

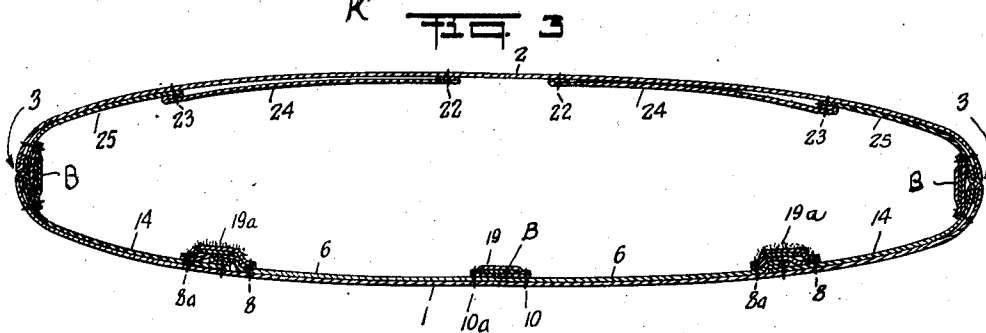
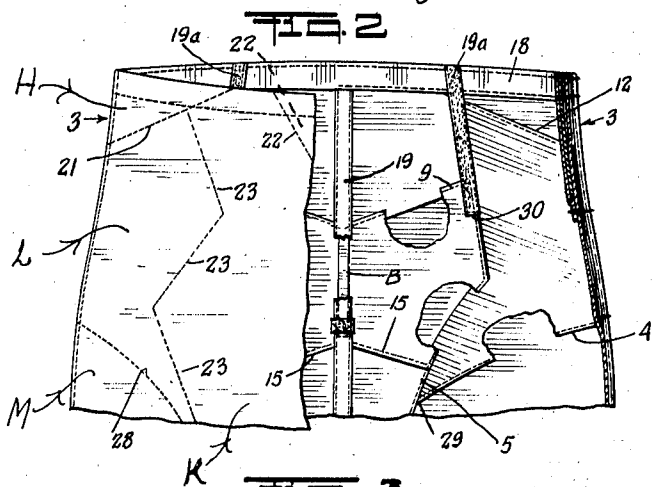
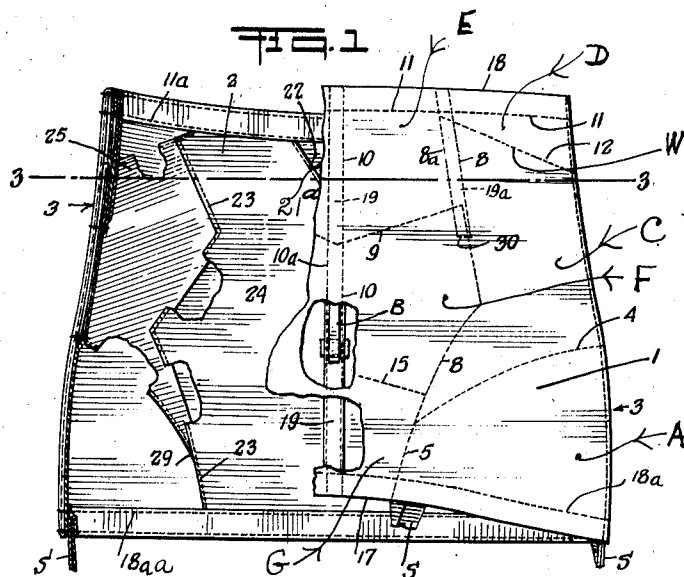
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GIRDLE OR THE LIKE

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GIRDLE OR THE LIKE

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8 Claims. (Cl. 2-43)

My invention relates to a new and improved elastic garment, such as a girdle or the like. The invention includes any garment which has a girdle portion.

Whenever I refer to a girdle, either in the description or in the claims, I include any garment which has a girdle portion.

One of the objects of the invention is to make substantially the entire body of the girdle of elastic two-way stretch material, and to construct the garment so that it will have the desired qualities of restraint and elasticity, thus making it unnecessary to construct the garment with separate panels which have one-way stretch in different directions, and also making it unnecessary to construct the garment with any non-elastic panels or parts.

Another object of the invention is to provide a girdle which is made of two-way stretch material whose restraint is mainly horizontal, save at the sides of the girdle. At its sides, the girdle is provided with bias-cut panels whose elastic restraint is diagonally upwards on each side of each side edge of the garment. These bias-cut panels have tapered bottom extensions, and they exert the necessary upward and lateral pull on the lower part of the abdomen, thus flattening the abdomen and providing sufficient restraint and a flat, smooth fit. The improved garment has bones, but by reason of the improved construction, these bones do not break the lines of the garment, when the wearer is standing or sitting. The bones are only a minor feature of the garment.

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the improved garment, part of the representation thereof having been omitted in order to show the construction of the garment more clearly.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the garment, part of the representation thereof having been omitted, in order to show the interior construction of the garment.

Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

The garment consists generally of a front panel 1 and a rear panel 2 which are connected to each other along side vertical seams 3. The front panel 1 is provided with a bottom edge 17 and a top edge 18. An elastic band of the usual type is sewed to the bottom edge portion of the garment by stitches which are provided at its bottom edge 11 and also by a supplemental line of stitches 13a. The hose supporters S have their upper front ends located between the front panel 1 and this supplemental elastic band. The area

A of the front panel 1 which is defined by the side seams 3, and the stitches 4, 5 and 18a, is unreinforced or of single thickness. A single supplemental panel 14 is connected to the interior of said front panel 1 at the area C which is defined by the stitches 12, 8 and 4. The area D of the front panel 1 which is defined by the stitches 11 and 12 and the side seam 3, is of single thickness. A single reinforcing panel 6 is provided at the area E of the front panel 1, which is defined by the stitches 11, 8a, 10 and 9. Two reinforcing panels, which are located one behind the other, are sewed to the area F of the front panel 1, which is defined by the stitches 8, 9, 10 and 15. A single reinforcing panel is provided at the area G of the front panel 1, which is defined by the stitches 5, 15, 10 and 18a. The vertical row of stitches 10a is parallel to the vertical row of stitches 10. The vertical median line of the front panel 1 is located centrally intermediate the stitches 10 and 10a. The front panel is of symmetrical construction on each side of this median line. Therefore, the above description of the right-hand portion of the panel 1 and of its reinforcement, applies to the left-hand portion thereof. The usual flexible bone insert B is located in a pocket which is provided by a strip of fabric 19, which is stitched to the front panel 1 and to the aforesaid respective reinforcing panels, by the stitches 10 and 10a.

The rear panel 2 has the usual elastic reinforcing band at the top edge-portion and at the bottom edge-portion thereof. The stitches 11a of the rear panel are a continuation of the stitches 11 of the front panel, and the stitches 18aa of the rear panel are a continuation of the stitches 18a. The upper rear ends of the hose-supporter S are located between the bottom edge-portion of the rear panel and the respective elastic reinforcing band.

The rear panel 2 is provided at its top with a triangular portion 21a, which is of single thickness. It is also provided at its top side-portions with triangular portions or areas H of single thickness, the same being defined by the side seams 3, and the stitches 21. The stitches 22 define the triangular single-thickness portion 21a of the rear panel 2. A single reinforcing panel 24 is connected to the area K of the rear panel 2, which is defined by the stitches 22, 23 and 18aa. In Fig. 3, it appears that the reinforcing panel 24 consists of two panels, but this is due solely to the fact that this panel 24 has a triangular cut-out which coincides with the edges of

triangular area 21a. The stitches 22 connect the edges of said cut-out of panel 24, to the edges of triangular area 21a.

Reinforcing panels 25 are connected to the areas L of the rear panel which are defined by the side seams 3, and the stitches 23 and 28. The stitches 23 intersect the respective stitches 23 at the points 29. The areas M of the rear panel 2 between the side seams 3, and the stitches 18aa, 29 and 23, are of single thickness.

Additional resilient bone inserts B are provided at the side seams of the garment and also in pockets which are provided by supplemental strips 19a, which are sewed to the front panel by means of the stitches 8 and 8a. All these resilient bone inserts are provided in the front panel and at the side seams. The median insert B is longer than the other inserts. Each insert B extends substantially to the top edge of the garment. The height of each insert is less than the height of the garment.

All the reinforcing panels previously mentioned are preferably provided at the respective inner walls of the front panels 1 and 2. All the stitches previously mentioned are elastic stitches, so that the entire garment is horizontally and vertically elastic.

The fabric may be of the well-known netted type, which has main parallel elastic threads which are connected by much shorter lateral elastic or non-elastic threads. This fabric is designated in the trade as "power net" fabric. Said main parallel threads are located horizontally in panels 1, 2, 6 and 24, and in the panels which correspond to areas F and G.

Said main elastic threads are parallel to stitches 12 and 21, in the bias-cut side panels 14 and 25.

The invention is not limited to any particular type of two-way stretch material. This may be woven or knitted. However, the main restraint or elastic resistance to extension, is in the direction of the aforesaid parallel threads. That is, while all the fabric which is used in the garment has two-way stretch, the resistance to extension is mainly in the horizontal direction, save in the bias-cut side panels 14 and 25 in which the main resistance to extension is diagonally upward.

The main parallel elastic threads of panels 14 and 25 make an angle of about 120° with each other.

The drawing is substantially to scale, and reference is made thereto for further details, including the angular relations of the respective stitches.

The same elastic material can, therefore, be used throughout in making the garment, save that some of the reinforcing panels, namely, the side reinforcing panels 14 and 25, are cut on the bias. The garment is very thin throughout, even where the reinforcement is applied, due to this construction. Likewise, the single-thickness portions of the garment at its top and bottom have the same effect as gores, and this construction is superior to the use of gores, since the improved construction make it unnecessary to sew gores into the garment.

This construction also provides very flat seams, thus avoiding objectionable bulk. Since the garment has two-way stretch throughout, it is extremely comfortable and it provides the necessary durability and smooth lines.

The restraint at the central portion F of the front panel of the garment is substantially as

great as though this central portion F were made of non-stretchable material.

The level of the waist-line of the garment is defined by the reference letter W.

The invention is not limited to the specific construction.

This garment has top downwardly tapered side-portion, each of which comprises an area D and an area H. The garment also has bottom upwardly tapered side-portion, each of which comprises an area A and an area M. These side-portion are thinner than the directly-adjacent areas of the garment. The thickest part of the garment is at area F. The hose-supporters are connected to the bottom side-portion of the garment. Each hose-supporter is vertically aligned with a reinforcing panel which has upwardly inclined main yarns or threads. When the garment is horizontally extended on the body of the wearer, the up pull of the bias-cut side panels molds the body and produces a very smooth fit.

Numerous changes and omissions can be made from the specific embodiment illustrated herein, without departing from the spirit of the invention. The invention is not limited to a garment which has seams at its side edges. As defined in the claims, the invention includes component parts of the improved garment, and the invention is not necessarily limited to a garment which is made throughout of two-way stretch construction.

I claim:

1. A girdle which has a front main panel and a rear main panel, said main panels being made of material which is elastic and resistant to extension in a horizontal direction and whose resistance to vertical extension exceeds its resistance to horizontal extension, said main panels having reinforcing panels which are made of said material sewed thereto at selected reinforced areas of said main panels in order to increase the resistance to horizontal extension of said selected reinforced areas, said main front panel having such a reinforced side-area at each vertical side-edge thereof, said reinforced side-area being located vertically between vertically superposed top and bottom side-areas of said front main panel, said reinforced side-area having greater resistance to horizontal extension than said top side-area and said bottom side-area, said front main panel having vertically superposed median areas intermediate said side-areas, the median area which is vertically intermediate the top median area and the bottom median area being the abdominal portion of said front main panel, said vertically intermediate median area being thus reinforced and having greater resistance to horizontal extension than the top median area and the bottom median area, said vertically intermediate median area being horizontally aligned with said reinforced side-areas.

2. A girdle according to claim 1, in which the rear main panel has such a reinforced side-area at each side edge thereof, the respective reinforced side-areas of the respective main panels being in horizontal registration.

3. A girdle according to claim 1 in which said abdominal portion has sufficient reinforcement to make said abdominal portion substantially non-extensible in a horizontal direction.

4. A girdle according to claim 1 in which the rear main panel also has vertically superposed side-areas at its respective vertical sides, each side-area of the front main panel being in horizontal registration with a side-area of the rear

main panel of substantially the same respective resistance to horizontal extension.

5. A girdle according to claim 1 in which the rear main panel also has vertically superposed side-areas at its respective vertical sides, each side-area of the front main panel abutting and being in horizontal registration with a side-area of the rear main panel of substantially the same respective resistance to horizontal extension, each top side-area having substantially the shape of a triangle, each triangle having two sides which coincide respectively with the top edge and with the vertical side-edge of the respective main panel.

6. A girdle according to claim 1 in which the rear main panel also has vertically superposed side-areas at its respective vertical sides, each side-area of the front main panel abutting and being in horizontal registration with a side-area of the rear main panel of substantially the same respective resistance to horizontal extension, each top side-area having substantially the shape of a triangle, each triangle having two sides which coincide respectively with the top edge and with the vertical side-edge of the respective main panel, said rear main panel having such a reinforced median area between said side-areas of said rear main panel, the reinforcing panel of said reinforced median area having a downwardly tapered cut-out at its top edge, said last-mentioned reinforcing panel extending substantially from the top edge of said rear main panel to the bottom edge thereof.

7. A girdle which has one-piece front main panel which is made of material which is elastic and resistant to extension in a horizontal direction and whose resistance to vertical extension exceeds its resistance to horizontal extension, said front panel having reinforcing panels which are made of said material sewed thereto at selected reinforced areas of said front panel in order to increase the resistance to horizontal extension of said selected reinforcing areas, said front panel having vertically superposed side-areas at each side thereof and also having vertically superposed median areas which are located horizontally intermediate said side-areas, the top and bottom side-areas being reinforced, the side-area which is vertically intermediate said top and bottom side-areas having a single reinforcing panel, said reinforcing side-area extending above and below the abdominal portion of said front panel, the top median area and the bottom median area each having a single reinforcing panel, the intermediate median area substantially comprising the abdominal portion of said front panel and having a plurality of reinforcing panels connected thereto.

8. A garment according to claim 7, in which each top side-area has the shape of a triangle, two of the edges of said triangle coinciding respectively substantially with the top edge of said front panel and with the respective vertical side edge of said front panel.

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