

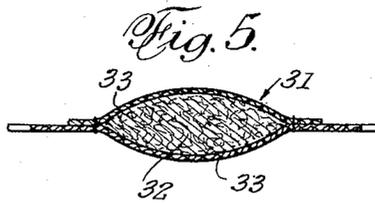
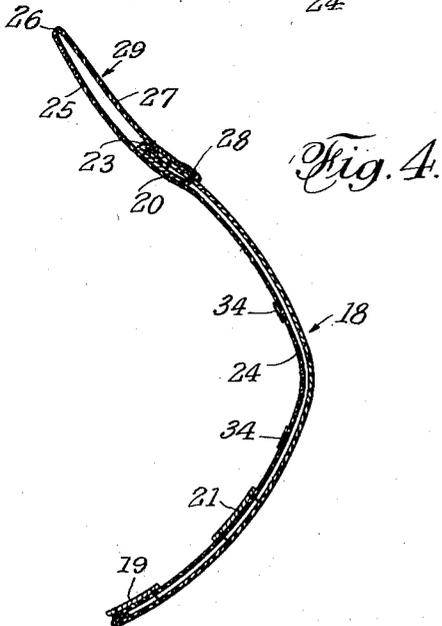
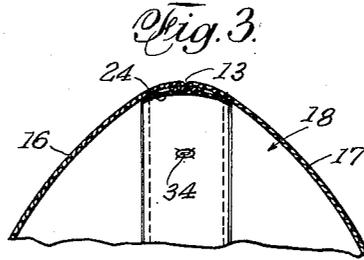
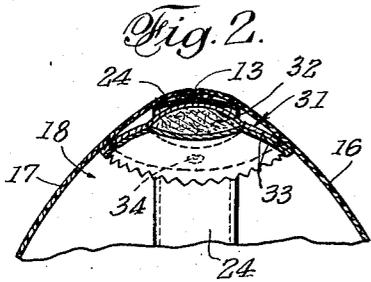
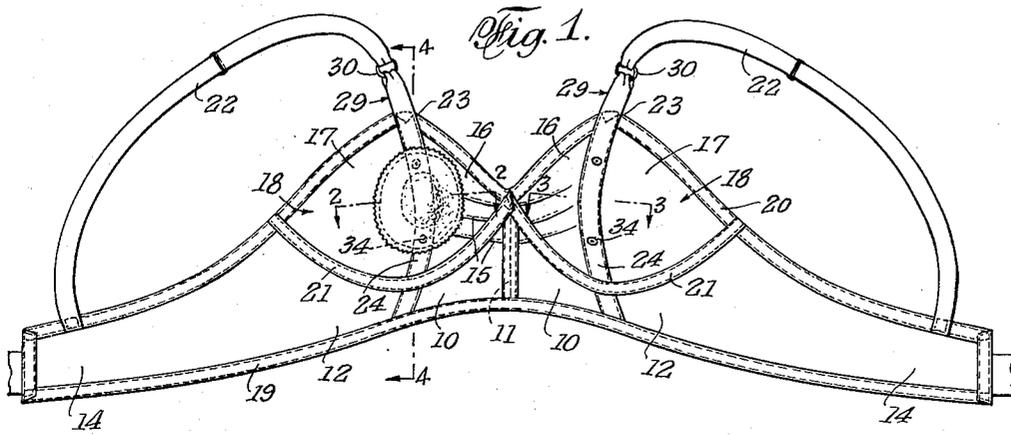
April 29, 1952

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2,594,549

BRASSIERE

Filed Feb. 16, 1950



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2,594,549

BRASSIÈRE

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Application February 16, 1950, Serial No. 144,398

2 Claims. (Cl. 2-42)

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This invention relates to brassière construction and pertains more particularly to a construction that improves the fit regardless of variations in the size of the breasts supported thereby, it being an object of the present invention to provide a brassière construction that not only improves the fit but also provides firm support of the breasts.

Another object of the invention is to provide a brassière embodying means in the breast-holding cups thereof that is so disposed that support of the breasts from the shoulder straps of the brassière is effected throughout the entire height of the cups to minimize pull at the top and slack at the bottom. In other words, instead of supporting the cups only from the top point thereof, as in prior structures, the support is effective down to and including the lower edge of the brassière. Thus, sag is minimized and the so-called uplift effected.

The invention also has for its objects to provide such means that are positive in operation, convenient in use, easily installed in working position and easily disconnected therefrom, economical of manufacture, relatively simple, and of general superiority and serviceability.

The invention also comprises novel details of construction and novel combinations and arrangements of parts, which will more fully appear in the course of the following description. However, the drawings merely show and the following description merely describes embodiments of the present invention, which are given by way of illustration or example only.

In the drawings, like reference characters designate similar parts in the several views.

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a brassière according to the present invention, the same being shown as seen from the inner or body-engaging side.

Figs. 2, 3 and 4 are enlarged cross-sectional views as taken on the respective lines 2-2, 3-3 and 4-4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of an alternate form of filler pad shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The general form of the brassière is quite conventional and may be made as a back-connecting garment as in Fig. 1 or as a garment that is permanently connected at the back and connectable at the front or side. The garment shown comprises inner front portions 10 that are connected along a middle seam 11, and outer front portions 12 that connect along seams 13 to the respective right and left portions 10. The portions 12 are provided with elongated extensions

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14 that extend around the sides and part of the back of the wearer.

The inner front portions 10 are provided with tucks or pleats 15 that gather the sides thereof adjacent seam 11, thereby imparting a cup-like shape to the upper parts 16 of portions 10 and to the complementary parts 17 of portions 12, said parts 16 and 17 forming the breast-supporting cups 18 of the garment.

A tape 19 binds the lower edge of the garment and a similar tape 20 binds the upper edge thereof. The lower edges of the cups 18 are defined by arcuate tapes 21.

In the above structure, the seams 13 extend vertically, or substantially so, from the top to the bottom of the cups and constitute friction-inducing lines tending toward the discomfort of the wearer. Also, since the front of the brassière is supported by shoulder straps 22 from the topmost points 23, the cups 18 tend to elongate due to the counterweight of the breasts. According to the invention, a tape 24 is stitched along each seam 13 on the inside of the garment to enclose the seams. Said tapes are preferably made of a smooth silky material that minimizes friction, thereby smoothing out the inner faces of the cups 18 and contributing to the comfort of the wearer.

Said tapes 24 are stitched to tapes 19 at their lower ends and to tapes 20 adjacent their upper ends to thereby provide non-stretchable yet easily pliable means that interconnects said tapes 19 and 20. In the present case, tapes 24 are each provided with an upper extension 25 which is doubled back at 26 to provide a portion 27 which is stitched to the outer faces of the cups 18 at 28. Thus, there is provided an upwardly extending loop that constitutes an integral extension of each tape 24. A ring 30, strung in each loop 29, effects connection with the respective right and left shoulder straps 22 of the garment.

It will be seen from the above that the pull is transmitted by tapes 24 to the bottom edge of the garment so that the shape of the cups is maintained because unequal pull and sag are minimized. Accordingly, the fit of the garment is improved and uplift support of the breasts properly effected.

The tapes 24 have the additional function of mounting filler pads 31 that afford firmness at the nipple-housing portions of the cups in instances where the breasts do not fully extend therinto. Such pads simply comprise a wad of flacculent material 32 enclosed by circular or oval-shaped pieces of material 33. As in Fig. 2,

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said pieces of material may be coextensive or, as in Fig. 5, one may be larger in diameter than the other to minimize bulkiness. Fig. 1 shows such a filler pad in place in the left cup 18, snap fasteners 34 being provided to effect separable connection of the pads to tapes 24.

It will be evident that tapes 24 have a four-fold function—to cover seams 13 and thereby minimize friction, to improve the fit and support of the garment, to constitute the mounting means for filler pads 31, and to afford means effecting connection with shoulder straps 22.

While the invention that has been illustrated and described is now regarded as the preferred embodiment, the construction is, of course, subject to modifications without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is therefore not desired to restrict the invention to the particular forms of construction illustrated and described, but to cover all modifications that may fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A shoulder-strap-supported brassière, comprising centrally disposed front portions connected by a seam at the middle front of the brassière, laterally disposed front portions connected to the respective centrally disposed front portions at generally vertical seams on each side of the seam at the middle, said laterally disposed front portions each having an extension to extend around the side and back of the wearer, a binding tape superposed on and stitched along the inner face of the lower edge of the four men-

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tioned portions, the portions connected by the vertical seams constituting breast-supporting cups, a silken and non-stretchable friction-minimizing tape stitched to the inner face of each cup and covering the vertical seam between the central and lateral portion comprising each said cup, stitching connecting the lower end of each silken tape to the binding tape, an integral loop provided on the upper end of each silken tape and said loops extending beyond the upper edges of the cups, and shoulder straps connecting the loops and the mentioned side and back extensions, said shoulder straps and non-stretchable silken tapes, thereby, constituting support means for the brassière that extend from the binding tape at the lower edge of the brassière.

2. A brassière according to claim 1: snap fasteners on the silken tapes, and filler pads within the cups and separably connected to the fasteners on the silken tapes.

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