July 26, 1960 G. M. MORICH 2,946,333

COMBINATION FOUNDATION GARMENT AND BRASSIERE

Filed June 1, 1959

FIG. 1.

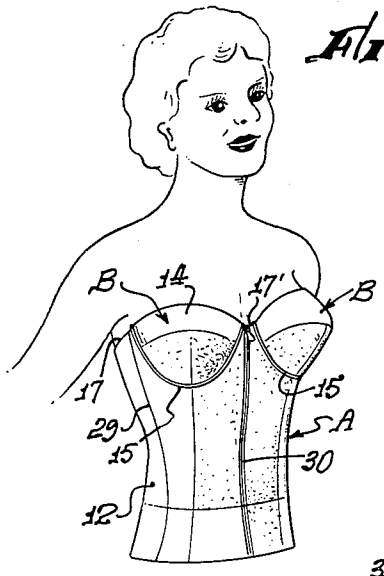



FIG. 2.

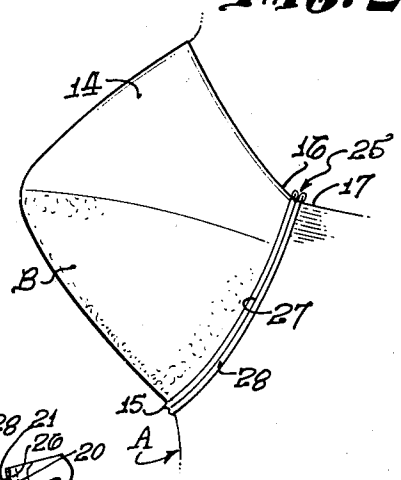



FIG. 5.

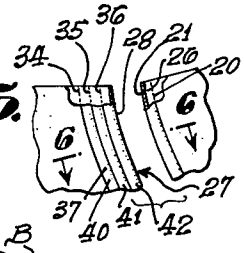



FIG. 6.

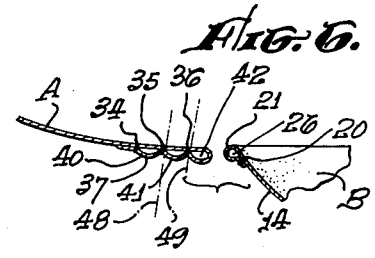



FIG. 3.

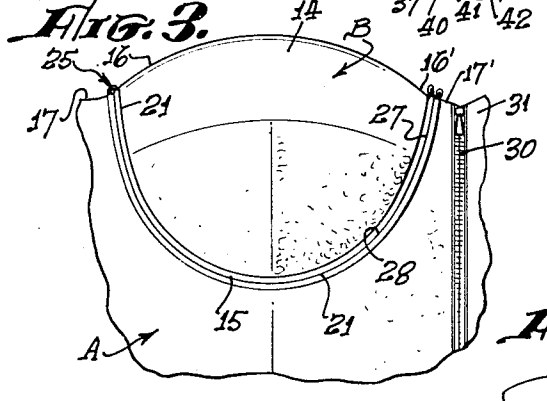



FIG. 7.

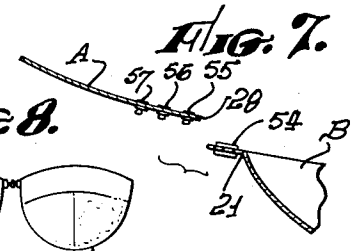



FIG. 8.

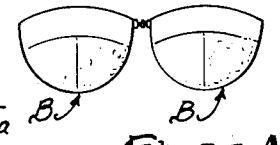
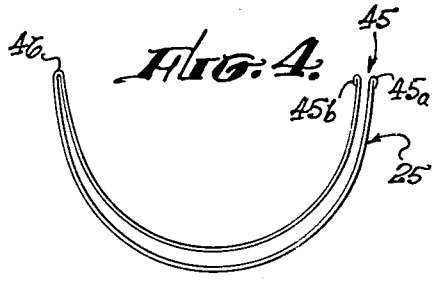



FIG. 4.




GLORIA M. MORICH,
INVENTOR.

BY
William C. Babcock
ATTORNEY.

United States Patent Office

2,946,333

Patented July 26, 1960



2,946,333

# COMBINATION FOUNDATION GARMENT AND BRASSIERE

Gloria Mary Morich, 4326 E. 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

Filed June 1, 1959, Ser. No. 817,250

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—482)

This invention relates to women's garments and more particularly to a combination foundation garment and brassiere.

Women's combination garments which include in one piece a torso fitting foundation garment and a brassiere section present fitting problems for the wearer and inventory problems for the seller due to the various combinations of waist size and breast size of the wearer. That is, in garments of the type which enclose a portion of a woman's torso, the fit and line of the garment are of primary consideration, it being apparent that a proper fit about the waist and torso of the woman is the main objective of the foundation garment. When the garment is of the type which includes a brassiere, especially of the strapless type, the problem of correct fit is compounded since the various combinations of waist size and torso line, together with the shape and size of the bust cups of the brassiere, can all differ for each woman being fitted.

Prior to the present invention a correct fit of both the foundation section and brassiere section of a single combination garment could be assured only by custom manufacture tailored to the individual wearer. The problems of compound fitting are especially apparent in connection with strapless garments of the type which extend upward from the waist of the wearer and terminate in a strapless brassiere section. In such garments the torso fitting portion of the garment must conform snugly to the waist and torso of the woman, particularly across the side and back at the upper end of the garment, since the brassiere section must be supported completely by the foundation portion of the garment without the benefit of straps extending over the shoulders. In such garments it is difficult for the wearer to procure a ready-made garment with this required torso fit and which also includes a brassiere section of the correct cup size and shape.

In addition to the above discussed fitting problems for the wearer and inventory problems for the seller of ready-made garments, the combination garments involve particular laundering problems since the type and frequency of laundering for the torso or foundation section may differ from the brassiere section of the gament. That is, in such combination garments laundering of the entire garment is necessary after almost every wearing. Such frequent laundering is often not necessary for the torso part of the garment and may in fact be detrimental to the torso section of the garment, if the section includes elastic portions. It is therefore desirable to be able to separate the brassiere section from the torso section for individual laundering of each.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a combination garment including a torso fitting foundation section and a brassiere section wherein the brassiere section is separable from the foundation section.

It is a primary object of the present invention to provide a combination foundation and brassiere garment wherein the size of the brassiere section can be varied without varying the fit of the torso section of the garment.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a combination foundation and brassiere garment wherein the brassiere section of the garment is interchangeable and removable such that various cup sizes can be fitted to the torso fitting foundation portion of the garment to allow separate fitting and purchase of the foundation by waist size and the brassiere section by bust size.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a combination foundation garment and brassiere wherein the breast cups of the brassiere section of the garment can be varied in size without varying the size of the torso fitting portion of the garment.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a combination foundation garment and brassiere wherein the means for affixing removable breast cups to the garment also serve as a stiffening and support means for the breast cups of the brassiere.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide an improved combination garment which is inexpensive of manufacture and which may be adapted to both the torso size and bust size of the wearer without alteration of the torso section or brassiere section, which are independent.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a combination garment of the type described in which the breast cups are removable from the garment and breast cups of a different type and size are readily attachable to the garment.

The present invention comprises a combination foundation garment having a torso section and a brassiere section which comprises a torso section having cut-out portions at the upper front marginal edge of the torso fitting foundation section. The cut-out portions correspond in configuration to the lower inner edge of a breast cup of the brassiere section. A plurality of concentrically arranged fastening means extend inwardly from the edge of the cut-out portions. Breast cups are provided with fastening means along the lower peripheral edge of the cup, which fastening means are mateable with one of the concentric series of fasteners, dependent upon the size of the cup which is used.

The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the present invention both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, which will be better understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawing in which a presently preferred embodiment and an alternative embodiment of the invention are illustrated by way of example. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawing is for the purpose of illustration and description only and is not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention as worn by the wearer thereof;

Figure 2 is a view in elevation showing a breast cup of the present invention affixed to the torso fitting foundation section of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a front view in elevation corresponding to Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a front view of the presently preferred fastening means in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 5 is a partial view in detail showing the mating edges of the torso fitting foundation portion of the present invention and the breast cup thereof;

Figure 6 is a view in section corresponding to Figure 5 and taken along line 6—6 of Figure 5; and

Figure 7 is a view corresponding to Figure 6 showing an alternative embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 8 is a partial view showing the brassiere cups connected together to furnish lateral support.

Referring now particularly to Figure 1 there is shown

a presently preferred embodiment of the present invention as embodied in the type of foundation garment commonly known as a "Merry Widow" in which the garment extends upwardly from below the waist of the wearer and terminates above the bust line of the wearer, and which provides a strapless brassiere. The garment includes, in general, a torso fitting foundation section A and first and second breast cups B. The torso fitting section of the garment is of the conventional construction, with the exception of the brassiere section. That is, in the type of garment shown, which extends from below the waist of the wearer, the torso fitting section A is formed such that it fits snugly at the waist of the wearer and around the back, extending upwardly along the front, back and sides of the wearer to a position at the side just below the arms of the wearer. Such a garment is most generally purchased in accordance with the waist size and hip size of the wearer since it is essential that the torso fitting portion of the garment snugly engage the wearer's body at the hip line, waistline and upward thereof to impart a smooth flowing line to the upper torso of the wearer.

In the illustrative embodiment shown, the garment is of the front fastening type with a zipper **30** extending the full length of the garment substantially up the front center line of the garment. To provide a constantly snug fit of the torso fitting portion A of the garment, conventional means such as elastic side panels **12** may be employed in order that the garment may vary in size to accommodate breathing and normal movement of the wearer.

Referring now particularly to Figures 1, 2 and 3, the brassiere section in accordance with the present invention is removably attached to the torso fitting foundation section A of the garment. First and second individual breast cups B are provided in combination with the garment and are attachable thereto. The breast cups are substantially similar in shape and are sized in the conventional manner as A, B, C and D cups. For purposes of illustration, a torso fitting foundation portion A which will accommodate cup sizes A, B and C is shown, although it will be apparent from the following that the torso fitting foundation section A can also be formed to accommodate a wider range of sizes, for example, A through D cup size. For most purposes a single torso fitting foundation portion which will accommodate cup sizes A through C will be sufficient, and accordingly is chosen as the illustrative embodiment.

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, each of the first and second breast cups B is similarly formed, and the main body portion **14** thereof may be formed in accordance with any of the well-known methods of stitching or forming to provide decorative or supporting construction for the breast cup. In addition, breast cups having reinforcing material such as sponge rubber throughout the lower portion thereof, or wire reinforcement extending vertically along the center line thereof may be used. In the present invention, however, the breast cup is formed with a hem-like pocket extending throughout the lower peripheral edge **15** thereof. That is, as shown particularly in Figures 5 and 6, the breast cup is formed with the material forming the cup folded upon itself along the inner peripheral edge extending from the upper edge **16** at one side of the cup downward and around to the upper edge **16'** at the opposite side of the cup. A continuous stitch is then sewn through the folded-over portion of the material inwardly of the fold line **21** and continuously from the first upper edge **16** to the second upper edge **16'**, whereby the stitching **20** being inward of the fold line **21** of the material forms a hem-like pocket **26** extending about the lower peripheral inner edge **21** of the breast cup. The distance by which the stitching **20** is spaced inwardly from the fold line **21** is dependent upon the size or diameter of the fastener **25** to be used as described hereinafter. Thus, the stitching formed through the double thickness of the folded material inwardly of the fold line **21** provides a pocket of small inside configuration which extends along the length of the lower peripheral edge **21** of the breast cup B from a point at the upper edge of the cup to the opposed upper edge thereof. As discussed hereinbefore with the exception of the pocket **26** which is formed therein, the remaining construction of the breast cup may take any of a variety of forms, and may be plain, padded or reinforced.

With particular reference to Figures 2, 3, and 5, the torso fitting section A of the garment is formed as described hereinbefore. However, cut-out portions **27** are provided extending downward from the upper front marginal edge **17** of the torso fitting portion A of the garment. That is, at both sides of the center line defined in this embodiment by the zipper **30** a cut-out portion is made from the upper edge **17'**, and extends toward the arm or side panel to the outer upper edge **17**. The cut-out portion follows a line **28** of the torso section A in such a manner that the edge formed along the line **28** conforms in configuration to the outer edge or fold line **21** of the breast cups B. That is, as shown particularly in Figures 1 and 3, the brassiere section of the garment comprises two similar sections at the upper end of the garment extending outwardly from the center fastening line **30** along the front panel to the side panel **12** at the side line **29** of the garment. The brassiere section is thus defined by first and second cut-out portions extending downwardly from the upper edge of the garment whereby an upwardly extending tongue or apex **31** is formed between the breast supporting portions of the brassiere section with a downwardly extending, approximately semi-circular cut-out portion **27** extending from each side of the apex downward from the upper edge of the torso fitting portion A to the side point **17** adjacent the wearer's arm.

The configuration of the upper peripheral edge of the brassiere section **28** conforms with the line of edge **21** of each breast cup B. Along the peripheral edge **28** of the torso fitting section there is provided a concentric series of stitching **34**, **35** and **36** through a folded width of material **37** extending inwardly from the peripheral edge **28**. Thus, the material of the torso fitting section adjacent the brassiere section cut-out portions is folded inwardly upon itself and stitched through by a concentric or parallel series of stitching lines **34**, **35** and **36** spaced substantially equally inward from the fold line **28**, as shown particularly in Figure 6, to form a plurality of hem-like pockets **40**, **41** and **42**. The rows of stitching **34**, **35** and **36** extend parallel to the peripheral edge **28** throughout the length of the cut-out portion, that is from the upper edge of the torso fitting section downward parallel to the edge **28** of the cut-out portion and upward to the opposed point of the edge. The parallel lines of stitching **34**, **35** and **36** thus form parallel hem-like pockets **40**, **41** and **42** at spaced distances from the edge **28**. The distance by which the spaced rows of stitching are spaced from the edge **28** is determined by the edge line **21** of breast cups of different sizes. That is, the row of stitching **36** is spaced inward from the edge line **28** by a distance such that the edge line **21** of an A cup would be juxtaposed to the fold line **28** when the A cup was inserted into the cut-out portion of the torso fitting section. The second row of stitching **35** is spaced inwardly from the first row of stitching **36** so that the fold line or edge **21** of a breast cup of B-size would be juxtaposed to the stitched line **36**. Similarly, the third row of stitching **34** is spaced inwardly of the second row of stitching **35** such that the outer edge **21** of a C-size bust cup would mate with the stitch line **35**. Thus, the three hem-like pockets **40**, **41** and **42** would mate with bust cups of C-size, B-size and A-size respectively when

the cup was positioned in the cut-out portion of the garment.

Referring now particularly to Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6, the presently preferred means for affixing each bust cup to the torso fitting portion of the garment is shown in Figure 4. The fastening means comprises a semi-rigid length of material such as wire, which has been folded upon itself and then bent to a curvature corresponding to the curvature of the edge **28** of the cut-out portion of the garment and the edge **21** of the bust cup, which edges are mateable. The affixing means **25** is thus separable at the first end **45** and joined at the opposed end **46**.

Accordingly, it may be seen that a bust cup of A-size is positioned within the cut-out portion of the garment, the hem-like pocket **26** of the bust cup is adjacent to the first hem-like pocket **42** of the torso fitting portion of the garment defined between the edge **28** and the first row of stitching **36**. If the bust cup is placed into this position it may be joined to the torso fitting portion of the garment by inserting separated ends **45***a* and **45***b* of the fastening means **25** into the pockets and threading the fastening means **46** throughout the length of the pockets until the joined end **46** of the fastening means reaches the edge of the garment as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The separated ends **45***a* and **45***b* of the fastening means **25** are preferably beaded or folded upon themselves to provide a retaining means which can hook over the edge of the material of the garment after the fastening means has been inserted through the cup B and the torso fitting section A to retain the fastening means **25** in position.

It may be seen that if it is desired to affix a B-size bust cup, as in the illustrative embodiment, to the combination garment, it is necessary only to insert the fastening means **25** through the pocket **26** of the cup and the second pocket **41** of the torso fitting portion formed between the first row **36** and the second row **35** of the stitching. Similarly, a C-cup can be affixed to the torso fitting portion of the garment by positioning the C-cup in the cut-out portion and inserting the fastening means **25** through the pockets **26** of the bust cup and the third pocket **40** formed between the second row of stitching **35** and the third row of stitching **34**. The fastener can, of course, be inserted in either direction although in the figures the closed end **46** of the fastener is shown at the outer edge **16—17**. As shown in Figure 8, additional lateral support of the brassiere can be obtained if necessary by affixing a connecting means such as a hook and eye connection **53** between the cups at the apex **31**. Similarly, a connecting means can be fastened between the fastener **25** to connect them laterally after they are inserted in position as described above.

In fitting a combination garment to the individual wearer the pockets **42** or **41** corresponding to a cup size smaller than that of the wearer can be folded inward into the bust cup or can be removed by the seller. That is, if it is determined that the torso fitting portion A of the garment is correct for the wearer and that a C-cup brassiere section is necessary, the pair of C-cups are affixed to the torso fitting portion A by inserting the fastening means **25** through the pocket **26** of the bust cup and the third pocket **40** of the torso fitting portion A. In this case the first and second pockets **42** and **41** are not used and are superfluous. If desired they may therefore be removed from the torso fitting portion of the garment by trimming them outside of the second row of stitching **35** as shown at a trim-line **48**. Similarly, if a B-cup is used the first pocket **42** may be removed by cutting the garment along the trim-line **49** outward of the first row of stitching **36**.

Accordingly it can be seen from the foregoing that the combination foundation garment and brassiere can be formed in accordance with the present invention by selecting a torso fitting portion A of the proper size and configuration to conform in the required manner to the waist size and torso of the wearer. The brassiere section is then formed by selecting the proper cup size for the wearer and affixing the cups to the torso fitting section as described hereinabove such that the combination garment then fits the wearer perfectly in both the torso section and the brassiere section. In addition, the cups are removably affixed and can be removed from the garment for interchangeability or separate laundering.

Referring now to Figure 7, an alternative embodiment of the present invention is shown. The alternative embodiment is in all respects similar to the embodiment previously described with the exception that the means for fastening the bust cups B to the torso fitting section A differs. That is, in the alternative embodiment a row of fasteners **54**, such as conventional snap fasteners, are formed outwardly of and along the lower peripheral edge **21** of the bust cup. Concentric rows of mating fasteners **55**, **56** and **57** are affixed to the torso fitting section along the edge **28** of the garment and are spaced inwardly from the edge of the garment by an amount determined to conform with bust cups of A-size, B-size and C-size respectively.

Thus, the bust cups in the alternative embodiment are attached to the torso fitting portion A by selecting the proper size of cup and affixing it to the appropriate mating row of fasteners. Thus, if an A-cup is required, it is affixed to the garment by mating the fasteners **54** of the bust cup to the first row of fasteners **55** on the torso fitting portion. Similarly, a B-cup is affixed by fastening the cup to the second row of fasteners **56** and a C-cup is affixed to the third row of fasteners **57**.

Although the present invention has been described with an illustrative strapless brassiere section it is to be understood that straps can be affixed to the brassiere section. In addition, a foundation section of some length has been shown although the invention is applicable to any foundation section extending beneath the bust line.

Thus, the present invention provides a combination foundation garment having a torso fitting foundation portion and brassiere section wherein the brassiere section comprises two bust cups removably affixed to the torso fitting portion. Improved means are provided for affixing the brassiere section to the foundation section. The present invention provides such a garment where bust cups of the proper size are affixed to a foundation portion which has previously been fitted and is of the proper size, thus allowing the brassiere section to be varied without varying the fit of the torso section of the garment. Thus, the brassiere cups can be purchased and fitted independently of the foundation, which is fitted according to waist size independently of bust size. The bust cups are removable from the torso fitting foundation portion of the garment for interchangeability or separate laundering and in addition may be interchanged when the bust size of the wearer varies without any variation in the torso size or configuration of the wearer.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination foundation garment and brassiere comprising: a torso fitting foundation section adapted to fit the wearer extending downwardly from the bust line, the upper marginal edge of said section defining two downwardly extending laterally spaced apart cut-out portions, two breast cups of predetermined size removably engageable with said section, said cut-out portions each being formed in a configuration mateable with the lower peripheral edge of one of said breast cups, fastening means on each of said breast cups, which is a stitched, turned-over portion at the peripheral edge thereof that defines a peripherally extending pocket, a plurality of concentrically arranged fastening means on said section including a turned-over portion extending inwardly from said cut-out portions stitched in spaced apart concentric lines to define a plurality of peripherally extending pockets; and engaging means including a resilient member removably insertable into said peripheral pocket on

said cup and one of said pockets on said section to interconnect said cups and section.

2. The garment as defined in claim 1 in which said resilient member in said engaging means is folded upon itself to form two interconnected curved members one of which is insertable into said peripheral pocket of said cup and one of which is insertable into one of said pockets on said section.




**References Cited in the file of this patent**

UNITED STATES PATENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2,016,614 | Rawetzky | Oct. 8, 1935 |
| 2,559,294 | Goddard | July 3, 1951 |
| 2,671,218 | Luhr | Mar. 9, 1954 |

FOREIGN PATENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 898,282 | Germany | Nov. 30, 1953 |