

Aug. 17, 1943.

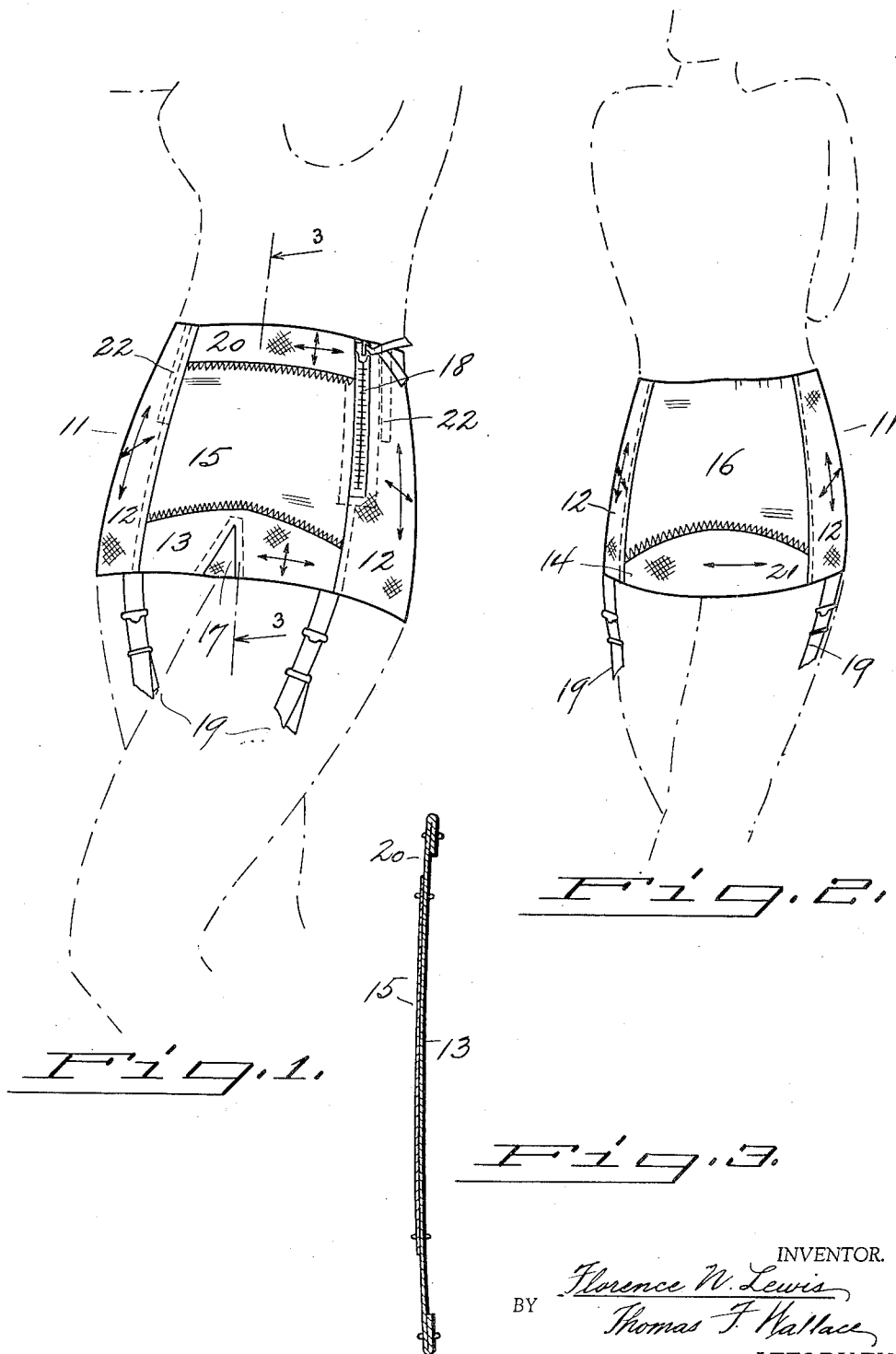
F. N. LEWIS

2,327,310

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Filed Aug. 25, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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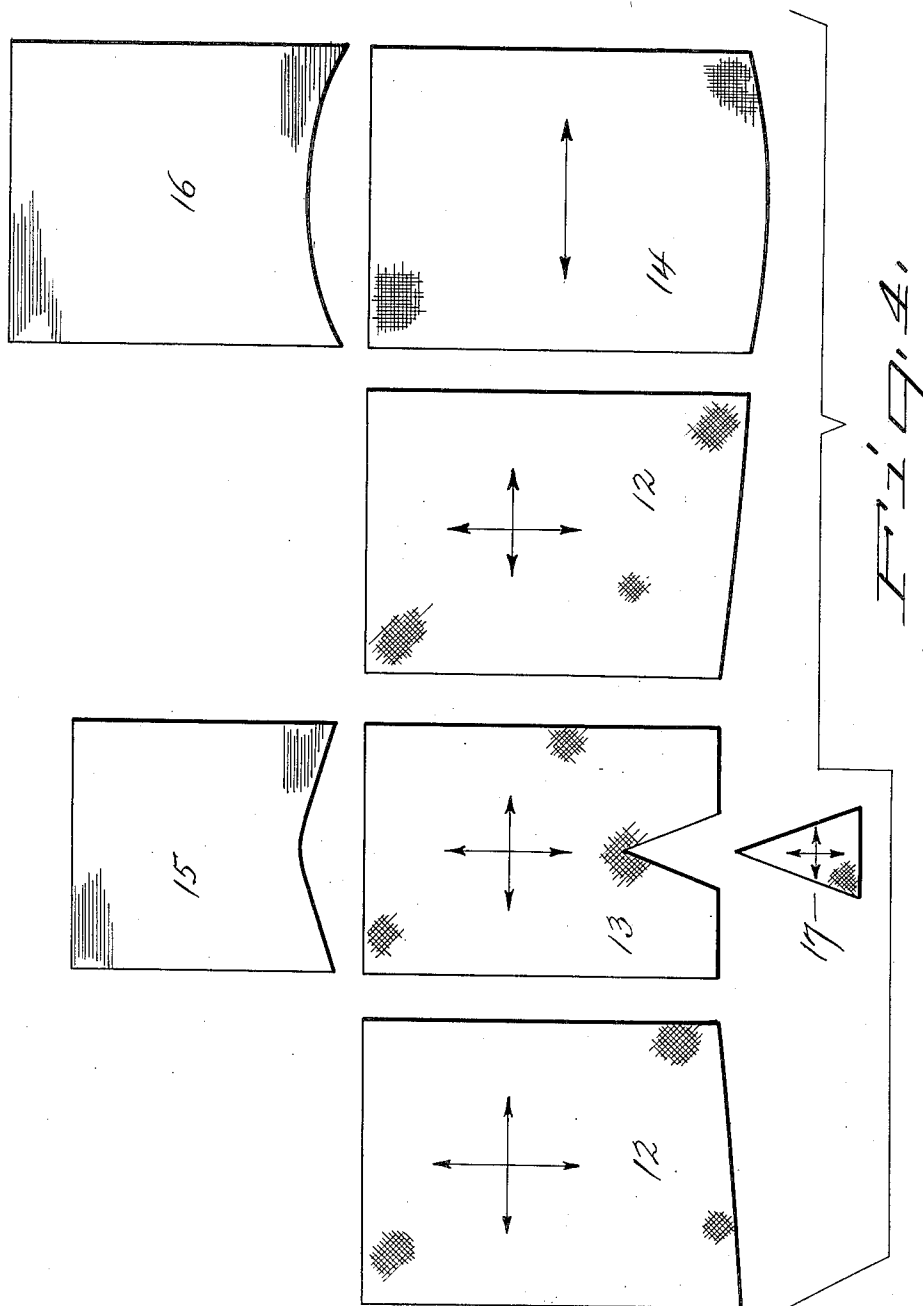
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2-43)

This invention relates to foundation garments, and particularly to the garment known as a girdle.

Such girdles are usually constructed of a combination of stretchable and non-stretchable materials and their purpose is to confine the mid-section of the body within symmetrical outlines, and without discomfort to the wearer. The girdle thus forms a shapely foundation for such garments as are worn over it.

Many combinations and arrangements of stretchable and non-stretchable materials have been used in the construction of such girdles but the features of construction in my improved garment produce a girdle giving greater anatomical comfort to the wearer without sacrificing any of the purposes for which such girdles are worn.

The construction and advantages of my improved girdle will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of my improved girdle shown on a figure in dotted lines;

Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of my improved girdle shown on a figure in dotted lines;

Figure 3 is a cross-section on the line 3-3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic view of the sections of fabric used in constructing my girdle.

My improved garment is constructed entirely of a stretchable material, such as Lastex, having superimposed on portions of the front and rear panels sections of non-stretchable material.

In the drawings, 11 is the girdle as a whole. 12 are the side panels, 13 is the front panel and 14 the rear panel. These four panels are all of stretchable material, the panels 12 and 13 being of material that stretches both longitudinally and transversely, while the rear panel 14 is of material having only a transverse stretch. 15 is the superimposed section of non-stretchable material on the front panel 13, and 16 is the section of non-stretchable material superimposed on the rear panel 14.

As will be seen from the drawings, the panels 15 and 16 are the full width of the panels 13 and 14, but are shorter longitudinally than the panels 13 and 14.

In constructing my girdle I superimpose the non-stretchable section 15 across the front panel 13 slightly above the center. This section 15 is sewed securely to the under panel 13 at all four sides, thus preventing the portion of the front panel so covered from stretching in any direction. In its preferred form the top and sides of the section 15 are cut straight while the bottom edge

is slightly rounded inwardly. As is common with most girdles, the lower center of the panel 13 is provided with a triangular stretchable insert 17 sewed thereto with reinforced seams to provide for the heavier strains on that part of the girdle due to the movements of the lower limbs in walking, etc.

Similarly, on the rear panel 14 I superimpose the non-stretchable section 16. This section is likewise cut straight at its top and sides and its lower edge is curved slightly upward. This section 16 is longitudinally longer than the front section 15, but shorter than the rear under panel 14. This section is also sewed securely at all four edges to the under panel 14 and extends from the top of the girdle, where it is stitched to the top edge of the panel 14, down approximately five-sixths of the entire length of the girdle.

The contiguous sides of the four panels 12, 13 and 14 are then joined together, forming a tubular garment. For more readily putting on or removing the girdle an opening 18 is provided part-way along one of the seams joining the front and side panels. This opening is provided with a slidable or other fastening means for closing it, and if desired this fastening means may be supplemented with hook and eye fasteners (not shown) concealed on a placket under the opening 18.

The usual garters 19 are provided at the lower front and rear edges of the girdle for attachment to the wearer's stockings.

As will be seen from Figure 1, the superimposed section 15 being longitudinally shorter than the under panel 13 and being disposed at approximately the center thereof there is left above and below the section 15 portions of the stretchable panel 13 free to stretch longitudinally and transversely.

In Figure 2 it will be seen that the superimposed section 16, on the rear panel, extends from the top of the girdle down approximately five-sixths of the length of the under panel 14 thus leaving only the bottom portion of the panel 14 free to stretch transversely.

The purpose of this front and back construction is to retain the mid-section of the body in symmetrical contour while permitting the wearer to breathe properly. The tendency of persons when breathing is to expand the abdomen, which is not conducive to shapeliness, nor is it the approved manner for healthy breathing.

With my improved girdle the superimposed section 15, being non-stretchable, resists the tendency of the abdomen to expand to any no-

ticeable extent. Instead, the upper portion 20 of the panel 13 being free to expand both longitudinally and transversely, and offering but gentle resistance, the wearer unconsciously draws in the abdomen and expands the diaphragm.

The construction of the rear panel aids in accomplishing the desired result by being unyielding across the back, while permitting the lower transversely stretching portion 21 to expand or contract with the movements of the body in walking or sitting.

Suitable flexible stays are disposed about the upper edge of the girdle, such as at 22, to prevent the top edge from curling, and the usual garter connections 19 keep the girdle from creeping up.

By constructing my girdle with an all-elastic base I provide a glove-like fitting garment more effective in confining the body within symmetrical lines than garments otherwise constructed, and by means of my superimposed sections of non-stretchable material I nullify the elasticity of such portions of the garment as cover those portions of the body most given to expansion, and thus I provide a comfortable form-fitting foundation garment.

What I claim is:

1. A garment of the character described, comprising all-elastic front, rear and side panels sewed together to form a tubular garment, said front panel having superimposed thereon a section of non-elastic material shorter longitudi-

nally than the elastic panel and disposed across approximately the center of said elastic panel, and said rear panel having superimposed thereon a section of non-elastic material shorter longitudinally than the elastic panel and extending from the top down to below the center of said elastic panel, both said non-elastic sections being sewed at their four sides to the respective front and rear elastic panels, whereby said panels have portions thereof which are stretchable and portions which are not stretchable, an opening partway along one seam of said garment and means for closing such opening, and supporting stays disposed about the top portion.

2. A garment of the character described comprising all-elastic front, rear and side panels sewed together to form a tubular garment, said front panel having superimposed thereon a section of non-elastic material shorter longitudinally than the elastic panel and disposed across approximately the center of said elastic panel, and said rear panel having superimposed thereon a section of non-elastic material shorter longitudinally than the elastic panel and extending from the top down to below the center of said elastic panel, both said non-elastic sections being sewed at their four sides to the respective front and rear elastic panels whereby only the upper and lower portions of said front elastic panel and the lower portion of said rear elastic panel are permitted to expand and contract.

FLORENCE N. LEWIS.