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SANITARY BELT

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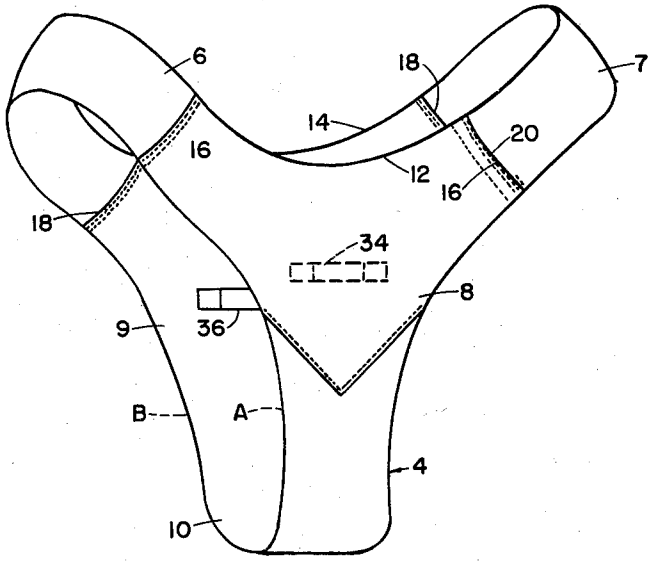


FIG. 1

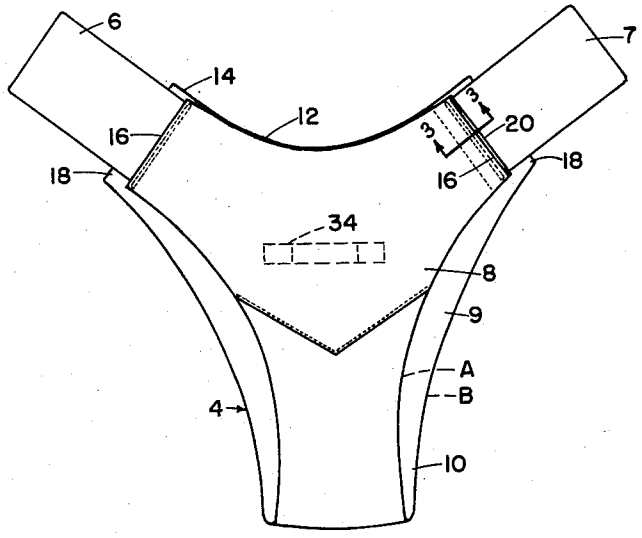


FIG. 2

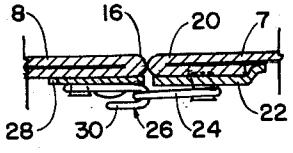


FIG. 3

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SANITARY BELT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 128—291)

This invention relates to improvements in sanitary belts for feminine wear during menstrual periods.

An important object of this invention is to provide a comfortable sanitary belt for feminine wear.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sanitary belt which requires no pins for attaching a sanitary napkin thereto and which provides a minimum of undesirable projections or lumps visible through the outer clothing of the wearer.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sanitary belt having an elastic waist portion by which the belt may be repeatedly put on and taken off without undue stretching of the elastic, and wherein the elastic will not roll during use.

A further object of this invention is to provide a sanitary belt which may be easily put on.

Another object of this invention is to provide a sanitary belt which gives the maximum freedom of movement to the wearer.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a sanitary belt which may be economically manufactured.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings which illustrate my invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my novel sanitary belt, with the belt being substantially in the form it would assume when in operating position.

Figure 2 is a front elevational view of the belt, with the belt lying flat on a table or the like.

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken along lines 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Broadly stated, the present invention may be defined as a sanitary belt for feminine wear comprising an elongated body normally supported at its opposite ends to depend in the form of a U and providing a front panel, a rear panel and an intermediate crotch portion, said rear panel being wider than said front panel, with each of said panels being increased in width toward the opposite ends of the body, each end of the body being curved in a concave direction, a wide width elastic strip secured to each rear corner of the body and its mating forward corner to extend around the opposite sides of the waist of the wearer tangentially from the ends of said body to support said body.

Referring to the drawings in detail, and particularly Fig. 1, reference character **4** generally designates the body portion of my sanitary belt, which body portion is supported substantially in the form of a U from a pair of elastic strips or straps **6** and **7**. The depending body portion **4** forms a front panel **8**, a rear panel **9** and an intermediate crotch portion **10**. For convenience in illustrating the belt, I have designated the crotch portion as that portion of the belt exending between points A and B, it being understood that the length of this portion of the belt is not precisely defined and will vary depending upon the size of belt desired. The body portion **4** is preferably formed out of a double layer of soft fabric and may be suitably lined with a rubberized material (not shown) if desired. Also, the body portion **4** may be formed as a single piece of material along its length, or formed in two parts with the parts sewed together in the manner illustrated in the drawing. However, the body **4** is a unitary structure and the specific type of fabric used is immaterial as far as the present invention is concerned.

As most clearly shown in Fig. 2, the back panel **9** is wider than the front panel **8** and is of a width to fit comfortably over the buttocks of the wearer and have a minimum tendency to crawl during use. It will also be observed that each of the panels **8** and **9** is progressively increased in width toward its outer or upper end. The upper end **12** of the front panel **8** and the upper end **14** of the back panel **9** are each cut or formed on the arc of a circle of substantially the same size to shape these ends in a concave direction with respect to the body portion **4**. The opposite corners or edges **16** of the front panel **8** and the opposite edges **18** of the rear panel **9** are each cut or shaped to extend substantially along a radius of the circle on which the ends **12** and **14** are formed.

The elastic strap **6** is sewed or otherwise rigidly secured to one corner **18** of the back panel **9** and the mating corner **16** of the front panel **8**, such that the strap **6** extends at right angles to the corners **16** and **18**. Therefore, the strap **6** extends upwardly substantially along a tangent of the contour of each of the ends **12** and **14**. The other strap **7** is sewed to the remaining corner **18** of the back panel **9** in a direction normal to the respective corner.

As shown in Fig. 3, the forward end **20** of the strap **7** is turned under and has a strip of reinforcing material **22** suitably secured thereto. The eye portion **24** of a suitable hook-and-eye connector (generally designated at **26**) is sewed to the end **20** and the material **22**. The mating corner **16** of the front panel **8** has a reinforcing material **28** secured thereto to facilitate the support of the hook **30** of the fastener **26**. The hook **30** engages the eye **24** in the usual manner to secure the end portion **20** of the strap **7** to the front panel **8**. I preferably provide two of the hook-and-eye connectors **26** on the corner **16** and the strap **7** to assuredly secure the strap **7** and minimize the possibility of accidental disconnection of the strap during use of the sanitary belt. The use of at least two of the hook-and-eye connectors **26** also facilitates the retention of the strap **7** in a direction normal to the corner **16**.

The concave contour of the upper ends **12** and **14** of the panels **8** and **9**, along with the upwardly extending direction of the straps **6** and **7**, provides a comfortable fit of the belt around the waist of the wearer. In other words, the waist encircling portion of the belt substantially conforms to the normal contour of the waist portion of the wearer. Another noteworthy feature of this invention is the width of the elastic straps **6** and **7**. I have found that when the straps **6** and **7** are formed out of two inch wide elastic, the straps have an unusual resistance to rolling during use of the belt as compared to other sizes of straps, and particularly the narrow straps commonly used on sanitary belts.

I also provide a sanitary napkin retaining strap **34** on the front panel **8** and a similar strap **36** on the rear panel **9**. The retaining straps **34** and **36** are suitably sewed to the inside surface of the panels **8** and **9**, respectfully, with the central portions of the straps **34** and **36** being free for passage of a napkin between the respective strap and the inside surface of the respective panel. A sanitary napkin (not shown) having its opposite ends extending through the straps **34** and **36** will be effectively held in position when the belt is in use, thereby eliminating pinning or using some other stiff connector for securing the napkin to the belt.

It will be apparent that the hooks **30** may be disconnected from the eyes **24** to free the strap **7** and permit the user to step freely into the sanitary belt. When the strap **7** is again connected to the front panel **8**, the belt will fit snugly on the wearer. By disconnecting the strap **7** from the front panel **8**, the belt may be easily and conveniently put on and taken off, and the elastic straps **6** and **7** will not be unduly stretched by the operation.

The contour of the panels **8** and **9**, and their relation to the positions of the straps **6** and **7** provide large leg openings with the maximum freedom for the thighs of the wearer to prevent a binding of the belt and to minimize crawling of the belt, even during periods of relatively extensive activity of the wearer.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the present invention provides a comfortable sanitary belt which requires no pins for attaching a napkin thereto and which provides a minimum of undesirable projections or lumps visible through the outer clothing of the wearer. The belt may be easily put on and taken off without undue stretching of the elastic waist portion and the belt will give the maximum of freedom to the wearer. It will further be apparent that the belt may be economically manufactured.

Changes may be made in the precise embodiment shown without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A sanitary belt for feminine wear, comprising an elongated body portion forming a front panel, a rear panel and an intermediate crotch portion, said rear panel being wider than said front panel, with both of said panels being progressively increased in width from the crotch portion, the opposite ends of said body being formed on the arc of a circle in a concave direction, with each corner of said body being squared off along a line substantially in alignment with a radius of the circle along which the respective end is formed; a strip of elastic secured to one corner of the front panel and a corresponding corner of the rear panel to extend around one side of the waist of the wearer; a second strip of elastic secured to the opposite corner of the back panel, each of said strips of elastic being secured in a direction normal to the respective corner to which it is attached; hook and eye connectors on the remaining corner of the front panel and the opposite end of the last-mentioned strip of elastic; and sanitary napkin supporting straps secured in spaced relation to the inner surface of said body.

2. A belt as defined in claim 1 characterized further in that said elastic straps are 2 inches wide.

3. A belt as defined in claim 2 characterized further in that said body is formed out of a double layer of soft fabric.

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