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E. E. ASTOR

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CONVERSION FLAP BRASSIERES

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Fig. 1.

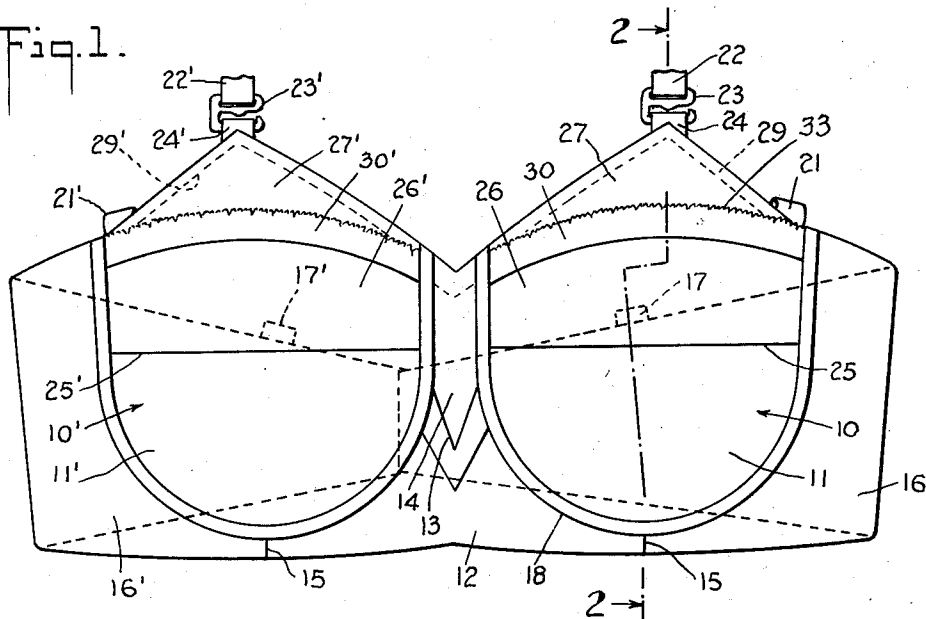


Fig. 2.

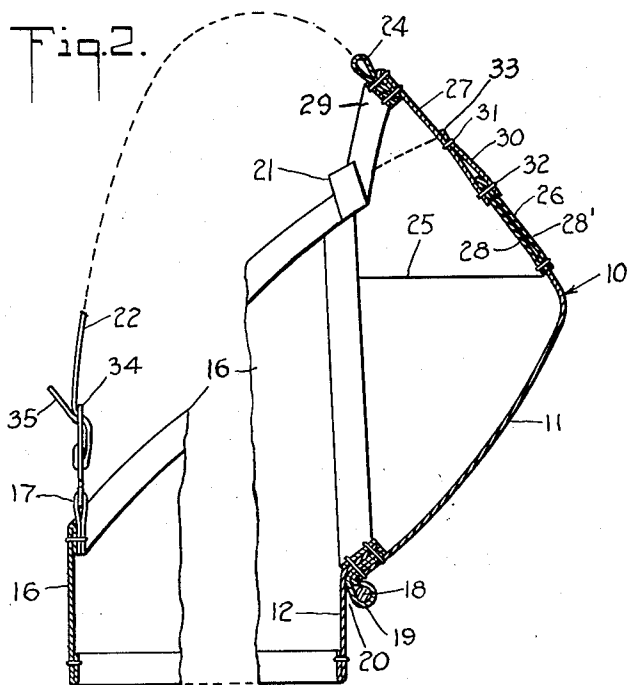
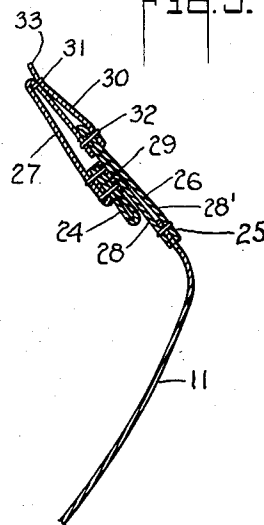


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR
EDWARD E. ASTOR
BY
Howard E. Thompson
ATTORNEY

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CONVERSION FLAP BRASSIERES

Edward E. Astor, Westbury, N. Y., assignor to William Gluckin & Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to brassieres having normal full cups for complete envelopment of the breasts, wherein the upper portions of the cups include what might be termed conversion flaps, adapted to be folded within upper portions of the cups to convert the cups to smaller sizes exposing part of the upper portions of the breasts, particularly in the use of the brassiere as a strapless or as an off-the-shoulder supported garment.

More particularly, the invention deals with a cup construction, wherein that part of each cup to which the conversion flaps are attached includes a lace edging to provide a finish to the upper portion of the cup when the flap is in folded or concealed position.

Still more particularly, the invention deals with a brassiere of the character described, employing wire loops encircling the lower and side portions of the cups for support of the garment upon the body of the wearer, particularly in the converted uses of the brassiere.

The novel features of the invention will be best understood from the following description, when taken together with the accompanying drawing, in which certain embodiments of the invention are disclosed and, in which, the separate parts are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views and, in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic front view of a brassiere made according to my invention, with parts of the construction broken away and showing the cups in the full closure position.

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, showing a sectional portion of one cup and a sectional portion of the rear body encircling band of the brassiere; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail sectional view showing part of the construction of Fig. 2 with the conversion flap in folded concealed position.

In Fig. 1 of the drawing, I have shown at 10, 10' the cups of a brassiere and, as both cups are of the same construction, the brief description will apply to the cup 10, it being understood that the cup 10' is of the same construction. These shaped cups proper include lower portions 11, 11', which may be constructed in any desired manner, as is well known in the art, and usually are fashioned from two pieces of fabric or of a substantially self-sustaining material. However, as the present invention deals primarily with the upper structure of the cups, the details of other portions of the cups and the remainder of the brassiere will only be generally referred to.

At 12 is shown the front band joining the lower and adjacent portions of the cups, which band is V-shaped intermediate the cups, as seen at 13, and it is preferred that a suitable contrasting closure piece 14 be used between the upper adjacent portions of the cups.

Extending from the ends of the band 12, centrally of the lower portions of the cups, as seen at 15, are side and back bands 16, 16', which are preferably formed from a yieldable or extensible-type of fabric, these bands being detachably and adjustably coupled at the back of the garment, as with other garments of this type and kind.

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At the upper edge of the rear portions of the bands 16, 16' are strap engaging loops, indicated at 17, 17' in Fig. 1 and one of these loops, the loop 17, is shown diagrammatically in section in Fig. 2 of the drawing. Secured around the peripheral edges of the lower and side portions of the cups 10, 10' are substantially U-shaped wire loops or members 18 encased within a fabric strip 19, as noted in Fig. 2 of the drawing, and so stitched to the garment as to extend the wire loops 18 outwardly and in spaced relation to the garment, which spacing is indicated at 20 in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

At the upper outer sides of the cups 10, 10' are secured upwardly extending strap engaging loops 21, 21', which are utilized for what is known as off-the-shoulder mounting of the garment upon the body of the wearer.

In Fig. 1 of the drawing, I have shown forward end portions of two shoulder straps 22, 22', these end portions having coupling hooks 23, 23' for detachable engagement with the loops 21, 21' and with other loops 24, 24' at the upper edge portion of the full cups, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing.

The lower portions 11, 11' of the cups 10, 10' terminate substantially in the horizontal lines 25, 25' which are at, or may be slightly above, the nipple portions of the breasts and the cups above the parts 11, 11' or the lines 25, 25' are formed of two sectional portions 26, 26', 27, 27'.

The portions 26, 26' form the upper part of what I would term the converted cups; whereas, the portions 27, 27' comprise what may be termed flexible conversion flaps, which normally form the complete cup and can be folded inwardly upon the inner surface of the portions 26, 26', as seen in Fig. 3 of the drawing, so as to materially reduce the size of the cup, particularly in using the brassiere as a full strapless or as an off-the-shoulder supported strapless, in this latter sense, meaning removal of the straps 22, 22' from the loops 24, 24' at the upper more or less central portions of the breasts.

In the construction shown, the portions 26, 26' are formed from a net-type of fabric, preferably of inner and outer ply, as indicated at 28, 28' in Fig. 3 of the drawing. The flaps 27, 27' are preferably formed of a single ply netting, the edges of which are reinforced by suitable tapes, as indicated at 29, 29'. In this connection, it will be noted that the flaps are so constructed as to position the loops 24, 24' slightly outwardly of the vertical center of the breasts for proper positioning of the straps upon the body of the wearer and support of the brassiere in position upon the body.

At the juncture of the portions 26, 27, 26', 27' is secured a band of lacing 30 and 30' having outer and inner stitches 31 and 32, the outer stitching leaving a free lace-like edge 33, which forms a decorative finish to the upper portions of the cups when the flaps 27, 27' are folded within the portions 26, 26', in the manner illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawing.

It will appear, from a consideration of Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing, that the lace band 30 is positioned upon the breast at a point above the nipple of the breast. This position may vary in control of the extent of exposure of the top of the breasts which is desired. Regardless of the manner of constructing the cups 10, 10' proper, these cups, in the converted position thereof by inward folding of the conversion flaps, will maintain at least part of each cup above the nipples of the breasts.

With a garment of the kind under consideration, a single garment is capable of many distinct uses, depending upon position, arrangement and coupling of the straps 22, 22' with the respective loops provided, or by arrangement upon the body of the wearer. Each of the straps 22, 22' have, at the rear thereof, hook devices, one of which is seen at 34 in Fig. 2, for coupling with the loops, as at 17, and also providing adjustment of the ends of the

straps, one of which ends is indicated at 35 in Fig. 2. This adjustment controls the fit of the garment upon the body of the wearer, as well as different uses of the straps for support of the garment upon the body of the wearer.

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

1. A conversion brassiere of the character described, having a pair of cups, means joining the adjacent portions of the cups, the sides of the cups having extending body encircling portions, each cup being defined by a shaped cup proper and a flexible foldable conversion flap, the upper edge of the cup proper being disposed substantially above the central nipple engaging portion of the cup, said conversion flap being attached to said upper edge by a seam to thereby define a fold line, the distance from said seam to the upper edge of said flap being less than the distance from the seam to said nipple engaging portion, whereby said flap, when folded on said fold line, is disposed in its entirety upon the inner surface of the cup proper above said nipple engaging portion, and the upper end of said conversion flap having means for detachably coupling a shoulder strap therewith.

2. A conversion brassiere of the character described, having a pair of cups, means joining the adjacent portions of the cups, the sides of the cups having extending body encircling portions, each cup being defined by a shaped cup proper and a flexible foldable conversion flap, the upper edge of the cup proper being disposed substantially above the central nipple engaging portion of the cup, said conversion flap being attached to said upper edge by a seam to thereby define a fold line, the distance from said seam to the upper edge of said flap being less than the distance from the seam to said nipple engaging portion, whereby said flap, when folded on said fold line, is disposed in its entirety upon the inner surface of the cup proper above said nipple engaging portion, the upper end of said conversion flap having means for detachably coupling a shoulder strap therewith, and said upper edge of each cup proper having a finishing band forming a finished edge to the cup proper when the conversion flap is in the folded position on the inner surface of the cup.

3. A conversion brassiere of the character described, having a pair of cups, means joining the adjacent portions of the cups, the sides of the cups having extending body encircling portions, each cup being defined by a shaped cup proper and a flexible foldable conversion flap, the upper edge of the cup proper being disposed substantially above the central nipple engaging portion of the cup, said

conversion flap being attached to said upper edge by a seam to thereby define a fold line, the distance from said seam to the upper edge of said flap being less than the distance from the seam to said nipple engaging portion, whereby said flap, when folded on said fold line, is disposed in its entirety upon the inner surface of the cup proper above said nipple engaging portion, the upper end of said conversion flap having means for detachably coupling a shoulder strap therewith, and a U-shaped wire member encircling the lower and side portion of each cup proper and having upper ends extending to a position immediately adjacent said fold line.

4. A conversion brassiere of the character described, having a pair of cups, means joining the adjacent portions of the cups, the sides of the cups having extending body encircling portions, each cup being defined by a shaped cup proper and a flexible foldable conversion flap, the upper edge of the cup proper being disposed substantially above the central nipple engaging portion of the cup, said conversion flap being attached to said upper edge by a seam to thereby define a fold line, the distance from said seam to the upper edge of said flap being less than the distance from the seam to said nipple engaging portion, whereby said flap, when folded on said fold line, is disposed in its entirety upon the inner surface of the cup proper above said nipple engaging portion, the upper end of said conversion flap having means for detachably coupling a shoulder strap therewith, and each cup proper having, at the upper edge portion and outer extremity thereof, other means for coupling the shoulder strap therewith to provide two different supports of the brassiere upon the body of the wearer.

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