

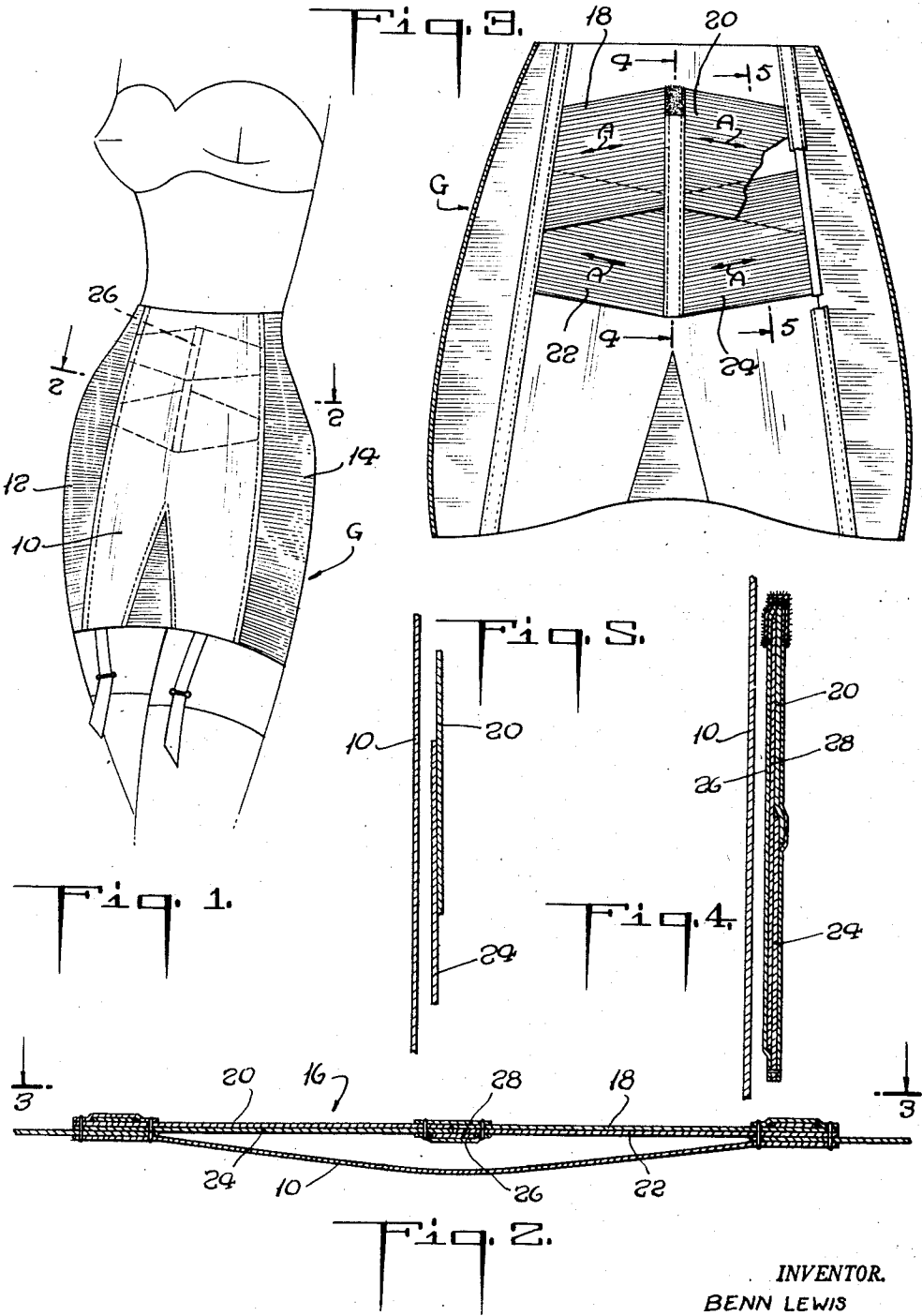
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B. LEWIS

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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INVENTOR.
BENN LEWIS
BY
Eugene H. Stein
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

Benn Lewis, Maplewood, N. J., assignor to The
Lewel Manufacturing Company, Inc., New York,
N. Y., a corporation of New Jersey

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—27)

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This invention relates to foundation garments. It is an object of my invention to provide a foundation garment which affords unusually good abdominal control.

It is another object of my invention to provide a garment of the character described having no more parts than an equivalent present-day garment.

More specifically, it is an object of my invention to provide a garment of the character described having an improved inner belt whose elements are so relatively arranged that maximum efficiency is obtained from the materials employed.

It is still another object of my invention to provide a foundation garment having an inner belt that is less bulky than a conventional inner belt.

Other objects of my invention will in part be obvious and in part will be pointed out hereinafter.

My invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements and arrangements of parts which will be exemplified in the foundation garment hereinafter described and of which the scope of application will be indicated in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown one of the various possible embodiments of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a front view of a lay figure wearing a girdle constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, in the region of the inner belt;

Fig. 3 is a reduced sectional view taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and showing the inside of the front of the girdle; and

Figs. 4 and 5 are enlarged fragmentary sectional views taken substantially along the lines 4—4 and 5—5, respectively, of Fig. 3.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the reference letter G denotes a foundation garment embodying the present invention.

The foundation garment may comprise, by way of example, a corset, corselette, pantie girdle or girdle. For the sake of simplicity, the invention has been shown in the accompanying drawings and will be described herein as embodied in a girdle.

The foundation garment includes a body encircling sheath which, per se, may be of conventional construction and here is shown as comprising a flexible inelastic front panel 10 to the

side edges of which are secured, as by stitching, circumferentially and vertically elastic side panels 12, 14. The rear edges of the side panels are secured, as by stitching, to a back panel (not shown) which desirably is horizontally inelastic and vertically elastic. Said sheath encircles at least the waist of the wearer.

Pursuant to the present invention, I provide an inner belt 16 whose side edges are secured, as by stitching, to the side edges of the front panel 10. The inner belt is located on the inner surface of the front panel in the abdominal region of the wearer.

Heretofore it has been conventional for the inner panel either to comprise a web of circumferentially elastic material or a pair of cross webs, the width of each web, in either case, being equal to or exceeding the height of the abdominal area to be controlled. This required an excessive amount of elastic webbing which added unnecessarily to the expense and bulk of the garment.

In accordance with the present invention the aforesaid drawback is avoided by the use of the special inner belt shown in the accompanying drawings. Said belt comprises four webs 18, 20, 22, 24, each of which may be narrower than the height of the abdominal area to be controlled. Desirably these webs are cut transversely from a wide band which is elastic in a direction parallel to the upper and lower edges, i. e. the selvage edges, of the band. The direction of resilience of the webs as assembled in the inner belt is indicated by the arrows A and will be seen to be circumferential to a substantial extent although, as soon will be pointed out, the direction of resilience is at a slight angle to the horizontal.

Two webs are attached to each edge of the front panel 10. More specifically, one pair of webs 18, 22 at their outer edges are attached, as by stitching, to one edge of the front panel 10 and the other pair of webs 20, 24 are attached at their outer edges, as by stitching, to the other edge of the front panel, the outer edges of each pair of panels somewhat overlapping one another. One web of each pair, e. g. the webs 18, 20, is higher than the associated web, i. e. the web 22, 24. Both of the upper webs 18, 20 extend from the edges of the inner belt toward its center at the same time slanting upwardly at a slight angle to the horizontal, e. g. about 15°. The upper webs meet at the center of the inner belt and the inner edges of said webs are suitably attached to one another as by stitching. Similarly the two lower webs 22, 24 slope downwardly as they extend toward the center of the inner belt,

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and the inner edges of said webs meet at the center of the belt where they are suitably attached to one another, as by stitching. Thus, the upper webs define an upwardly pointing shallow V and the lower webs define a downwardly pointing shallow V. The overlapping of the outer edges of the webs in each pair is such with respect to their angles of inclinations that the lower edges of the upper pair of webs at the center of the inner belt just slightly overlap the upper edges of the lower pair of webs, this being shown clearly in Figs. 3 and 4. The four webs are held in fixed relationship at the center of the belt by suitable means, such, for instance, as a vertical tape 26 that is sewn to said webs and defines a pocket receiving a stay 28.

It will be seen that the inner belt as thus constructed is considerably wider at its center than at its sides thereby attaining maximum efficiency in the use of the elastic webs and holding the bulk of the garment to a minimum.

It may be mentioned that, although in the foregoing description I have related the position of the outer edges of the four webs to the edges of the front panel 10 of the girdle, such reference point is merely exemplative and if, for example, the foundation garment has no single front panel but includes a front panel which extends all the way to the sides of the garment, the outer edges of the webs composing the inner belt still preferably will be located in the position as shown in the drawings, i. e. to the sides of the abdominal region of the wearer so that the wide center of the inner belt will cover the high center of the abdominal region of the wearer.

The circumferential length of the inner belt is less when the garment is relaxed, i. e. off a wearer, than the distance along the overlying front portion of the garment, in this instance the width of the front panel 10, as best shown in Fig. 2. This arrangement permits the inner belt to stretch and tense when the garment is donned and thereby exercise a body controlling and shaping function.

It thus will be seen that I have provided a foundation garment which achieves all the objects of my invention and is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various

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changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein described, or shown in the accompanying drawings, is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

A foundation garment including circumferentially resilient flank portions extending from the waist to the bottom of the garment, a circumferentially inelastic panel extending between and connected to the front edges of the flank portions, and an inner belt in back of the circumferentially inelastic panel, the ends of said inner belt being secured to the foundation garment at the sides of the inelastic panel, said inner belt including four longitudinally elastic webs, one pair of webs constituting one side of the belt and the other pair of webs constituting the other side of the belt, the outer edges of each pair of webs overlapping and being disposed at a side of the inelastic panel, one web of each pair extending upwardly from the outer edge toward the center of the belt and the other web of each pair extending downwardly whereby to provide a pair of upper webs and a pair of lower webs, the upper webs defining a shallow upwardly pointing V and the lower webs defining a shallow downwardly pointing V, the inner edges of the upper web of each pair of webs being secured to one another, the inner edges of the lower web of each pair of webs being secured to one another, a stay, and means to secure said stay to the inner edges of said webs whereby to hold the apices of the V's apart.

BENN LEWIS.

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