

Chapter 16

FLYING SUITS

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Mk. 2 suit

1. The Mk. 2 flying suit is a one-piece garment of the overall type made from linen huckaback. It provides considerable comfort in conditions of heat. It has pivoted sleeves to facilitate arm movements and the lower legs are provided with gussets and sliding fasteners to enable the feet to be passed easily through the legs. Sewn down slots on the lower legs may be opened to permit leg restraint garters to be used with the suit if required, channels being provided inside the legs to locate the garters. Slots in the outer seams of the upper legs permit access to the pockets of inner garments.

2. The suit is opened down the front from the neck to the crotch and is fitted with a two-way sliding fastener by which it is closed after the suit has been put on. Built-in braces located in nylon channels inside the suit are sewn to the waist seam at the back and fitted with adjustment slides in the front. Waist adjustment is provided by small straps and buckles at each side or by a waist belt which may be worn either inside or outside the suit. Two shoulder straps enable badges of rank to be attached and on the cuffs are webbing loops for retaining the oxygen tube. Inside the suit is a label bearing instructions for wearing and washing.

3. Pockets are provided in the following locations for the purposes shown:—

Breasts (fitted with sliding fasteners)	General purpose
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Sides (non-fastening)	General purpose
Right thigh (with pencil pocket attached containing a perspex sheet)	Writing pad and pencil. The perspex sheet may be written on with a Chinagraph pencil or used as a base for writing pad.
Left thigh (fitted with a sliding fastener)	Pilot's notes
Left thigh (closed with a flap fastened by a button)	Gloves
Lower legs (closed with flaps fastened by buttons)	Maps
Left sleeve (3-compartment pocket)	Pencils and pen torch

4. Suits are made in two colours, blue-grey and jungle green, for use in appropriate conditions and are issued in eight sizes, the blue-grey under Ref. No. 22C/1904-1911 covering heights from 5 ft. 0 in. to 6 ft. 4 in. and the jungle green under Ref. No. 22C/1912-1919 covering similar heights.

Note . . .

Although the sizes are stated, that most suitable for a particular wearer *MUST* be determined by selective fitting without regard to the sizes marked on the suits. All appropriate clothing should be worn when selecting a suit.

Mk. 2A suit

5. This suit is identical with the Mk. 2 except that leg restraint garters are fitted. The slits on the lower legs are opened up, the garters pass through the channels sewn to the inside of the leg and the D-ring end of the garter sewn down with three rows of stitching. The method of fitting the garters is described in para. 8.

Mk. 4 suit

6. This is identical in design to the Mk. 2 suit but is made in blue-grey cotton gaberdine to provide comfort under cold conditions in temperate zones. As with the Mk. 2 suit all appropriate clothing may be worn under this suit and should be worn when selecting a suitable size which must be by careful selection. The suits are also in eight sizes issued under Ref. No. 22C/1958-1965.

Mk. 4A suit

7. The Mk. 4A suit is a Mk. 4 suit with leg restraint garters fitted, made in eight sizes issued under Ref. No. 22C/1966-1973.

Fitting the leg restraint garters

8. The sequence of operations is:—

(1) Locate the slots on the lower parts of the legs. These are just above the calves on the inner sides.

(2) With a sharp thin bladed knife cut the stitching securing the sides of the slots to

the reinforcing stay inside the legs. Do not cut the stitches securing the tops and bottoms of the slots.

(3) Thread a garter through each slot and nylon channel, passing the free end from inside the gusset at the front till it protrudes at the rear.

(4) Locate the other end of the garter so that the metal slide protrudes through the slot provided inside the gusset to the rear and the D-ring emerges from the slot on the outside of each leg.

(5) Pass the free end of the garter through the buckle round the sliding centre bar and back between the sliding bar and the frame of the buckle.

9. The suit must then be tried on the wearer to ensure that the position of the garter is correct. It is important that it should be positioned between the calf and the knee so that it is effective in an ejected escape and prevents injury.

10. When the correct positions of the garters are determined mark the suits with chalk on the outside of each slot at the top and bottom edges of the D-ring then stitch down the edges of the slots with three rows of stitching which must pass through the webbing of the garter and the stay, making sure that the rear edges of the D-ring and the slide are not more than one inch apart after stitching is completed. The details

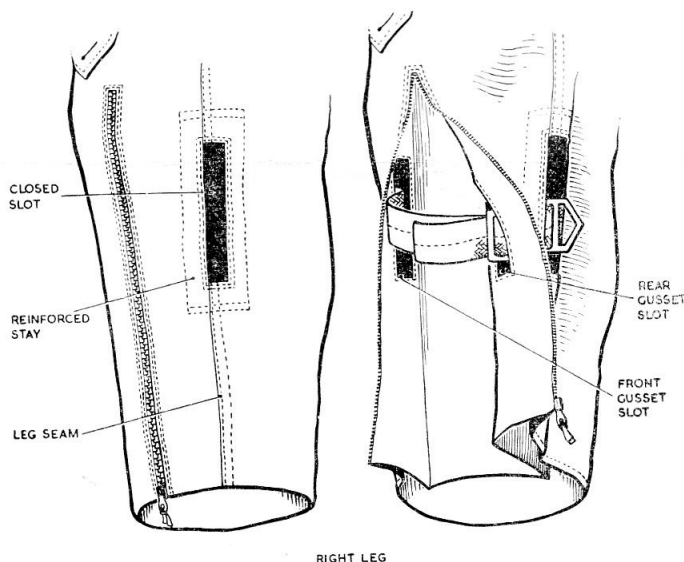


Fig. 1. Fitting leg restraint garters

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of fitting the garter are shown in fig. 1. Fitting of garters to Mk. 2 and Mk. 4 suits converts them to Mk. 2A and Mk. 4A respectively.

Folding suits

11. To fold a suit for storage or transit follow the sequence shown in fig. 2. This is:—

- (1) Open all sliding fasteners.
- (2) Lay the suit on a bench front upwards with the sleeves extended naturally.
- (3) Fold the sleeves in across the breast of the suit.
- (4) Fold the legs upwards so that the ankles lay over the sleeves.

(5) Fold the suit along the centre of the back.

(6) Fold across the seat.

(7) Finally turn the neck downwards.

Cleaning suits

12. Suits are to be cleaned as necessary by washing in warm, not hot, water using Emulsion Detergent (Ref. No. 33C/1129). They are to be gently rubbed and kneaded to float the dirt out and then rinsed in clean cold water until all traces of detergent are removed. Drying is to be in natural conditions, the suits being hung away from sunlight and artificial heat.

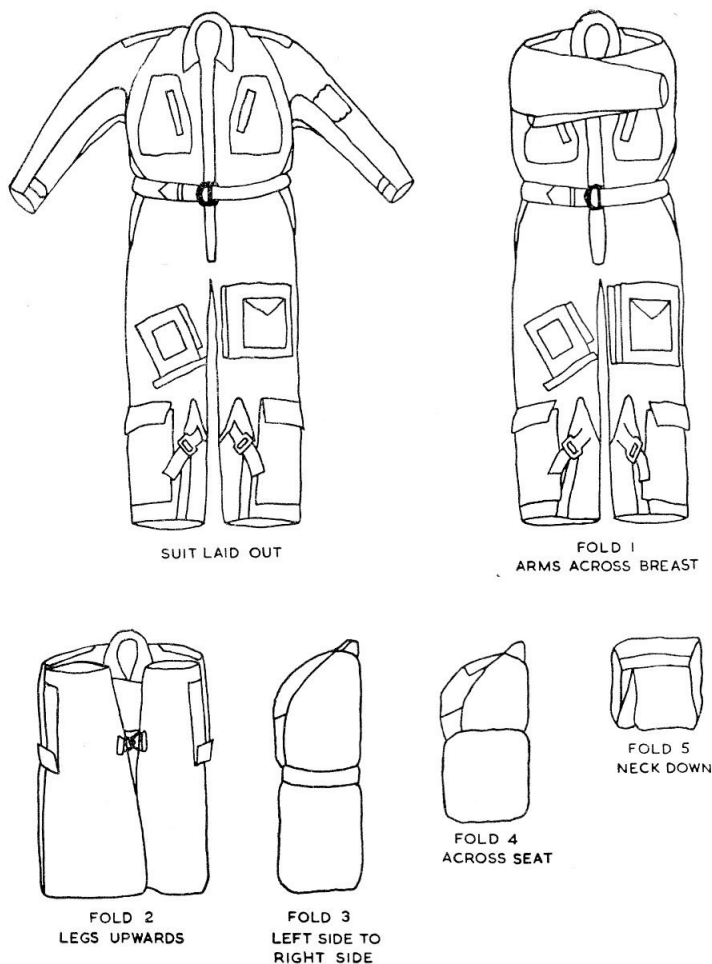


Fig. 2. Folding suits

