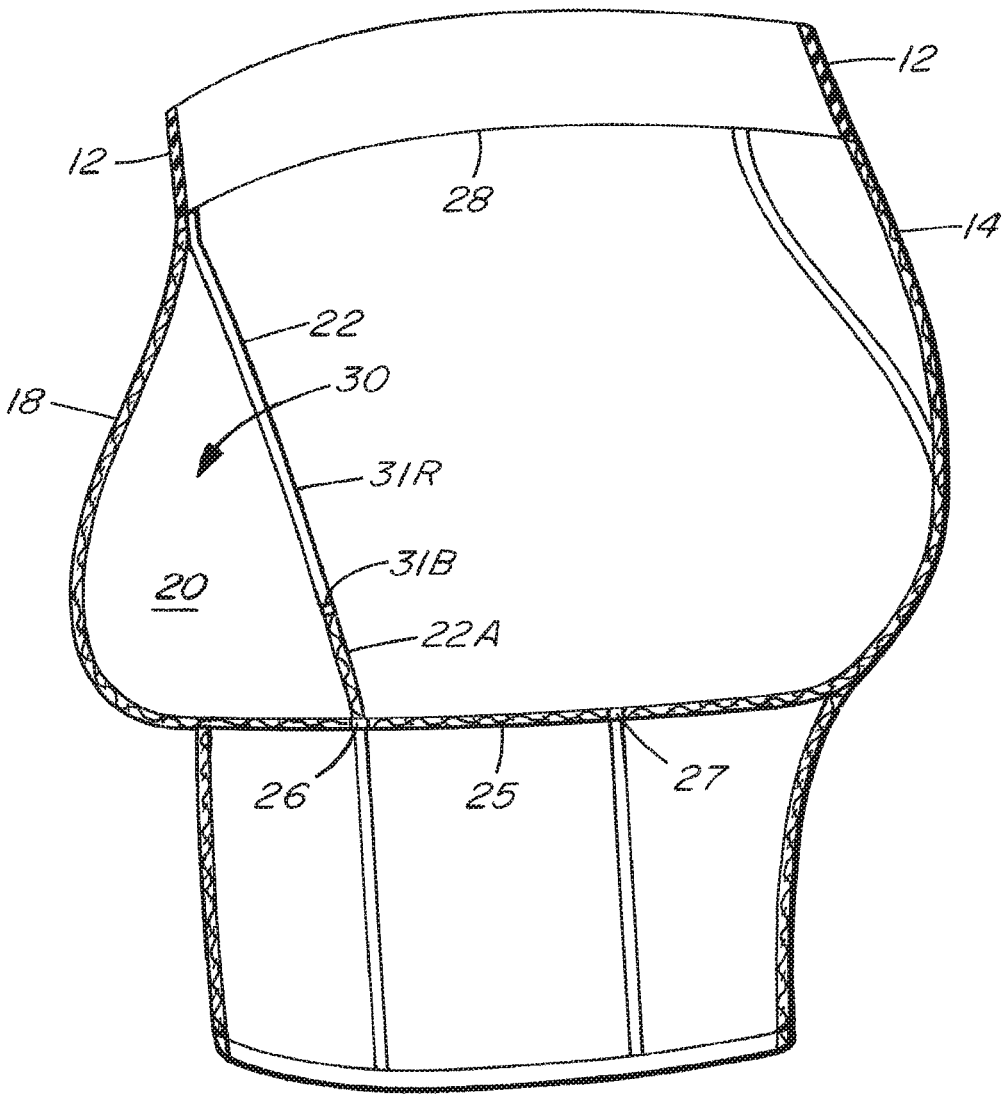


FIG. 7

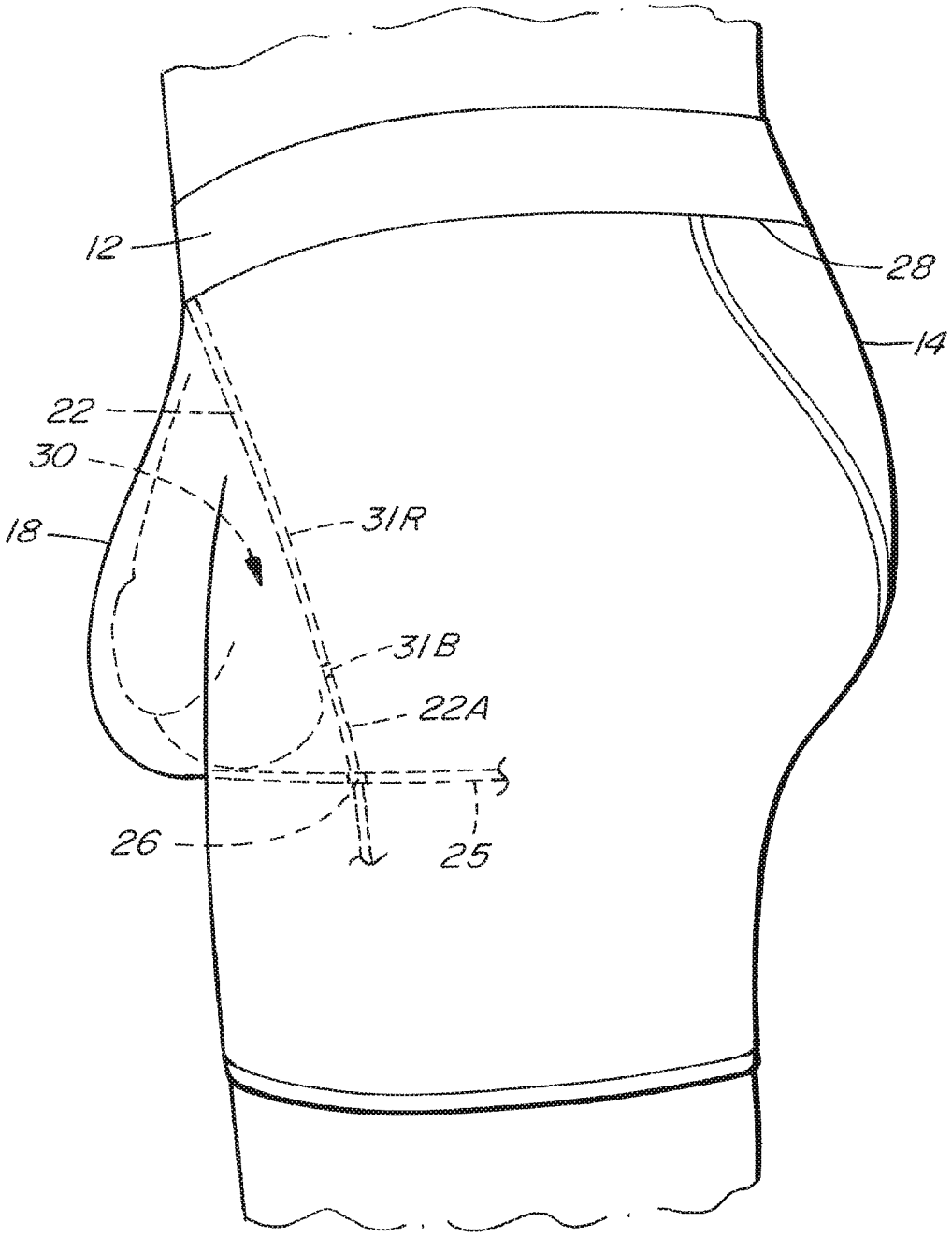


FIG. 8

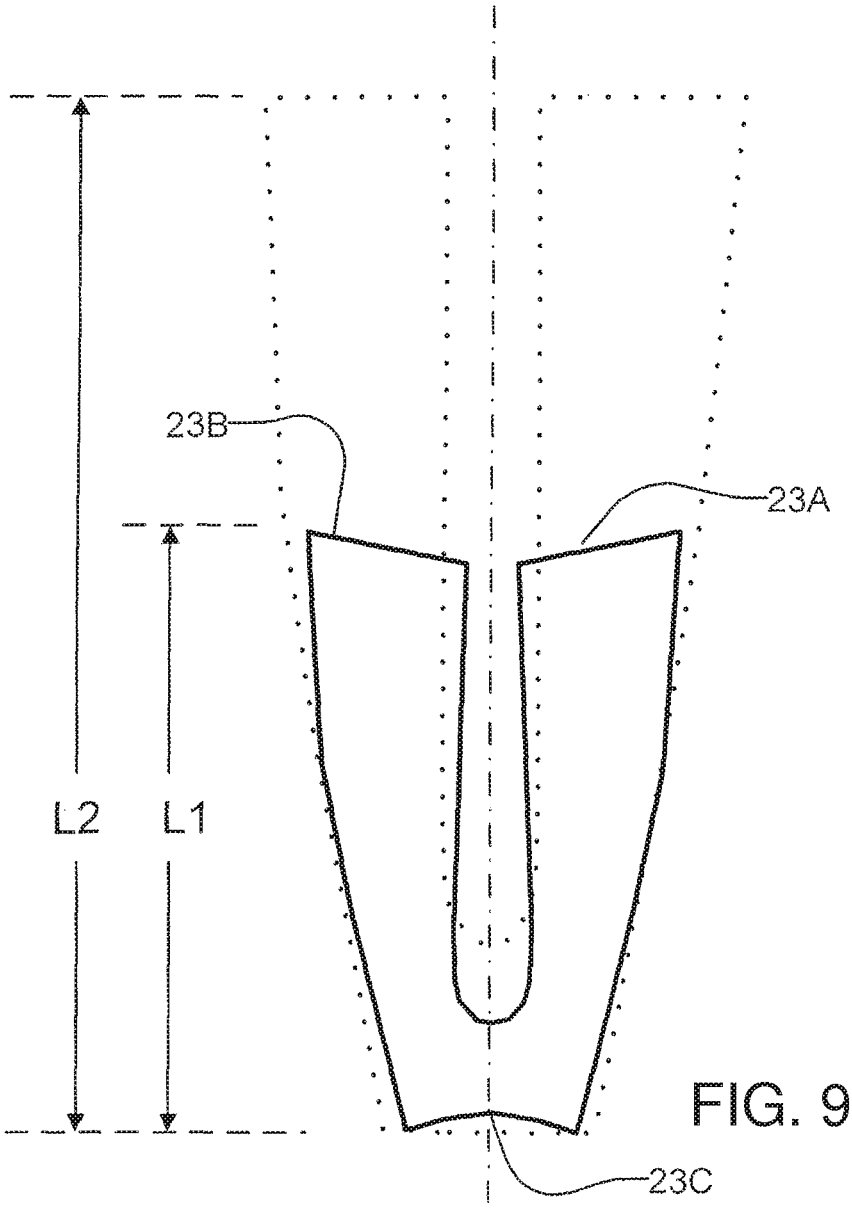


FIG. 9

GARMENTS FOR MEN

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/798,332, filed on 13 Jul. 2015, and entitled GARMENTS FOR MEN, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,034,496; which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/193,584, filed on 28 Jul. 2011, and entitled GARMENTS FOR MEN, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,687,030; which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of U.S. Patent Application No. 61/429,065, filed on 31 Dec. 2010, and entitled MEN'S GARMENT WITH POUCH AND SUPPORTING FLAP, each of which is incorporated hereby by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to next-to-skin garments. Example embodiments of the invention include briefs, underpants, swim suits, boarding shorts, cycling shorts, and the like.

BACKGROUND

Next-to-skin clothing for men must comfortably accommodate the wearer's genitalia. Uncomfortable pressure and/or chafing of the genital area are common especially for wearers who are performing sports or other activities.

Some existing garments are described in; Angheluta et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,029,345; Cutlip, U.S. Pat. No. 7,676,853; Shlush, US patent publication No. 2009/0106874; and Kitsch et al., U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/000,966.

There remains a need for garments for men and boys that are more comfortable to wear than many existing garments, especially having regard to the genital area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Aspects of the invention provide a range of garments for men and boys. The garments provide a stretch panel having an opening for receiving a wearer's genitals. A pouch is defined between the stretch panel and a front of the garment.

An example aspect of the invention provides a male garment comprising a body including a front portion and having leg openings for a wearer's legs. The body includes a crotch panel extending between the leg openings and joined to the front portion along a first seam. The crotch panel is rectangular in some embodiments. A waistband is attached at an upper edge of the body. A stretch panel is attached to the body inside the front portion. The stretch panel comprises a sheet of elastically resilient two-way stretch material having a top edge attached to the body at the waistband, a bottom edge attached at the first seam, side edges attached to the body along either side of the front portion and an opening for receiving the wearer's genitals. The opening has a rounded bottom edge and opposing side edges that are spaced apart from one another on either side of the opening. The front portion is gathered from side-to-side and top-to-bottom by the stretch panel. A three-dimensional pouch is defined between the stretch panel and the front portion.

Further aspects of the invention and features of specific embodiments of the invention are described below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings illustrate non-limiting example embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of a pair of undershorts according to an example embodiment.

FIG. **2** is a front view of the undershorts of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** is a top plan view of the undershorts of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is an enlarged view of the front portion of the undershorts of FIG. **1** viewed from inside.

FIG. **5** is a cut-away view of the undershorts of FIG. **1** being worn.

FIG. **6** is a cut-away view of the undershorts of FIG. **1** being worn and showing the wearers genitalia being supported in a pouch.

FIG. **7** is a cross-section through the undershorts of FIG. **1** hanging from the waistband.

FIG. **8** is a cross-section through the undershorts of FIG. **1** being worn and showing the wearer's genitalia being supported in a pouch.

FIG. **9** shows a stretch panel before and during being sewn into a garment.

DESCRIPTION

Throughout the following description, specific details are set forth in order to provide a more thorough understanding of the invention. However, the invention may be practiced without these particulars. In other instances, well known elements have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the invention. Accordingly, the specification and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative, rather than a restrictive, sense.

This invention relates to garments for men that include pouches to receive the wearer's genitalia. Such garments may provide enhanced comfort for the wearer.

FIG. **1** shows undershorts **10** according to an example embodiment. Undershorts **10** have an elastic waist band **12** supporting a fabric body **14**. Body **14** extends to leg openings **15**R and **15**L (collectively openings **15**). A front portion **18** of body **14** is shaped to include extra fabric so that front portion **18** is not pulled tightly against a wearer's body. As described below, front portion **18** forms the front part of a three-dimensional pouch **20** that receives and gently supports a wearer's genitalia. In the illustrated embodiment, front portion **18** includes a front seam or 'dart seam' **19** that is stitched along a bottom portion of the pouch and that extends centrally and part way along front portion **18** from the crotch of undershorts **10** toward waistband **12** thereby providing extra fabric in front portion **18**. This adds volume to pouch **20**. A tunnel opening or other suitable opening may optionally be provided in front portion **18** to permit the wearer to urinate conveniently.

As shown in FIG. **3**, undershorts **10** include a stretch panel **22** that extends between waistband **12** and the crotch area **24** of undershorts **10**. In the illustrated embodiment, undershorts **10** have a construction that includes a crotch panel **25** joined by seams **26** and **27** to the front and back sides of body **14** respectively. Crotch panel **25** is sometimes called an arc panel or moisture panel.

In this embodiment, a lower end of stretch panel **22** is attached at seam **26** and an upper end of stretch panel **22** is attached at the seam **28** joining waistband **12** to body **14**. Side edges of stretch panel **22** are joined to front portion **18** of body **14** along seams **29** on either side of front portion **18**.

When undershorts **10** are held open as shown for example in FIG. **3** with waistband **12** under gentle tension and body **14** hanging freely, stretch panel **22** is contracted and pulled away from front area **18** so as to provide a three-dimensional pouch **20** between stretch panel **22** and front portion **18**. The bias of stretch panel **22** to be contracted more than front

portion **18** helps to cause opening **30** to be held open. Pouch **20** and opening **30** may be self-aligning with the penis and scrotum of a wearer as the wearer inserts his legs through leg openings **15**.

Stretch panel **22** includes an opening **30** to receive a wearer's genitalia. In the illustrated embodiment, opening **30** is U-shaped and has a softly-bound edge **31**. Alternatively, stretch panel **22** may be shaped such that the free inner edges **31**A and **31**B along the sides of opening **30** become closer together in their parts near waistband **11** such that opening **30** is more tear-drop shaped. In yet other embodiments, the upper parts of edges **31**A and **31**B may be adjacent each other, or joined together such that opening **30** has an oval or elliptical shape (not shown). Regardless of the particular shape of opening **30** stretch panel **22** is configured to define opening **30** and to provide support around and underneath the scrotum of the wearer in order to comfortably position the wearer's genitals forward into pouch **20**.

A soft thread is preferably used in any stitching to bind edge **31**.

As can be seen in FIG. **3**, holding the waistband of undershorts open as one would do to put undershorts **10** on naturally causes pouch **20** to be open to receive a wearer's genitals which can drop into place in pouch **20** through opening **30** as undershorts **10** are put on. In other words, when undershorts **10** is held by a man so as to be in a ready-to-wear position (i.e. held in mid-air by the waistband), the weight of undershorts **10** holds stretch panel **22** so that opening **30** is open and clearly defined. The man's genitals are thus naturally guided through opening **30** and positioned forward into pouch **20** as a result of this bias. As undershorts **10** are pulled on, stretch panel stretches. This bias prevents the man's genitals from falling out of pouch **20** in use, such as during physical activity and other movement.

Thus the illustrated undershorts are one example of a men's garment comprising: a waistband; a front wall depending downwardly from the waistband, a stretch panel attached behind the front wall so that the front wall and stretch panel provide a pouch formed at a level of a mid-section of the front wall, the pouch shaped to contain a wearer's penis and scrotum when the garment is worn. The stretch panel may have a bottom portion connecting opposing side portions and may be positioned to be disposed forward of a wearer's perineum when the garment is worn. In use the wearer's scrotum may be supported underneath by the bottom portion of the stretch panel with the wearer's penis and scrotum contained in the pouch.

It can be seen that side portions **31**L and **31**R of edge **31** and bottom portion **31**B of edge **31** are all free edges that are spaced apart from the seams at which stretch panel **22** is attached to body **14** and that front portion **18** is spaced away from these edges in the forward direction. Bottom portion **31**B is preferably curved.

Side portions **31**L and **31**R of edge **31** are spaced apart from one another by a gap to receive the wearer's genitalia. In some embodiments the gap has a width of 2 cm or more at a location just above bottom portion **31**B. In the illustrated embodiment, side portions **31**L and **31**R of edge **31** are generally straight.

Stretch panel **22** may be made of a two-way stretch material such that when undershorts **10** are being worn, stretch panel **22** is under gentle tension. This causes stretch panel **22** to be held gently without sagging against the wearer's body in the perineal area and in the area adjacent the wearer's inner upper thighs. Stretch panel **22** is preferably made of or faced with a soft fabric that is comfortable against a wearer's skin. Stretch panel **22** is preferably made of a breathable fabric.

When undershorts **10** are being worn, stretch panel **22** may extend between the wearer's genitalia and the inner parts of the wearer's upper thighs thereby reducing or avoiding entirely chafing between the wearer's genitalia and thighs. Similarly, stretch panel **22** may extend upwardly from underneath between the wearer's genitalia and the wearer's perineal area, thereby reducing or avoiding entirely chafing between the wearer's genitalia and perineal area. Preferably, seam **26** is positioned forward of an arc panel **25** such that the bottom portion of stretch panel **22** is located forward of the perineum of a wearer.

FIGS. **7** and **8** illustrate the three-dimensional nature of pouch **20**. Even when undershorts **10** are being held with the waistband horizontal and body **14** hanging down from waistband **12** under its own weight, stretch panel **22** is held so that it extends away from body **14** where it is attached along seam **26**. Opening **30** is naturally open to receive the wearer's genitals. The free edges **31** of opening **30** lie away from body **14**. Along seam **26**, stretch panel **22** forms a generally upright wall between pouch **20** and the rest of the interior of undershorts **10**. The two-way elasticity of stretch panel **22** helps to gather the material of front portion **18** of body **14** to increase the volume of pouch **20**.

FIG. **6** shows how, when undershorts **10** are being worn, a wearer's genitalia pass though opening **30** over the upright portion **22**A of stretch panel **22** that lies directly beneath the wearer's genitalia. Portion **22**A of stretch panel **22** protects the underside of the wearer's genitalia from chafing. The edge **31**B along the bottom of opening **30** is gently urged upward by the elastic nature of stretch panel **22** to gently support the wearer's genitalia from below. Side portions **22**B and **22**C of stretch panel **22** help to suspend edge **31**B. If edge portion **31**B is pressed down then the elasticity of stretch panel **22**, particularly side portions **22**B and **22**C tend to pull edge portion **31**B upward toward its original position. In the illustrated embodiment, side portions **22**B and **22**C are generally rectangular.

Edge portions **31**R and **31**L gently urge against the sides of the wearer's genitalia and thereby help to counteract swinging from side-to-side during activity. In FIG. **6** it can also be seen that stretch panel **22** provides a soft layer between the wearer's genitalia and upper thighs.

In the illustrated embodiment, stretch panel **22** is generally rectangular. The length of attachment of stretch panel **22** at seams **26** and **27** is equal to within ±10% or ±15% for example. With undershorts **10** lying flat, face up, seams **29** are generally straight and generally perpendicular to waistband **12**. The ratio of height to width of stretch panel **22** in some embodiments is approximately about 1½:1 to about 2:1. For example, in an example embodiment stretch panel **22** has an un-stretched height of about 17 cm and an un-stretched width of about 10 cm.

One advantage of embodiments in which stretch panel **22** is provided in a garment which includes a crotch panel **25** is that the seam **26** along the front side of such a crotch panel **25** provides an ideal place to attach the lower edge of stretch panel **22**. As seen for example in FIG. **8**, crotch panel **25** extends down the inside of a wearer's legs and, when worn, has a highest point at the wearer's crotch. The front edge of crotch panel **25** tends to be just below and behind the base of the wearer's external genitalia while being worn. Further, the front edge of crotch panel **25** tends to be located at a location which does not receive pressure when the wearer

sits. Crotch panel **25** may comprise, for example, a generally rectangular panel that extends from side-to-side from one leg opening **15** to the other.

Garments in which the lower edge of stretch panel **22** are fastened at a seam along the front edge of a crotch panel **25** are an example of a construction in which a garment comprises a perineum wall fastened at a front seam to a bottom edge of stretch panel **22**, and fastened at a rear seam to a bottom edge of a rear wall part of body **14** that depends from a rear part of the waistband.

In some embodiments, the material of stretch panel **22** has asymmetrical stretch (i.e. the coefficient of elasticity of the material has a first value in a first direction in the plane of the material and a second value different from the first value in a second direction at right angles to the first direction in the plane of the material). The material may be oriented that it is easier to stretch the material of stretch panel **22** in a direction parallel to waistband **12** than it is to stretch the material in a direction perpendicular to waistband **12**.

Various materials may be used for stretch panel **22**. For example, stretch panel **22** may comprise an elasticized fabric. In one example embodiment the fabric comprises a cotton-Spandex™ blend. In one example embodiment the fabric comprises a woven blend of Modal™ and Spandex™. In an example embodiment, the blend comprises approximately 90% to 95% Modal™ and approximately 5% to 10% Spandex™. In another example embodiment, the blend comprises 93% Modal™ and 7% Spandex™.

The amount of stretch of a fabric may be measured in various ways. The fabric stretch may be measured by taking a strip of material that is 30-40 cm long and 20 cm wide when taught but un-stretched, anchoring one end of the strip, pulling the other end of the strip so that the material stretches and becomes elongated and determining the maximum stretched length after which the strip will no longer return to its original length in the taught but unstretched condition. The ratio of the maximum stretched length minus the taught but unstretched length to the taught but un-stretched length is the fabric stretch. For example, if the strip has a taught but un-stretched length of 25 cm and a maximum stretched length of 50 cm then the fabric stretch is (50–25)/25=100%. In some embodiments, the material of stretch panel **22** has a stretch of 30% or more. In some embodiments the material of stretch panel **22** has a stretch of at least 70% or at least 75%.

Stretch panel **22** may be pre-stretched relative to front portion **18** while it is being assembled to front portion **18** of body **14**. Thus, during assembly, stretch panel **22** is substantially stretched, while front portion **16** of body **14** is not stretched or is stretched less than stretch panel **22**. In some embodiments the material of stretch panel **22** is stretched by at least 50%, 55% or 60% while stretch panel **22** is being sewn in place. In an example embodiment, stretch panel **22** has a stretch of 100% and is stretched by 60% while at least the final seams which hold it in place are being sewn.

FIG. **9** shows stretch panel **22** 'as cut' according to a pattern in solid outlines and 'as stretched' for assembly to front portion **18** in dashed outline. In this embodiment, top edges **23**A and **23**B of stretch panel **22** along which stretch panel **22** is attached at a seam parallel to waistband **12** are angled. In the illustrated embodiment, bottom edge **23**C is also cut so that it is indented at the centerline. Thus, when unstretched, the cut-out material for stretch panel **22** is shorter in its vertical dimension along vertical lines extending along the edges of opening **30** than it is farther away from its centerline. As a result of the angling of edges **23**A and **23**B, and the indenting of bottom edge **23**C, stretch panel **22** is stretched more for assembly in its portions along edge portions **31**R and **31**L than it is stretched in its portions closer to the sides where it is attached along seams **29**. This causes the tension in stretch panel **22** when undershorts **10** are being worn or suspended to be put on to be somewhat greater along edge portions **31**R and **31**L than in other parts of stretch panel **22**. This gradient in tension helps to better support edge portion **31**B and to hold opening **30** open when undershorts **10** are being held to be put on.

As shown in dotted outline in FIG. **9**, the material from stretch panel **22** may be stretched from an un-stretched length L**1** to a stretched length L**2** while top edges **23**A and **23**B and bottom edge **23**C are attached along parallel seams **26** and **28** and side edges of the stretch panel **22** are attached along seams **29**, for example by sewing.

After assembly, stretch panel **22** can contract. This gathers the material of front portion **18** and helps to form pouch **20** to have a three-dimensional volume open to receive a wearer's genitalia even when undershorts **10** are being suspended from waist hand **12** in preparation for being put on.

The configuration of stitching used to affix stretch panel **22** to body **14** preferably permits stretching along the length of the seams. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, seams **26**, **28** and **29** may be stitched using a combination of stitch pattern and/or thread that permits stretching along the lengths of seams **26**, **28** and **29**.

In some embodiments, stretch panel **22** is stretched in length only (i.e. in a direction perpendicular to waistband **12**) as it is being attached to front portion **18** during manufacture. In some embodiments, stretch panel **22** is stretched in both width and length (four-way stretch) relative to front portion **18** as it is being attached to front portion **18** during manufacture. Thus, in its relaxed, un-stretched, configuration stretch panel **22** both pulls side edges of front portion **18** toward one another at seams **29** and pulls top and bottom edges of front portion **18** toward one another at seams **26** and **28**. This, builds volume in pouch **20** especially when taken in combination with the shaping of front portion **18** (e.g. by front seam **19**) which makes front portion **18** non-flat.

In some embodiments a length measured along material of the front portion **18** from seam **26** to waistband **12** exceeds a length measured along the fabric of stretch panel **22**, when un-stretched by at least 50%. In some embodiments a length measured along material of the front portion **18** side-to-side at the level of bottom portion **31**B from seam **28** to seam **29** exceeds a length measured along the fabric of stretch panel **22**, when un-stretched between the same seams by 10 to 15% or more.

In some embodiments, the shaping of front portion **18** is such that with stretch panel **22** held horizontally under just enough tension such that stretch panel **22** is generally planar with front portion **18** hanging below stretch panel **22**, the center part of front portion **18** hangs well below the plane of stretch panel **22**. In some embodiments, the center part of front portion **18** hangs below the plane of stretch panel **22** by a distance of 3 cm or more when undershorts **10** are held in this test configuration.

Like all clothing, undershorts **10** may be made to fit different sizes of men and boys and may be made from different fabrics to suit different personal preferences and price points. Thus, individual dimensions are not critical.

In some embodiments, the distance A along stretch panel **22** from the point at which it joins body **14** to the lowest point along the edge of opening **30** is at least 2 cm. In some embodiments, this distance is in the range of about 2 cm to

about 3 cm. In some embodiments, the horizontal distance B between opposed edges of opening **30** when undershorts **10** or other garments according to some example embodiments are not being worn but are being suspended as shown for example in FIG. **3**, distance B is in the range of about 3 cm to about 6 cm. In some embodiments, the horizontal distance C along stretch panel **22** from the point at which it joins body **14** (e.g. at seam **29**) to the edge **31**R or **31**L of opening **30** just above bottom portion **31**B is at least 2 cm. In some embodiments, this distance is in the range of about 2 cm to about 5 cm. In some embodiments, the distance D along the fabric in the center of front portion of body **18** from the lower edge of waist band **12** to the point where stretch panel **22** attaches to body **14** (e.g. seam **26**) is at least 15 cm. In some embodiments, this distance is in the range of about 15 cm to about 25 cm.

It can be appreciated that garments which incorporate a stretch panel as shown in the accompanying drawings may be formed such that they are self-aligning with a wearer's genitalia, allowing the garment to be put on by a wearer without the wearer having to manually hold or position the pouch to receive his genitals. A stretch panel structured and incorporated as illustrated in the accompanying drawings can support and position a wearer's the scrotum and penis away from both the wearer's thighs and perineum. The scrotum and penis may therefore be protected from pinching between 5 the thighs or being sat upon, thereby enhancing comfort of the wearer.

The invention may be applied to any next-to-skin below-the waist garments for men. For example, the principles discussed above may be applied to shorts, swim suits, boarding shorts, briefs, boxer shorts, surf shorts, cycling shorts, unitards, long underwear, sports uniforms, athletic supporters, fighting shorts, pajamas, and other next-to-skin garments for males.

Except where otherwise indicated or necessarily implied, the description herein uses relative directional terms such as front, back, above, below, top, bottom, upper, lower, right and left relative to a wearer wearing a garment as described and standing upright.

Where a component (e.g. a panel, seam, elastic, thread, opening, etc.) is referred to above, unless otherwise indicated, reference to that component (including a reference to a "means") should be interpreted as including as equivalents of that component any component which performs the function of the described component (i.e., that is functionally equivalent), including components which are not structurally equivalent to the disclosed structure which performs the function in the illustrated exemplary embodiments of the invention.

As will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing disclosure, many alterations and modifications are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. For example:

- It is not mandatory that stretch panel **22** be free from openings. In some embodiments, stretch panel **22** comprises a continuous layer of material with no openings other than opening **30**. In other embodiments, stretch panel **22** may have one or more openings around the periphery of opening **30**.
- It is not mandatory that the material of stretch panel **22** be different from the material(s) of the rest of body **14**. In some embodiments different fabrics are used for stretch panel **22** and for the front portion **18** of body **14**.
- Stretch panel **22** may incorporate openings into pouch **20** that are of various shapes. Example openings are U-shaped (as described above), oval, elliptical, tear-drop shaped or the like.
- Stretch panel **22** may optionally be formed from a plurality of pieces of fabric seamed together. For example, stretch panel **22** may be formed from three pieces of fabric, two of which extend vertically along sides of opening **30** and one of which extends transversely across the bottom of opening **30**.
- It is not mandatory that the garment include a body that covers a wearer's buttocks. In some embodiments, constructions as described herein are applied to athletic supporters (jock straps). In general, a pouch as described herein may be embodied in various types of men's garments, particularly in a mid-section of a front wall of men's garments to be worn around a man's torso.

Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A male garment comprising:

a body including a front portion and having leg openings for a wearer's legs;

a waistband attached by a waistband seam at an upper edge of the body;

a stretch panel attached to the body inside the front portion, the stretch panel comprising a sheet of elastically resilient four-way stretch material having a top edge attached to the body at a top location, a bottom edge attached to the body at a bottom location, side edges attached to the body at side seams extending substantially continuously along either side of the front portion and an opening for receiving a wearer's genitals;

the stretch panel being resiliently elastic both in a direction between the top edge and the bottom edge and in a direction between the side edges, the stretch panel having a length when unstretched smaller than a length measured along the front portion between the top and bottom locations and a width when unstretched smaller than a width measured along the front portion between the side seams such that the front portion is gathered from side-to-side and top-to-bottom by the stretch panel and defines a three-dimensional pouch between the stretch panel and the front portion for receiving the wearer's genitals and holding the wearer's genitals while the garment is being worn.

2. A male garment according to claim **1** wherein the stretch panel has asymmetrical stretch characteristics such that the stretch panel stretches more easily in a direction parallel to the waistband and less easily in a direction at right angles to the waistband.

3. A male garment according to claim **1** wherein the stretch panel is rectangular and the opening is U-shaped.

4. A male garment according to claim **3** wherein the stretch panel comprises a fabric having a stretch of at least 30%.

5. A male garment according to claim **1** wherein the top location is the waistband seam and the bottom location is the first seam, and a length measured along material of the front portion from the first seam to the waistband seam exceeds a length measured along the fabric of the stretch panel, when unstretched, by at least 30%.

6. A male garment according to claim **1** wherein the garment is a pair of undershorts.

7. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the stretch panel comprises a fabric different from a fabric of the body.

8. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the opening has a width in excess of 2 cm.

9. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein:

the front portion depends downwardly from the waistband and the front portion is formed to provide the pouch at a mid-section thereof; the stretch panel is positioned to be disposed forward of the wearer's perineum when the garment is worn, whereby, in use, a scrotum of the wearer of the garment is supported underneath by the stretch panel to contain the wearer's penis and scrotum in the pouch.

10. A male garment according to claim 1, wherein the elastically resilient four-way stretch material is comprised of a spandex blend.

11. A male garment according to claim 1, wherein the stretch panel is fastened to the front portion while in a pre-stretched condition while the front portion is less stretched, whereby the stretch panel is biased to hold the opening open while the garment is held in position to be put on.

12. A male garment according to claim 11, wherein the front portion is attached to a rear portion of the body that depends from the waistband at a seam disposed forward of the perineum region of the wearer, and wherein a bottom edge of the stretch panel is fastened to the seam.

13. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the opening has a U-shape when the stretch panel is in a relaxed state.

14. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the stretch panel is formed from a single unitary piece of woven fabric.

15. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the pouch comprises a dart seam stitched along a bottom portion of the pouch and centrally to provide extra volume in front of and underneath the genitals of the wearer.

16. A male garment according to claim 1 wherein the stretch panel is rectangular and the opening has a rounded bottom edge and opposing side edges that are spaced apart from one another on either side of the opening.

17. A male garment according to claim 1, wherein the body includes a crotch panel extending between the leg openings and joined to the front portion along a first seam.

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