United States Patent

Block

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[54] ADJUSTABLE SWIM AND SUN SUIT PANTY GARMENT

[72] Inventor: **Lester W. Block,** 8520 Warner Drive, Culver City, Calif. 90230

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**2/67,** 2/224 A, 2/238

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A41d 7/00**

[58] **Field of Search**.....2/67, 224 R, 224 A, 225, 226, 2/238, 198, 240, 80, 83; 128/528, 535

[56] **References Cited**

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Primary Examiner—H. Hampton Hunter

Attorney—Robert C. Comstock

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An adjustable swim and sun suit panty garment having adjusting means for converting the width of the hip bands from the comparatively wide bands of a hip hugger to the comparatively narrower bands of a bikini. The adjusting means is entirely concealed within the hip bands when the garment is worn in a conventional manner. When the garment is converted, only the neatly decorative midportion of the adjusting means is visible from outside the garment. The garment may be converted back and forth as desired.

4 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures

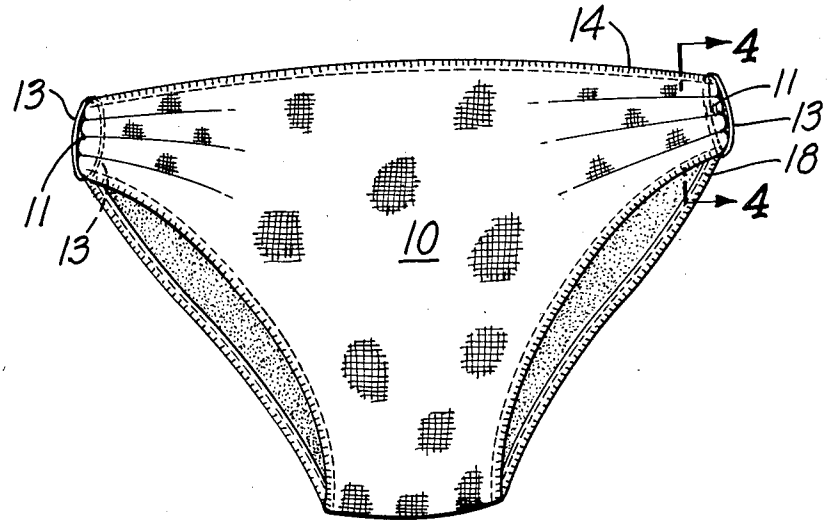


FIG. 1.

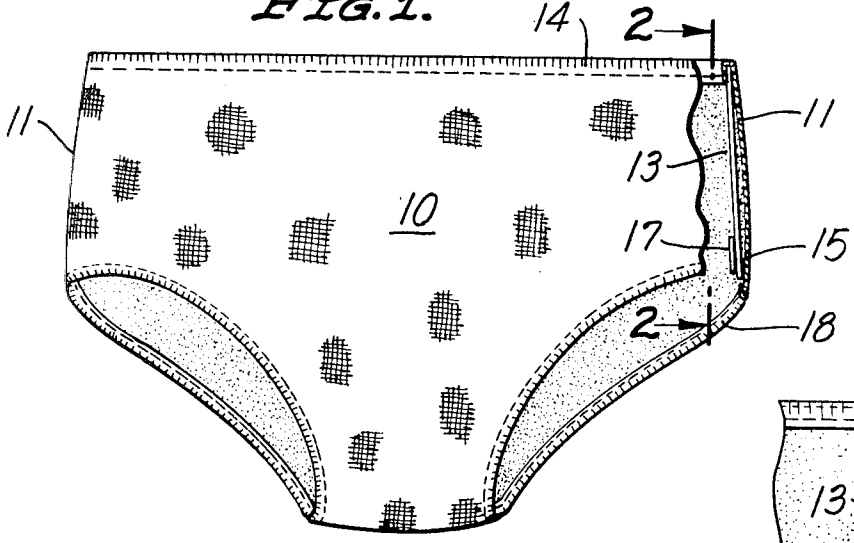


FIG. 2.

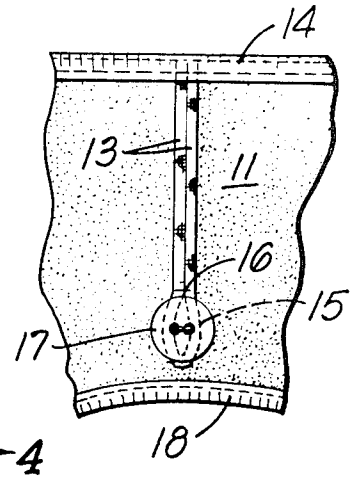


FIG. 3.

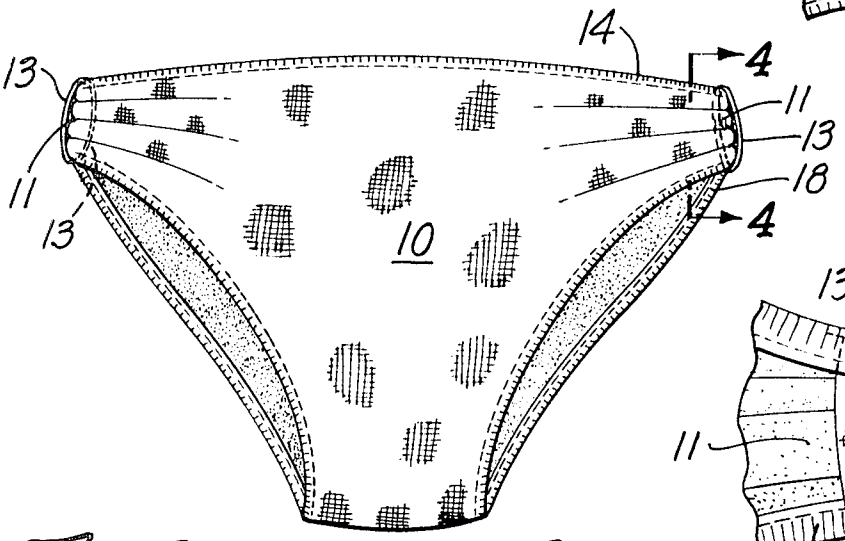


FIG. 4.

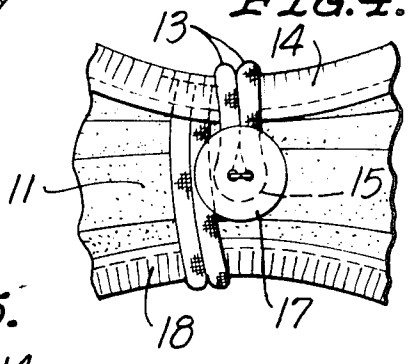


FIG. 6.

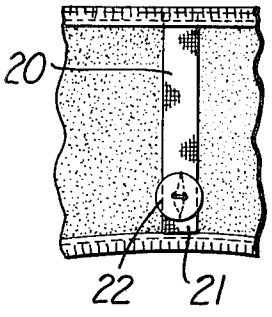
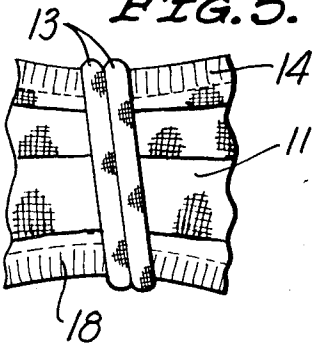


FIG. 5.



INVENTOR
LESTER W. BLOCK
BY
ROBERT C. COMSTOCK
ATTORNEY

ADJUSTABLE SWIM AND SUN SUIT PANTY GARMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a swim and sun suit panty garment which is adjustable as to the width of the hip bands.

2. Description of the Prior Art:

Panty garments of this type now in use are customarily non-adjustable as to the width of the hip bands. Those which are adjustable use a pair of loose strings on each side which are tied into bows. They are usually too tight or too loose and usually cause unsightly irregular bunching of the fabric. The bows are also inclined to twist the seams of the garment outwardly so that the inner lining is exposed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A panty garment which incorporates means for simply and neatly adjusting the width of the hip bands to convert the garment from a hip hugger to a bikini. The garment is converted to a bikini in such a manner that the conversion means is decorative rather than unsightly. No loose strings, tying or bows are involved or required.

With this invention, there is no unsightly bunching of the fabric. Instead, the hip bands are loosely and neatly encircled into attractive folds. Because the amount of pressure is premeasured, the fabric is not held too tight or too loose. The pressure exerted on the seams tends to turn them inwardly instead of outwardly, so the inner lining is not exposed. The narrowing is achieved with a finished rather than a crude, homemade look. The garment can be quickly and easily converted back and forth from one type of garment to the other.

The adjustment means is so simple and economical that it adds substantially nothing to the cost of its manufacture, while saving the wearer the cost of purchasing two separate garments. Even more important, the retailer is saved the cost of carrying a complete duplicate inventory of hip huggers and bikinis, since both types of garments are popular.

It is accordingly among the objects of the invention to provide an adjustable panty garment having all of the advantages and benefits set forth above. The invention also comprises such other objects, advantages and capabilities as will later more fully appear and which are inherently possessed by the invention.

While I have shown in the accompanying drawings preferred embodiments of the invention, it should be understood that the same are susceptible of modification and change without departing from the spirit of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front elevational view of the bikini panty garment showing the hip band in a hip hugger width, with one side broken away to show the adjusting means concealed within the inside of the hip band;

FIG. **2** is a partial inside elevational view of the hip band and adjusting means taken substantially along line **2—2** of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a front elevational view of the garment with the adjusting means in use to convert the garment to a bikini having a narrower hip band;

FIG. **4** is a partial inside elevational view showing the hip band with the adjusting means in use taken substantially along line **4—4** of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a partial outside elevational view similar to FIG. **4**;

FIG. **6** is a view similar to FIG. **2**, showing an alternative embodiment of the invention in which a strap is used for the adjusting member in place of a pair of cords or bands.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A first preferred embodiment which has been selected to illustrate the invention comprises a panty garment **10**, which is constructed in a conventional manner except for the hip band adjustment means. The garment **10** includes a pair of substantially wide hip bands **11** at its opposite sides.

A hip band adjusting member comprises a pair of cords **13**, which are secured at their upper ends to the upper seam **14**, which extends along the upper edge of the hip band **11**. The cords **13** form a loop **15** at their opposite ends. The cords **13** are stitched to each other by stitching **16** disposed somewhat upwardly from the end of the loop **15**.

A button **17** is mounted on the inside of the hip band **11** adjacent to the lower seam **18** which extends along the lower edge of the hip band **11**. The loop **15** is dimensioned to removably fit around the button **17**. The identical structure is provided on the inside of the hip band **11** on the opposite side of the garment **10**.

When the garment is worn as a hip hugger with comparatively wide hip bands **11**, the adjustment means are arranged in the manner shown in FIGS. **1** and **2** of the drawings, with the cords **13** extending vertically downwardly from the upper seam **14** transversely across and substantially parallel to the inside of the hip band **11**. The loops **15** are secured around the buttons **17**, so that the entire adjusting means is securely held and concealed behind the hip bands **11**.

When the garment is converted for use as a bikini having narrower hip bands, the loops **15** are removed from around the buttons **17**. The cords **13** are carried downwardly around the lower edge of the hip band **11**, brought around the outside of the hip band **11** and then brought downwardly over the upper edge of the hip band **11**. The loops **15** are re-secured around the buttons **17**.

The result is that the hip bands **11** are drawn together to less than half of their former width, without any buttons or straps appearing on the outside of the garment except for the neat and decorative midportion of the cords **13**, as best shown in FIG. **5** of the drawings. The hip bands **11** are loosely encircled, so that they fold in an attractive and finished manner, with no unsightly bunching or twisting. Because the length of the adjusting member is predetermined by the manufacturer, the adjusting pressure is never too tight or too loose. There is no unsightly exposure of the seams or the inner lining of the garment because the seams are urged inwardly rather than outwardly.

The garment may easily be converted back to a hip hugger by releasing the adjusting members on both sides of the garment and restoring them to the positions originally described.

The cords **13** are preferably covered with the same fabric as the outside of the garment **10** or are such other color as will render them attractive in use or match other parts of the ensemble.

FIG. **6** of the drawings shows an alternative embodiment of the invention in which the hip band adjusting member comprises a single strap **20** having a buttonhold **21** which fits around a button **22**. The operation of the device is the same as that described above.

I claim:

1. An adjustable panty-type outer garment having a crotch portion, leg openings adjacent said crotch portion and a pair of hip bands on opposite sides thereof, an elongated hip band width adjusting member disposed entirely on the inside of each of said hip bands in a concealed position when said garment is worn as a hip hugger with substantially wide hip bands, one end of said elongated adjusting members being secured to said garment, separable fastening means disposed on the inside of said hip bands for removably holding the other end of said adjusting members in said concealed positions, said adjusting members being movable to a second position in which they extend around and completely encircle said hip bands to fold and compress said hip bands to a substantially narrower width when said garment is worn as a bikini, said fastening means removably holding said adjusting members in said second positions with only the midportions of said adjusting members being exposed when said garment is worn as a bikini.

2. The structure described in claim **1**, each of said hip bands having an upper edge and a lower edge, said fastening means being disposed adjacent to one of said edges, said one end of each of said adjusting members being secured adjacent to the

other of said edges, said adjusting members extending substantially parallel to the insides of said hip bands between said edges when said garment is worn as a hip hugger.

3. The structure described in claim 2, each of said fastening means comprising an inwardly facing button and each of said adjusting members having a button receiving opening at the free outer end thereof.

4. The structure described in claim 3, said garment having seams extending along its upper and lower edges, the upper end of each of said adjusting members being stitched into the upper seam of said garment, and said buttons being disposed adjacent to the lower seams of said garment.

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