Dec. 25, 1945. I. F. HILL 2,391,417

BRASSIERE

Filed Sept. 29, 1944

Fig. 1.

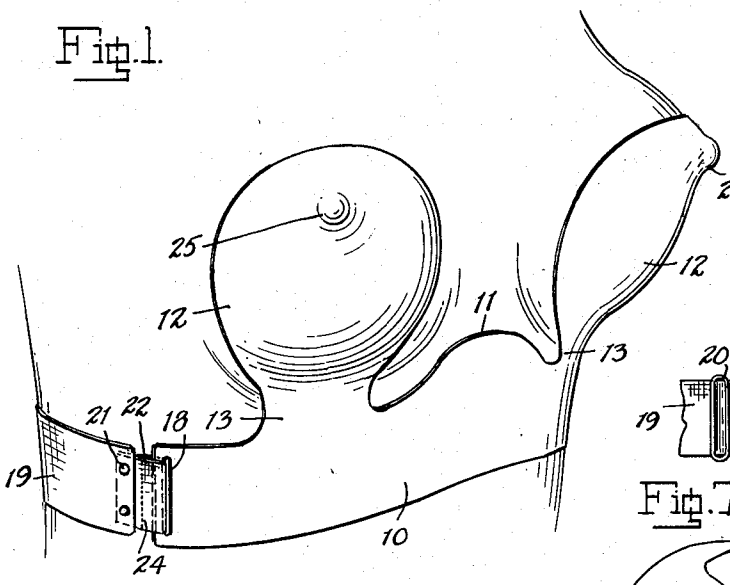



Fig. 2.

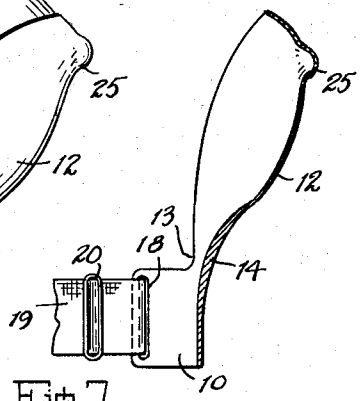



Fig. 3.

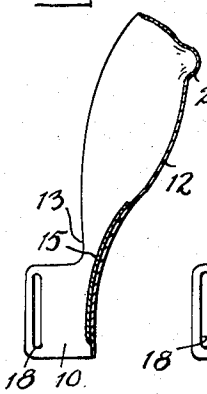



Fig. 4.

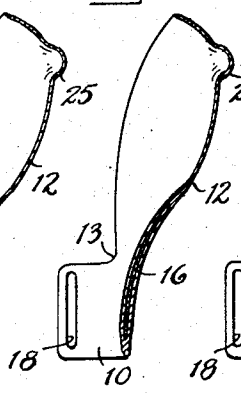



Fig. 5.

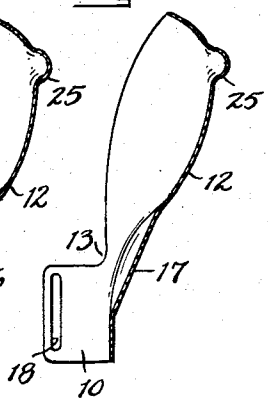



Fig. 7.

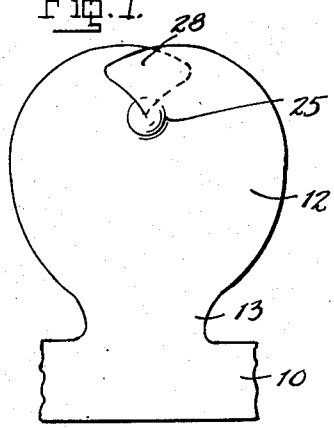



Fig. 8.

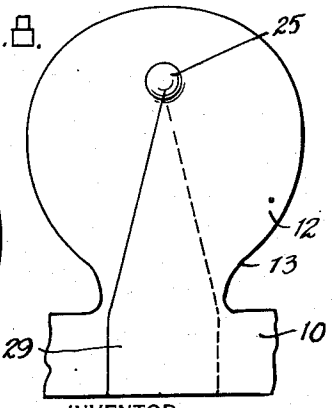



Fig. 6.

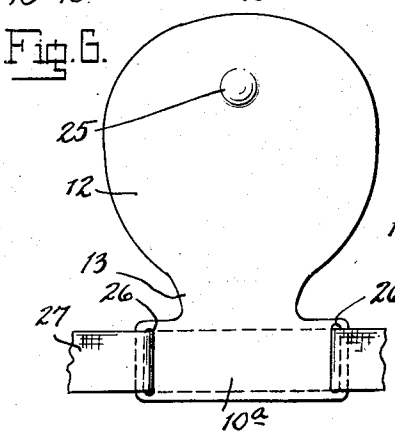
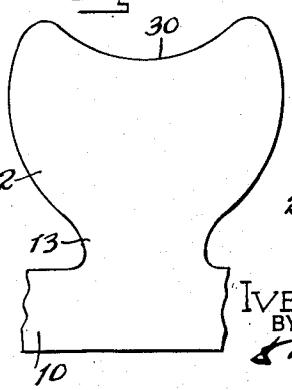



Fig. 9.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BRASSIÈRE

Iver F. Hill, Stratford, Conn.

Application September 29, 1944, Serial No. 556,353

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

The present invention relates to a brassière, and especially a brassière formed of moulded plastic material, or of other suitable substance capable of being formed into a semi-rigid moulded shape, as for instance pulp fibre.

An object of the invention is to provide a brassière which will be natural in appearance, comfortable to wear, will provide adequate support, and will be self-sustaining, this last mentioned characteristic being effectually carried out through the inherent structural form of the brassière without the necessity for shoulder straps. Hence, the brassière will be suitable for wear with strapless gowns, and for ordinary wear will not have the uncomfortable cutting effect of shoulder straps.

With the above and other objects in view, embodiments of the invention are shown in the accompanying drawing, and these embodiments will be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawing—

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a brassière, according to one form of the invention, being shown in its operative position upon the wearer.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of one of the brassière pockets, this being the right hand pocket as seen in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a similar sectional view of a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a similar sectional view of another modified form of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a similar view of still another modified form of the invention.

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of a single pocket unit, according to a further modified form of the invention, two such units adapted to be attached to a supporting band to form the complete brassière.

Fig. 7 is a front elevation of another modified form of the invention, wherein the plastic material is of sheet form and is overlapped at its upper portion to provide a pocket formation.

Fig. 8 is a front elevation of a further modified form, similar to the form shown in Fig. 7, but wherein the sheet material is overlapped in the lower portion to provide a pocket formation.

Fig. 9 is a front elevation of another modification.

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

Referring to the drawing, and more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2 thereof, the brassière, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention shown therein, comprises a front band portion 10 adapted to embrace the diaphragm of the wearer, being provided centrally with an upwardly arched upper edge portion 11 adapted to extend upwardly between the breasts of the wearer, and at each side of which there are provided upwardly extending pocket portions 12 of generally rounded cupped shape. These are preferably of circular or oval outline, and the connections between them and the band portion 10 are in the form of contracted neck portions 13. The contracted neck portions 13 are curved inwardly and downwardly where they join the band portion 10 and are structurally reinforced, as at 14, so as to provide a substantially rigid support between the band portion and the pocket portions, this reinforcement being provided by moulding the plastic material of substantially increased thickness, as shown in Fig. 2.

The reinforcement between the band and pocket portions may be provided by a separate reinforcing layer 15, as shown in Fig. 3, homogeneously joined to the layer of material forming the band and pocket portions by suitable adhesive, such as, for instance, "Acetone," in the case of a cellulose acetate plastic material. Another modified form of reinforcement may consist of a metal insert 16, as shown in Fig. 4, moulded into the material forming the band and pocket portions. A further modified form of reinforcement may consist of an embossed strut-like rib 17, as shown in Fig. 5, extending across the curve between the band and pocket portions.

At each end of the band portion 10 there is provided a slot 18 for the purpose of attachment thereto of an elastic fastening band 19. This band 19 may be threaded through the slot 18 at one end and secured by an adjustment buckle 20 as shown in Fig. 2, its other end being releasably connected by snap fasteners 21 to a tab 22, engaged through the slot 18 at the other end and secured by suitable stitching 24.

While the pocket portions 12 may be of any suitable shape, they preferably are moulded into an approximately natural shape and to this end are provided with nipple points 25, slightly below the upper edge of the pocket portion, the pocket portion above the points curving upwardly and inwardly. In addition to giving a natural appearance, this arrangement effectually supports and confines the breasts.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 6, the pocket portion 12 is connected to a short band portion $10^a$ having slots 26 at each end through

which an elastic supporting band 27 may be engaged, two such pocket portions with their supporting band portions 10a being provided to form a complete brassière. Two single units as shown in Fig. 6 may, if desired, be homogeneously connected by suitable adhesive to a supporting band of plastic material, this arrangement permitting manufacture with a smaller size mould than would be possible with the completely integral form of the invention shown in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 7 there is shown a modified form of the invention formed from plastic sheet material which is capable of being pressed into suitable moulded form when heated, the general cup shape of the pocket portion 12 being formed by splitting the material above the nipple point 25 and overlapping and adhesively connecting it together, as at 28. In Fig. 8 there is shown another modified form similar in principle to that shown in Fig. 7, wherein the material is split and overlapped below the point 25, as at 29, and adhesively connected.

In the modification shown in Fig. 9 the upper nipple portion of the brassière is cut away, as at 30, the cut-out being defined by a concavely curved edge.

Obviously, the modified forms of the invention shown in Figs. 7 to 9 may be incorporated in the complete integral brassière, as shown in Fig. 1, as well as in the single unit type, as shown in Fig. 6. It will also be obvious that the reinforcing means 14, 15, 16 and 17 may be employed in any of the several modified forms. The brassière structure may if desired be suitably perforated for ventilation purposes, and may also be covered wholly or in part by suitable fabric material.

I have illustrated and described preferred and satisfactory embodiments 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.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a brassière, an integral structure of moulded plastic material, or the like, comprising a supporting band portion and an initially cupped pocket portion extending upwardly from said band portion and connected thereto by a contracted neck portion, said pocket portion at its lower part being curved outwardly and upwardly with respect to said band portion, and a reinforcing means of relatively increased stiffness disposed in said neck portion along the curve between said band and pocket portions.

2. In a brassière, an integral structure of moulded plastic material, or the like, comprising a supporting band portion and an initially cupped pocket portion extending upwardly from said band portion and connected thereto by an integral connection portion, said pocket portion at its lower part being curved outwardly and upwardly with respect to said band portion, and a reenforcing means of relatively increased stiffness disposed in said connection portion along the curve between said band and pocket portions.

IVER F. HILL.