May 9, 1950 J. A. MARTIN 2,506,804

CONFINING GARMENT

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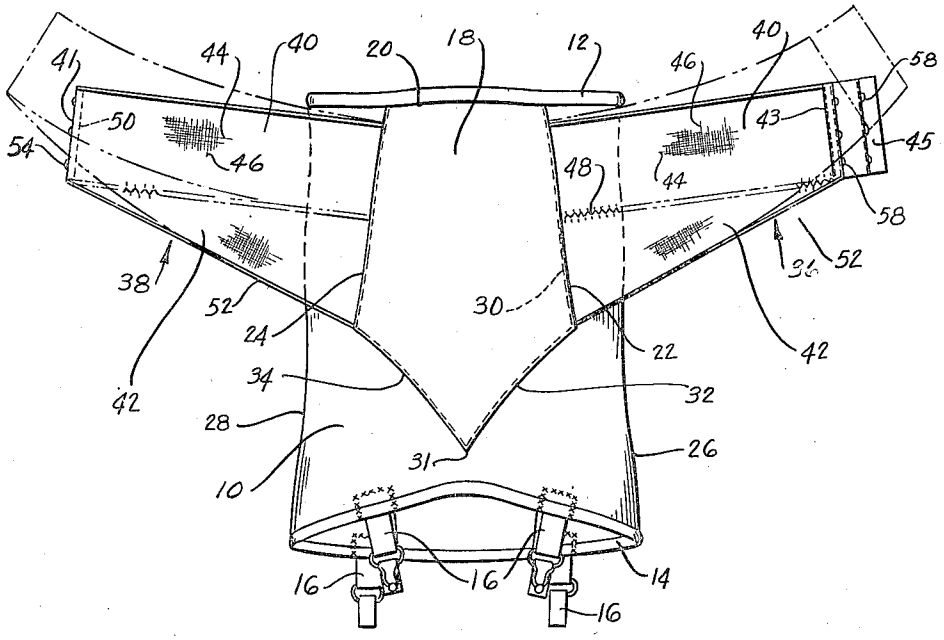


FIG. 1

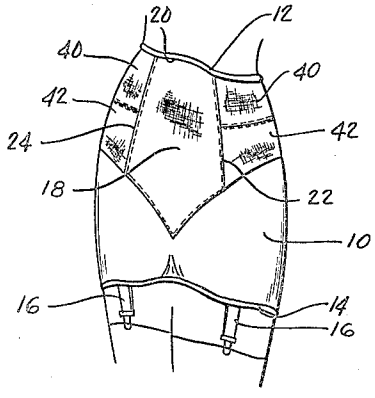


FIG. 2

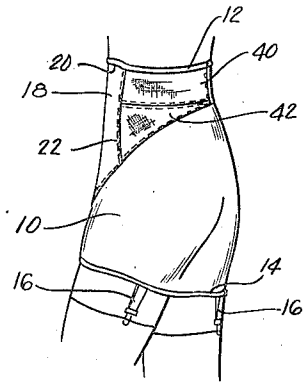


FIG. 3

INVENTOR.
JOSEPH A. MARTIN

BY Irving H. Goodfriend

ATTORNEY

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CONFINING GARMENT

Joseph A. Martin, Elizabeth, N. J., assignor to Flexnit Company, Inc., Elizabeth, N. J., a corporation of New Jersey

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The present invention relates to confining garments such as girdles and more particularly to such a garment that is constructed so as to give substantial support to the abdomen of the wearer.

Conventional girdles are made from a torso encircling tube-like fabric that is usually formed from an elastic material, preferably one having a "two-way stretch." Such girdles shape and confine the body of the wearer whereby they give to it the desired shape and contour.

Garments of this type, because of their resiliency which flows from the elastic thread or yarn incorporated in the material from which they are made and since they are not usually provided with bones or stays, have a tendency to become loose on the body whereby the garment loses its tightness and body shaping qualities.

Further, such garments have not provided the desirable support to the abdomen of the wearer with the result that the flesh of the wearer protrudes above the upper edge of the garment in the front and at the sides thereof.

The present invention therefore contemplates the provision of a girdle so constructed that abdominal support is provided, which produces a desired smooth, flat contour when worn and controls the waist of the wearer holding it taut.

The present invention further contemplates the provision of a confining garment or girdle which has a belt arranged thereon at the upper edge thereof which belt is so constructed that a tension is provided laterally around the body at the upper edge of the garment and below this an upward pull and support, which together prevent the body of the wearer from protruding or bulging over the upper edge of the garment. This belt gives to the wearer of my garment a feeling of true support that gives shape and comfort to the body of the wearer.

In order to accomplish this unusual and hitherto unrealized body support, I propose making the belt of two parts from a fabric which is stretchable only in one direction, that is either lengthwise of the material or crosswise thereof. Such material is preferably woven and made from an inelastic thread and an elastic thread. In such material, the threads cross one another in the warp or weft direction and since one of these threads is elastic and the other inelastic, the material stretches only in one direction that is either lengthwise of the material or crosswise thereof.

The material forming the upper part of the belt is cut so that the elastic threads thereof encircle the body of the wearer of the garment

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whereas the material forming the lower part of the belt is cut on the bias so that this lower part is given a two-way stretch on the body of the wearer of the garment.

Thus, the upper part of a belt according to my invention will be tensioned laterally around the body of the wearer and at the same time the inelastic threads of this part of the belt have a pull and support upwardly or longitudinally along the body of the wearer. This prevents the flesh of the wearer from protruding or bulging over the edge of the garment.

At the same time, the lower part of the belt, since the material forming it is cut on the bias, has a two-way stretch that lifts and flattens the abdomen and helps prevent fatigue giving to the wearer of the garment a feeling of well being.

These, other and further objects and advantages of the present invention will more fully appear from the following description and the drawing appended thereto, in which

Fig. 1 is a front view of a confining garment according to my invention.

Fig. 2 is a front view of the garment on the torso of a wearer.

Fig. 3 is a side view of the garment on the torso of a wearer.

Referring now to the drawing, the confining garment or girdle 10, which may be of the conventional knitted or woven fabric preferably having a "two-way" stretch is preferably trimmed at the upper edge with the conventional rubber tape or binding 12 and at the lower edge with a similar conventional rubber tape or binding 14.

The illustrated girdle 10 is of the type formed from a seamless, unitary sheath or tube of stretchable, elastic knitted material, though it will be understood that the specific type of confining garment is not a feature of the invention which may be applied to any other type of confining garment.

The garment 10 is provided at the front and rear thereof with conventional hose supporters or garters 16, which are spaced around and extend down from the lower edge 14.

At the front of the garment 10, I provide the preferably five sided panel 18, such as the one illustrated having the shape of a keystone, which panel is made from any non-stretchable fabric, such as satin, sateen, cotton and the like.

The upper edge 20 of the panel or base of the keystone is sewn to the garment under the binding or tape 12. The two sides 22 and 24 of the panel, which flare slightly out toward the sides 26 and 28 down from the upper edge 20 are se-

cured by a line of double or feather stitching 30, with the apex 31 of the pentagon or keystone 18 pointing down toward the lower edge 14 of the garment and preferably spaced thereabove.

The lower sides 32 and 34 of the panel extend down inwardly from the sides 22 and 24 to meet at a point 31 at the center of the garment to close the preferably keystoned shaped panel, which is uniformly spaced at the longitudinal center line of the garment 10.

Secured to the garment 10, underneath the sides 22 and 24 of the panel 18 by the same line of double or feather stitching 30, I provide on each side thereof the strap members 36 and 38, which preferably together with the panel form the belt support of my invention.

The upper components 40 and the lower components 42 of the strap members are made from a material that stretches only in one direction, such as a woven material, the woof threads 44 of which are made from an elastic thread or yarn and the warp threads 46 of which are made from an inelastic thread or yarn.

Upon cutting the upper components 40, which are in the shape of a parallelogram, the smaller side of which is secured to a side 22 or a side 24, and sewing it to the garment (after each strap member 36 and 38 is formed, as will be described), the elastic woof threads 44 will be positioned laterally around the torso or body of the wearer at substantially right angles to the sides 22 and 24 of the panel 18.

This tension therefore is around the body of the wearer and will prevent the flesh from extending beyond the upper edge 12 of the garment, holding it in to prevent any bulges of the flesh or rolling down of the garment. This tension gives a feeling of well being and prevents the edge of the garment from cutting into the flesh of the wearer.

Each lower component 42 is substantially triangular in shape and is secured to the lower edge of the upper component 40 along the longer side of the triangle preferably by the line of double or feather stitching 48, the shorter sides of the upper 40 and lower 42 components being secured to the panel 18 and the garment by the stitching 30, as previously described.

Thus the widest part of the lower component 42 is secured to the panel and garment and narrows in width so that at its outer end it is secured to the outer or free end 41 of the upper component 40 underneath the tape or binding 50 (strap member 38, Fig. 1).

Referring to the other strap member 36, the lower component 42 is secured at its narrowest outer end to the outer or free end 43 of the upper component 40 underneath the tape 50 and to which free end is secured the strip 45, on which hook eyes are mounted as will be described.

In order to give to the lower components 42, a stretch which is both lengthwise and crosswise of the garment when it is worn, I cut the fabric from which these lower components are made on the bias and sew the lower component to the upper component and the strap members to the fabric so that the elastic warp threads 46 are positioned diagonally of the garment. Thus, as illustrated in the figures of the drawing, the elastic threads of the lower component 42 are inclined to pull upwardly whereas the elastic threads of the upper component are substantially horizontally disposed to pull around the body.

The strap members 36 and 38 are sewn to the panel 18 so that when the garment is worn the hypotenuse or outer edge 52 of the lower components 42 are substantially a continuation of the corresponding lower edges 32 and 34 of the panel 18.

The strap members 36 and 38 may be secured together by any suitable means, for example by the hooks 54 spaced along the outer edge 41 of one strap member and the eyes 58 spaced along the strip 45 on the other strap member 36. In order that the diameter of the belt formed by the strap members may be adjusted to the size of the body of the wearer and thus tighten the belt or band in the degree desired, I provide a series of spaced eyes along one of the strap members 36, as illustrated.

When the strap members are hooked together, they form a belt which functions in the manner heretofore described to hold in the flesh of the wearer, give to it the desired support and hold the garment flat and taut on the wearer, the panel 18 serving to assist this function and therefore preferably being provided.

It will of course be understood that the hooks and eyes on the strap members may be omitted in which case these strap members are continuous and integral so that the belt completely encircles the waist as a unit.

I have illustrated my invention as applied to a fabric in the form of a sheath or tube which has been made into a girdle but it will of course be understood that the belt or band of my invention may be applied to a garment which has definite, stylized form or shape so that there is provided an upward, diagonal pull in conjunction with the tension around the body of the wearer to effect an abdomen flattening function.

While I have described my invention in detail, the example given is illustrative and is not given as a limitation since other modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Hence, the invention is to be understood as limited only as indicated in the appended claims in which the intent is to set forth all the novelty over the prior art.

I claim:

1. A tubular girdle having a two-way stretch and an upper edge and lower edge, a panel in the shape of a keystone and secured to the front of the girdle with the base of the keystone at the said upper edge of the girdle and the apex of the keystone extending toward the lower edge, and located along the longitudinal center line through the front of the girdle, said panel formed from a non-stretchable material, the sides of the keystone panel extending down from the base thereof toward the lower edge of the girdle spaced equally from said longitudinal center line through the front of the girdle, a strap member secured to the girdle and the panel along the sides of the panel keystone extending down from the base thereof toward the lower edge, each strap member having a free end and comprising an upper and lower part, each part formed from a material having elastic woof threads and inelastic warp threads whereby the material is stretchable only in one direction, the upper part cut and secured to the girdle and panel with the inelastic warp threads positioned around the girdle to stretch laterally around the girdle and the lower part cut and secured to the girdle and the panel with the elastic woof threads on the bias to provide a two-way stretch, said lower part in the form of a triangle the base of which is secured to the girdle and the panel and the side extending out from said base of the triangle secured to

an edge of the upper part of the strap member to the free end of said strap member, and cooperating means on the free end of each strap member for detachably securing the strap members together.

2. A girdle, a panel secured to the girdle at the center thereof and equally disposed on each side of a longitudinal center line through the front of the girdle, a strap member secured to the girdle and panel and extending into a free end, each strap member equally spaced from said longitudinal center line, each strap member comprising an upper and lower part, said upper part in the shape of an elongated parallelogram and said lower part in the shape of a triangle, each strap member extending from the panel into a free end, a shorter side of the parallelogram shaped upper part and the base of the triangular shaped lower part being secured to the girdle and the panel, the shorter side of the triangular shaped lower part being secured therealong to the adjacent longer side of the parallelogram shaped upper part, the upper and lower parts being formed from a material stretchable only in one direction, the upper part cut and secured to the girdle and the panel to stretch laterally around the girdle and the lower part cut and secured to the girdle and the panel on the bias to give to said lower part a two-way stretch when wearing the girdle and cooperating means on the free end of each strap member for securing the strap members together when wearing the girdle.

3. A tubular girdle having a two-way stretch and an upper edge and a lower edge, a panel in the shape of a keystone, said panel secured to the front of the girdle with the base of the keystone at the said upper edge of the girdle and the apex of the keystone extending toward the lower edge, said panel located along the longitudinal center line passing through the front of the girdle from the upper edge to the lower edge, said panel formed from a non-stretchable material, the sides of the keystone of the panel extending down from the base thereof toward the lower edge of the girdle and spaced equally from said longitudinal

center line through the front of the girdle, a strap member secured at one end thereof to the girdle on each side of the said longitudinal center line passing through the girdle, said strap member being free at the outer end thereof, each strap member comprising an upper part and a lower part, each part formed from a material woven from elastic threads lying in one direction and inelastic threads lying in the other direction and thereby stretchable only in one direction, the upper part secured to the girdle and the panel at said first mentioned end with the elastic threads positioned around the girdle and the body of the wearer to thereby stretch laterally around the girdle and the body of the wearer and the lower part secured to the girdle and the panel between the upper part and the lower edge of the girdle at said first mentioned end with the elastic threads positioned on the bias and to the upper part at said second mentioned end to thereby mount said lower part of said strap member with elastic threads thereof on the bias to provide a two-way stretch around the girdle and the body of the wearer, and cooperating means on the free end of each strap member for detachably securing thereat the strap members together.

JOSEPH A. MARTIN.

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