

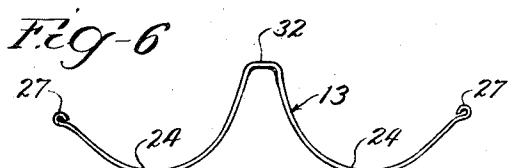
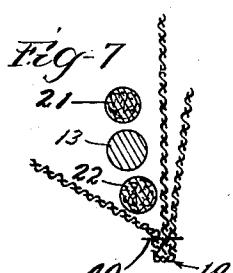
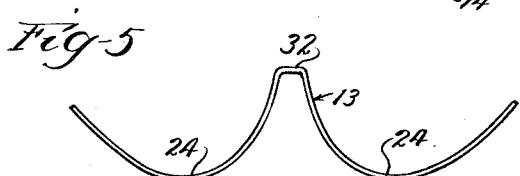
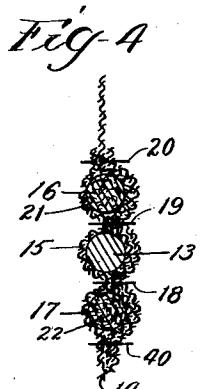
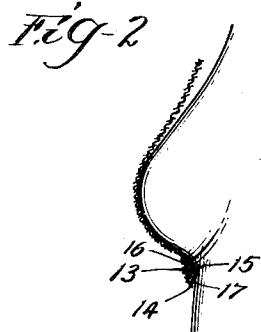
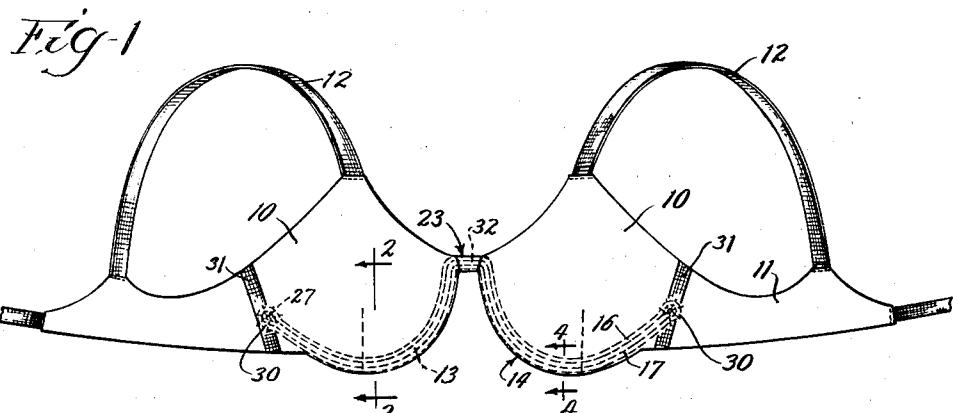
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WIRED BRASSIERE

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WIRED BRASSIÈRE

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A familiar objection to wired brassières is that the fabric-covered wire braces are so placed, or readily become so displaced, as to press uncomfortably and injuriously against the lower portions of the breasts, especially when they are heavy and the wearer is active.

The principal object of this invention is to so shield and protect the wearer that the support cannot be concentrated along the small wire brace, and thus prevent the objectionable localized pressure. Generally speaking, this is accomplished by providing each wire brace with a snugly fitting sheath and associated piping above and below the sheath bearing against the breast and the thorax, and so holding the wire brace that the pressure is distributed and cannot become localized along the wire brace.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a brassière;

Fig. 2 is a cross-section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a similar cross-section illustrating the objectionable characteristics of prior wired brassières;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged cross-section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the wire brace before assembly; and

Fig. 6 is a similar front elevation of the brace after being inserted in the sheath attached to the brassière.

Fig. 7 illustrates the preliminary assembly.

But these particular drawings and the specific description are intended for the purpose of illustration only.

The brassière shown is somewhat conventional in that it includes two breast cups 10, encircling straps 11, and shoulder straps 12 connected in a familiar arrangement.

The cups are fitted with a wire brace generally indicated 13, fastened to them by a special connector generally indicated at 14 and comprising a sheath 15 for the brace flanked by a piping 16 above and 17 below.

In one satisfactory form, the connector is made of a single piece of bias-cut fabric stitched along three lines 18, 19, and 20 (Fig. 4) to form three tubular portions, one making the sheath 15 for the wire brace 13 and the others forming the pipings 16 and 17, in which are cords 21 and 22 of soft material familiar to the trade.

These lines of stitching may be made in the connection only or in the connector and the cup material simultaneously. But in either case

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there is preferably an additional line of stitching 49 through the lower portions of the cups and connector below the piping cord 22. Fig. 7 illustrates the preliminary assembly.

As will appear best from Fig. 1, the connector takes the general form of the wire brace 13 of Fig. 6, and curves downwardly and outwardly from the mid position 23 between the breasts along the lower rims of the cups, to which it is secured by suitable stitching.

It is of special importance that the sheath 15 for the arcuate portions 24 of the wire brace fit snugly to the end that when the brassière is being worn the pipings 16 and 17 flank the sheath 15, and therefore the wire brace, substantially as illustrated in Fig. 2, and serve to distribute the support over a considerable area and prevent it from becoming concentrated on the narrow brace 13.

The importance of this will become clearer by reference to Fig. 3, where it will be seen that the wire brace 25 is so placed that the entire support of the brace is concentrated in the narrow area 26, and thus produces the uncomfortable and injurious pressure against the lower portion of the breast or the adjacent portion of the thorax.

Attempts have been made in prior structures to prevent this by stitching felt 35 along the inner side of the brassière in curved lines corresponding to the arcuate portions 24 of the brace; but, in practice, these only serve to accentuate the trouble, because the pressure of the breast in the cup revolves the adjacent portion of the cup around the wire until the latter comes against the skin producing the mentioned pressure somewhat after the fashion illustrated in Fig. 3.

With the arrangement shown in the enlargement (Fig. 4), the substantially parallel curving cord pipings flanking the sheath for the wire brace closely prevents any such revolution or turning about the brace, and maintains the desired relationship to prevent concentration of the support on the brace.

In order to have a snug fit of the wire brace in the sheath, the arcuate portions 24 are inserted in the sheath before the eyes 27 are formed and before the two cups are secured together in the general area indicated by 23, and the ends of the connector are made fast in the areas generally indicated by 30. As here shown, the eyes 27 are formed after the subassembly is made; and appropriate stitching of the connector to the cups and the associated stitching for the encircling straps 31 are added later, some of the

stitches being inserted through the eyes in order to make the ends of the brace securely fast.

The actual connection between the two cups in the area generally indicated by 23 is preferably made by a sleeve or pocket-like portion fitting over the arch 32 of the brace and stitched to the connectors and the adjacent portions of the cups.

As compared with prior wired brassières, embodiments of this invention have a number of important advantages:

1. There is no concentration of support on the wire brace, resulting in injurious and painful pressure.

2. There is no rolling or turning of the fabric about the wire to displace it with respect to other things and produce the concentration that results in injury and pain.

3. The brace, and therefore the garment, is retained in proper position to give the desired uplift and support, producing and preserving the delicate, natural lines without protrusions that might disclose the presence of the garment or disturb the lines.

The terms "wire brace" have been used somewhat generally, and are intended to cover a brace having suitable resiliency and flexibility to conform generally to the curved surface characteristics of chests of different persons in the vicinity of the breast, and may be made of a variety of materials, such as steel, brass, natural and artificial whalebone, and the great variety of things now known by the term "plastics."

The general form of the brace is indicated in the drawings, but variations will be made by skillful operators to bring out selected advantages and meet personal preferences. Instead of eyes 27, any sort of head may be used to make an end to the arcuate portions 24 that may well be retained in the fabric of the garment without danger of cutting through. The form of the arch 32 may be varied considerably, but some sort of arch or other connector there is desirable in order to produce and maintain the natural separation of the cups to hold the breasts in the proper position. The arcuate portions 24 may be arched in a single plane, or in a plurality of planes.

The materials of the other portions of the brassière are largely a matter of choice, but, of course, the cups will be made of some soft material having natural flexibility and limpness suited to the service.

While the invention is here disclosed in connection with a brassière only, it lends itself to brassières, brassière slips and lounging slips, foundation garments, etc., and the description and illustration will be sufficient to guide those interested in making applications to such other garments.

I claim:

1. In a garment of the class described, a breast cup having an arcuate lower and inner edge,

an arcuate wire brace extending along at least the arcuate lower and inner margin of said cup and in spaced relation to said edge, a sheath snugly fitting said wire brace and secured to said cup, and an arcuate piping secured to said cup along either side of said wire brace and closely paralleling the latter to distribute the support over a considerable area and prevent it from becoming concentrated on the relatively narrow arcuate brace.

2. The invention in accordance with claim 1, in which said sheath comprises a strip of fabric covering said wire brace and stitched to said cup along either side of said brace.

3. A brassière construction comprising a pair of fabric breast cups each having an arcuate lower and inner edge and arranged beside one another with their adjacent inner edges in spaced-apart relation, an arcuate stiffening wire

secured to the material of each cup and extending in spaced parallel relation to the said inner and lower edge of each and bridging the space between their respective inner edges at the points of closest approach thereof, a length of soft pliable cord closely paralleling said wire throughout

each portion thereof secured to said material and lying between said wire and the edge of each cup, a second length of soft pliable cord closely paralleling said wire on the opposite side of each such portion, and a textile covering overlying said wire and said cords and secured to said material by rows of stitching passing through said material and said fabric along lines passing on either side of said wire and of said cords.

4. In a cup construction for brassières and the like, a single piece of fabric having an arcuate lower and inner edge, an arcuate stiffening wire secured to said fabric in spaced parallel relation to the said lower and inner edge, a length of soft

pliable cord closely paralleling said wire and lying between said wire and the said edge, a second length of soft pliable cord closely paralleling said wire on the opposite side thereof, and a textile covering overlying said wire and said cords and secured to said fabric by rows of stitching passing through said fabric on either side of said wire and of said cords.

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