

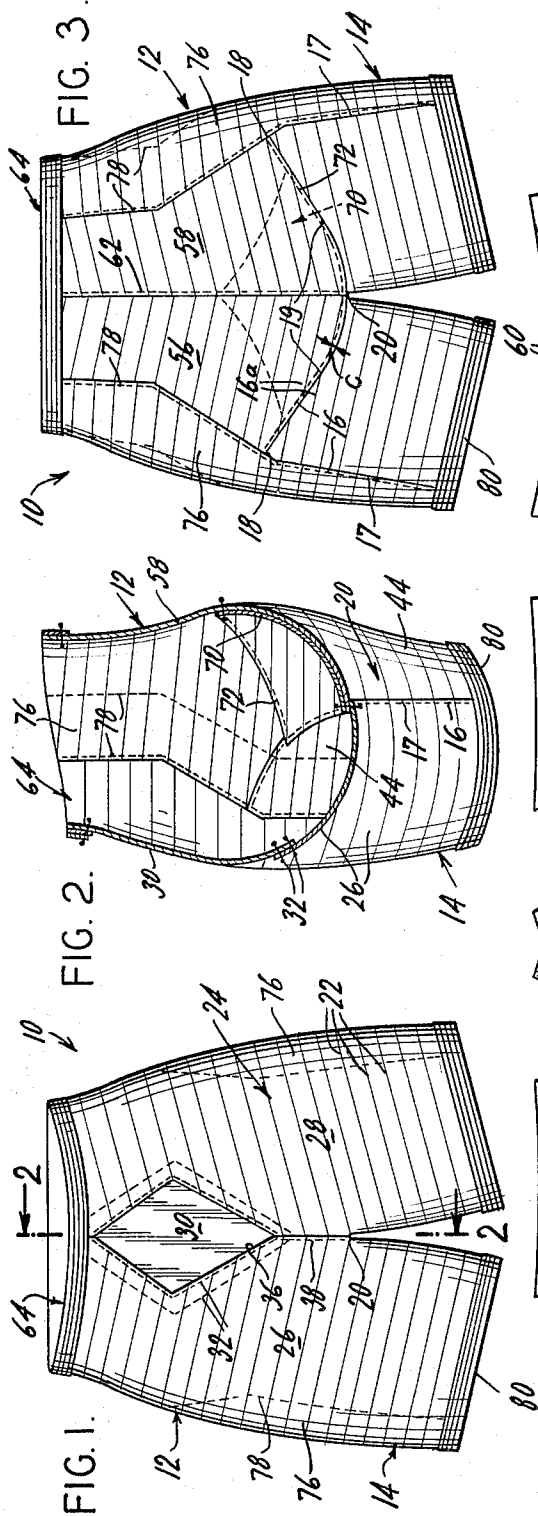
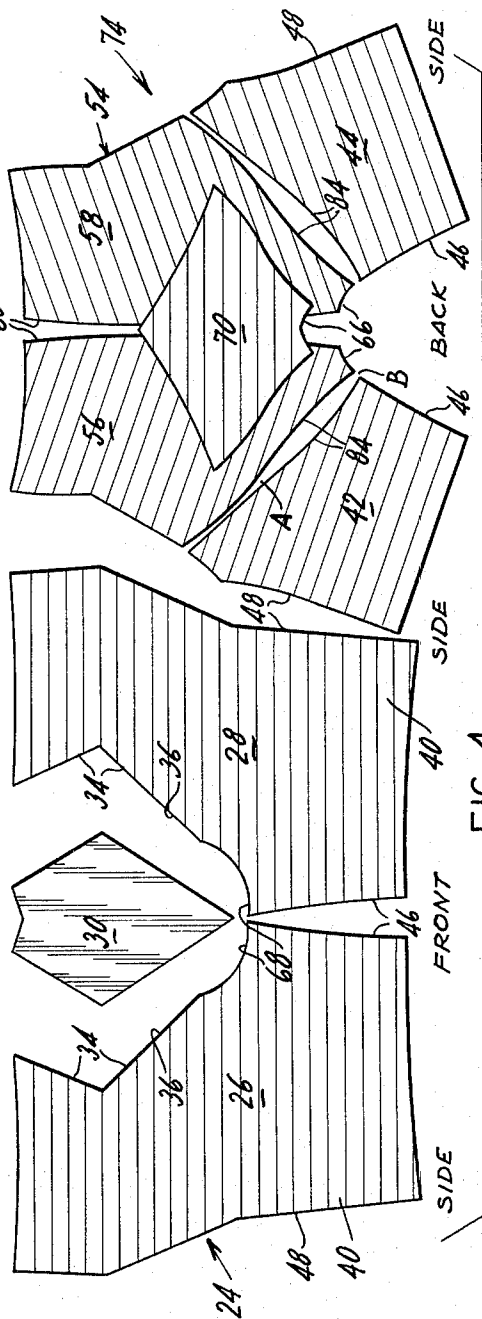
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STRETCH PANTY GIRDLE

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1

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STRETCH PANTY GIRDLE

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The present invention relates generally to an improved panty girdle, the improvements more particularly being concerned with the supporting and body restricting forces applied by the garment.

In line with the usual function of a panty girdle as a body supporting and restricting garment it is constructed entirely or substantially of a suitable stretch material. Maximum beneficial effect of the use of this material, however, is not realized when the panty girdle is patterned in a conventional way as is a blouse or similar garment which is not made of stretch material.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a stretch panty girdle which is so patterned that the body supporting and restricting forces of the garment exceed those normally obtained from the stretch material being used to fabricate the garment.

Another object is to provide these body supporting and restricting forces in preferred and essential locations of the garment.

Still another object is to provide a panty girdle which is effective in applying body supporting and restricting forces without discomfort to the wearer.

Various other objects and advantages will appear from the following description of one embodiment of the invention, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out hereinafter in connection with the appended claims.

Included within the scope of the present invention is a panty girdle made entirely of stretch material and having a main body portion and leg encircling portions attached thereto. These two portions in the construction of the garment are more particularly attached to each other along confronting edges which start in the sides of the garment and extend diagonally and downwardly across the buttocks and into the crotch of the panty girdle. According to an essential teaching of the present invention these confronting edges are provided with dissimilar contours which during attachment are made to conform to each other such that the portions of the stretch material along and adjacent the line of attachment are under tension and exert desirable supporting and body restricting forces on the wearer.

The invention will be better understood when considered in connection with the accompanying specification and drawings forming a part thereof, in which:

FIG. 1 is a front view of the assembled garment of the present invention in three dimensional perspective;

FIG. 2 is a side view projected from FIG. 1, in section, taken on lines 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a rear view of the garment of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 4 is an exploded plan view of the panels of the garment in the flat.

Illustrated in the drawings is a stretch undergarment 10, better known commercially as a panty girdle, which consists of an upper main body portion 12 encircling the body of the wearer (not shown) in the body pelvic region and leg encircling portions 14. Said leg encircling portions 14 in the front of the garment 10 are an integral part of the panels making up the front of the garment, and in the back of the garment are formed by rear panels integrated into the garment by lap-over seams, generally designated 16, which are provided along vertical lines 17 in the garment crotch region 20 (see FIG. 2) as well as in the opposite sides of the garment, and also along symmetrical apparent converging lines 19 starting at opposite side

2

points 18 and extending diagonally across the rear of the garment into the crotch region 20. The garment will be understood to be made primarily of a suitable all directions stretch material, as for example that identified by the well known trademark Lycra, and as a consequence has an inherent capability of applying supporting and body restricting forces in all directions, and particularly along the horizontal lines, collectively designated 22, in FIG. 1.

As best shown in FIGS. 1 and 4, the garment front 24 is formed by identical front left and right panels 26 and 28 and an abdomen panel 30, said panel 30 being joined to the panels 26, 28 by a lap-over seam 32 to shape accommodating upper portions 34 of the inner edges 36 of these front panels. From panel 30 the remainder of the inner edges 36 of the front panels 26, 28 are joined together in abutment forming a central front seam 38 which extends into the crotch 20 of the garment 10. As previously mentioned, the lower portions 40 of the front panels 26 and 28 and a pair of lower left and right rear panels, more particularly designated 42 and 44, form the leg encircling garment portions 14 when the confronting edge portions of these panels, designated 46 and 48 in FIG. 4, are joined together along the vertical lines 17 in lap-over seams 16 in the side and crotch of the garment 10.

The seat 54 of the body portion 12 of the garment 10 is formed by identical upper left and right rear panels 56 and 58 attached along inner confronting edges 60 in abutment forming a rear center seam 62 starting at the body opening 64 of the garment and extending downwardly centrally of the buttocks and into the crotch 20 which, as is best shown in FIG. 4, is completed by the joining of the edge 66 presented by the attached panels 56 and 58 to the edge portions 68 of the inner edges 36 of the front panels 26 and 28 adjacent the front center seam 38. A reinforcing seat panel 70, which also functions as a stretch control panel, is then stitched down in an obvious manner, as by the stitching 72, on the inside of the garment 10 over the back center seam 62 to prevent this seam from causing any discomfort to the wearer.

Attachment of the lower left and right rear panels 42 and 44 to the attached upper left and right rear panels 58 and 60, in a manner subsequently to be described in detail, completes the entire garment rear portion 74 which is then joined to the front garment portion 24 by relatively wide lap-over seams 76 starting at the body opening 64 and extending along zig-zag generally vertical lines 78 to the leg openings 80. The position of the lap-over seams 76 are thus along the hips of the wearer, and due to the relatively wide over-lap of the panels forming each seam desirable supporting and body restricting forces are applied to this body area.

Returning to the attachment of the upper and lower right and left rear panels to each other, it will particularly be noted from FIG. 3 that this attachment, in three dimensional perspective, by being made along the apparent inwardly converging lines 19 starting at points 18 on the side lap-over seams 76 and terminating in the crotch 20 of the garment is advantageously positioned diagonally across the buttocks and in a critical garment area where it is necessary for the garment 10 to have supporting and body restricting forces. Such forces result in part from attaching these panels to each other by the already mentioned lap-over seams 16. More important, the shape or contour of the confronting edges 84 of corresponding sets of rear upper and lower panels, (i.e. panels 56, 42, and panels 58, 44), as best shown in FIG. 4, are purposefully cut dissimilar, and thus are not matching in shape as would be expected of edges joined to each other in the flat. That is, at least along the major portion of each of the edges 84, as from point A to point B, the confronting contours may best be characterized as opposing concave shapes. In the sewing together of these confronting edges

3

84 in a lap-over seam 16, use is made of a conventional sewing machine guide attachment to maintain a uniform seam width C, and hand manipulation by the sewing machine operator is required to conform the dissimilar contoured panel edges 84 to each other throughout the lap-over seam 16. Thus, the conformed edges 84 which make up the diagonal lap-over seams 16 are under tension as is the stretch material 16a adjacent thereto and exert supporting and body restricting forces when the garment 10 is worn.

From the foregoing, it will be appreciated that the herein described preferred embodiment of a panty girdle 10 of the present invention thus applies supporting and body restricting forces in all critical body areas when the garment is worn, both as a consequence of the stretch material of which it is made, and also due to its unique construction. To summarize, these forces are applied by the abdomen panel 30 (which has stretch primarily only in the vertical direction) transversely of the abdomen, and by the side lap-over seams 76 along the hips, and by the rear lap-over seams 16 and stretch material 16a adjacent thereto diagonally across the buttocks.

It will be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the specific construction or arrangement of parts shown, but that they may be widely modified within the invention defined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A stretch panty girdle garment fabricated of stretch material and including an upper main body portion and leg encircling portions integral therewith and forming the front and side portions thereof, rear garment panels secured to said main body portion along seam lines starting

4

at the upper back portion of the garment and extending in a zig-zag generally vertical line along the sides of the garment and having lower edges thereon extending diagonally and downwardly across the buttocks covering portion of the garment and into the crotch of said garment, and rear leg encircling panels each having an upper edge thereon and secured along said upper edges to said lower edges of said rear garment panels, said upper edges and said lower edges having dissimilar contours which are conformed to each other during the securement of said rear leg encircling panels to said rear garment panels, whereby the stretch material adjacent and along said line of securement is under tension and exerts supporting and body restricting forces on a wearer of the garment.

2. A stretch panty girdle garment as defined in claim 1 wherein the contour of said upper edges of the rear leg encircling panels and the contour of said lower edges of said garment rear panels are opposing concave shapes.

3. A stretch panty girdle garment, as defined in claim 1 wherein said seam lines along said rear garment panels and main body portion are secured to each other are each formed as a relatively wide lap-over area along said side of the garment for applying supporting and body restricting forces along the hips of a wearer of the garment.

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