

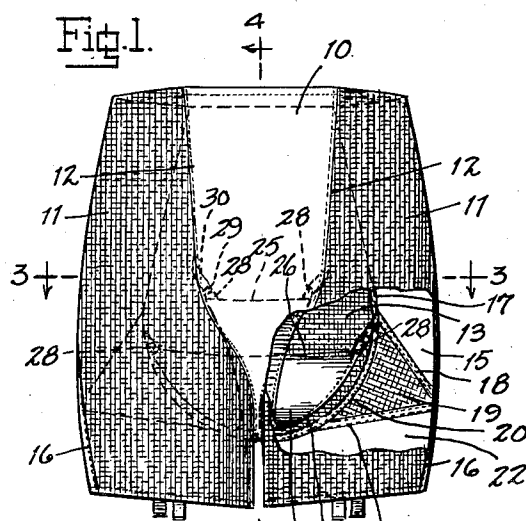
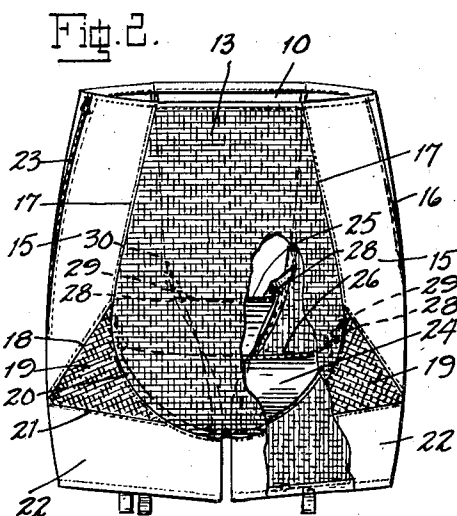
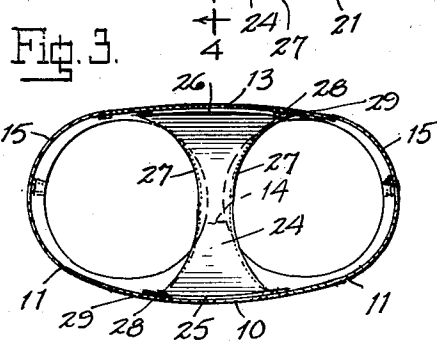
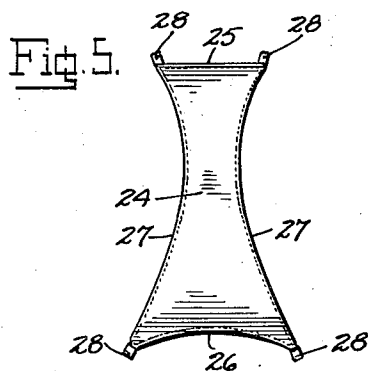
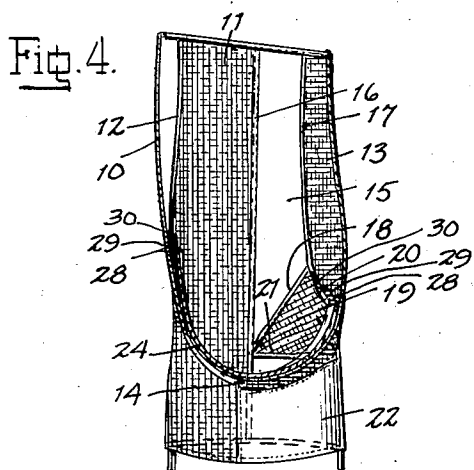
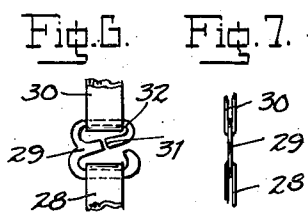
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2,483,302

UNDERGARMENT

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2,483,302

UNDERGARMENT

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2-43)

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The present invention relates to an undergarment, particularly a ladies' body controlling foundation garment of bifurcated type. The usual garment of this type has a tendency to bind, draw, and twist in the crotch of the garment, especially while walking or climbing, or when assuming forward bending or sitting positions. This condition is especially aggravated by the fact that such garments include sections of elastic material which extend over the seat area and into the crotch area, the tight fitting of such garments causing these portions to chafe the body where there is substantial relative movement between the surface of the body and the elastic material. Attempts have been made to provide protective crotch members or inserts to protect the body against such chafing, but these have been largely ineffectual, as they did not extend over a sufficiently large area of the affected parts, and also because of the fact that in order to provide for convenient removability of such members, fastening means were provided which were so positioned as to prevent relative movement between the crotch member and the elastic fabric of the garment, and also so positioned that they would chafe and irritate the body.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a bifurcated foundation garment having a crotch member removably attached thereto, and so shaped that effectual protection is provided between the body and the elastic portions of the garment in the area where substantial relative movement takes place when different postures are assumed. It is a further object to provide fastening means substantially removed from the parts of the garment where excessive movement takes place, so that the crotch member remains in substantially snug fitting relation against the body, permitting the elastic portions to contract and expand in moving engagement with the crotch member, thus protecting the body against contact of the elastic portions therewith and irritation therefrom. It is particularly proposed to provide a crotch member of divergent shape toward its forward and rearward ends, the forward end being relatively narrow to conform to and engage the forward portion of the body, and the rearward portion being relatively wide to extend from the crotch area into the seat area. It is further proposed to provide attaching means at the forward and rearward corners of the crotch member, whereby the holding force of the attaching means will extend substantially along the outer edges of the crotch member and, there-

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fore, tend to maintain it in smooth fitting engagement with the body.

With the above and other objects in view, an embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, and this embodiment will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of an undergarment, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, a portion of the garment being broken away.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation, a portion of the garment being broken away.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view, taken along the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view, taken along the line 4-4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the crotch member, detached from the garment.

Fig. 6 is a detailed front elevation of one of the attaching hook members.

Fig. 7 is a side elevation thereof.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the pantie-girdle type of undergarment illustrated by way of example, and in which the invention is incorporated, is similar to that disclosed in my copending patent application for undergarment, Serial No. 671,240, filed May 21, 1946. This garment comprises a front section consisting of a central panel part 10, preferably formed of non-elastic fabric, and front parts 11-11 secured to the side edges of the panel 10 along seam lines 12-12, and formed of two-way stretch elastic woven material capable of both horizontal and vertical stretch. The central panel 10 extends from the upper edge of the garment to the crotch seam, its side edges converging downwardly and being curved inwardly to a relatively narrow parallel sided terminal portion adapted to extend into the crotch. The inner side edges of the front parts 11-11, where they are secured along the seam lines 12-12, converge downwardly and are curved inwardly, their relatively wide lower end portions being extended below the central panel to form the forward sides of the leg portions of the garment.

The back section of the garment comprises a central back panel 13 having its upper edge substantially in the region of the waistline, its side edges diverging downwardly from the upper edge

to points substantially in lie with the hips and thereupon curving inwardly along a rear seat portion to a relatively narrow convergent terminal end which extends forwardly in the crotch and is secured to the lower terminal end of the front panel at the transverse crotch seam 14. The back section further comprises upper side parts 15—15 of non-elastic fabric material secured at their outer side edges along seam lines 16—16 to the side edges of the front parts 11—11 and at their inner side edges along seam lines 17—17 to the side edges of the back panel 13, these seams being non-elastic.

The lower edges of the side parts 15—15 are inclined downwardly and outwardly between the seam lines 17 and 16, and are secured along seam lines 18—18 to the upper edges of substantially triangular shaped insert members 19—19 formed of two-way stretch elastic material, the inner side edges of these insert members being concavely curved and secured along seam lines 20—20 to the side edges of the back panel from a point substantially at the hip line downwardly to a point outwardly of the crotch and rearwardly spaced a substantial distance from the crotch seam 14. The weave of the back panel 14 is disposed substantially horizontally and vertically, while the weave of the insert members 19 is disposed diagonally so that the threads in one direction are substantially tangential to the curved lines of the edges of the back panel along the seam lines 20—20, and as these seam lines are made with stretchable stitching, maximum elasticity is provided along these seam lines.

The lower edges of the insert members are in transverse lines substantially parallel to the lower edges of the leg portions and are secured along seam lines 21—21 to the upper edges of the back leg parts 22—22, which are constructed of non-elastic fabric material and have their outer side edges secured along the seam lines 16—16 to the outer side edges of the lower leg portions of the front parts 11—11. A zipper-type fastener 23 is provided along one of the seam lines 16 extending downwardly from the top edge partially along one of the back sections 15.

The crotch insert member 24, according to the invention, is of substantially hour-glass form, its forward straight edge 25, however, being narrower than its rearward inwardly arched edge 26, and the side edges 27—27 being curved inwardly between the front and rear edges so that they converge toward each other at the intermediate portion of the member. The insert member is preferably constructed of a thin, soft, woven material, as for instance, jersey cloth, and the weave is so arranged in the member that it has a predominance of stretch in a transverse or crosswise direction. The member may be of one thickness of material, or of a plurality of thicknesses, as desired, and the edges are preferably finished by a finishing seam as shown. At each of the four corners there is provided a projected loop member 28, formed of tape or the like, for the purpose of detachably connecting the member in the garment, as will presently more fully appear.

The insert member is positioned in the garment with its narrow forward edge disposed at the inner side of the lower converging portion of the front panel 10, and is secured by means of hook members 29 connected by tapes 30 to the side seams of the front panel, the loop members 28 at the front of the crotch insert member being engaged with these hook members. As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, these hook members are preferably

flat and formed of plastic or similar material, and are detachable from the loop members 30 by means of an entrance slot 31 extending to the slot 32 engaged by the loop member 30. This type of hook member is very light in construction, lies flat between the body and the garment without appreciable bulging, and may be readily disconnected for laundering purposes. The narrow forward portion of the crotch insert member substantially conforms to the shape of the lower portion of the front panel 10, the convergent intermediate portion extends along the crotch portion of the garment, and the relatively wide rearward portion extends upwardly into the seat portion of the garment, its rearward corners being connected by the loops 28 to hook member 29 secured by tapes 30 to the side seams of the back panel substantially at the junction points between the elastic seams 20 and the non-elastic seams 17. These securing points, as well as the securing points of the front end of the insert, are at points in the garment where no appreciable relative movement takes place between the girdle and the body of the wearer upon assuming different postures, the relative movement taking place along the seam lines 20—20 and within the lower seat area in lateral line therewith. The insert crotch member is so disposed that these relatively movable portions are entirely protected against contact with the skin, and due to the relatively non-elastic nature of the insert in a front to rear direction, the insert remains in substantially fixed relation upon the body as a protecting shield, while the elastic portions of the garment may have relative movement with respect to the insert member. The insert member follows the natural lines of the garment and the body, and as the fastening means are entirely removed from points where excessive movement between the body and the garment takes place, there is no irritation from such fastening means. The suspension of the crotch member at its four corners from relative fixed points in the garment, in cooperation with the arrangement of the material so that its predominance of stretch is crosswise, maintains the crotch member in smooth relation and eliminates, to a large extent, the tendency to stretch and wrinkle in a front to rear direction.

I have illustrated and described a preferred and satisfactory embodiment of the invention, but it will be understood that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof, as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. For use in a bifurcated undergarment including a front section, a back section, and a crotch, a crotch insert member having a transverse front edge, a transverse rear edge, and inwardly curved side edges, said rear edge being substantially longer than said front edge, said crotch member being formed of woven fabric material having greater stretch transversely of said member than longitudinally thereof, the forward corners of said crotch insert member being connected interiorly of said front section at points upwardly and forwardly spaced from the crotch and its rearward corners being connected interiorly of said back section at points upwardly and rearwardly spaced from the crotch and substantially co-incident with the hip line.

2. For use in a bifurcated undergarment including a front section, a back section, and a crotch, a crotch insert member having a transverse front edge, a transverse rear edge, and in-

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wardly curved side edges, said rear edge being substantially longer than said front edge, the forward corners of said crotch insert member being connectable interiorly of said front section at points upwardly and forwardly spaced from the crotch and its rearward corners being connectable interiorly of said back section at points upwardly and rearwardly spaced from the crotch and substantially co-incident with the hip line.

EILEEN A. ROCKWELL. 10

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