United States Patent [19]

Rich

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[45] **Jan. 9, 1973**

[54] **BRASSIERE**

[76] Inventor: **Alberta Penny Rich,** 9814 Kilarney Drive, Dallas, Tex. 75218

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **128/486**
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A41c 3/00**
[58] **Field of Search** 128/486

[56] **References Cited**

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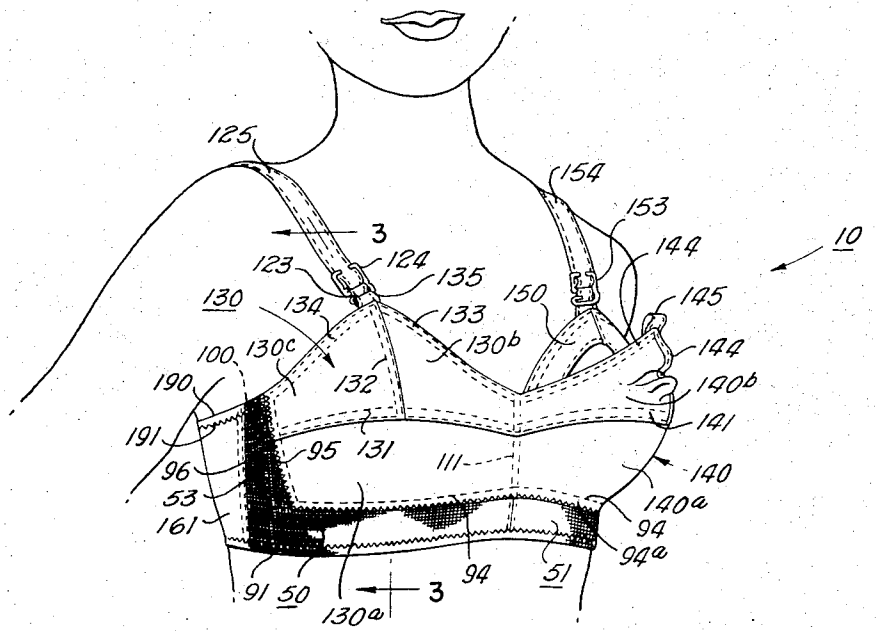
3,409,017	11/1968	Ramsell	128/486
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3,213,462	10/1965	Ramsell	128/486

Primary Examiner—Patrick D. Lawson
Attorney—H. Mathews Garland

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A brassiere including a pair of breast uplifting support bands suspended by an elastic panel structure connected with chest encircling structure. The elastic panel structure is secured along the lower edges and the outward ends of the support bands and engage the chest of the wearer. Each of the support bands includes integral end portions forming truss triangles which aid in distributing the forces involved in breast support and contour. The shape, manner of suspension, a grain of the material forming the breast support bands provides optimum supporting and shaping of each of the breasts of the wearer. A suspension band extends along the upper sides and across the top of each breast and is connected with the support band for the encircled breast. A breast covering cup is secured with each elastic panel over each support band encircling panel providing a non-supporting covering for the breast encircled by the band. Each breast support band is drawn substantially taut along a generally straight line below the breast supported by the band while the arcuate shape of the upper edge of the band permits the band to form a proper breast supporting shape which retains its shape and does not turn down at its apex. Adjustable fasteners are provided at the back of the chest encircling structure, and adjustable shoulder straps are removably secured from the apex of each of the breast encircling suspension bands extending rearwardly to a back portion of the chest encircling band providing a shoulder strap for each shoulder of the wearer for symmetrical support of the brassiere along both the back and chest of the wearer.

9 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



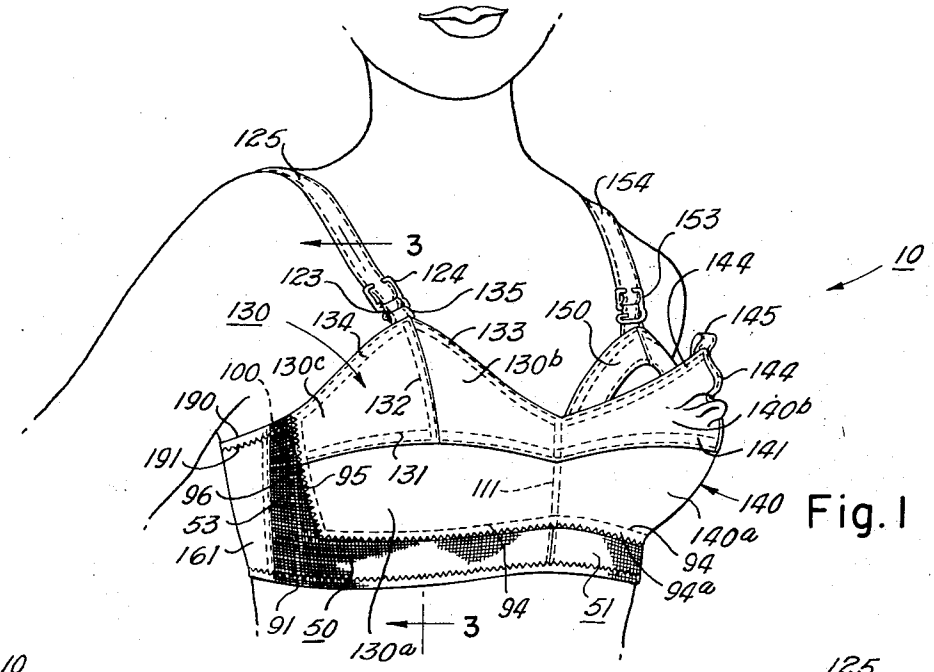


Fig. 1

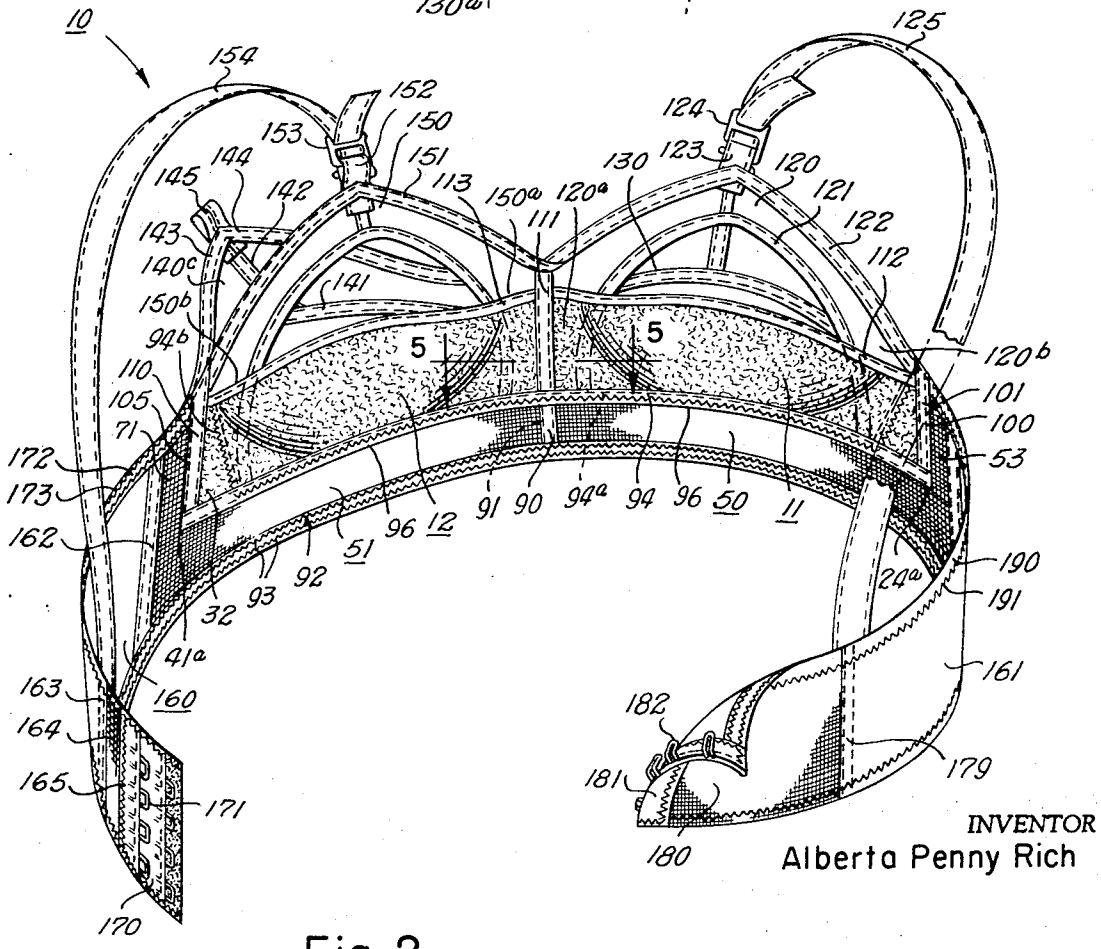


Fig. 2

INVENTOR
Alberta Penny Rich

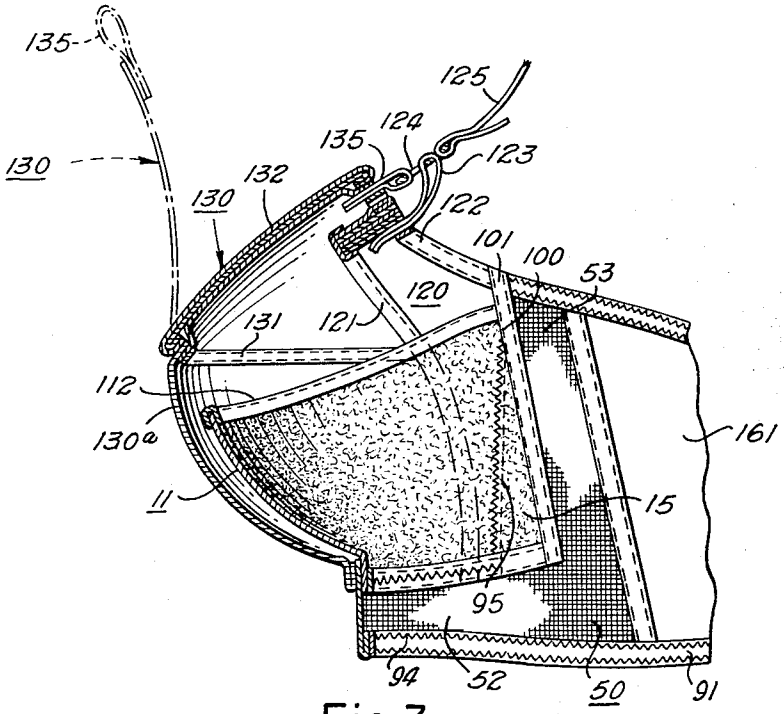


Fig. 3

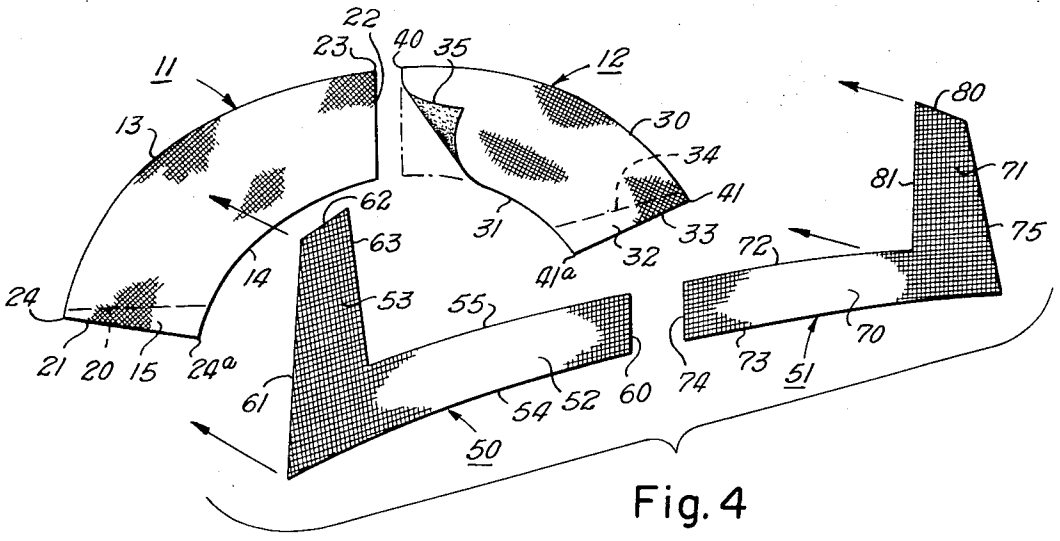


Fig. 4

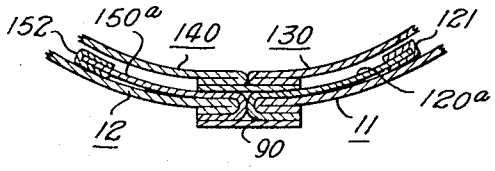


Fig. 5

INVENTOR
Alberta Penny Rich

BRASSIERE

This invention relates to brassieres and, more particularly, to improved brassieres which achieve bust support and contour control through application of special suspension principles to apply forces to predetermined areas of the wearer's body.

The invention disclosed and claimed herein particularly relates to improvements in brassieres shown in my U. S. Pat. No. 3,213,462 issued Oct. 19, 1965, and U.S. Pat. No. 3,409,017 issued Nov. 5, 1968. The brassieres of these patents utilize a concept of creating a desirable bust supporting and contour control function by inner brassiere structure in which interconnected chest engaging strips are positioned across the chest immediately beneath the breasts and held in position by band structure extending around the back of the wearer interconnecting the free ends of the strips for holding the strips along the chest of the wearer beneath the breasts. A support band for each breast of the wearer is sewn along the upper edge of each of the chest engaging strips. Each breast support band has a slightly curved lower edge sewn to a straight upper edge of its breast engaging band to provide a cup contour for enclosing and supporting the lower portion of the engaged breast.

The brassiere of U.S. Pat. No. 3,409,017 uses a truss type of structure for suspension of the bust support bands to carry most of the stress developed in the bands and apply the stress usefully to the flesh of the wearer. The truss structure includes a truss triangle formed integral with each breast support band along the back portion of the band near or beneath the arm of the wearer along the backside or base of the breast. A diagonal seam carries the band stress causing the truss triangle to exert inward, forward, and slightly upward forces on the flesh of the wearer urging more of the breast flesh forwardly, upwardly, and inwardly into the breast cups.

The brassiere of the present invention includes structure similar to that of the aforementioned patents along with additional improved truss features and other features which enhance the comfort of the brassiere on the wearer and achieve desired placement of the breast flesh and improved support. In accordance with some of the objectives of the aforementioned patents, the brassiere of the present invention urges flesh and underarm bulges forward into the breast cups to provide improved breast contour and support of body flesh.

It is a particularly important object of the invention to provide a new and improved brassiere.

It is another object of the invention to provide a new and improved brassiere which enhances the contour of the body features of the wearer.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an improved brassiere which uses suspension principles to apply forces to predetermined areas of the wearer's flesh for achieving optimum breast support and contour control with improved comfort.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an improved brassiere having a truss type structure which utilizes developed stresses applying them in a useful manner to the flesh of the wearer.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a new and improved brassiere in which the desired breast support and contour control is achieved by applying stress forces to breast band support structure with a minimum

of binding of the chest surface below the breast of the wearer and thereby providing maximum comfort and flexibility in freedom of body movement for longer periods of wearing time.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an improved brassiere which includes a pair of breast support bands supported within an elastic panel or frame structure and causes the brassiere to fit snugly along the chest surface and allow the breast support bands to more fit and support the breasts of the wearer.

It is another object of the invention to provide an improved brassiere where the seams between the breast support bands and the elastic panel support structure for the bands provides maximum flexing of the brassiere without affecting the breast supporting ability of the bands.

It is a still further object of the invention to provide a new and improved brassiere of the character described wherein pressure outwardly at the force triangles formed at the outward end of each breast support band straightens out the support band material along the lower edge portions thereof so that substantially straight edges are thereby formed to fit snugly along the breast bases at the chest surface while the expansible panels supporting the bands fits along the chest below the breasts and the breast support bands form cups to accommodate the breasts in an uplifting manner.

It is still a further object of the invention to provide a brassiere of the character described wherein the upper panel portions of the breast support bands have a greater upward arch or curvature than in previous forms of the type brassiere contemplated by the invention, which arch does not distort or turn down when supporting a breast.

It is another object of the invention to provide a brassiere of the character described wherein the warp of the breast support band material runs lengthwise of each band and thus across each breast for maximum strength.

The above objects and advantages of the invention will be better understood by reading the following description of a brassiere constructed in accordance with the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a right front perspective view of a brassiere embodying the invention on a wearer;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged back perspective view of the brassiere open along its adjustable back fastener and with the left breast cup released and folded forward;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the breast support bands and the elastic chest engaging supporting panel structure for the support bands oriented as in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view in section along the line 5—5 of FIG. 2.

In accordance with the invention there is provided a brassiere having a pair of complementary breast support bands secured together at adjacent ends along a vertical central seam and supported by an elastic chest engaging frame assembly. Each support band has curved lower edge and upper edges and a stress triangle formed by stitching along the outer underarm end of the band for stress distribution to shape the breast and

urge it forward and upwardly. The maximum strength of the band material runs the length of the band and thus across the breast. A breast encircling suspension band is connected with each support band extending across the top and down each side of each breast. Chest encircling band structure is connected with the elastic panel assembly and provided with center back securing means. A shoulder strap connects each suspension band with a back portion of the chest encircling band. A releasable breast covering cup is secured over each breast support and suspension band assembly.

Referring to the drawings, a brassiere **10** embodying the invention is illustrated in FIG. **1** on a wearer with the left breast cup released from the shoulder strap at the wearer's left side and folded down slightly as when putting the brassiere on. The essential elements of the breast support and contour control structure of the brassiere **10** are shown in exploded perspective flattened form in FIG. **4** which shows the breast support bands themselves along with the elastic panels which suspend the support bands in the proper chest engaging and breast supporting relationship on the wearer.

The breast support bands comprise a pair of complementary flexible non-elastic fabric panels **11** and **12** which snugly support and shape the lower portion of each breast by urging the breast forwardly and upwardly. The right band **11** has an upper convex edge **13** and a lower concave edge **14**. The band has a diagonal outward end portion **15** which comprises a truss triangle defined between the theoretical line **20** along the body of the end portion of the band, such theoretical line along with a portion of the lower edge **14** and the end edge **21** of the band defining the truss triangle along the end portion of the band. The inward end of the band **13** is defined by the generally vertical edge **22**. The material forming the band **11** is strong, flexible, non-elastic and has a flannel-like inner face for direct contact with the breast flesh to provide a comfortable, firm support for the breast. The grain structure of the material is oriented to align the warp of the material across the breast band **11** so that a straight line drawn from the upper inner corner **23** to the outer upper corner **24** runs along the warp line for maximum material strength across the supported breast. The left breast support band **12** has an upper arcuate or curved edge **30** which is convex and a concave arcuate lower edge **31**. The band has an outer end truss triangle portion **32** defined between the end edge **33** and a hypothetical boundary line **34**. The inward end of the band is defined by the vertical edge **35**. The warp of the material, as in the case of the band **13**, runs across the band in alignment with a line drawn from the inner upper corner edge **40** and the outer upper corner edge **41**.

The breast support bands **11** and **12** are stitched to and supported in a yieldable suspended relationship by an elastic panel assembly comprising a right elastic panel **50** and a complementary left elastic panel **51**. The panel **50** has a generally horizontal strip portion **52** and an outer end vertical strip portion **53**. The strip **52** is defined by a bottom edge **54**, a top edge **55**, and an inner or central edge **60**. The vertical panel portion **53** is defined by an outer upwardly and inwardly sloping edge **61**, a top edge **62**, and an inside vertical edge **63**. Similarly, the elastic panel **51** has a generally rectangular horizontal panel portion **70** and a generally vertical end panel portion **71**. The horizontal portion **70** is defined by an upper edge **72**, a lower edge **73**, and an inner vertical end edge **74**. The vertical panel portion **71** is defined by an outer upwardly and inwardly sloping edge **75**, a top edge **80**, and an inside vertical edge **81**. The panels **50** and **51** are formed of a material having elasticity in both directions, being yieldable, however, to a greater extent in a horizontal direction and may be a material such as a nylon monofilament.

The assembled relationship of the breast support bands **11** and **12** and the yieldable band support panels **50** and **51** is best understood by reference to FIGS. **1** and **2**. The brassiere shall be referred to in the context of its orientation on the wearer and, thus, in FIG. **2** the left side of the brassiere shall be considered that portion on the left side of the drawing as viewed by the reader. The orientation of the breast support band and the yieldable panels in FIG. **4** is opposite that of FIG. **2** and is the same as that of FIG. **1**. Referring particularly to FIG. **2**, the yieldable breast band support panels **50** and **51** are joined together along their inside vertical edges **60** and **74** and sewn to a vertical central strip of tape **90** by double parallel stitching **92** extending along the opposite edges of the tape **90**. The bottom edges **54** and **73** of the panels are turned under and joined to a chest encircling elastic strip **92** by double parallel zigzag stitching **93** to permit the strip **92** to expand. The elastic strip **92** extends around the wearer's chest, beneath her arms, and across her back.

The lower edge **14** of the right breast support band **11** is stitched in overlapping relationship by a zigzag stitch **94** and double parallel stitches **94a** along the upper edge **55** of the panel **50**. A strip of bias tape **96** is also held by the stitches **94** and **94a** on the back face of the band **11** along the edge **14**. The outer end force triangle portion **15** of the breast band **11** is sewn in overlapping relationship to the vertical portion **53** of the panel **50**. The vertical panel edge **63** is secured by double parallel stitches **96**, FIG. **1**, to the band **11** along the line **20** so that the force triangle portion **15** of the panel lies in overlapping relationship along the back face of the upper portion **53** of the panel **50**. The band edge **21** is sewn by double stitches **100** which also secure a strip of bias tape **101** on the back face of the panel **11** along the edge **31**. Similarly, the breast support band **12** is secured along the lower edge **31** to the upper edge **72** of the horizontal portion **70** of the panel **51** by the stitches **94** and **94a** and the bias tape **96** extends along the band edge **31**. The tape **96** thus extends between the opposite lower corners **24a** of the band **11** and **41a** of the band **12**. The force triangle end portion **32** of the panel **12** is secured in overlapping relationship against the back face of the vertical portion **71** of the panel **51**. The zigzag stitch **94** turns upwardly and diagonally outwardly along the line **34** of the band **12** securing the band along such line with the edge **81** of the panel **51** so that the force triangle **32** lies in the overlapping relationship across a portion of the vertical section **71** of the panel **51**. A double stitch **105** secures the edge **33** of the band **12** to the back face of the section **71** of the panel **51**. The stitches **105** also secure a strip of bias tape **110** over the end edge **33** of the breast band. The inward end edges **22** and **35** of the breast bands **11** and **12**, respectively, are stitched together along a vertical

centerline of the brassiere covered by the bias tape 90 by the double stitch 91.

The top arcuate edges of the breast bands 11 and 12 are finished by bias tape strips 112 and 113, respectively, which meet in the center at the bias strip 111 and extend to the outer upper end corners 24 and 41, respectively, of the breast support bands. The binding tapes for the upper breast support band edges are folded around the bare cut edge of the band and sewn by a single stitch extending through the portion of the binding tape on the opposite faces of the band and the band material itself. The breast bands are thus joined together at the center and otherwise are yieldably suspended within the frame structure formed by the connecting elastic support panels 50 and 51 so that the panels 50 and 51 snugly engage the chest surface of the wearer yieldably holding the breast support band in firm, breast uplifting and contour control relationship with the breasts of the wearer.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a breast encircling suspension band 120 is secured in front of and in partial overlapping relationship with the breast support band 11. The band 120 is a semi-oval panel which extends across the top of the support band 11 and down to the seam 94 so that when the brassiere is on a wearer, the band lies across the front of the breast support band 11 extending along the chest of the wearer over the right breast and down along the outside and inside of the breast to the bottom edge of the band 11. The inside vertical portion 120*a* of the band 120 is secured at the center along the vertical seam 111 and across the bottom edge of the band at the bottom of the band 11 by the seams 94 and 94*a*. The outer or side vertical end portion 120*b* of the panel 120 is secured along its vertical outer edge with the tape 101 by the seam 100 and along a short lower end edge portion by the stitches 94 and 94*a* at the seam between the lower edge of the band 11 and the panel 50 extending inwardly from the corner edge 24*a*. The upper and lower edges of the panel 120 are finished by binding tape 121 and 122, respectively. A short loop strap 123 is sewn to the apex of the band 120 for connection of a buckle 124 to which a shoulder strap 125 is connected. A breast cup 130 having panel sections 130*a*, 130*b*, and 130*c* is secured over the front of the breast support band 11 and the suspension band 120 to serve a breast covering function and to cover the front of the breast support band. The lower edge of the breast-covering cup panel 130*a* is stitched to the bottom edge of the breast support band 11 and the top edge of the yieldable panel 51 along the seam or stitches 94 while the central or inside vertical edge of the breast support cup is secured along the center of the brassiere by the stitches 111. The outer vertical, near underarm edge portion of the breast cup 130 is sewn to the breast support band 11 and the vertical portion 53 of the panel 51 by the stitches 96. The panels of the cup are suitably secured together by double stitches in overlapping relationship along the lines 131 and 132. The upper edges of the breast cup are stitches and finished at 133 and 134 providing an attractive edge finish. A loop 135 sewn to the apex of the upper portion of the breast cup engages the buckle 124 to support the breast cup with the shoulder strap in a covering relationship over the breast support band 11 and the upper portion of the breast supported in such band.

The left breast covering cup 140 includes a bottom horizontal panel 140*a* and upper panels 140*b* and 140*c*. The breast covering cup is secured by the double stitches 111 along a central vertical edge and along a bottom edge by the stitches 94 and 94*a* to the elastic panel 50. The sections of the cup 140 are sewn together by a horizontal double seam 141 and a vertical double seam 142. The upper edges 143 and 144 are suitably stitched and finished to provide attractive edges. A loop strap 145 is sewn to the apex of the upper portion of the breast cup. The outer side end of the breast cup 140 is sewn to the front of the brassiere structure along the seam 105.

A breast encircling suspension band 150 for the left side of the brassiere structure corresponding to the panel 120 is connected with the left breast support band 12 and the left elastic panel 50. The band 150 has an inside central vertical portion 150a secured along a vertical central or inside edge with the stitches 111 and along its lower end edge with the top edge of the panel 50 by the stitches 94 and 94*a*. The vertical panel portion 150*a* is disposed between the breast cup 140 and the front face of the inside end portion of the breast support band 12 as shown in FIG. 2. The outside vertical end portion 150*b* of the band 150 is secured along its outer vertical edge between the support panel 12 and the breast cup by the stitches 105. The upper edge 151 of the band 150 is suitably double stitched for finish purposes. A loop strap 152 is sewn to the apex of the suspension band 150 connected with a buckle 153 secured with a shoulder strap 154. The breast cup upper loop 145 is also securable with the buckle 153 for holding the breast cup in position over the left breast along the front face of the suspension band 150 and the breast support band 12. The band 150 extends across the upper portion of the left breast down the inside portion of the breast between the breasts of the wearer and on the outside downwardly toward the underarm area of the wearer to the side and toward the back of the breast supported in the support band 12.

The right and left breast support and covering assemblies comprising the breast support bands 11 and 12, together with their respective suspension bands 120 and 150 and breast covering cups 130 and 140 are connected with complementary left and right trapezoidal side-back panels 160 and 161 formed of a fabric, such as lace. The front end vertical edge of the left panel 160 is secured in overlapping relationship by a double stitch 162 to the back vertical edge 71 of the elastic panel 51. The back vertical edge 163 of the lace panel 160 is stitched to a horizontal elastic panel 164 which is secured along its back vertical edge 165 to a gusset 170 having a plurality of rows of securing loops 171. The back end portion of the shoulder strap 154 is connected with the lace panel 160 where the panel joins the elastic panel 164 along the upper edges of the panel for support from the shoulder of the back portion of the brassiere. A finishing tape 172, which may be elastic, is attached by a double stitch 173 across the top edges of the vertical portion 71 of the panel 51, the panels 160 and 164, and into the gusset 170. The bottom elastic tape 92 extends along and is secured by the double stitches 93 across the bottom edges of the panels 160 and 164 to the gusset 170. Similarly, on the right side of the brassiere, the lace panel 161 is connected with an elastic panel 180 which is provided along its back verti-

cal edge with a fairly stiff tape **181** having a plurality of vertically spaced hooks **182** which engage the loops **171** in the gusset **170** to secure the brassiere along the center back of the wearer. The top edges of the panels **161** and **180** are finished by a continuous elastic tape **190** sewn by a stitch **191** along the top edges of the vertical elastic panel portion **53**, the panel **161**, and the elastic panel **180**. The back end portion of the shoulder strap **125** connects with the tape **190** at the seam **179** between the panels **161** and **180**.

To put the brassiere on a wearer the breast cups **130** and **140** may be dropped to the open position illustrated in FIG. 1 by disengagement of the loop strap at the vertex of each cup from its respective hook connected with the shoulder straps and the breast band support panels. The shoulder straps **125** and **154** are placed over the shoulders of the wearer, and the back faces of the elastic panels **50** and **51** along their lower horizontal breather band portions **52** and **70** and the bottom elastic band **91** are disposed across the wearer's chest below the breasts. The underarm and back portions of the brassiere structure, including the panels **160** and **161** with connected structure, are manipulated under the arms to the back of the wearer with the hooks **182** being engaged in the loops **171** to secure the brassiere around the chest of the wearer. The panels **50** and **51** are held snugly across the front of the wearer's chest below the breasts. The breasts are then manipulated so that they each protrude through the respective openings defined by the bands **120** and **150** and the support bands **11** and **12** associated with the breast encircling bands. The breast cups **130** and **140** are raised and re-attached to the hooks **124** and **153**.

The bands **11** and **12** fit along the side and bottom surfaces of the breasts to properly support and mold the breasts by urging them forward and upward so that they are supported and shaped in a manner comfortable to the wearer. The encircling bands **120** and **150** and the shoulder straps form a harness assembly which maintains the breast supporting bands **11** and **12** at the proper position so that the main stress along the supporting bands is carried by the diagonal stitches at the stress triangles at the outside end portions of the bands **11** and **12**. The use of the force triangles at the outward end portions of the breast support bands urges the flesh at the back of the breasts and underneath the arms forwardly into the breast cups, thereby minimizing or eliminating flesh bulge outwardly and sidewardly. The substantial areas of elastic support provided by the panels **50** and **51** around the breast support bands permit maximum flexing of the panels while maintaining optimum breast support and contour control. The high point of the center of each of the support bands **11** and **12** in the nipple area of each breast cups upwardly and inwardly to conform to the breast shape rather than folding downwardly as in some of the prior art. A particularly outstanding advantage of the brassiere is the minimizing, if not eliminating, of the normal binding experienced by the wearer along the chest below the bust. Outward pulling pressure at the side force triangles of the bands **11** and **12** straightens the arcuate lower edges **14** and **31** of the breast support bands **11** and **12**, respectively, so that they fit along the chest of the wearer beneath the breasts while the substantial arcuate upper edges **13** and **30** of the support bands permit the shaping of the support bands to accommodate and support the breasts and give them an uplifting effect.

It will be evident that the various materials disclosed and discussed herein for forming the different components of a brassiere embodying the invention may be varied so long as they provide the functional requirements needed by such elements as the breast support band suspension panels **50** and **51** and the support bands **11** and **12**. The panel structure for the support band suspension panels must obviously be elastic as preferably should be the panels **160** and **161**. The support bands **11** and **12** are generally of a soft,non-elastic flexible material such as a flannel having a stiffening sizing or a strong, substantially non-elastic material having at least one flannel-type surface which can be comfortably worn directly next to the skin. The breast encircling support panels **120** and **150**, together with the cups **130** and **140** are preferably made of attractive lace to improve the aesthetic appeal of the brassiere. The seams and exposed edges may be finished in various ways dependent upon the appearance desired and economics of constructing the brassiere.

What is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A brassiere comprising: a pair of complementary breast support bands each for supporting a breast of a wearer, said bands having first corresponding adjacent ends secured together along a seam for positioning between the breasts of the wearer and second outer corresponding opposite ends for positioning at the outside bases of the breasts of the wearer near under-arm locations, said bands being contoured to conform to and provide a desired shape to the breasts of the wearer while supporting and urging upwardly and forwardly said breasts; a pair of complementary breast band support frames for supporting said breast bands, each comprising elastic material having an opening for one of said breast bands for supporting said band in a yieldable relationship whereby said breast support bands are held tightly along the sides and bottom portions of said breasts extending between said breasts to and around the base portion of said breasts to the chest surface of said wearer,while said elastic breast band support frames are held tightly against the chest surface of said wearer in body encircling relationship; each of said breast band support frames being a continuous integral elastic material member including a horizontal panel portion extending along and secured with the bottom edge of the breast support band connected with said frame and said frame including an outer vertical end panel portion secured at the vertical outer, near underarm end portion of said breast support band connected with said frame; and fastener means secured with the outside near under-arm free end portions of said breast band support means for releasably securing said brassiere around the chest of said wearer, said fastener means connecting at a mid-back location.

2. A brassiere defined in claim **1** wherein each of said breast support bands includes an integral stress triangle panel portion formed along corresponding outer end portions of said breast support bands, said outer end portions of each of said breast support bands being secured along a diagonal line with an adjacent vertical panel portion of said elastic breast band support means.

3. A brassiere in accordance with claim 2 wherein each of said breast support bands comprises an elongate strip having arcuate upper and lower edges.

4. A brassiere in accordance with claim 3 wherein the warp of the material comprising each of said breast support bands extends lengthwise of said bands along a line of direction defined by a straight line between the upper outer and upper inner corner edges of said bands.

5. A brassiere in accordance with claim 3 wherein the degree of arc of said upper edge of each of said breast support bands has a shorter radius than the arc of each of said lower edges of said support bands.

6. A brassiere comprising: a chest encircling band assembly including means for detachably interconnecting the free ends thereof along the back of a wearer; elastic fabric suspension panel means secured in said chest band assembly extendable along the chest of a wearer beneath and to the back side of each breast of said wearer near the under-arm area, said panel means comprising an elongate narrow horizontal strip extending across said wearer to the outside base of each of said breasts, and said panel means having integral vertically extending panel portions connected with each outside end of said horizontal panel portion for disposition along the chest of said wearer at the back side of each breast of said wearer near the under-arm area, said horizontal and vertical elastic panel portions defining an upwardly opening and generally rectangular frame; a pair of breast support bands aligned in end-to-end array connected together at adjacent ends along a substantially vertical seam at a between-breast location forming a breast band assembly for support and shaping of said breasts of said wearer, said breast support band assembly being secured along a bottom edge thereof with the top edge of said horizontal elastic horizontal strip and along outer vertical end edges in overlapping relationship with said vertical elastic panel portions of said suspension panel means, said outer end portions of said breast band support assembly and said vertical panel portions of said suspension panel means being secured together by lines of stitching defining a stress triangle defined generally vertically across each of said outer end portions of said breast support assembly, the hypotenuse of each of said triangles extending generally upwardly and outwardly from an outside base portion of each of said breasts of said wearer along the side portion of said breast toward the under-arm area of said wearer; and means for supporting said chest encircling band assembly and said breast support band assembly from the shoulders of said wearer and covering said breasts of said wearer and said breast band support assembly including shoulder straps and breast covering cups connected with front portions of said chest encircling band assembly and breast support band assembly and back portions of said chest encircling band assembly.

7. A brassiere in accordance with claim 6 wherein each of said breast support bands has arcuate upper and lower edges whereby each of said bands forms a cup-like breast supporting structure when held against the chest and breast of said wearer, the upper central portions of said support bands fitting in a non-downwardly folding relationship with the breast supported therein.

8. A brassiere in accordance with claim 7 wherein the arcuate upper edge of each of said breast support bands is formed on a radius shorter than the radius of said lower arcuate edge of said breast support band.

9. A brassiere in accordance with claim 8 including a breast suspension encircling band connected with said chest band encircling assembly and each of said breast support bands between said breast covering cups and said breast support bands for supporting said chest band encircling assembly and said breast support bands along the front of said wearer from the shoulder of said wearer, said breast encircling bands being connected together along a central line coincident with the line of connection of the adjacent end edges of said breast support bands, and said breast encircling bands being connected at outside end edges with said vertical portions of said elastic suspension panels means and said horizontal strip of said elastic panel suspension means, and said breast encircling bands each being connected at an upper central apex with the forward end of one of said shoulder straps and with an apex portion of the said breast covering cup over said encircling band.

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