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2,553,863

ADJUSTABLE GARMENT

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Fig. 1.

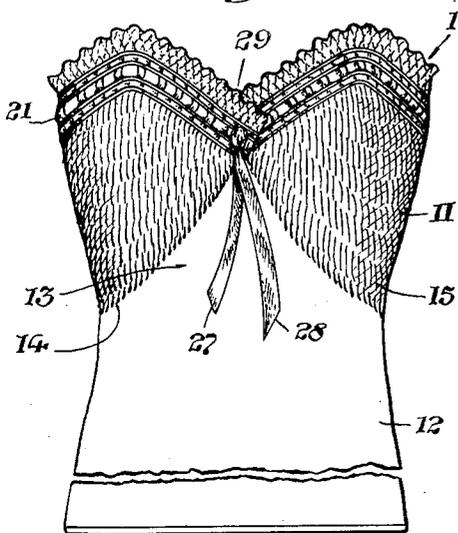


Fig. 2.

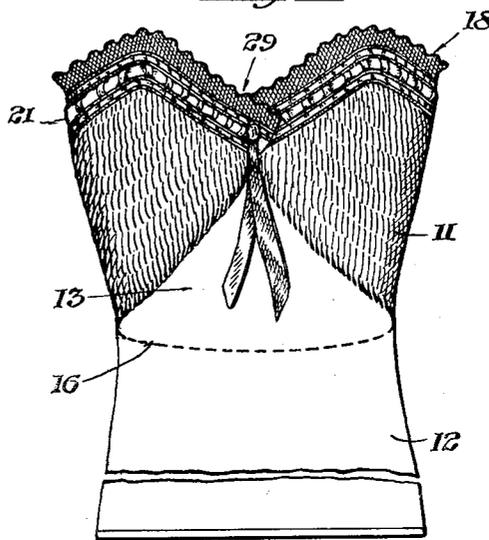


Fig. 4.

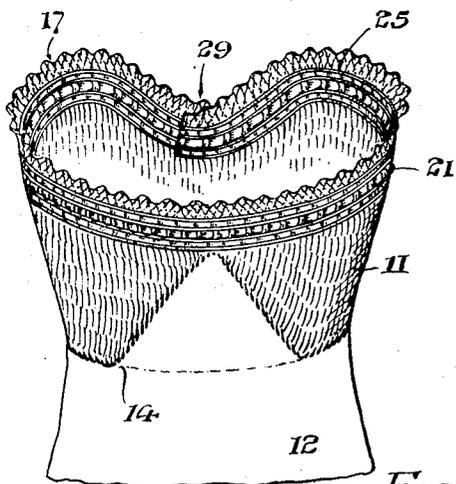


Fig. 3.

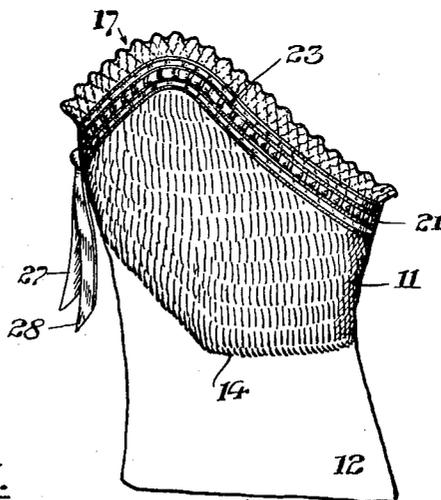
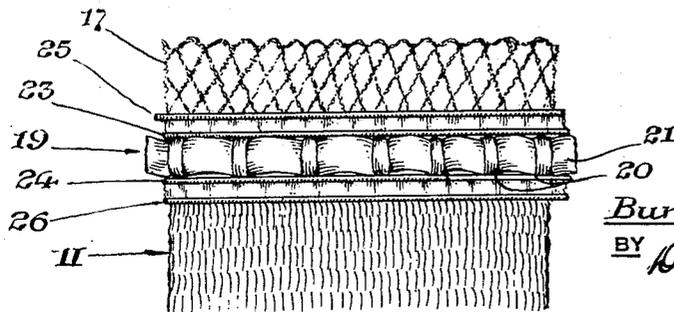


Fig. 5.



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ADJUSTABLE GARMENT

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This invention relates to adjustable garments, and particularly to ladies' garments and undergarments which are supported without shoulder straps.

The present invention provides an adjustable garment or undergarment which is either primarily or entirely self-supporting, i. e. it may be used without shoulder straps although, of course, if desired, shoulder straps may be attached. When adjusted on the body of the wearer, the garment according to this invention permits comfort and free breathing, it holds its position on the body, conforms to the contour of the body, allows free motion, as in exhaling and inhaling, and is susceptible of moderate adjustment. Furthermore a commercial line of garments embodying this invention may be made up in a smaller number of bust sizes than is customary, due to the features of adjustment and flexibility thereby afforded.

A certain present preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a front view of the garment, with a section of the skirt broken away;

Figure 2 is a front view of a garment differing in some respect from Figure 1, with the bottom of the skirt not shown;

Figure 3 is a side elevation view of the upper portion of the garment shown in Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a rear view of the upper portion of the garment shown in Figure 1, with a different type construction in the back; and

Figure 5 is a detail view of the upper edge portion of the garment shown in Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Figure 1, the garment, for example a slip, nightgown, or outer garment, is shown having a brassiere portion 11 and a skirt portion 12. The skirt portion extends above the waist and terminates in a point or V-shape at the lateral center of the brassiere portion, this generally triangular section of the plain fabric being shown at 13. The brassiere portion is sewed to the skirt portion, as at 14 (see Figures 1, 3 and 4). The brassiere portion, as shown in Figure 1, is preferably made of elastic fabric, such as elastic knitted fabric 15, and the skirt portion may be made of any desired fabric, such as woven or knitted textile, silk, rayon or nylon fabric. The brassiere portion 11 generally conforms to the bust contour.

As shown in Figure 2, the brassiere portion 11 is similarly sewed to the skirt portion 12, except that the generally triangular portion 13

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of plain fabric, preferably non-elastic, is separated at the waist from the lower portion of the skirt by stitching 16. It will be noted also that the upper decorative edging of the garment in Figure 1 is a lace 17, whereas the corresponding portion in the structure of Figure 2 is an open mesh or net fabric 18.

Figure 5 shows an adjustable portion secured, as by sewing, to the upper edge of the brassiere portion 11. A fabric strip 19 is provided with openings 20 through which there is sinusously threaded a tightening element 21 which may be conveniently in the form of a ribbon, as shown, but which may also comprise cords or other elongated elements. Woven or threaded into the strip 19 are elastic strands 23 and 24 adjacent the strip 19 and flanking it on opposite sides. Auxiliary elastic strips 25 and 26 are also preferably, though not necessarily, provided in the fabric of the strip 19 beyond the elastic strands 23 and 24, respectively. Secured to the upper or outer edge of the fabric strip 19 there is attached, for example by sewing, a decorative lace or open mesh 17 or 18, which also serves the functional purpose of retarding any binding or pinching effect upon the wearer of the uppermost elastic strand 25 when the garment is worn. The ribbon within the strip 19 extends continuously around the upper body portion of the garment and the ribbon terminates preferably at the front of the garment in ends 27 and 28. When adjusted in position, the ends of the ribbon may be tied in a knot or bow 29. It will be noted that the fabric strip 19 may be a continuous fabric which may extend all the way from the lower edge of elastic 26 to the top of the ornamental lace section 17, or the strip 19 may terminate at its upper edge immediately above elastic 25, with lace section 17 being added as by stitching. It is of course obvious that the strip 19 may be made of any suitable type fabric, so long as the beaded feature is included to permit interlacing of the drawstring.

The wearer puts the garment on in the usual manner, and before the ribbon is tightened it is adjusted so that it is generally self-supporting when the brassiere portion is made of elastic fabric, such as elasticized knit or woven fabric, the brassiere portion conforming comfortably firmly to the bust portion of the body so that the skirt hangs in the normal manner. The fabric insert 13 in the front portion of the brassiere section permits "bra separation," which term is used in the trade to describe the contour fit of

the brassière as opposed to flattening of the entire bust all the way across the front of the garment. The elastic fabric as shown in the drawing extends all the way around the back of the brassière portion of the garment, preferably down to or in the vicinity of the waistline. However, it is to be understood that the brassière portion may be provided with sufficient tension and support by the use of elastic or elasticized fabric in a part of the brassière portion; for example, non-elastic fabric may displace one or more sections of the sides or back of section 11, as shown in Figure 4. By the construction of this invention the support afforded both above and below the bust, and the upper portion of the garment, follows the definition or contour normally created by a brassière.

The skirt portion of the garment may be of any usual configuration and fabric, such as materials and designs used in evening slips, nightgowns, etc.

One of the major advantages of the present invention is afforded by the upper adjustable element extending around the top of the brassière portion. After the garment has been generally adjusted into position the ribbon is tightened until a comfortable fit is afforded to the top of the brassière portion. The ribbon 21, operating as a drawstring, is preferably inelastic. The elastic strands flanking the ribbon 21, in either normal or relaxed position, prior to wearing the garment, conform in length to the upper edge of the brassière portion, and as the garment is adjusted on the body of the wearer, the elastic strands extend commensurately with the elastic fabric of the brassière portion 11. In the normal position, therefore, the fabric of the strip 19 is shirred, so that when the elastic strands are stretched, the fabric strip 19 may also be stretched to conform to the contour and size of the wearer. Similarly, the elastic strands, particularly strand 25, and to a lesser degree strand 23, retains the lace 17 or net 18 in shirred, crimped, or ruffled position before the garment is placed on the body, and the lace or netting is sufficiently expansible to conform to the contour of the body after the garment is put on and also after the upper portion of the garment is drawn tight by pulling together the ends 27 and 28 of the drawstring or ribbon. Thus there is provided a garment which, in relaxed or expanded position, maintains symmetrical contour forms without the unsightly distortion encountered in garments not made in accordance with this invention. A particularly desirable feature, both from the comfort and appearance points of view, is the conformability of the upper decorative lace or net to conform to the contour of the wearer, without undue bulk, folding or discomfort.

While the invention is primarily applicable to garments of the strapless type, shoulder straps may be used if desired, the form-fitting features of invention still providing the advantages described above.

While I have shown and described certain present preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that other embodiments of the invention may be used within the scope of the appended claims, and it is, of course, obvious that the term "undergarment" as used herein, is broad enough to include nightgowns and other outer garments of similar character.

What is claimed is:

1. An undergarment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug

body fit, and an adjustable garment-supporting strip portion attached adjacent the upper edge of said brassière portion, said adjustable strip portion comprising a tightening element threaded sinuously through said strip, said strip containing an elastic thread extending adjacent each side of said tightening element, said adjustable strip portion comprising an expansible lace edge attached adjacent one of said elastic threads and shirred at its attaching juncture.

2. An undergarment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug body fit, and an adjustable garment-holding strip portion attached adjacent the upper edge of said brassière portion, said adjustable strip portion comprising a tightening element threaded sinuously through said strip, said strip containing an elastic thread extending adjacent each side of said tightening element, said adjustable portion comprising an expansible net fabric edge attached adjacent one of said elastic threads and shirred at its attaching juncture.

3. An edging for a garment comprising a strip of fabric, a tightening element threaded sinuously through said strip, an elastic strand incorporated into said strip on each side of said tightening element, and an open mesh fabric attached adjacent one of said elastic strands, said open mesh fabric being shirred at the attaching juncture along its inner edge when said elastic strands are in their relaxed position.

4. A strapless garment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug bust fit, and a garment supporting strip portion extending around the upper edge of said brassière portion to hold the garment in place on the wearer, said strip having a series of openings, a drawstring threaded through said openings, and an elastic strand extending adjacent each side of said drawstring, said elastic strands being anchored into said strip under tension, said elastic strands holding the upper portion of said brassière portion firmly against the body of the wearer when the chest has contracted beyond the effective length of said drawstring.

5. A strapless garment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug bust fit, and a garment supporting strip portion extending around the upper edge of said brassière portion to hold the garment in place on the wearer, said strip having a series of openings, a drawstring threaded through said openings, and an elastic strand extending adjacent each side of said drawstring, said elastic strands being anchored into said strip under tension, said elastic strands holding the upper portion of said brassière portion firmly against the body of the wearer when the chest has contracted beyond the effective length of said drawstring, said drawstring being inelastic.

6. A strapless garment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug bust fit, and a garment supporting strip portion extending around the upper edge of said brassière portion to hold the garment in place on the wearer, said strip having a series of openings, a drawstring threaded through said openings, and an elastic strand extending adjacent each side of said drawstring, said elastic strands being anchored into said strip under tension, said elastic strands holding the upper portion of said bras-

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sière portion firmly against the body of the wearer when the chest has contracted beyond the effective length of said drawstring, said drawstring having a lower modulus of elasticity than said elastic strands.

7. A garment comprising a brassière portion and a skirt portion, the brassière portion comprising an elastic fabric to provide a snug bust fit, and a garment supporting strip portion extending around the upper edge of said brassière portion to hold the garment in place on the wearer, said strip having a series of openings, a drawstring threaded through said openings, and an elastic strand extending adjacent each side of said drawstring, said elastic strands being anchored into said strip under tension, said elastic strands holding the upper portion of said brassière portion firmly against the body of the wearer when the chest has contracted beyond the effective length of said drawstring, said drawstring being inelastic and adjustable in effective length to conform to the normal dimensions of the chest of the wearer.

8. An edging for a garment comprising a strip of fabric, a tightening element threaded through said strip, an elastic strand incorporated into

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said strip on each side of said tightening element, and an open fabric extending parallel to said strip adjacent one of said elastic strands, said open fabric being shirred at the juncture with said strip along its inner edge when said elastic strands are in their relaxed position.

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