Jan. 4, 1949. R. ETTLESON 2,457,989

BRASSIERE

Filed Aug. 3, 1946

Fig. 1.

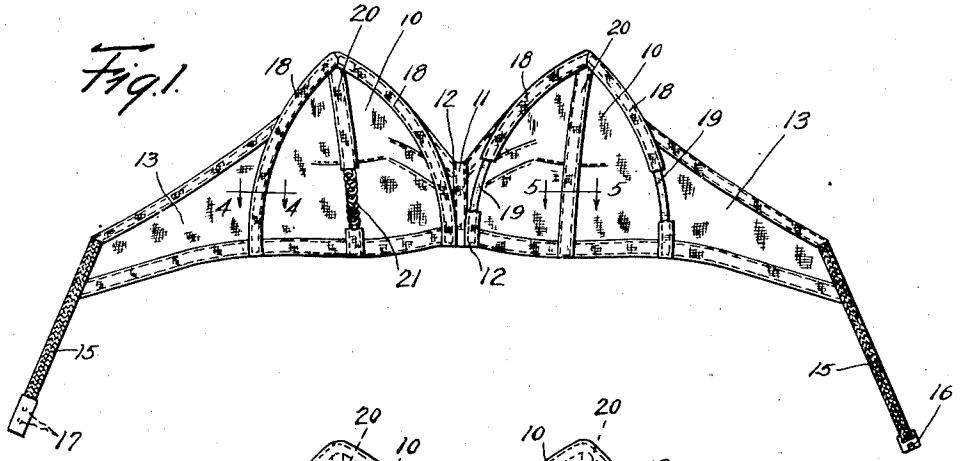



Fig. 2.

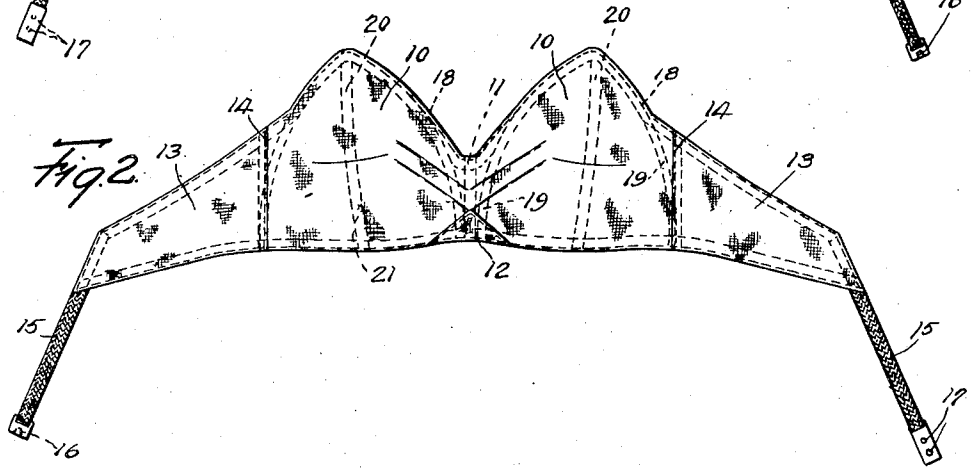



Fig. 4.

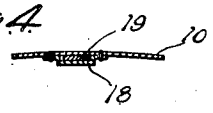



Fig. 3.

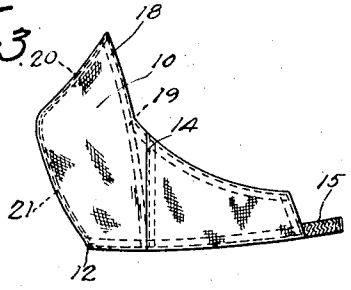
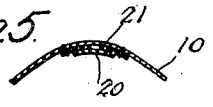



Fig. 5.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,457,989

## BRASSIÈRE

Ruth Ettleson, Chicago, Ill.

Application August 3, 1946, Serial No. 688,265

5 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

1

This invention relates to improvements in women's garments and particularly to the type of garment known as a brassière.

The vogue for bare shouldered women's garments has created a great demand for brassières of the strapless type. Such brassières are known in the prior art but heretofore have not been satisfactory. Depending as they do on a body encircling belt to maintain them in place they not only distort the figure but bear uncomfortably and injuriously against the breasts. Furthermore, any stretching of the belt material loosens the garment and renders it unfit for further use.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a strapless brassière which avoids these and other undesirable features and which, without undue stress, will retain the garment in its position on the body.

A further object is to provide a brassière of the aforementioned type which is held in place by a single body encircling member and yet will support the breasts in an attractive and upright position.

A further object of this invention is to provide a strapless brassière which does not bind or confine the breasts more than a brassière employing shoulder straps.

A further object of this invention is to provide a strapless brassière wherein by the act of fastening the body encircling member, the cup portion is automatically shaped to conform to desired form.

Numerous other objects and advantages will be apparent throughout the progress of the following specification.

The accompanying drawing illustrates a selected embodiment of the invention and the views therein are as follows:

Fig. 1 is a rear view of the improved garment partly broken away to show stiffening members in position.

Fig. 2 is a front view thereof.

Fig. 3 is a side view showing the shape assumed by the garment when worn.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

The garment shown herein for the purpose of illustrating the present invention comprises a bust portion having a pair of breast receiving cups 10 individually shaped to receive the breasts of the wearer, connected together either integrally or by stitching and reinforced by tape 11. The

2

tape 11 extending from the lower edge of the garment to the upper edge is stitched throughout its length to the garment by stitching 12 along each edge.

Connected to said bust portion either integrally or by stitching is a pair of side portions 13 of substantially triangular or trapezoidal shape the major bases being at the outer edges of the cups 10, said side portions being reinforced by tapes 14 which also extend from the lower to the upper edge of the garment.

To the outer ends of side portions 13 is attached a body encircling belt 15 of any desired material carrying hook 16 at one end, eyes 17 at the other. The belt 15 encircles the body of the wearer below the breasts but above the waistline, the hook 16 and eyes 17 coacting to hold the garment in place and to insure a snug fit.

The cups 10 are each formed of material cut on the bias and individually shaped to desired form. Extending from the bottom of each side of each cup and upwardly to the top center of each cup are pockets 18 formed of fabric material and adapted to receive and enclose thin narrow flexible stiffening members 19.

When the stiffening members 19 are enclosed in the pockets 18 the cups 10 are formed in the shape of a Gothic arch as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Extending from the bottom center of each cup and upwardly to the top center of the Gothic arch formed by side stiffening member 19 is the medial pocket 20 likewise formed of fabric material and designed to receive and enclose the thin flexible stiffening member 21 which may be of much greater flexibility and resiliency than the stiffening members 19. While any type of very flexible stiffening material may be used for the medial stiffening member, it has been found that the so-called spiral stay gives very satisfactory results.

The medial pockets 20 may be lightly tacked at the bottom or left open for easy withdrawal of the medial stiffening member 21 for such wearers who do not desire to use such stiffening members. It has been found that improved results are achieved by the present invention even if the medial stays are not employed.

It is to be noted that the side pockets 18 follow the outer marginal edges of each cup and when the stiffening members 19 are enclosed in their pockets they follow the predetermined path outlined by said pockets with the result that when the belt 15 is fastened around the body as intended, the garment is stretched, causing stays

19 and 21 to bow and shape the cups 10 to conform to the breasts as shown in Fig. 3.

The lower marginal edge of said garment contains no stiffening members, is extremely flexible and hugs the body of the wearer. It may readily be seen that additional tension on the belt 15 and the lower marginal edge of said garment such as is created by bending, etc., will cause greater tension and bowing of the stays 19, causing the cups 10 to be held more firmly and closely to the body. Thus the improved garment, although having no shoulder straps, will be held firmly and snugly over the breasts even when the wearer thereof bends forwardly.

While the invention as illustrated shows side stiffening members 19 to be of somewhat greater rigidity than the medial stiffening members 21, stiffening members of the same degree of flexibility or rigidity may be used without changing the principle of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages.

Changes may be made in form and construction without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages and the right is hereby reserved to make all changes as fairly fall within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows:

1. A garment of the class described comprising a pair of breast-receiving cups, each of said cups having a pair of side stiffening members, said members being positioned at each side of each cup and extending upwardly and diagonally to a common point at the top center of each cup to form a Gothic arch.

2. A garment of the class described comprising a pair of breast-receiving cups, each of said cups having a pair of marginal stiffening members, said members being positioned at each side of each cup and extending upwardly and diagonally to a common point at the top center of each cup to form a Gothic arch, and a medial stiffening member extending from the bottom center of each cup to the top of the Gothic arch formed by the side stiffening members.

3. A garment of the class described comprising a pair of breast-receiving cups, said cups being formed of material cut on the bias and shaped, pockets formed of fabric material extending upwardly and diagonally to each side of each cup, said pockets meeting at the top center of each cup, resilient side stiffening members secured in each pocket, said side stiffening members forming a Gothic arch, said stiffening members and shaped material combining to form said cups to a predetermined shape when the garment is worn.



4. A garment of the class described comprising a pair of breast-receiving cups, said cups being formed of material cut on the bias and shaped, pockets formed of fabric material extending upwardly and diagonally to each side of each cup, said pockets meeting at the top center of each cup, resilient side stiffening members secured in each pocket to shape said cups into the form of a Gothic arch, a fabric sheathed medial stiffening member extending from the bottom center of each cup to the top of the Gothic arch formed by the side stiffening members, said cups assuming a predetermined form when the garment is worn.

5. A garment of the class described comprising a pair of breast-receiving cups, said cups being formed of material cut on the bias and shaped, pockets formed of fabric material extending upwardly and diagonally at each side of each cup, said pockets meeting at the top center of each cup, resilient side stiffening members secured in each pocket, said members forming said cups into the shape of a Gothic arch, a fabric sheathed medial stiffening member extending from the bottom center of each cup to the top of the Gothic arch formed by the side stiffening members, said medial stiffening member being of greater flexibility than said side stiffening members, and tension means attached to the outer edges of said cups, said cups forming a predetermined shape at the time the garment is worn.

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