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F. SIDER

2,628,357

STRAPLESS BRASSIERE

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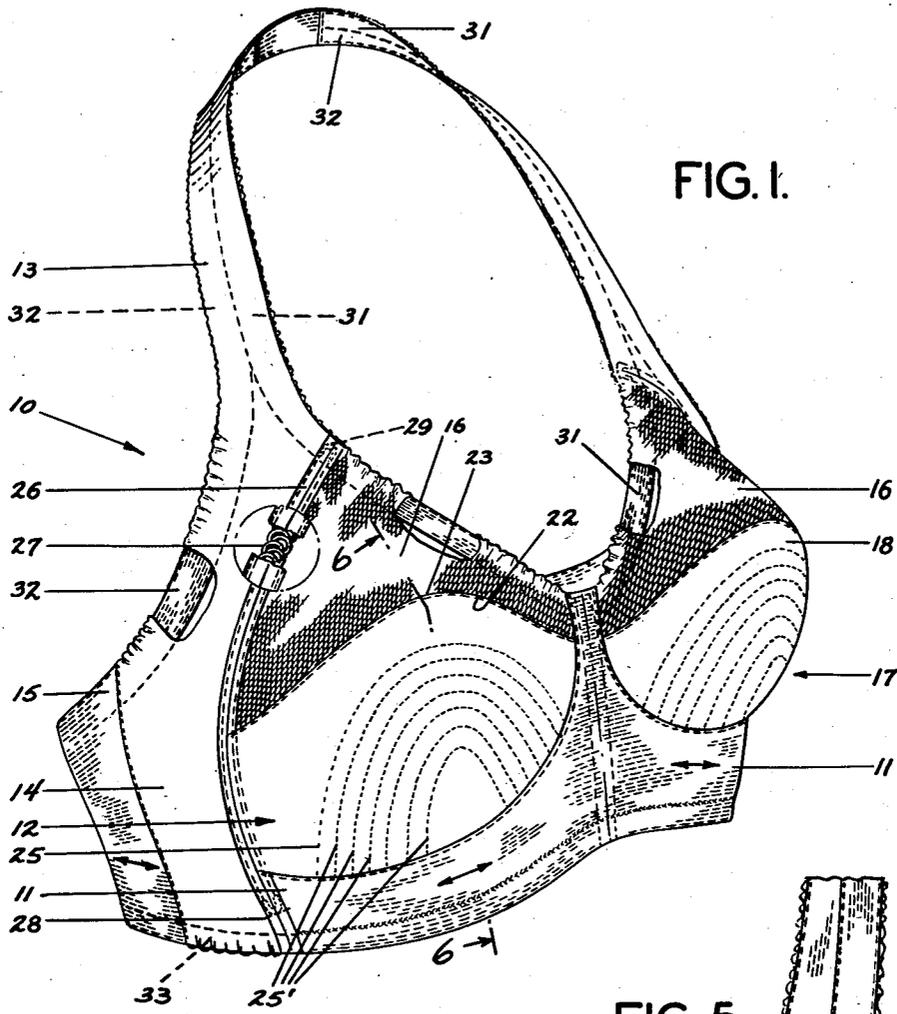


FIG. 1.

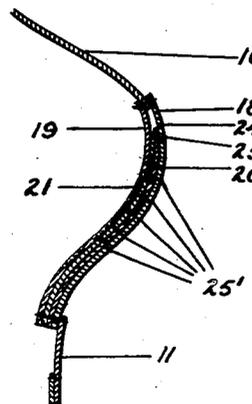


FIG. 4.

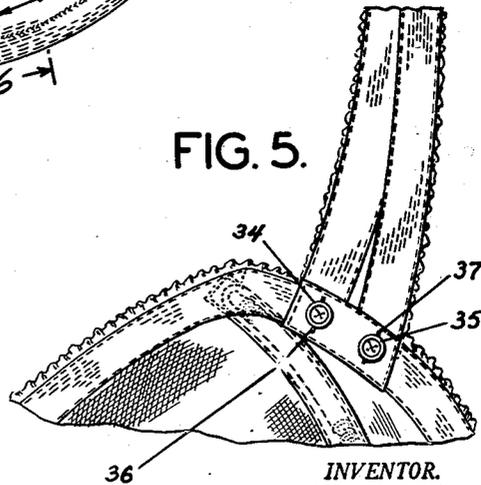


FIG. 5.

INVENTOR.  
FRANCES SIDER

BY *Irving Seidman*  
ATTORNEY

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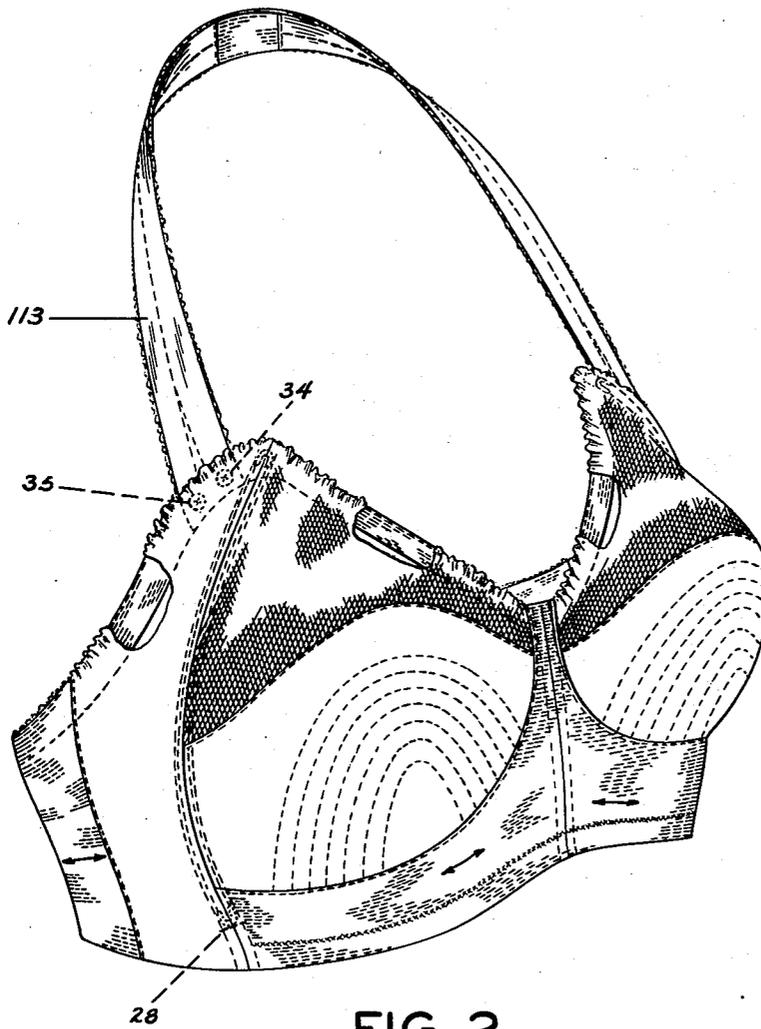


FIG. 2.

INVENTOR.  
FRANCES SIDER

BY *Irving Seidman*  
ATTORNEY

Feb. 17, 1953

F. SIDER  
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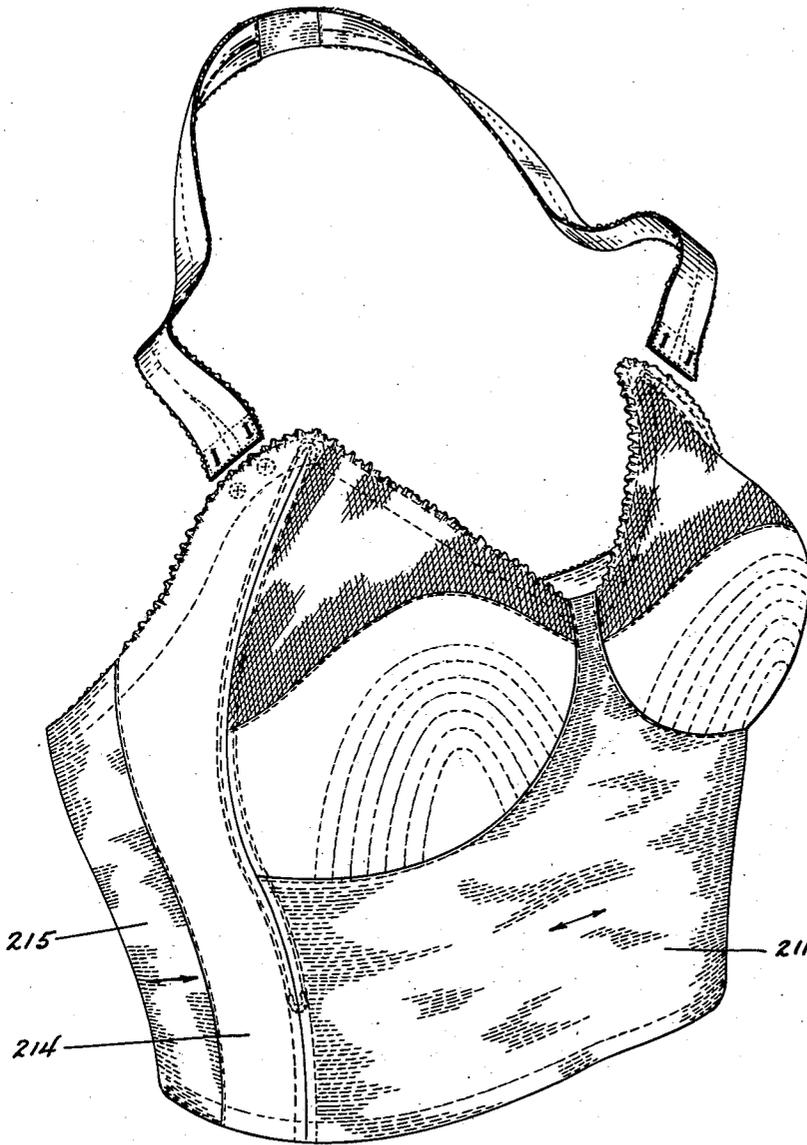


FIG. 3.

INVENTOR.  
FRANCES SIDER

BY  
*Irving Seidman*  
ATTORNEY

Feb. 17, 1953

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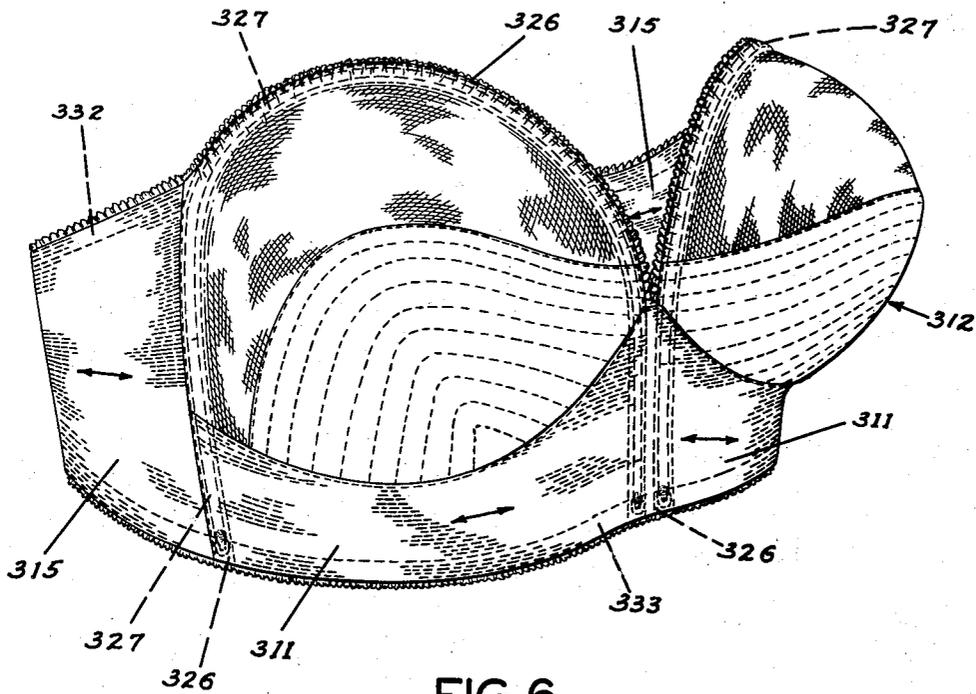


FIG. 6.

INVENTOR.  
FRANCES SIDER

BY  
*Irving Seidman*  
ATTORNEY.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,628,357

## STRAPLESS BRASSIÈRE

Frances Sider, New York, N. Y.

Application October 9, 1952, Serial No. 313,872

7 Claims. (Cl. 2-42)

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This invention relates to strapless brassières.

Broadly, it is an object of the invention to provide a strapless brassière that will support and uplift the breasts and constantly retain the breasts centrally within the breast pockets.

More particularly, it is an object of the invention to provide a brassière that, in addition to the foregoing object, will hug the body beneath the breasts and cause the lower non-stretchable cup portions to properly encompass, support and contain the breasts so that they assume a natural and firm position within the brassière cups with the nipples lying at the proper central points of the cups.

A further object of the invention is to cause the inside neck portions of the halter brassière cups to constantly and gently hug the body of the wearer without causing uncomfortable pressure.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide a strapless brassière that will uplift, mold, hold in a natural position and continually control the inserted breasts within the breast pockets and which will retain its original shape and remain firm after repeated washings.

Another object of the invention is to provide a strapless brassière which will aid in controlling the soft part of the midriff of the wearer and help to control the diaphragm.

Still another object is to provide a strapless brassière which may be worn with and without a removable halter neckpiece.

A further object of the invention is to provide a strapless brassière manufactured of stretchable and non-stretchable materials creating a resilient construction and eliminating pressure of weight on the shoulders, avoiding undue pressure and marks directly underneath the breast allowing normal breathing while wearing the strapless brassière.

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the invention, reference is had to the following detailed description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a bandeau type of halter brassière.

Fig. 2 is a front perspective view of a modified bandeau type of a strapless brassière with a removable halter neckpiece.

Fig. 3 is a front perspective view of another modified strapless brassière, similar in construction to the brassière shown in Fig. 2, except that it has a long line and also has a removable halter neckpiece.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken through line 55 56-57 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged inside view of the upper portion of a cup showing the preferred means used to detach the halter from the brassière.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of still another

modification of a strapless brassière with spirals circumscribing the breast pockets.

Referring to the drawings, numeral 10 represents a strapless halter brassière comprising opposed front lower panels 11 having horizontal stretch, a pair of breast pockets 12, a halter portion 13, opposed side panels 14 of non-stretchable material, and back opposed elastic panels 15 stretchable horizontally. Each of the breast pockets 12 comprises an upper portion 16, preferably made of non-stretchable material, and a lower portion 17 comprising a front layer 18, a backing material 19, both of non-stretchable material, and two thicknesses of material 20 and 21 cut on the bias therebetween. The upper portion 16 is joined to the lower portion 17 by stitching 22 providing an arcuate seam 23 substantially around the center of the breast pocket 12. The top edges 24 of materials 20 and 21 follow the upper stitching 25, as shown in Fig. 1. Stitching 25 and the lower adjacent lines of stitching 25' which are about one-fourth of an inch apart pass through the front layer 18 and the two layers 20 and 21, as best shown in Fig. 4.

Between each of the outer ends of the front lower panels 11 and breast pockets 12 and the side panels 14, a long narrow pocket 26 is provided, within which a flexible spiral 27 is housed. At the lower end of pocket 26, stitching 28 terminates the pocket, leaving the original flexibility of the material below stitching 28.

Pockets 26 and spirals 27 extend arcuately around the outside of the breast pockets 12, with the upper end 29 of spiral 27 at the upper end of the vertical medial line of the breast pocket 12, thus providing a flexible suspension for the breast pocket 12, and the breast lying therein. The circumscribing by the spiral 27 of the breast pocket insures that the breast will remain within the breast pocket while the flexibility of the spiral 27 with its upper terminal 29 upon the vertical medial line gently aids in supporting the weight of the breast causing the breast to fall and remain in a natural and firmly held position within the breast pocket. The curvature of the spiral 27 towards the vertical medial line of the wearer provides a mild outward tension to be exerted upon the inner upper portion of the breast pocket insuring a desired degree of breast separation. The flexibility of the spiral 27 creates a gentle and constant upward tension which aids in supporting the breasts and takes up a large part of any tension or strain that may be exerted upon the halter neckpiece 13.

Side panels 14 of non-stretchable material are integral with the halter neckpiece 13 around the neck of the wearer. The central part of the halter 13, that is, the portion falling at the back of the neck of the wearer, has a horizontally stretchable small elastic band 30 to relieve any

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undue strain which might be created and permits freedom of movement of the neck and head without restriction. The non-stretchable material of the halter neckpiece 13, the upper outer portions of the side panels 14 and back panels 15, and the upper inner portions of the material 16 of the breast pockets 12 are shirred and stitched to elastic backing bands or tape 31, 32 stretchable horizontally. It should be particularly noted that the non-stretchable fabric of the upper portion of the side panels 14 which lie above the elastic tape 32 is gathered or shirred along its entire length, but to a greater extent beginning at the inner upper end of the back panel 15, since beginning at that portion and adjacent the breast pocket greater stretchability is desirable because that portion of the body is generally fleshier, thus controlling and permitting greater stretchability of that portion of the garment retaining the flesh within the border of the material. The upper inner portions of the material 16 of the breast pockets are also shirred to a greater extent than the halter neckpiece to permit greater stretchability than the halter neckpiece so that such portion hugs the flesh around the upper inner breasts at the front and permits greater play by the flexible upper ends 29 of the spirals 27. Of course, the degree of stretchability is limited by the amount of shirring of the non-stretchable material which is shirred to a predetermined amount so that it will stretch within certain calculated limits only.

The sectional bias cut multi-ply of material of the lower portions 17 of the breast pockets aid in supporting and uplifting the breasts since such portions are firm yet flexible and thus supplement the support provided by the spirals 27 and the halter neckpiece 13. The breasts are thus supported from beneath and from above by the spirals, the halter neckpiece and the hugging of the upper portion of the brassière at the front against the body of the wearer.

Behind the bottom edge of panels 11, side panels 14 and back panels 15 there is also an elastic tape 33 which provides additional stretchability around the bottom edge of the brassière. The bottom edge of the non-stretchable material of panels 14 are also slightly gathered to allow for additional stretchability within predetermined limits.

It will thus be seen that with elastic tapes 31, 32 and 33, flexibility is provided around all of the outer edges of the entire strapless brassière.

If desired, vertical spirals, similar to spirals 27, may be inserted in vertical pockets (not shown) in the front central part of the brassière, that is, where the two opposed panels 11 are joined at their central edges and at the central portions of the back panels 15.

Fig. 2 is of identical construction as Fig. 1 except that the halter neckpiece 113 is removable by providing small buttons 34, 36 at the inner upper portion of the breast pockets, as shown in Figs. 2 and 5, and providing cooperating buttonholes 36, 37 at each end of the halter neckpiece 113. With strapless gowns or bathing suits, the halter neckpiece 113 may be readily removed and the brassière remains a complete strapless unit and will stay up without the aid of the halter neckpiece.

Fig. 3 shows a long line strapless brassière of practically the identical construction as that shown in Fig. 2 except that the front central panel 211, the side panels 214 and the back panels 215 are longer than the corresponding panels of Figs.

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1 and 2, being substantially waist length. The long line strapless brassière shown controls the diaphragm and holds the soft part of the midriff firmly yet without restricting the movement of the ligaments.

Fig. 6 is another varied construction of a strapless brassière and is shown without a halter neckpiece. However, a removable halter neckpiece may be added similar to the structure shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 5. This strapless brassière generally comprises a front panel 311 stretchable horizontally, a pair of breast pockets 312 of a structure somewhat similar to the pockets heretofore described for the brassières shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, except for the circumscribing spirals as will be hereinafter described and a change in the lower portion of the breast pocket, and body encircling elastic panels 315, stretchable horizontally as indicated by the double-headed arrows. Circumscribing each of the breast pockets 312 at the sides and top, a single spiral 327, flexible in virtually all directions, is housed within a long narrow pocket 328 extending from the lowermost edge of the brassière, around the outer side, upper circumferential edge and inner side of the breast pocket, terminating again at the lowermost edge of the brassière adjacent the vertical central line of the brassière, as shown in Fig. 6. The single spiral 327 is positioned around the entire breast, except the lower portion, in an inverted U very much like a croquet wicket with the terminals thereof lodged at the lowermost line of the brassière. The central arcuate portion of the spirals support the breast pockets providing a flexible suspension for the pocket and the breast lying therein. Since the spiral virtually circumscribes the pocket and the front elastic panel 311 hugs the body below the breast, it is obvious that the breast will remain and be securely lodged within the breast pocket while the flexibility of the supporting spiral will flexibly and gently provide a constant upward tension which aids in supporting the weight of the breast in a more natural position. The inner legs of the two opposed spirals are on either side of the vertical medial line between the breasts so that the spiral legs are adjacent one another thus insuring a desired degree of breast separation. The fabric along the arcuate portion of the spirals, that is, at the upper part of the breast pockets, is gathered slightly so that movement of the spiral is not restricted. The upper part of the lower portion of the breast pocket from the inner end follows substantially the horizontal medial line to approximately the center of the pocket and then arcs downwardly and angularly to the bottom line of the pocket adjacent the outer end of the pocket. Elastic tape 332 is attached at the back of the upper part of the panels 315, across the upper portions of both breast pockets and along the upper part of the opposed panel 315. Another elastic tape 333 is attached behind the bottom edge of panels 315 and front panel 311, thus providing flexibility around all of the outer edges of the brassière. If desired, short vertical spirals (not shown) may be provided at the back of the body encircling panels 315. At the back central part of panels 315, the ends are provided with cooperating hooks and one or more vertical rows of eyes for adjustably fastening the brassière upon the wearer, as is well known in the art.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made in the details of construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the general spirit of the invention.

I claim:

1. A strapless brassière comprising a lower front horizontally stretchable elastic panel, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets being secured to the upper edge of the front elastic panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of the front elastic panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free end portions of said body encircling panels, narrow pockets arranged vertically at the outer ends and the intermediate portions of the front elastic panel and also at the sides and top of each breast pocket, and an inverted U-shaped spiral in each of said narrow pockets for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer.

2. A strapless brassière comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel being curved and secured together, the upper edge of the front panel converging upwardly at the center of the brassière between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of said front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free end portions of said body encircling panels, narrow pockets extending along the outer ends of the front panel and the outer side edges of the breast pockets, and a spiral reinforcing element arranged in each narrow pocket for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer.

3. A strapless brassière comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel being curved and secured together, the upper edge of the front panel converging upwardly at the center of the brassière between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of said front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free end portions of said body encircling panels, narrow pockets extending along the outer ends of the front panel and the outer side edges of the breast pockets, a spiral reinforcing element arranged in each narrow pocket for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer, the upper edges of the breast pockets being shirred, and elastic tapes arranged therein.

4. A brassière comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel converging upwardly at the center of the brassière between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of said front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free end portions of said body encircling panels, narrow pockets extending along the outer ends of the front panel and the outer side edges of the breast pockets, a spiral reinforcing element arranged in each narrow pocket for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer, the upper edges of the breast pockets being shirred, elastic tapes arranged therein, and a halter strap connected to the upper outer corners of the breast pockets.

5. A brassière comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel being curved and secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets converging upwardly and inwardly toward the center of the brassière between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of the front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free ends of the body encircling panels, narrow pockets extending along the outer ends of the front panel and the outer side edges of the breast pockets, and a spiral reinforcing element arranged in each narrow pocket for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer.

6. A brassière comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel being curved and secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets converging upwardly and inwardly toward the center of the brassière between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of the front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means on the free ends of the body encircling panels, narrow pockets arranged vertically at the outer ends and intermediate portions of the front panel

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and also at the sides and top of each breast pocket, and an inverted U-shaped spiral in each of said narrow pockets circumscribing said breast pockets except at the lower edge portion thereof for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer.

7. A brassiere comprising a front panel that is horizontally stretchable, breast pockets, each comprising an upper portion and a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a front, a back and filler members interposed between said front and back, the adjacent edges of the upper and lower portions being secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets and the upper edge of the front panel being curved and secured together, the lower edges of the breast pockets converging upwardly and inwardly toward the center of the brassiere between said breast pockets, the inner side edge portions of the breast pockets being secured to the respective converging edge portions of the intermediate portion of the front panel, body encircling elastic panels attached to the outer ends of the front panel and to the outer side edge portions of the respective breast pockets, complementary fastening means

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on the free ends of the body encircling panels, narrow pockets arranged vertically at the outer ends and intermediate portions of the front panel and also at the sides and top of each breast pocket, an inverted U-shaped spiral in each of said narrow pockets circumscribing said breast pockets except at the lower edge portion thereof for supporting the breast pockets firmly against the body of the wearer, and a halter strap secured at its ends to the upper outer corners of the breast pockets.

FRANCES SIDER.

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