March 28, 1967 J. MURRAY 3,311,112

BRASSIERE AND DETACHABLE SHOULDER HARNESS

Filed March 25, 1965

FIG. 1

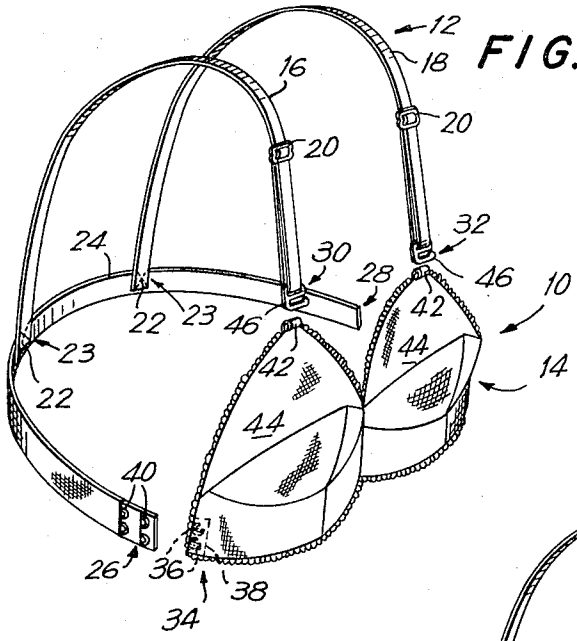


FIG. 2

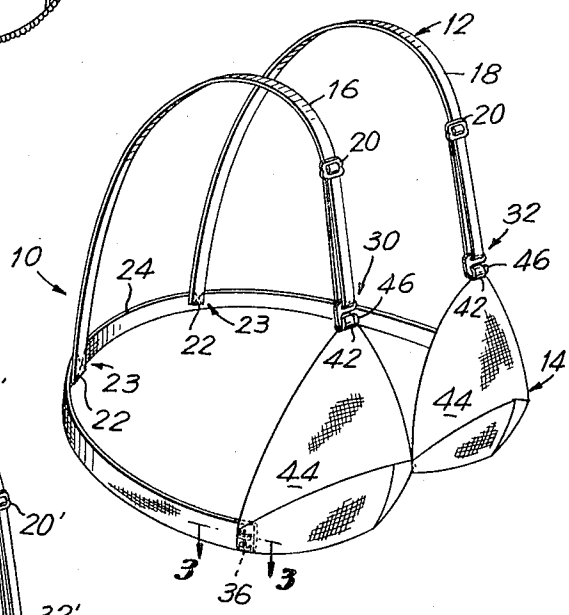


FIG. 4

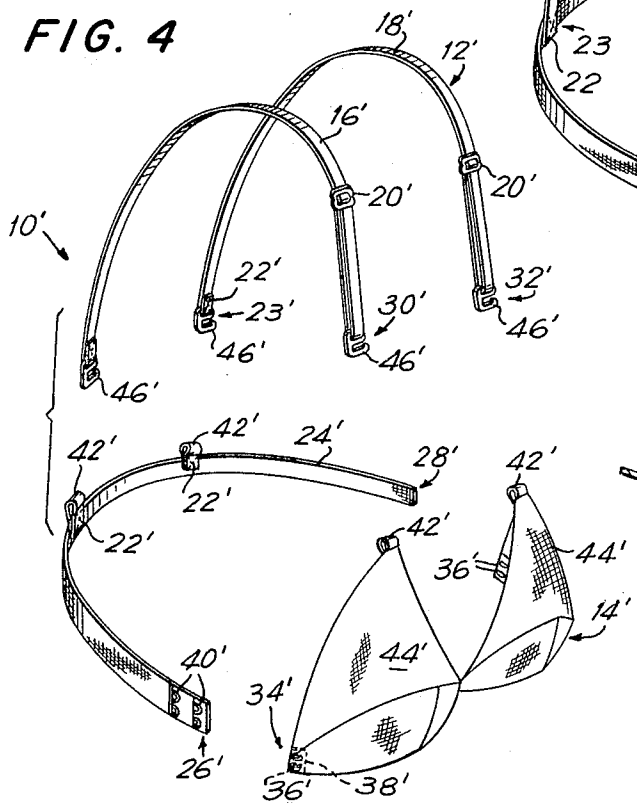
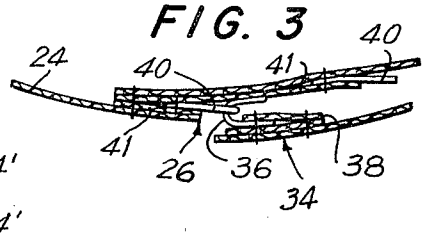


FIG. 3



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United States Patent Office 3,311,112 Patented Mar. 28, 1967

3,311,112

BRASSIERE AND DETACHABLE SHOULDER HARNESS

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Filed Mar. 25, 1965, Ser. No. 442,721
1 Claim. (Cl. 128—425)

The present invention relates generally to an improved construction for a brassiere, and more particularly to certain features of construction for a brassiere which facilitates the interchangeability of the major part of said brassiere to the end of providing a product of greatly increased versatility and usefulness.

There is currently available a great variety of brassieres differing from each other both in ornamental appearance and also in construction, the latter being exemplified, for example, by brassieres constructed either to be worn with or without supporting shoulder straps. In other words, from both a fashion and a utilitarian viewpoint there is a justification for the wide variety of brassieres which are currently available, and thus a complete wardrobe must necessarily include a majority of these differing brassiere products.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a brassiere having a novel construction wherein the major parts thereof are interchangeable so that there is a minimum of expense and parts duplication in providing a wardrobe having adequate fashion and utilitarian variation. More specifically, it is an object to provide a construction for a brassiere in which the brassiere front is detachable from the shoulder harness employed to support the same, thereby permitting the substitution of other brassiere fronts for use with the same shoulder harness.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a brassiere constructed so that the front and the supporting harness thereof are detachable from each other permitting the substitution of other brassiere fronts for use with said same shoulder harness, and wherein both the attachment and the detachment of these brassiere parts are readily accomplished and structurally provided for in the construction of said brassiere while maintaining a necessary high degree of comfort to the wearer.

A first embodiment of a brassiere demonstrating features of the present invention includes a shoulder harness having a back strap extending across the back of the upper torso of a wearer and shoulder straps connected at one end medially of said back strap and extended over the shoulders of said wearer. Provided separate and apart from said shoulder harness is a brassiere front which in practice is adapted to be supported by said harness on the respective free ends of said back strap and said shoulder straps. The attachment therebetween is achieved by attaching means carried respectively on said strap free ends and on aligning locations on said brassiere front.

In a second embodiment of a brassiere demonstrating features of the present invention, not only is the brassiere front detachable from its supporting shoulder harness, but additionally the shoulder straps forming a part of said harness are also detachable from the back strap forming a part of said harness. This embodiment thus contemplates the use of a brassiere front which is specifically constructed and designed for wear without supporting shoulder straps, as for example with so-called strapless evening wear.

The above brief description, as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention, will be more fully appreciated by reference to the following

detailed description of presently preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiments in accordance with the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a brassiere demonstrating features of the present invention, and more particularly the aspect of detachability of the various parts thereof;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 1, but showing the parts of the brassiere in an assembled condition;

FIG. 3 is an elevational view, on a greatly enlarged scale and in section taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 2 and best illustrating an acceptable manner of making a connection between detachable parts of the brassiere herein; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of a brassiere demonstrating features of the present invention.

Reference should be made to a first embodiment of a brassiere demonstrating features of the present invention which is illustrated in FIGS. 1–3 and generally designated **10** therein. Brassiere **10** includes a shoulder harness **12** which in practice is worn by the wearer over the shoulder region of the upper torso and which supports a brassiere front **14** conventionally constructed except as is indicated otherwise herein. The shoulder harness **12** includes a pair of shoulder straps **16, 18** each having conventional buckle means **20** therein for size adjustment, and each connected as by stitching **22** at one end **23** medially of a back strap **24** which forms the other major component of said shoulder harness **12**. The back strap **24** in practice extends across the back of the upper torso of the wearer and at least as far on the sides of said wearer to present opposite ends **26, 28** at opposite sides of the front upper torso of the wearer. As is clearly shown in FIGS. 1, 2, the unattached or free ends **30, 32** of the shoulder straps **16, 18** respectively, which in practice are extended over the shoulders and down the front of the wearer, cooperate with said opposite ends **26, 28** of the back strap **24** to provide four strategic locations for supporting the brassiere front **14** on said shoulder harness **12**. In accordance with an essential constructural feature of the brassiere **10** of the present invention herein, at said strap free ends **26, 28, 30** and **32** suitable attaching means are provided for only detachably connecting the brassiere front **14** and shoulder harness **12**, and thus permitting ready detachment therebetween when it is desired to substitute another brassiere front **14** for use with the same shoulder harness **12**. This may be desirable to employ brassiere fronts **14** which are differently decorated as, for example, by embroidery thereon, as well as for interchangeably using brassiere fronts **14** of different constructions with the same shoulder harness **12**.

At the support locations **26, 28** it has been found desirable from the viewpoint of comfort of the wearer to use connecting means which lie flat against the wearer's body and which have an interposed length portion of the strap **24** functioning as a cushioning means. A connecting means satisfying these requirements includes an interconnecting hook and eye arrangement **34**. Such an arrangement may employ a pair of hooks **36** conventionally incorporated on the brassiere front **14**, as by a panel **38** mounting said hooks and sewn to the opposite ends of said brassiere front **14**. Cooperating with said hooks **36** are two sets of eyes **40** also incorporated in a conventional manner on sewn-in panels **41**, but located in the respective ends **26, 28** of the strap **24**.

At the remaining support locations **30, 32** it is found desirable to use as connecting means a set of cooperating

elastic loops **42** sewn to the tops of the cup constructions **44** of said brassiere front **14** and registering with the shoulder straps **16, 18**. Disposed on each of the free ends **30, 32** is a hook **46** which cooperates with each of the elastic loops **42** in achieving a connection between said shoulder straps **16, 18** and brassiere front **14**. Consistent with the intent of the present invention, the connection which is achieved between said hooks **46** and elastic loops **42** is similarly of a detachable nature so that different model brassiere fronts **14** may be used interchangeably with the same shoulder harness **12**.

Referring now to the second brassiere embodiment depicted in FIG. 4, it will be understood that there is a substantial duplication of constructural features with the embodiment already described, and that accordingly the same but primed reference numerals have been used to identify such duplicated constructural features. The essential modification in the brassiere **10'** of FIG. 4 consists in the shoulder straps **16', 18'** being not only detachably connected to the brassiere front **14'**, but also detachably connected at their respective opposite ends **23'** to the back strap **24'**. At these two addiitonal locations, it is preferred to employ elastic loops **42'** and cooperating hooks **46'** attached to the respective shoulder straps as by the sewing **22'**. With brassiere **10'** it is thus possible to use a specialized brassiere front **14'** constructed for use with so-called strapless evening wear and thus not employing shoulder straps **16', 18'** in a supporting harness **12'**.

In connection with the hooks **46, 46'**, it will be noted that constructionwise, each hook includes an appropriate base slot separate and apart from the actual hooking configuration thereon, and which slot is adapted to receive a length portion of the strap therethrough which when folded back upon itself forms a loop which is then secured by the previously referred to stitching **22, 22'**.

A latitude of modification, change and substitution is intended in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claim be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the invention herein.

What is claimed is:

A brassiere comprising a shoulder harness including a back strap adapted to extend across the back of the upper torso of a wearer and shoulder straps each connected at one end medially of said back strap and adapted to extend over the shoulders of said wearer, a brassiere front adapted to be worn across the front upper torso of said wearer and detachably supported by said shoulder harness on said respective free ends of said back strap, and shoulder straps, said free ends of said straps and said brassiere front, at locations aligning with said strap free ends, respectively carrying cooperating attaching means for detachably making connection therebetween and permitting detachment of said brassiere front from said shoulder harness and the substitution of other brassiere fronts for use with said same shoulder harness, said attaching means including cooperating hook and eye means at least on said back strap and at said brassiere front aligning locations.

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