

May 2, 1939.

J. B. PITCHER

2,156,512

BUST FORM

Filed Oct. 11, 1937

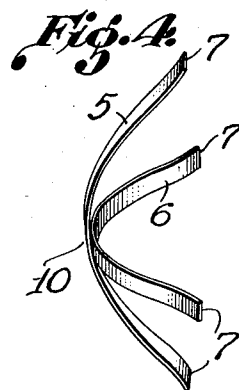
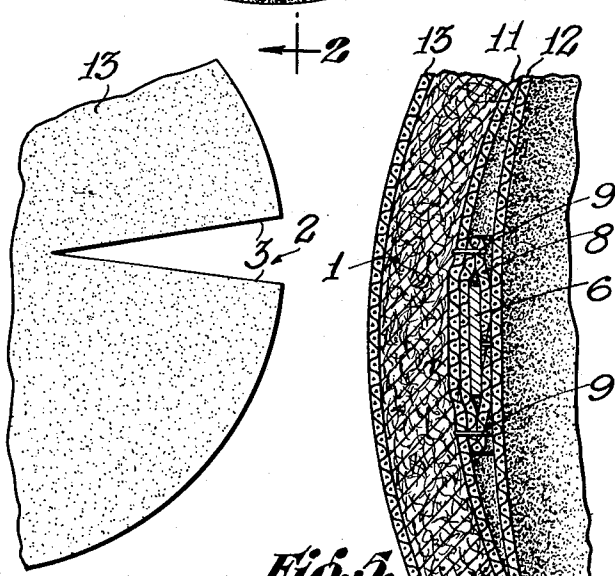
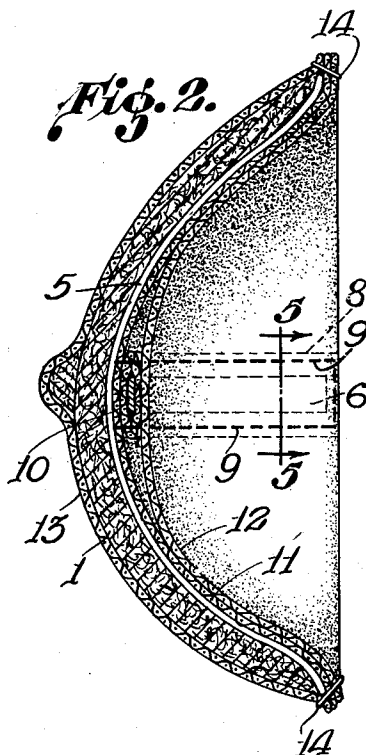
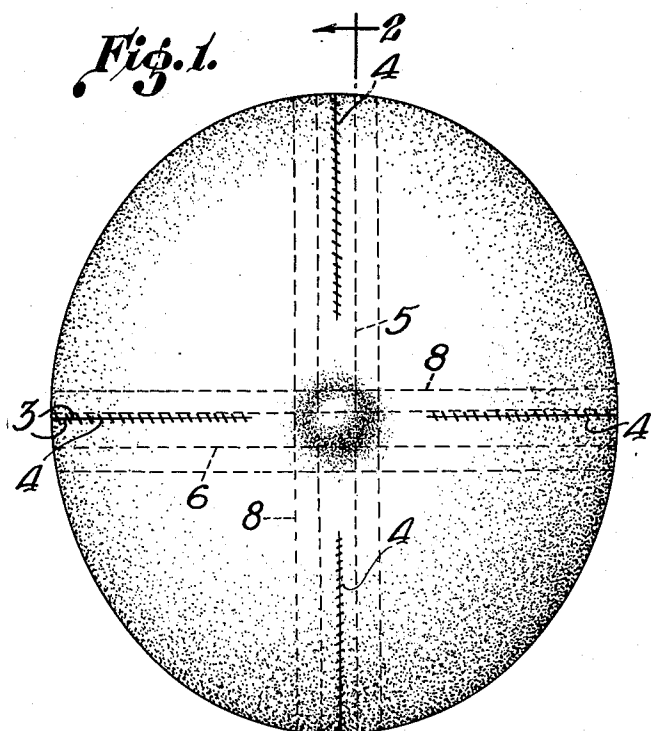


Fig. 3.

Fig. 5.

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2,156,512

BUST FORM

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Application October 11, 1937, Serial No. 168,303

2 Claims. (Cl. 2-267)

This invention relates to bust pads or forms such as are customarily worn under a brassière or gown.

The purpose of my invention is to simplify and improve the design and construction of pads or forms of this character and to reduce the cost of manufacture. Since goods of this kind are produced and sold in a highly competitive market a relatively small saving in unit cost becomes a matter of considerable importance to the manufacturer.

Heretofore bust forms have usually been given their contour by stuffing or lining the interior apex portion of a flexible body or shell with padding material, such as felt, cotton, kapok or down, or layers of fabric. In some instances each such piece intended to be used as a padding, filler or liner has been shaped by cutting out several darts from its marginal edge and stitching the cut edges together. Then the several layers were assembled and sewed or pasted or otherwise secured together. These numerous operations required considerable hand work, added to the weight, and undesirably increased the heating effect.

Such disadvantages of earlier constructions are overcome by my present improvement. In design and construction it has the desirable qualities of flexibility, firmness, and ability to retain its shape under all circumstances of wear. If it is accidentally distorted it will spring back into its normal condition. This result is attained without employing any stuffing or padding devices.

With the foregoing and certain other objects in view, I have produced the device illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which,

Fig. 1 shows a front view of a bust form embodying my invention,

Fig. 2 is a sectional view, taken on the line 2-2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a detail view of a piece of material formed with a dart to assist in producing the desired contour for the finished article,

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of two flexible bows comprising a yieldable foundation for the bust pad body, and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged diagrammatic sectional detail taken on line 5-5 of Fig. 2, showing a preferred mode of fastening the flexible bows to the body of the pad.

In the drawing, numeral 1 designates the pad body, which preferably consists of a layer of felted fabric, such as down, or felted cotton or wool material.

The body may be round, oval, or of egg-shaped

form and is preferably shaped by the usual method of cutting into the edge of a flat piece of the fabric a number of darts 2 and then stitching the edges 3 of the darts together, forming seams 4, as seen in Fig. 1. Any other shaping method may be employed. For example, the body 1 may be given the desired shape without darts by pressing and forming the material between felting blocks. The result in either case is a soft shell-like or cup-shaped structure having the desired size and contour of the finished form.

The fabric of the body 1 is of substantially uniform thickness as distinguished from the centrally built up and internally padded structures heretofore used.

To maintain its contour while in service without employing such internal padding, the soft resilient shell-like body 1 is supported internally by two or more reinforcing arched members or bows 5, 6 made of strips of any suitable flexible or resilient material such as steel or featherbone; for example, a narrow strip of Celluloid may be concealed within strips of tape or fabric 8 which are stitched, as at 9, to the inner face of member 11. The tapes are stitched across their ends to keep the ends of the bows in place. The bows are sprung into shape as indicated in Fig. 4.

For purposes of illustration I have shown two bowed resilient members 5, 6, although in some cases a greater number are preferably used. A form having four such members has been found satisfactory, the resilient bow elements being narrow strips of thin Celluloid. The two or more bows cross at point 10, which is the apex of the body 1.

Seams 4 formed by the stitched edges of the darts 2 preferably lie upon the end portions of the bows 5 and 6. Moreover, the stitched joint 4 is additionally reinforced by the stitching at 9 along the marginal edges of the taping 8 that covers the bow members 5 and 6. Instead of applying the bow members 5, 6 directly upon the body 1, they may be first applied to a suitable lining 11 of crinoline or similar fabric which is then applied to the inner face of the body, as will be described later.

The arched members 5, 6 are very light and flexible and are bowed sufficiently to hold the covering 1 normally in shape. They are sufficiently resilient to tend to straighten if the form is accidentally dented or depressed. In fact, a bust form made as described is so flexible and resilient that it can be folded almost double and upon being released will immediately spring back into its correct shape. As will be seen in Fig. 1,

no peripheral or concentric bands or any devices of like character are employed which might interfere with the free bending movements of the stays, either individually or collectively, when the article is folded or dented. A normal tendency to spring back into correct shape is thus inherent in the completed article and the desirable physical characteristics above enumerated become its permanent features.

To suitably finish the article, the inside is covered with soft satin 12 and the outside with chiffon or other sheer material 13. These coverings may be varied as occasion may require, or more suitable fabric become available. The edges of the coverings are stitched together at 14.

The completed bust form is extraordinarily light and flexible, conforms in a natural way to the wearer's movements, yet has the requisite amount of firmness to present an entirely normal appearance under all conditions of use. It is cool and comfortable to the wearer, and has none of the disadvantages of forms with built-up or padded or stuffed interiors heretofore deemed necessary.

It is in effect a flexible, resilient, thin, and extremely light shell of fabric sustained by easily yieldable resilient arched members or bows crossing at the apex and extending divergently outward toward the margin. The areas of the body intermediate the diverging end portions 7 of the bows are otherwise unsupported, being capable of being sprung independently of each other so as to give to the body the required characteristics of moderate firmness without rigidity.

A convenient mode of procedure in manufacturing is to first make a blank of crinoline of the right shape; form a tuck (not shown), at the end of each diameter or wherever desired to give the proper ovate shape, stitching the tuck down; then place each of the bowed members 5, 6 which are in their tape coverings 8, in position on the inner face of the crinoline lining 11 and overlapping the tucks, and stitch their marginal edges 9 to the lining. Make the body 1 either by forming darts in its edges and then stitching the margins together, or by shaping the body from a piece of felted fabric which is molded or pressed into shape. Then place the crinoline lining 11 and its attached bows 5, 6 inside the shaped body 1 and stitch it in place at the apex and at a few

places around its peripheral edge. Finally cover the outer surface of the body with chiffon 13 and the inner surface with satin 12 and stitch the edges of these inner and outer coverings together around the marginal edge of the completed bust form.

The device can be manufactured mostly with an ordinary sewing machine, thereby eliminating much of the hand labor heretofore required to produce articles of this character.

In the foregoing description is set forth the structure and mode of my invention in its preferred form. Various modifications may, however, be made in the structure without departing from the essential idea of the invention as set forth in certain of the claims. For example, the bowed resilient members 5 and 6 have been illustrated and described as being applied to the inner concave surface of the body 1, and this is the arrangement which I prefer to use in practice. The bows, however, may be applied to the exterior convex surface. The appearance may not then be as ornate as in the preferred arrangement, but the serviceability and the flexible characteristics of the article will be practically the same.

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

1. A bust form comprising a shell of soft flexible felted fabric the margin of which is formed with darts, the edges of each slit being stitched together and presenting a seam, a supporting frame constituting a plurality of crossed resilient supporting members bowed and secured to the inner face of said shell beneath the respective seams, each resilient member being encased in a sheath of fabric stitched to the inner face of the shell along both sides of said seam, and a fabric cover for the outer side of the said shell.

2. A bust form comprising a shell of soft flexible felted fabric the margin of which is formed with darts, the edges of each slit being stitched together and presenting a seam, a supporting frame constituting a plurality of crossed resilient supporting members bowed and secured to a face of said shell overlying the respective seams, each resilient member being encased in a sheath of fabric stitched to the face of the shell along both sides of said seam.

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