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(54) **TAPERED SHIRT WITH INCORPORATED SUPPORT SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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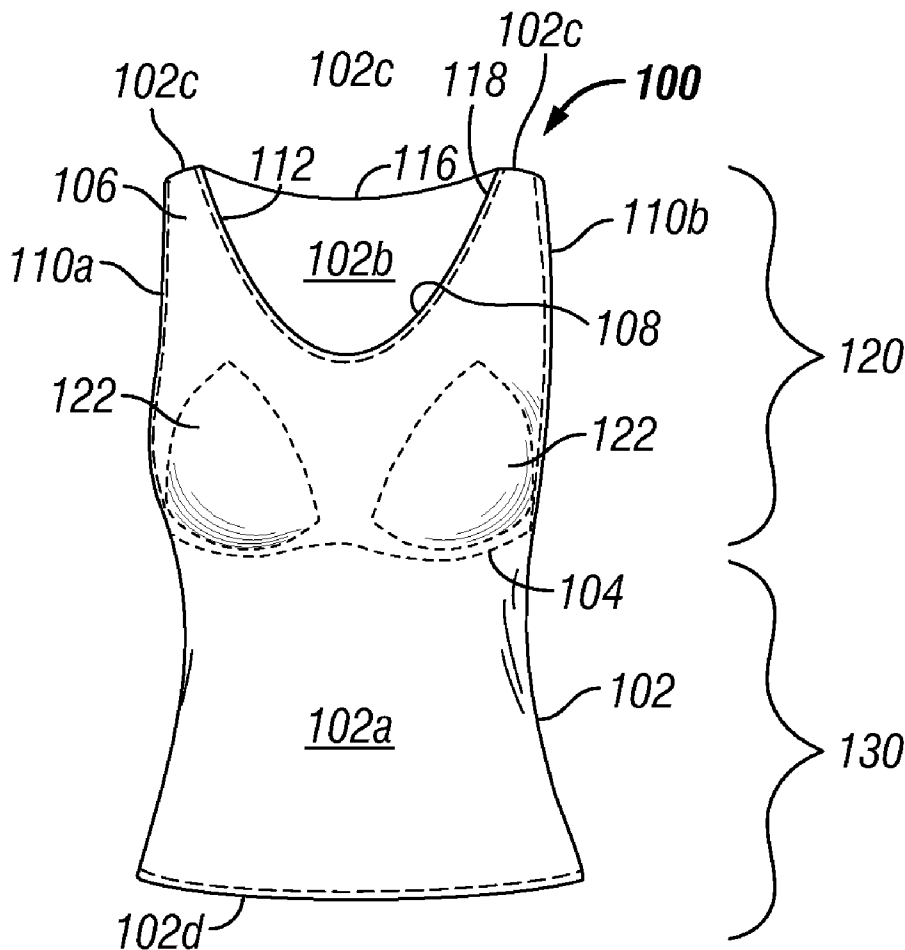
(57) **ABSTRACT**
A woman's shirt includes integrated outerwear and support undergarment. The support undergarment has cups, sized for accommodating the woman's breasts and particular bust size. The outerwear of the shirt includes a front portion and a back portion. The front portion is connected to the back portion, to form neck, arm and bottom openings. The support undergarment includes semi-rigid cups, such as foam or padded cups. The support undergarment includes a front panel and a back panel. The cups are included in the front panel. The front panel is connected to the front portion at extents of the front portion forming the neck and arm openings. The back panel is connected to the back portion at extents of the back portion forming the arm openings. The shirt is sized by characteristics of measures of breast cup size and of length from just under the woman's breasts to a preferred ride location on the woman's torso for the bottom of the shirt when worn by the woman. Measurement tools assist to size the shirt per these measures.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/896,622, filed on Mar. 23, 2007, provisional application No. 60/896,641, filed on Mar. 23, 2007.



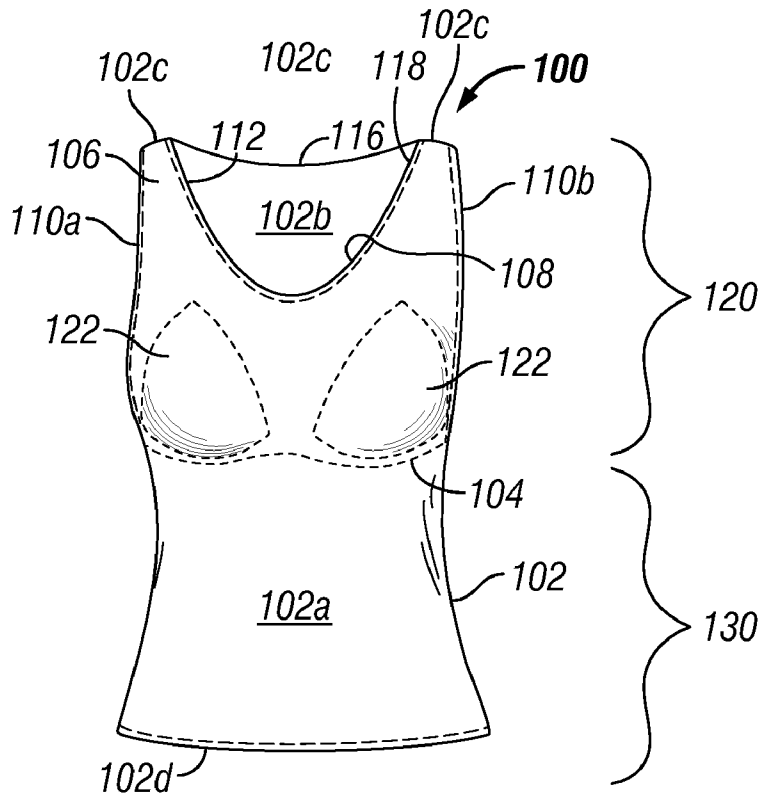


FIG. 1

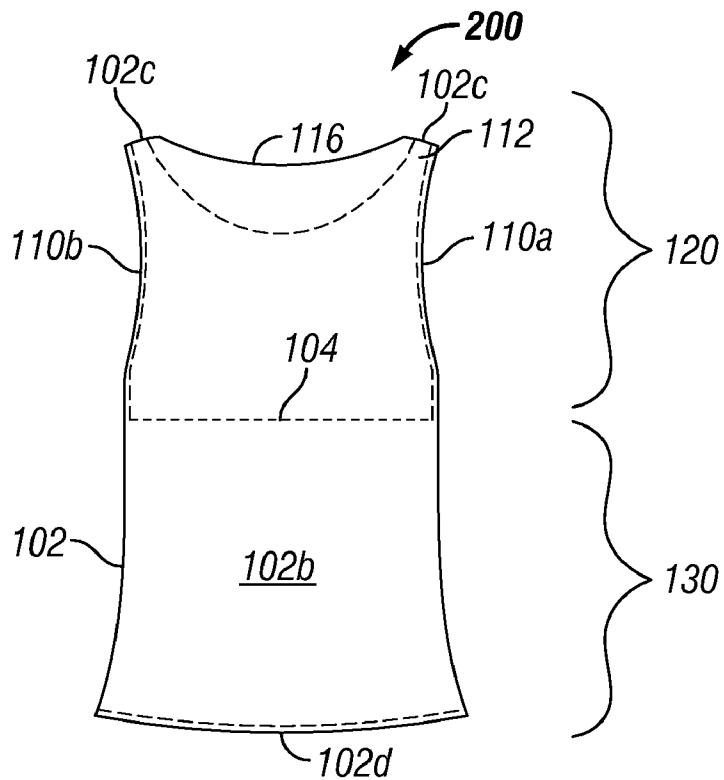


FIG. 2

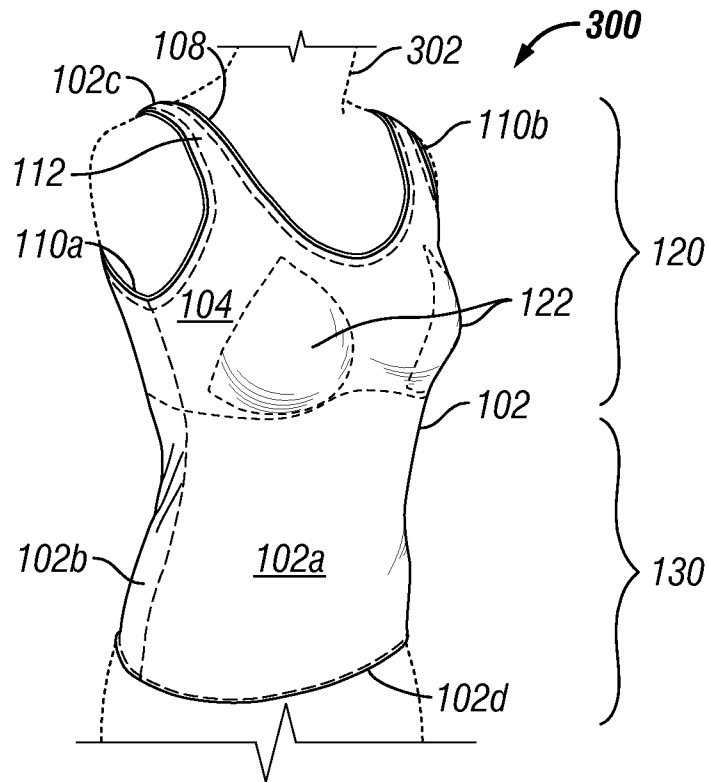


FIG. 3

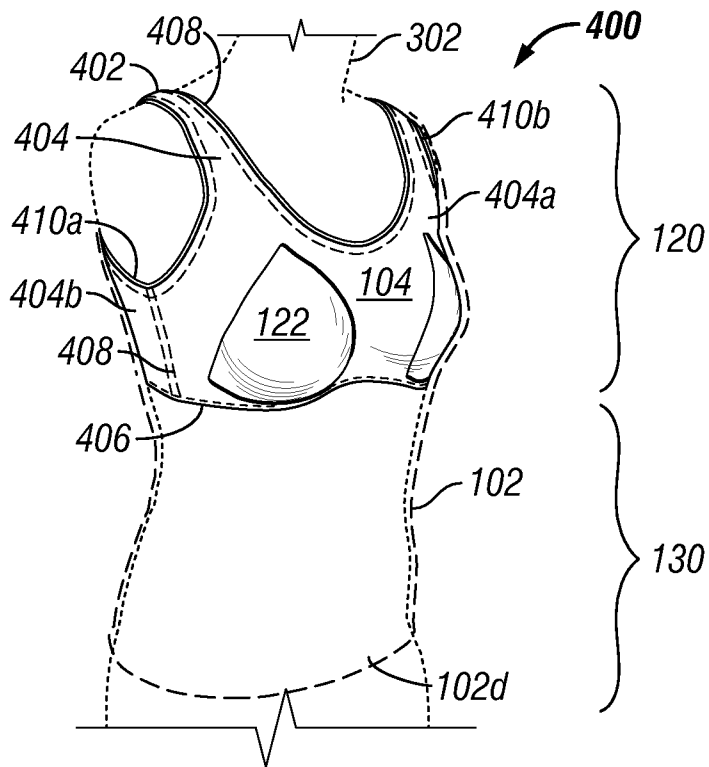


FIG. 4

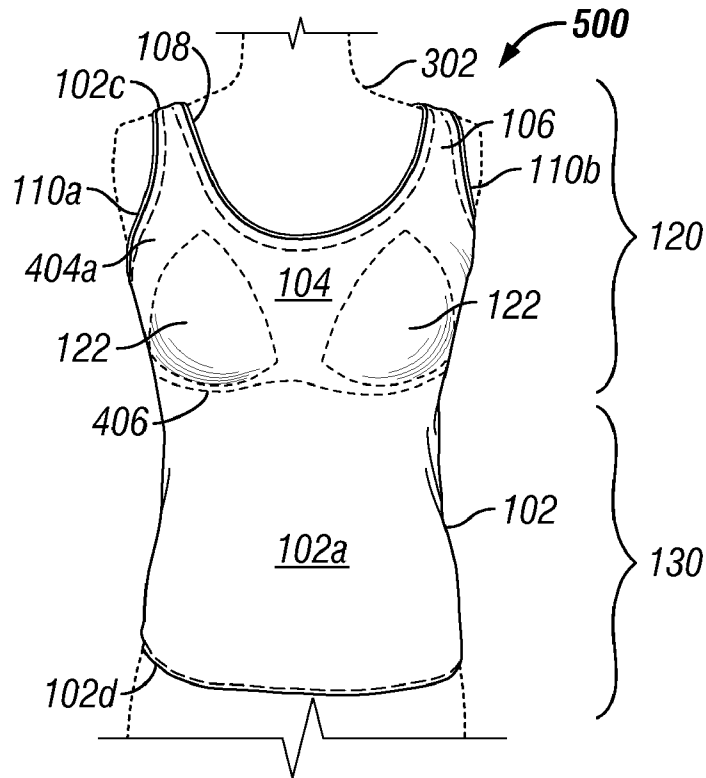


FIG. 5

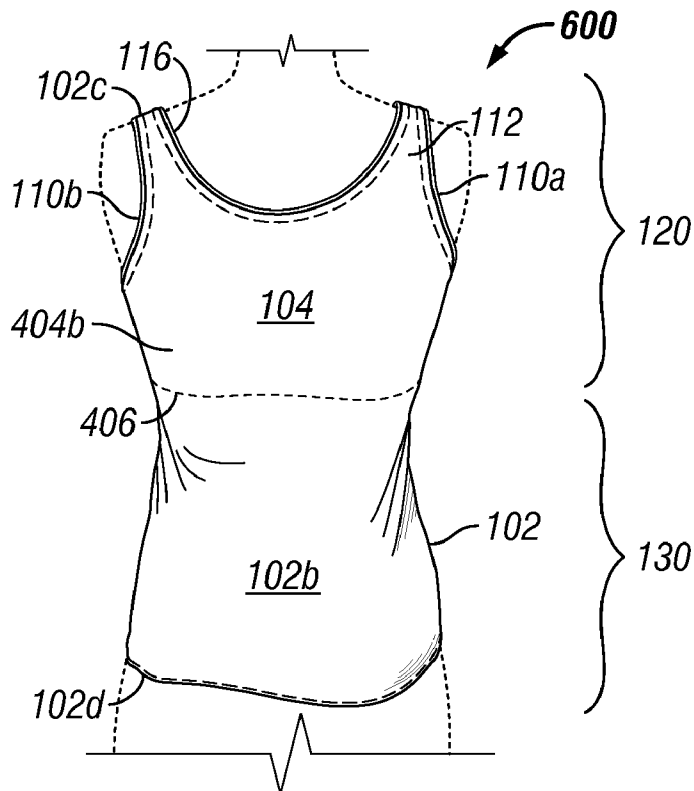


FIG. 6

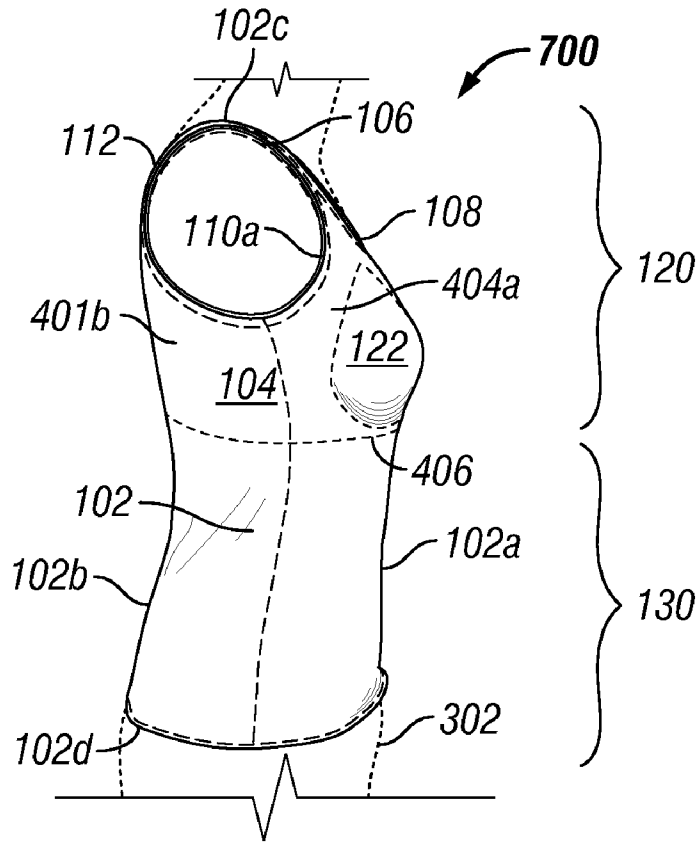


FIG. 7

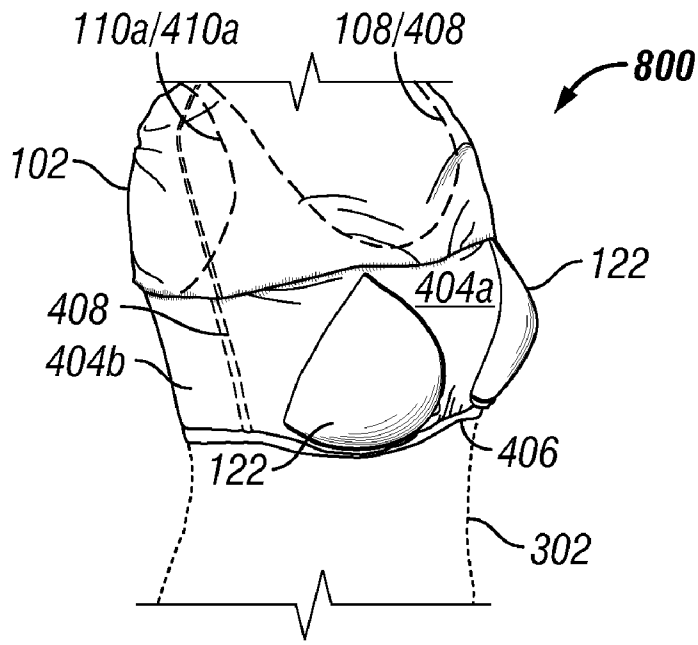


FIG. 8

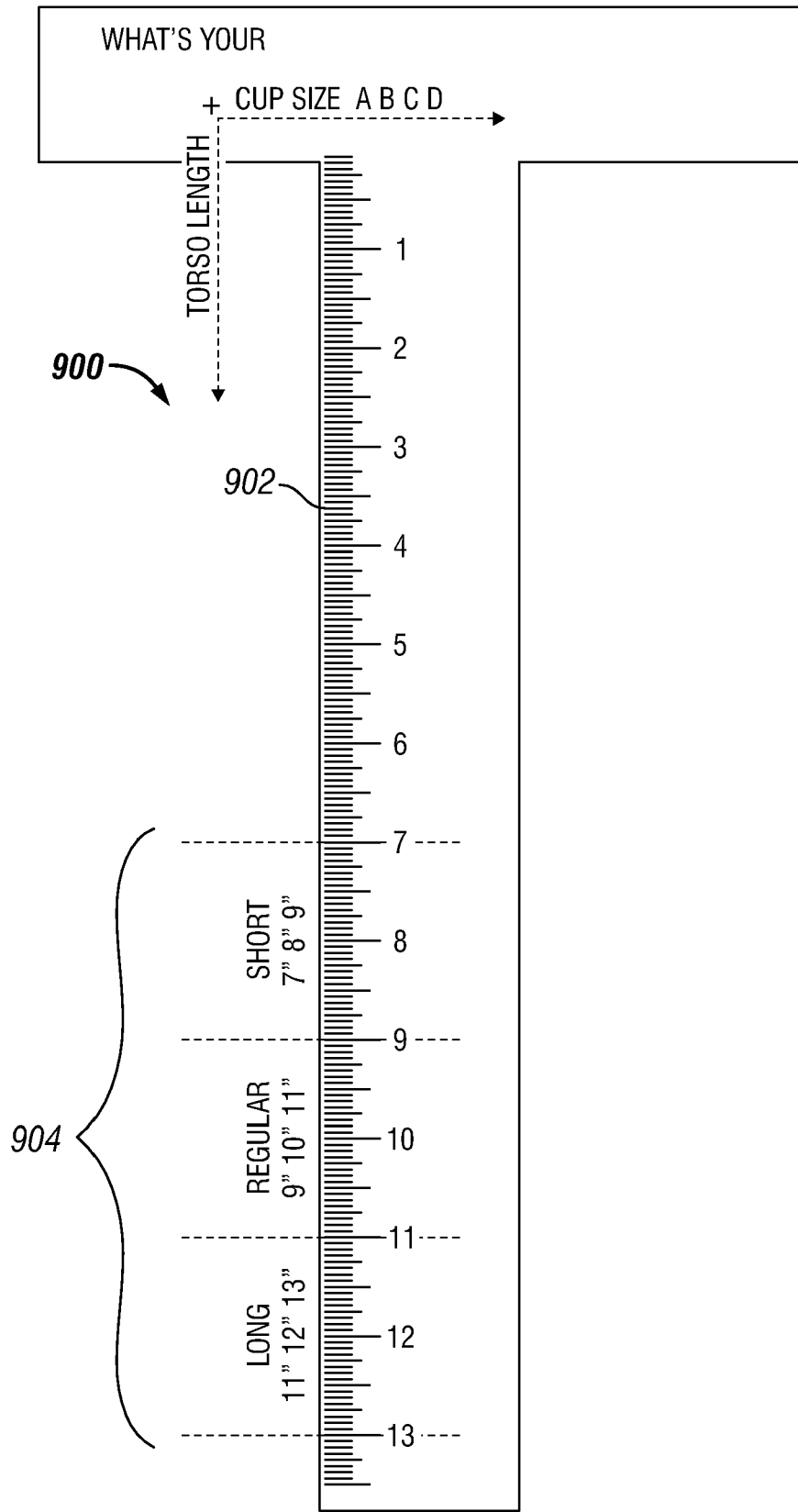


FIG. 9

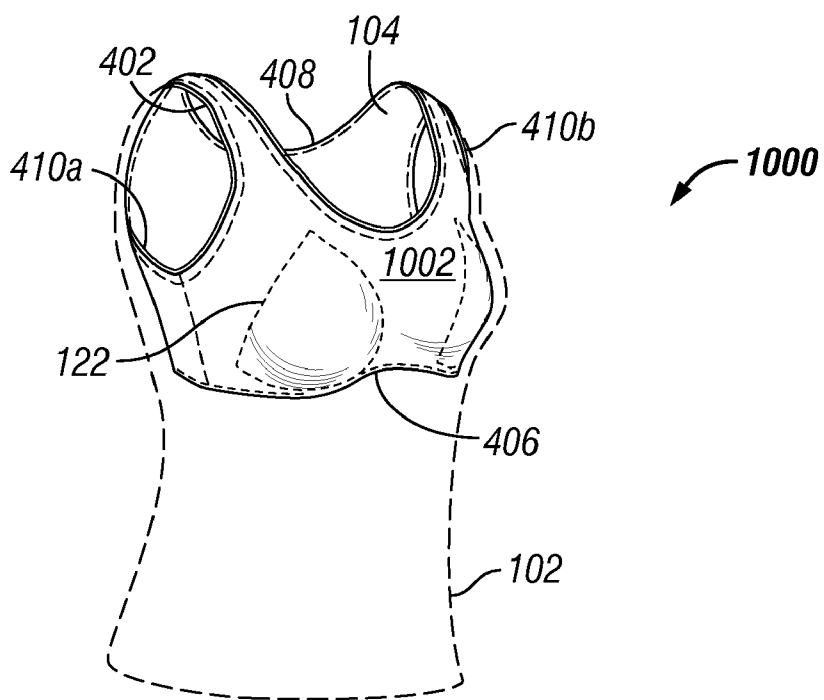


FIG. 10

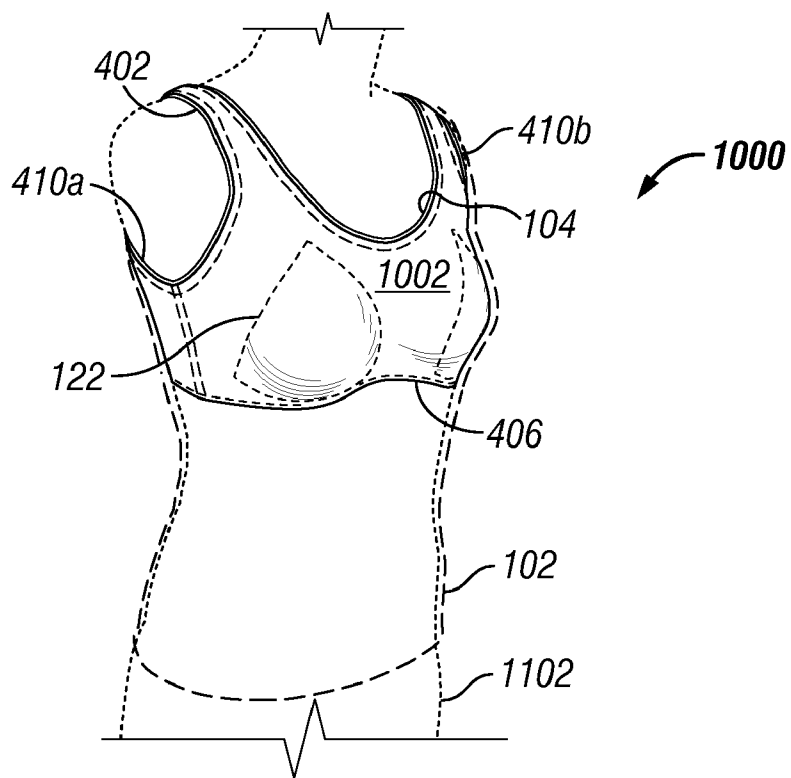


FIG. 11

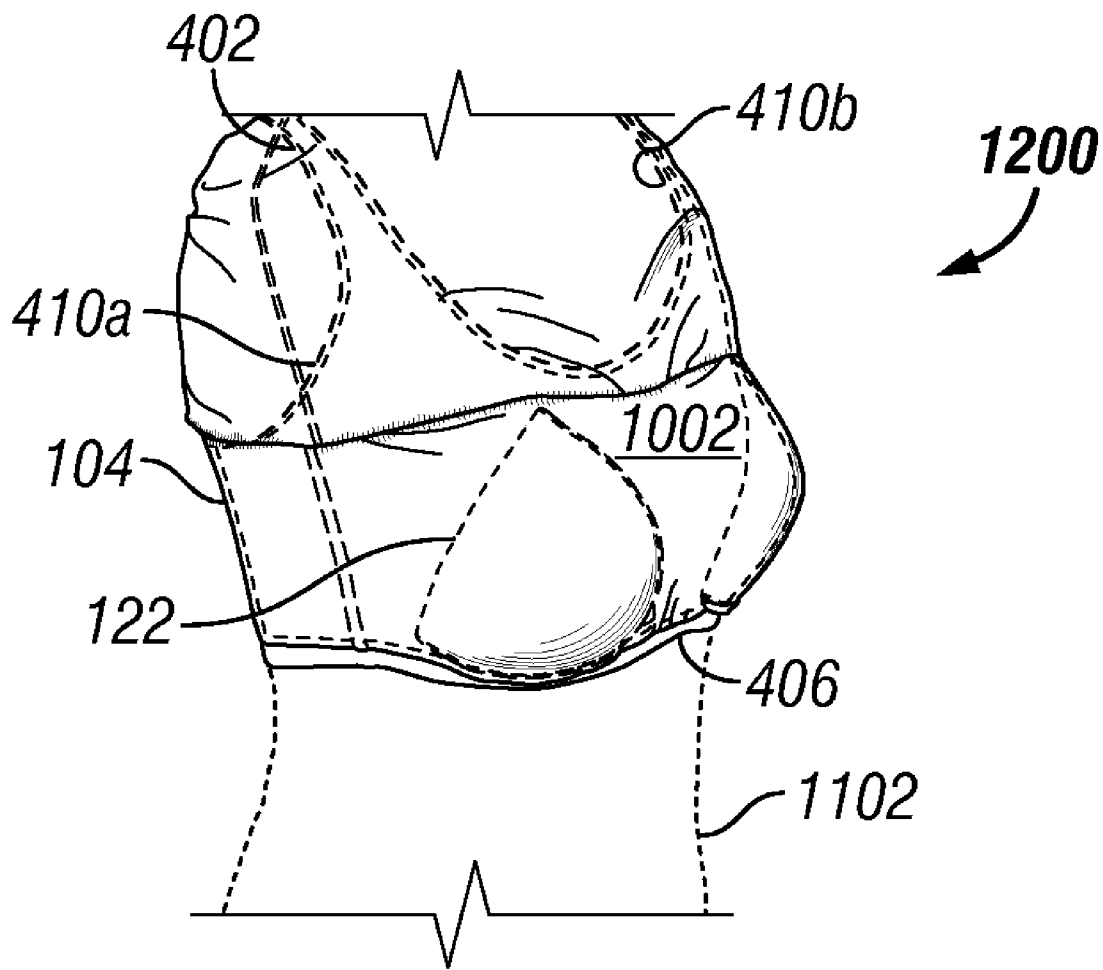
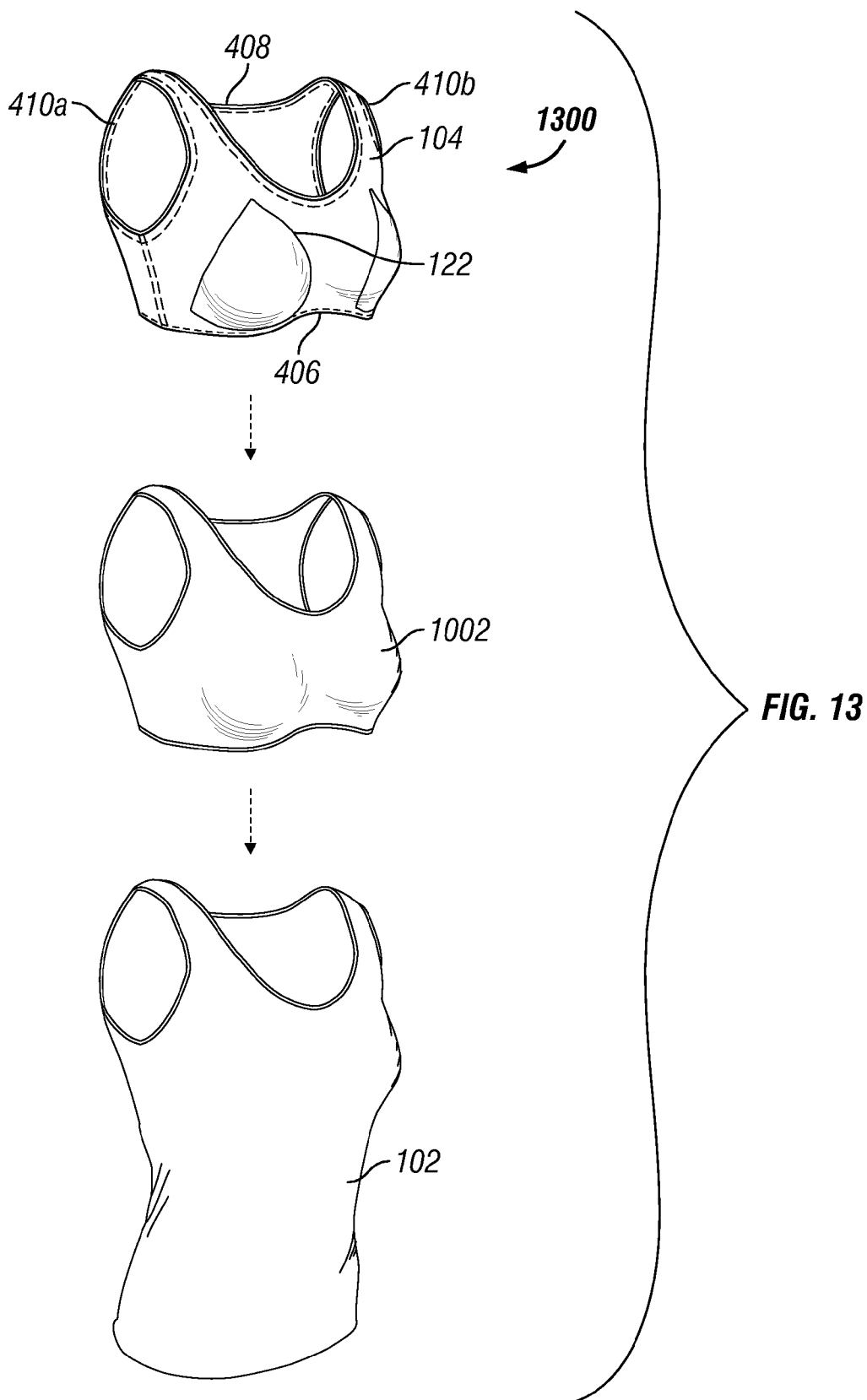


FIG. 12



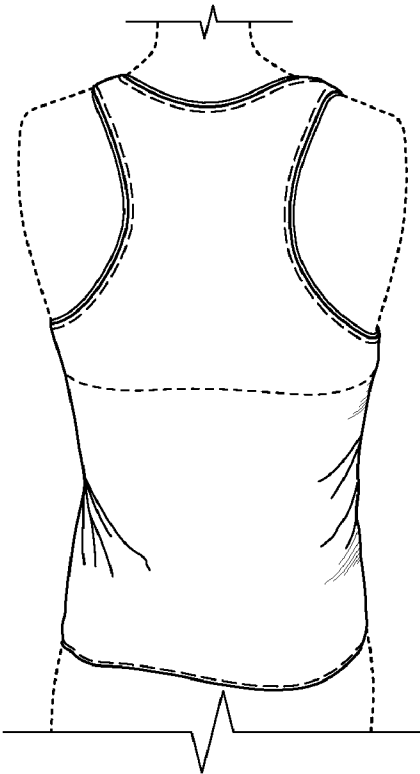


FIG. 14

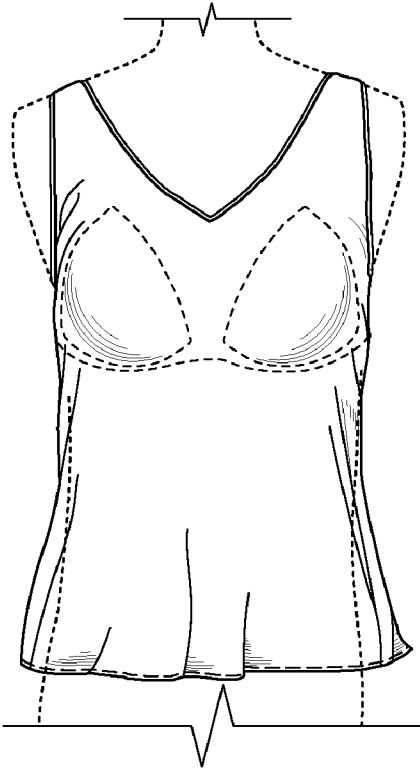


FIG. 15

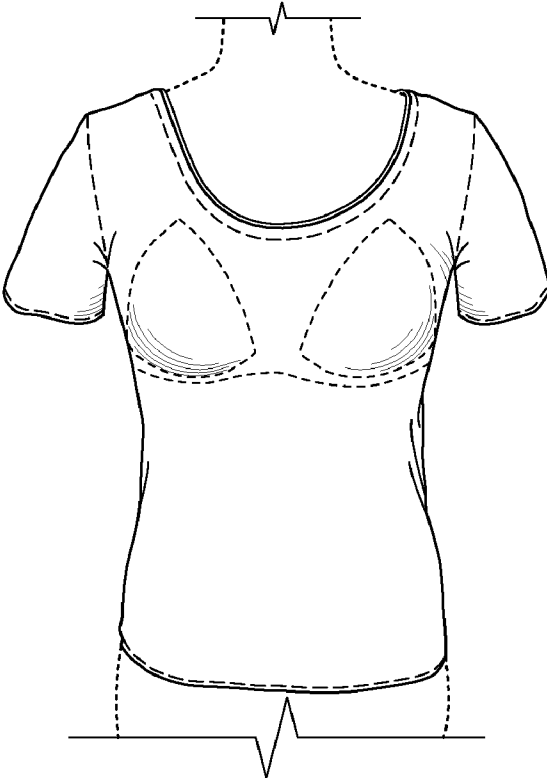


FIG. 16

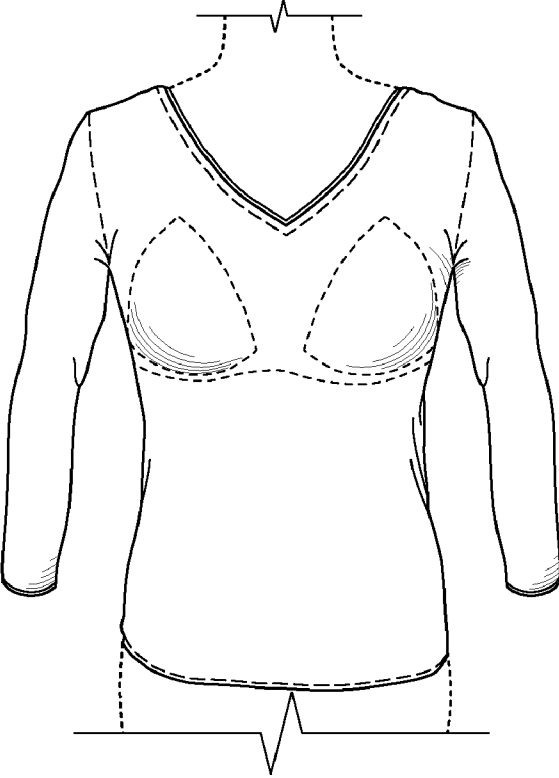


FIG. 17

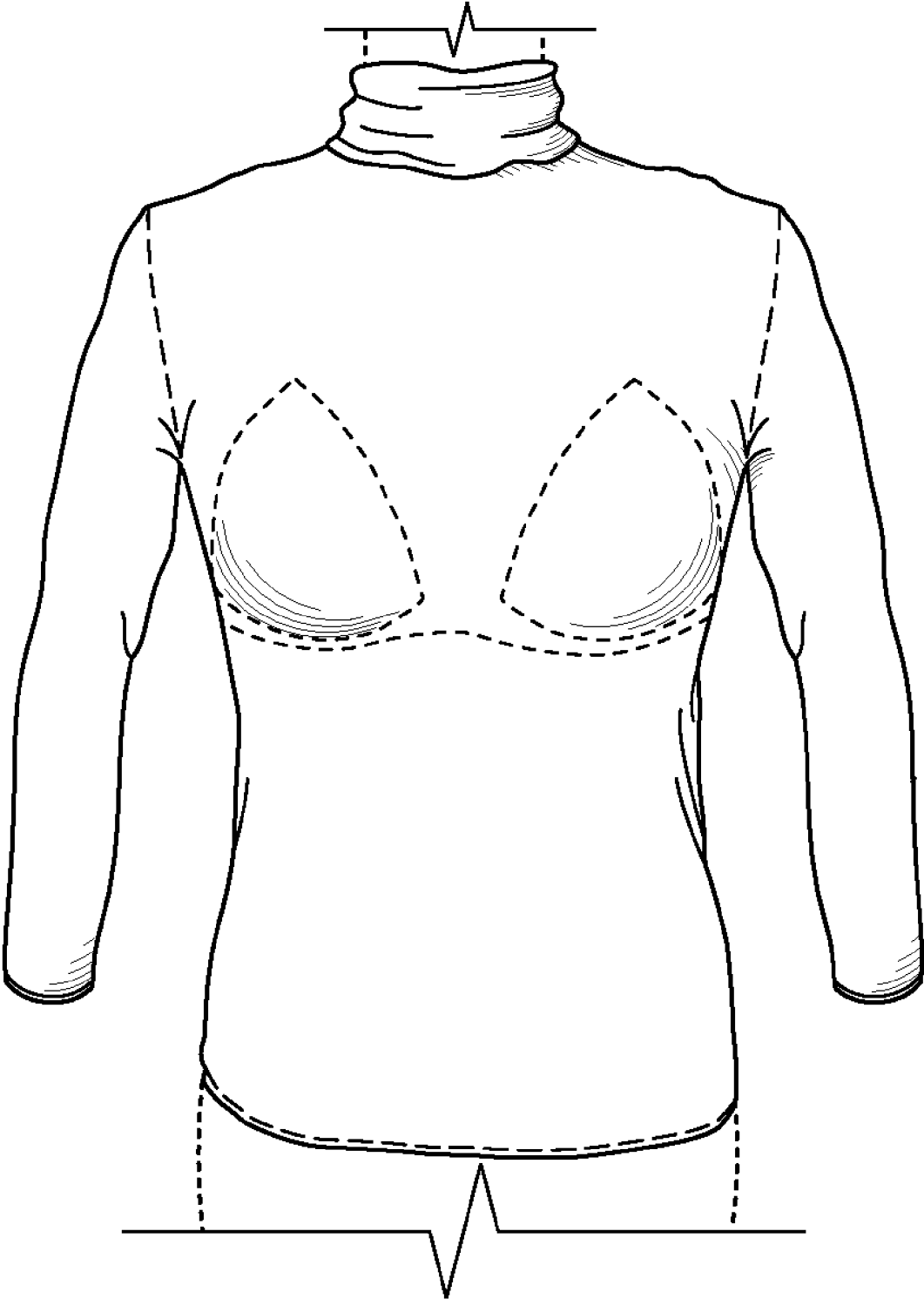


FIG. 18

TAPERED SHIRT WITH INCORPORATED SUPPORT SYSTEM AND METHOD

CROSS-REFERENCE TO PRIORITY U.S.
PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

[0001] The present application is a conversion of, and is related to and incorporates by reference herein, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/896,622, titled “Tapered Shirt with Incorporated Support System and Method”, filed Mar. 23, 2007, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/896,641, titled “Integrated Shirt Outerwear and Underwear”, filed Mar. 23, 2007, each of the same inventors hereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention generally relates to shirt clothing, and more particularly relates to women’s outerwear providing integrated support cups with elegant, seamless appearance and customizable fitting and sizing thereof.

[0003] Women typically wear support bras, i.e., brassieres, under outerwear shirt tops. Conventionally, these bras are separate underwear garments, worn as under-apparel lingerie. Bras have been variously sized to accommodate fit requirements of the specific wearer. Sizing and variation for desirable fit can include rib cage and torso measurement, cup size, band and strap, style features, and variable adjustments, widths, and materials. Additionally, bra designs, materials and parts vary for comfort, feel, appearance, and bust support.

[0004] Slim fitting outerwear shirt tops are often favored for wear on occasion. Conventionally, slim fitting women’s shirts, including those with slim straps, lower necklines, and sleeveless features, are most desirable in certain fabrics, such as stretchable cotton and other materials, that somewhat conform to the wearer’s body torso. Conventional bras are often undesirably exposed at straps, bands, and through sheer and silhouette lines of the bra, particularly when worn with slim fitting outer shirts but also in other instances. With certain types of available bras, such as those which do not have formed cups or that do not provide cushioned support cups (e.g., such as foam cups), a so-called “uni-boob” effect occurs when wearing slim-fit tops. This effect obscures aspects of cleavage between the breasts, appearing to the third-party observer as a laterally traversing single protruding contour across the torso. The “uni-boob” effect is undesired for at least certain fashion styles.

[0005] Certain conventional bra types include foam cups to support the wearer’s breasts. Foam cups are often preferred when wearing slim fitting, as well as other types of, shirts and tops. These foam cups can provide greater bust support and better conceal body lines and contours than with other undergarments. Alternatives and variations to foam cups, such as soft or “natural” cups, underwires, fiber fill cups, demi-mode cups, sport-type spandex materials, and others, are often more sheer, thin, less-molded, and loose in wear as compared to foam cups.

[0006] When wearing elegant outer wear, and also many casual and everyday styles, the wearer often wants the shirt to generally conceal underwear, such as the bra and its various parts. Because of movement of the wearer or loose fit of the shirt, the bra, or portions of it, can be exposed rather than concealed under the outer shirt. Also, typical bras may slip in fit to the wearer’s body at straps and other features, thereby exposing the bra. This can be undesirable and distracting to the wearer.

[0007] Thus, in general, the wearer desires that the bra remain unexposed under the outer garment, and that the bra provide support, have appropriate fit, and be comfortable in wear. Conventional bra underwear worn with outerwear shirts does not, and cannot, fulfill the wearer’s wishes in these and other respects. Moreover, in wear of at least certain types of bras and cup designs, the wearer typically will experience unwanted exposure of bra portions, creases, lines, and certain bodily contours, such as breast features. Foam cups are often particularly desirable for comfort, support and external appearance; however, these cups and sizing of the cups in conventional bra wear is selected according to bra undergarment sizing and options. Shirts and other outerwear are not similarly sized or selected.

[0008] Because of wide variation in wearer body styles, contours, breast size, and desired fashionable “look”, shirts worn with certain bras can externally appear quite different from the look with other bras. Bust size, for example, can impact the extent to which shirt fronts may/may not be of desired length. Also, in many slim and body-conforming shirts, the waist size, breast size and the body torso, in general, may cause unwanted stretch, crease, sheer appearance and the like during wear of the shirt.

[0009] Conventional shirt sizing has not allowed adequate selection for the varied bodies of wearers. For example, even though the same conventional size may generally most closely provide appropriate fit for multiple different wearers as to upper torso, the lower belly portion of the torsos of the various wearers can be shorter or longer. Likewise, wearers differ in size of the upper bust portion of the torso. In effect, a shirt that fits in a particular size may extend long or short in front, may be tight or loose in width, and otherwise can significantly vary depending on the wearer’s unique size and shape.

[0010] Other attempts have, at times, sought to include various breast support designs as part of shirts and other clothing, these have nevertheless been only loosely fitting and lacking of any significant bust support. In particular, some shirts include secondary inner binding layers or other “soft” features around the bust portions. These attempts have not provided support such as desired by many women. Further, these attempts have not addressed the problem presented because of differing body sizes and styles, such as bust measurements and belly torso lengths.

[0011] It would, therefore, be a significant improvement in the art and technology to provide clothing, such as women’s shirts and tops, having incorporated undergarment features for support, and that provides desired appearance and fit in view of body sizing and style variation to accommodate such support and wear. It would also be significant in the art and technology to provide such clothing that allows a desirable external appearance and comfortable feel to the wearer, including by better concealing the undergarment inside the outerwear and without compromising sleek and line-less look in relatively slim fitting tops and others.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] An embodiment of the invention is a shirt. The shirt includes an outerwear and a support undergarment having cups, connected to the outerwear.

[0013] In certain embodiments, the cups are a semi-rigid material.

[0014] In further embodiments, the outerwear includes a front portion and a back portion, each formed with a neckline,

the support undergarment includes a front panel connected to the cups and a back panel connected to the front panel, and the support undergarment is connected to the outerwear only at the neckline of the front portion and the back portion.

[0015] In other embodiments, the front portion of the outerwear is formed to terminate in a lower extent in wear of the shirt, the lower extent dictated according to (i) a bust cup size value and (ii) a length value, measured from below the cups to preferred lower extent for the shirt in wear.

[0016] Another embodiment of the invention is a method of sizing a shirt of a woman. The method includes measuring a first value of a distance from the breasts of the woman to a preferred bottom ride location of the woman, measuring a second value of cup size of the breasts, forming a front portion of an outerwear of the shirt in accord with the steps of measuring the first value and measuring the second value, forming a back portion of the outerwear of the shirt to conform to the front portion and provide neck and arm holes and a bottom of the shirt, forming cups of the size of the second value, forming a support undergarment having cups from the step of forming cups of the second value, and connecting the support undergarment to the front portion and the back portion at the neck and arm holes.

[0017] In other embodiments, the cups from the step of forming cups are semi-rigid.

[0018] In yet other embodiments, forming the support undergarment includes forming a front panel connected to the cups, forming a back panel connected to the front panel, connecting the front panel to the neck and arm holes of the front portion, and connecting the back panel to the arm holes of the front portion.

[0019] Yet another embodiment of the invention is a method of sizing a shirt for a woman. The method includes measuring a bust cup size of the woman, measuring a length of the woman extending from beneath breasts of the woman to a preferred ride point of the shirt, and correlating dimensions for the shirt based on the step of measuring the bust cup size and measuring the length.

[0020] Another embodiment of the invention is a system for sizing a shirt of a woman. The system includes a ruler and a bust cup range correlated to the ruler.

[0021] Other embodiments of the invention include the product shirt of the respective methods.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the accompanying figures, in which like references indicate similar elements, and in which:

[0023] FIG. 1 illustrates a front view of a shirt incorporated with a support undergarment, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0024] FIG. 2 illustrates a back view of the shirt of FIG. 1, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0025] FIG. 3 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of the shirt of FIGS. 1 and 2 (including a wearer's upper body torso, in phantom), as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0026] FIG. 4 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of the support undergarment of FIG. 3, and the outerwear of the shirt in phantom, as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0027] FIG. 5 illustrates a front perspective view of the shirt of FIG. 3, as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0028] FIG. 6 illustrates a back perspective view of the shirt of FIG. 3, as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0029] FIG. 7 illustrates a side perspective view of the shirt of FIG. 3, as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0030] FIG. 8 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of the shirt of FIG. 3, with the outerwear of the shirt in part lifted, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0031] FIG. 9 illustrates a sizing device for fitting the shirt incorporated with the support garment of FIGS. 1-8, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0032] FIG. 10 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a shirt having a support undergarment, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0033] FIG. 11 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of the alternative embodiment of the shirt having support undergarment of FIG. 10 (including a wearer's upper body torso, in phantom), as worn according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0034] FIG. 12 illustrates a front-right side perspective view of the shirt of FIGS. 10 and 11, with the outerwear of the shirt in part lifted, as worn, according to certain embodiments of the invention; and

[0035] FIG. 13 illustrates a front-right side perspective exploded view of the shirt of FIGS. 10-12, having the support undergarment, a thin layer covering the support undergarment to hide lines of cups of the support undergarment, and the outerwear of the shirt, according to certain embodiments of the invention;

[0036] FIG. 14 illustrates a rear perspective view of an embodiment of the shirt, in wear;

[0037] FIG. 15 illustrates a front perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the shirt, in wear;

[0038] FIG. 16 illustrates a front perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the shirt, in wear;

[0039] FIG. 17 illustrates a front perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the shirt, in wear; and

[0040] FIG. 18 illustrates a front perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the shirt, in wear.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0041] Referring to FIG. 1, a shirt 100 includes an outerwear 102 and a support undergarment 104 (shown in phantom in FIG. 1). The shirt 100 includes a front portion 102a and a back portion 102b. At upward extents 102c of the front portion 102a (towards the top of the page in FIG. 1), the shirt 100 is formed with front straps 106 on each side of a front neckline 108 and with back straps 112 (located behind the front straps 106 of the front portion 102a in FIG. 1) on each side of a back neckline 116. A lower extent 102d (towards the bottom of the page in FIG. 1) of the shirt 100 is formed with a tail edge, as is common. For reference purposes herein, the upper part of the front portion 102a and the back portion 102b are indicated by reference numeral 120, and the lower part of the front portion 102a and the back portion 102b are indicated by reference number 130. It is to be understood, however, that each of the upper part and lower part are connected substantially as shown in FIG. 1, whether by joining seams of separate pieces/materials or as formed of a single unitary piece/material for each of the front portion 102a and the back portion 102b, respectively.

[0042] The front portion **102a** is connected to the back portion **102b** in manner to form arm holes **110a**, **110b**, neck hole **118**, and open tail **102d**. For example, the front portion **102a** and the back portion **102b** are sewed, stitched or otherwise joined together along the respective corresponding periphery of the portions **102a**, **102b** at the upward extents **102c** of the straps **106**, **112** and along the lower part **130** to the arm holes **110a**, **110b**. Seamed edges are formed in the front portion **102a** and the back portion **102b** where these portions **102a**, **102b** are not connected, such as to prevent material fray.

[0043] The support undergarment **104** (in phantom in FIG. 1) is disposed between the front portion **102a** and the back portion **102b** as so connected. The support undergarment **104** is connected to the front portion **102a** at the front neckline **108** and the arm holes **110a**, **110b**, and is connected to the back portion **102b** at the arm holes **110a**, **110b**. The support undergarment **104** is otherwise not attached to or connected with the outerwear **102** formed by the front portion **102a** and the back portion **102b**.

[0044] The support undergarment **104** includes attached cups **122** to provide breast support in wear of the shirt **100**. The support undergarment **104**, including the cups **122**, is formed of fabrics and materials suitable and as desired for bust support, wear and comfort. Further details are later described in regards to sizing of the support undergarment **104**, particularly the cups **122** thereof, and the lower part **130** of the shirt **100**, and overall fit and size measurements and design with respect to these elements.

[0045] The outerwear **102** of the shirt **100** is formed of flexible clothing material, such as fabric or other. This material can include any of a wide variety of conventional or new fabrics or alternatives. Selection of materials will vary according to desired fashion styles, fit, comfort, wear and other characteristics as will be understood, such as for wear for everyday, casual, elegant or other. For example, the fabric or other material is any natural, man-made or combination of tweeds, weaves, and the like, all as will be understood, for example, cotton, wool, silk, polyester, spandex, and any others. Mechanisms of connection, joining and attachment of pieces of materials to form the shirt **100** include any of a wide variety of possibilities now or in the future known, for example, stitched, sewed, glued, snapped, or other. In particular, the support undergarment **104** and the cups **122** can be selected from among desirable options that will be understood, including those that are and were mentioned in other sections herein. The support undergarment **104** and the cups **122** thereof are, in any event, as required and available to provide desired bust support in wear, together with concealment, sleekness, and fit. Conventional, as well as hereafter developed or instituted, manufacturing techniques are employable.

[0046] Referring to FIG. 2, the shirt **100** of FIG. 1 (in back side orientation **200** in FIG. 2) includes the outerwear **102** and the support undergarment **104** (in phantom in FIG. 2). The upward extents **102c** (towards the top of the page in FIG. 2) of the back portion **102b** are formed with the back straps **112** on each side of the back neckline **116**. The lower extent **102d** (towards the bottom of the page in FIG. 2) of the back portion **102b** of the shirt **100** is formed with the tail edge. The support undergarment **104** (in phantom in FIG. 2) is disposed in the outerwear **102**, between the back portion **102b** and the front portion **102a**.

[0047] The back portion **102b** is connected to the front portion **102a** as previously described with respect to FIG. 1, except that the back neckline **116** is not connected to the support undergarment **104**. In effect, the back portion **102b** and the support undergarment **104** are not attached other than at the arm holes **110a**, **110b** formed of the back portion **102b**. As previously discussed, the back portion **102b** is connected at peripheral edges to the front portion **102a** other than at the back neckline **116**, the arm holes **110a**, **110b** and the lower extent **102d**.

[0048] Referring to FIG. 3, in conjunction with FIGS. 1 and 2, the shirt **100** is in wear **300** by a person **302** (shown in phantom in FIG. 3). The shirt **100** includes the outerwear **102** and the support undergarment **104** (shown in phantom in FIG. 3). The support undergarment **104** includes the cups **122** (shown in phantom in FIG. 3).

[0049] The front portion **102a** and the back portion **102b** of the outerwear **102** are shown as connected, for example, by stitching, at peripheral edges except at the front neckline **108**, the arm holes **110a**, **110b** and the lower extent **102d**. At edges of the outerwear **102** that are not so peripherally connected, the outerwear **102** includes hemmed or otherwise finished edges (although certain fashion styles could include rough or unfinished edges, and these and all other styles and finishes are included). As shown by the shirt **100** in wear **300** by the person **302**, the front neckline **108** is swooping towards the person's bust and the arm holes **110a**, **110b** are sleeveless. These features in FIG. 3 are substantially stylized choices and so subject to wide variation and option; however, the various elements and components providing those features, as herein described, are highly desirable in such styles (although not limited to these styles) in order to achieve the objectives and advantages here.

[0050] Referring to FIG. 4, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-3, the support undergarment **104** of the shirt **100** is in wear **400** by the person **302** (shown in phantom in FIG. 4). The outerwear **102** (shown in phantom in FIG. 4) covers and conceals the support undergarment **104** during wear **400**. The support undergarment **104** includes the attached cups **122** in location for supporting and containing breasts of the person **302**.

[0051] The support undergarment **104** includes a front panel **404a** thereof connected to the cups **122**. The front panel **404a** includes straps **404** on each side of a neckline **408**. The neckline **408** at the front panel **404a** conforms to the edges of the front neckline **108** (not shown because congruent with the neckline **408**) and connected thereto, such as by sewed stitching or the like as discussed. The front panel **404a** is formed with arm holes **410a**, **410b** to accommodate arms of the person **302**. The arm holes **410a**, **410b** are congruent with and attached to the edges of the arm holes **110a**, **110b** of the outerwear **102** as previously described. The front panel **404a** extends to just below the cups **122** (i.e., to fit at the torso under the breasts of the person **302**), and is formed with a bottom edge **406**. The bottom edge **406**, as well as other portions of the support undergarment **104** not fixed at the neckline **108** or the arm holes **410a**, **410b** to the outerwear **102**, are not connected to the outerwear **102** and can move freely, but as retained, therewithin, in wear by the person. Side seams **408** (i.e., at both sides, left and right of the torso, of the person **302**) and shoulder seams **402** connect the front panel **404a** to a back panel **404b** of the support undergarment **104**.

[0052] As mentioned, the cups **122** are connected to or formed in the front panel **404a**. The cups **122** are foam cups of padded foam or fabric, as many women prefer as discussed in

the background herein. The cups **122** are connected along the respective edges thereof to the front panel **404a**, in locations of breasts of the person **302**, for example, at cutout portions of the front panel **404a** formed to accommodate the cups **122** at such locations. The cups **122** are sized according to bust size and desired fit of the person **302**. Alternatives to foam or padded cups are also included; however, foam or padded cups, and the applicable support provided thereby, are particularly desirable in the support undergarment **104** for the reasons previously mentioned herein and in other respects. For example, added support, relatively seamless lines, concealment and the like are all provided with these types of cups, and the designs, styles and elements obtaining the objects and advantages hereof.

[0053] Although not in detail in FIG. 4, but shown in FIGS. 2 and 6 (and certain other figures) in greater detail, the back panel **404b** of the support undergarment **104** extends across the torso back of the person **302** in wear, such that back straps thereof connect to or join the straps **402** and the side seams **408** for the front panel **404a**. The back panel **404b** is concealed within the outerwear **102** at the back neckline **116** (shown in FIG. 2) thereof. The support undergarment **104** can be connected to, such as via seam, the back neckline **116** or, alternately, it can be unconnected to the outerwear **102**, according to design preference and choice.

[0054] Referring to FIG. 5, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-4, the front portion **102a** of the outerwear **102** during wear by the person **302** includes the upper part **120** and the lower part **130**. As mentioned, the upper part **120** and the lower part **130** of the outerwear **102** can be unitary or, as applicable, formed of two or more joined pieces. The upper part **120** and the lower part **130** of the outerwear **102** are each sized in order to accommodate respective portions of the body torso of the person, i.e., the upper part **120** is sized for the bust and upper body and the lower part **130** is sized for the stomach extending to desired length from underside of the breasts of the person **302**. The support undergarment **104** (shown in phantom in FIG. 5) is connected to the outerwear **102** at the front neckline **108** and the arm holes **110a**, **110b**, and retains and supports the breasts of the person **302** as so concealed within the outerwear **102**. Further details of sizing of the outerwear **102** and the support undergarment **104** are hereafter provided.

[0055] Referring to FIG. 6, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-5, the back portion **102b** of the outerwear **102** during wear by the person includes the upper part **120** and the lower part **130**. As with the front portion **102a**, the upper part **120** and the lower part **130** of the back portion **102b** of the outerwear **102** can be unitary or formed of pieced and connected segments. The upper part **120** and the lower part **130** of the back portion **102b** conform to appropriate size in order to appear as desired in connection to the front portion **102a**, and as is applicable for the less contoured back of the person **302**. In particular, the bust measurement is not particularly significant to size of the back portion **102b** as to where on the person **302** the lower extent **102d** of the back portion **102b** will ride during wear, but the lower torso stomach of the person **302** is taken into account in conforming the back portion **102b** to the respective front portion **102a** of the outerwear **102** per sizing of the shirt **100** (as such sizing is hereafter further detailed).

[0056] The back portion **404b** (shown in phantom in FIG. 6) of the support undergarment **104** (shown in phantom in FIG. 6) extends from connection to the back neckline **116** of the outerwear **102** (although, in certain alternatives, the support undergarment **104** is not so connected, as previously

mentioned and shown). The back portion **404b** is connected to the arm holes **110a**, **110b** of the outerwear **102**. The bottom edge **406** of the support undergarment **104** is fitted to accommodate, in a comfortable and suitably supporting manner with respect to the cups and bust, the upper back of the person **302**. The bottom edge **406** generally (vertically with the torso in wear) conforms to the bottom edge **406** of the support undergarment **104** at the front panel **104** (e.g., in similar lateral location at the back of the person **302** to the location at the front of the person **302**).

[0057] Referring to FIG. 7, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-6, a right side **700** of the person **302** (shown in phantom in FIG. 7) during wear of the shirt **100** includes the upper part **120** and the lower part **130**. The front portion **102a** of the outerwear **102** is fitted to wear by riding on the person **302** at the desired lower extent **102d**. The particular ride of the lower extent **102d** in wear by the person **302** is dependent on the applicable measures of the upper part **120** (i.e., to account for the bust) and the lower part **130** (i.e., to account for the torso stomach). The particular ride, and the applicable measures of the upper part **120** and the lower part **120**, are also dependent on preferences of the person **302** (e.g., as to the desired fit, style, type of shirt, and others). In measurements to size the front portion **102a**, the bust and the torso stomach area are determinative and dictate the particular front portion **102a** in each shirt.

[0058] The back portion **102b** of the outerwear **102** is fitted to wear by riding on the person **302** also at the desired lower extent **102d**. The particular ride of the lower extent **102d** during wear of the shirt by the person **302** is dependent on the applicable measure for the front part **102a** and take into account measures of the upper part **120** (i.e., to discount the bust) and the lower part **130** (i.e., to account for the torso stomach). As with the preferences in the case of the front portion **102a**, the ride of the back portion **102b** includes consideration of personal preference. However, in general, the back portion **102b** is fitted to conform generally in ride during wear to the ride of the front portion **102a** during wear.

[0059] The support undergarment **104** (shown in phantom in FIG. 7) is contained within the outerwear **102** in wear by the person **302**. The support undergarment **104** is worn adjacent the person **302**, and the outerwear **102** covers the support undergarment **104**. The support undergarment **104** is connected to the outerwear **102** at the front neckline **108** and back neckline **116** (not shown in detail in FIG. 7) and at the arm holes **110a** and **110b** (left side arm hole **110b** not shown in FIG. 7). The bottom edge **406** of the support undergarment **104** rides under the breasts of the person **302**. The cups **122**, incorporated in or connected to the front panel **404a**, contain the breasts and provide desirable support.

[0060] Referring to FIG. 8, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-7, the support undergarment **104** in wear by the person **302** is revealed by upwardly lifting movement of the outerwear **102** on the body of the person **302**. The support undergarment **104** includes the front panel **404a**, the back panel **404b**, and the cups **122** of the front panel **404a**. The bottom edge **406** rides under the bust of the person **302**. The front neckline **108** of the outerwear **102** is connected to the neckline **408** of the support undergarment **104** (necklines **108**, **408** shown in phantom in FIG. 8). The arm holes **110a** (shown in phantom) and **110b** (not shown in FIG. 8) of the outerwear **102** are also connected

to corresponding arm holes **410a** (shown in phantom) and **410b** (not shown) of the support undergarment **104**.

Sizing and Fit:

[0061] Referring to FIG. 9, in conjunction with FIGS. 1-8, a shirt sizer **900** (i.e., the T-Size™ fitting device for the shirt **100**) includes a ruler **902** and a size indicator **904**. The shirt **100** is fitted by measurement of both the wearer's bust (i.e., cup) size and the wearer's desired ride length for the lower extent **102d** of the shirt **100** on the wearer's torso. The particular relative positioning of an applicable one of the cup size indicator **904** and length measure on the ruler **902** yields sizing specifics for the shirt **100**.

[0062] In particular, the shirt **100** is formed and manufactured according to measurements for each of the cup size and the front wear length for the shirt **100** for the particular wearer. The front portion **102a** of the outerwear **102** of the shirt **100** is configured by the wearer by a first measurement of distance from just below the wearer's breasts on the torso, downward (i.e., towards the feet) to a desired bottom ride extent on the torso for the lower extent **102d** of the shirt **102** to ride. Once the first measurement is made, then the applicable measure value is located on the ruler **902**. The location of the first measurement value on the ruler **902** gives a size indicator **904** from within the indicated ranges for "LONG", "REGULAR", and "SHORT" on the shirt sizer **900**.

[0063] A second measurement (or, as is typical, a known measure) is made of the wearer's cup size. Cups conforming to the particular second measurement are included in the fitting the shirt **100** to the wearer. For example, if the wearer has determined a first range of "REGULAR" based on the first measured value, and a "C" cup size based on the second measured value, then the shirt **100** that fits the wearer according to the measurements and sizing of the shirt **100** is a "C REGULAR" size model. Conventional bust measures, and measurement techniques, are contemplated for the second measurement.

[0064] In manufacture, the shirt **100** is incorporated in the front panel **404a** of the support undergarment **104**, with cups **122** conforming to the second measurement of the cups size of the particular wearer. The shirt **100** is also made, in front portion **102a** dimension, to have length extending to the lower extent **102d** of the shirt **102** at about the location of the measured first measurement for the applicable wearer. The back portion **102b** dimensions are made to conform to the front portion **102a** dimensions, such that the lower extent **102d** of the back portion **102b** is consistent and generally conforms with the lower extent **102d** of the front portion **102a** when the shirt **100** is worn.

[0065] Referring to FIG. 10, a shirt **1000** includes the support undergarment **104** with cups **122**. The support undergarment **104** and cups **104** are covered by an outer layer **1002**. The outer layer **1002** covers the entirety of the support undergarment **104** and cups **104**. The outer layer **1002** connects to the support undergarment along the bottom edge **406**, along the neckline **408**, and along the shoulder seams **402** at the respective arm holes **410a**, **410b**. A shirt outerwear **102** covers the outer layer **1002**, and is connected to the outer layer **1002** and the support undergarment **104** along the neckline **408** and the shoulder seams **402**.

[0066] Referring to FIG. 11, the shirt **1000** of FIG. 10 is in wear by a person **1102** (shown in phantom). In wear, lines of the cups **122** existing in the support undergarment **104** are concealed by the outer layer **1002**. Thus, the shirt outerwear

102 appears substantially seamless along the cups **122** and remaining portions of the support undergarment **104**.

[0067] Referring to FIG. 12, the shirt **1000** of FIGS. 10 and 11 is raised, in part, to reveal the support undergarment **104** as covered by the outer layer **1002**.

[0068] Referring to FIG. 13, the shirt **1000** of FIGS. 10-12 is shown in exploded view. The support undergarment **104** connects the cups **104** integral thereto. The support undergarment **104** is covered by the outer layer **1002**, and the outer layer **1002** and the support undergarment are connected at the neckline **408**, the bottom edge **406**, and along seams at edge of the arm holes **410a,b**. The outer layer **1002** is covered by the shirt outerwear **102**. The shirt outerwear **102** is connected to the outer layer **1002** and the support undergarment **104** at seams along the arm holes **410a,b** and the neckline **408**.

[0069] Referring to FIGS. 14-18, alternative outerwear shirt designs are shown as implemented in use in the foregoing embodiments.

[0070] Other alternatives are possible in keeping with the foregoing and all such alternatives are included herein. A wide variety of materials, parts, styles, and configurations are possible. Attachment and connection of the shirt and its pieces, as well as mechanisms therefor, include all possibilities, as well as more traditional sewing, stitching, hemming and the like. Desirable fabrics and other materials are employed to form the shirt, including both the outerwear and the support undergarment aspects. For example, knits, weaves, tweeds and the like are variable. The outerwear and the support undergarment can be the same or different materials and manufacture and, in fact, each may themselves include variations and pluralities of materials and manufacture. The cups of the support undergarment are particularly desirable as so-called foam (or padded) cups, because of the distinct sizing that is possible and also because of the resultant look, feel, support and comfort of the wearer. In effect, the shirt provides desirable support such as would be provided by separate support bra or the like, yet is sized to accommodate length, comfort and third-party outward appearance preferences of the wearer. Moreover, the shirt aids in concealment of the undergarment and body contours and the like, because of the particular sizing variability, structure, configuration and otherwise.

[0071] In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, one of ordinary skill in the art appreciates that various modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims below. Accordingly, the specification and figures are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

[0072] Benefits, other advantages, and solutions to problems have been described above with regard to specific embodiments. However, the benefits, advantages, solutions to problems and any element(s) that may cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential feature or element of any or all the claims. As used herein, the terms "comprises," "comprising," or any other variation thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion, such that a process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises a list of elements does not include only those elements but may include other elements not expressly listed or inherent to such process, method, article, or apparatus.

What is claimed is:

- 1. A shirt, comprising:
an outerwear; and
a support undergarment having cups, connected to the out-
erwear.
- 2. The shirt of claim 1, wherein the cups are a semi-rigid
material.
- 3. The shirt of claim 2,
wherein the outerwear includes a front portion and a back
portion, each formed with a neckline;
wherein the support undergarment includes a front panel
connected to the cups and a back panel connected to the
front panel; and
wherein the support undergarment is connected to the out-
erwear only at the neckline of the front portion and the
back portion.
- 4. The shirt of claim 3,
wherein the cups are foam padding; and
wherein the outerwear is slim-fitting in wear.
- 5. The shirt of claim 4,
wherein the front portion of the outerwear is formed to
terminate in a lower extent in wear of the shirt, the lower
extent dictated according to (i) a bust cup size value and
(ii) a length value, measured from below the cups to
preferred lower extent for the shirt in wear.
- 6. A method of sizing a shirt of a woman, comprising the
steps of:
measuring a first value of a distance from the breasts of the
woman to a preferred bottom ride location of the
woman;
measuring a second value of cup size of the breasts;
forming a front portion of an outerwear of the shirt in
accord with the steps of measuring the first value and
measuring the second value;
forming a back portion of the outerwear of the shirt to
conform to the front portion and provide neck and arm
holes and a bottom of the shirt;
forming cups of the size of the second value;

- forming a support undergarment having cups from the step
of forming cups of the second value; and
connecting the support undergarment to the front portion
and the back portion at the neck and arm holes.
- 7. The method of claim 6,
wherein the cups from the step of forming cups are semi-
rigid.
- 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
wherein the cups from the step of forming cups are foam.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of forming the
support undergarment comprises the steps of:
forming a front panel connected to the cups;
forming a back panel connected to the front panel;
connecting the front panel to the neck and arm holes of the
front portion; and
connecting the back panel to the arm holes of the front
portion.
- 10. A method of sizing a shirt for a woman, comprising the
steps of:
measuring a bust cup size of the woman; and
measuring a length of the woman extending from beneath
breasts of the woman to a preferred ride point of the
shirt; and
correlating dimensions for the shirt based on the step of
measuring the bust cup size and measuring the length.
- 11. A system for sizing a shirt of a woman, comprising:
a ruler; and
a bust cup range correlated to the ruler.
- 12. The product shirt of the method of claim 6.
- 13. The product shirt of the method of claim 7.
- 14. The product shirt of the method of claim 8.
- 15. The product shirt of the method of claim 9.
- 16. The product shirt of the method of claim 10.

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