July 14, 1953 H. L. SCHWARTZ 2,644,947

BRASSIERE

Filed July 15, 1949 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

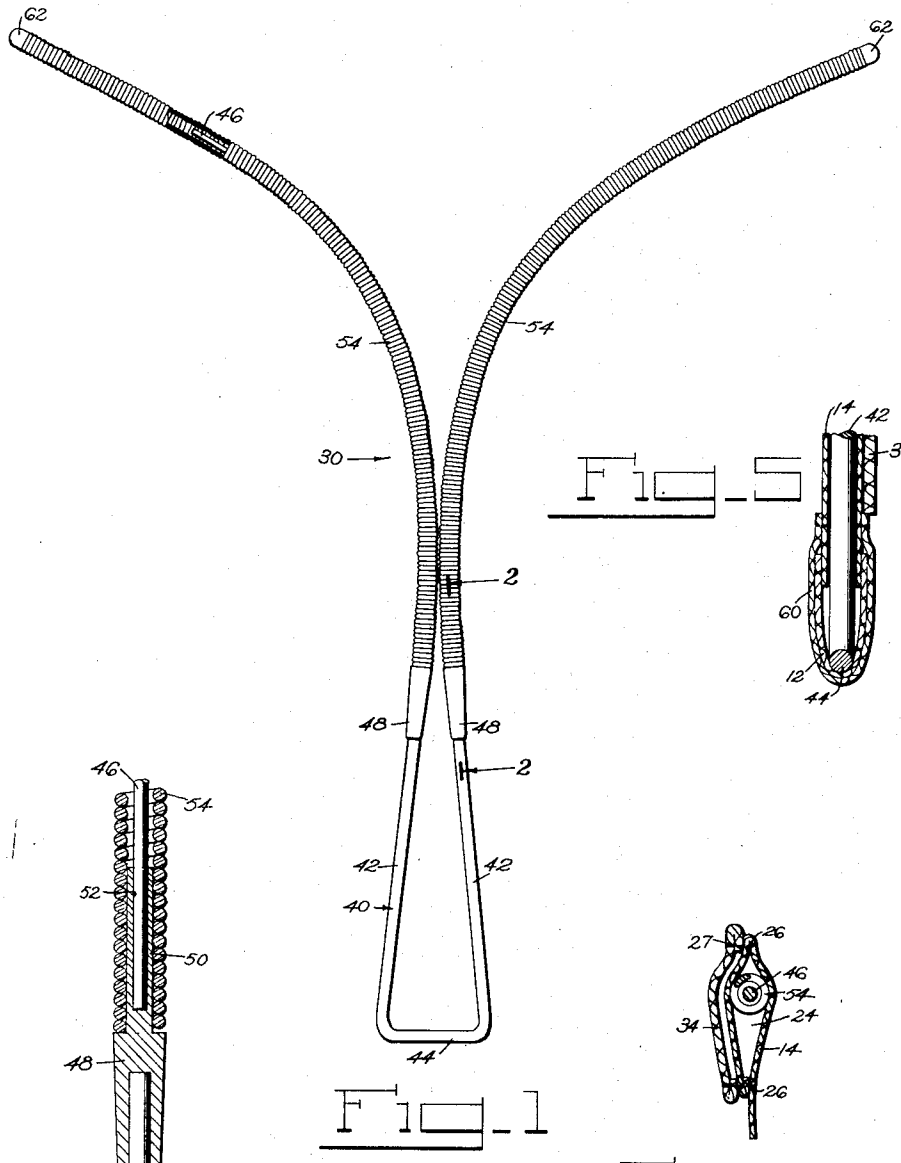


Fig. 1

Fig. 5

Fig. 2

Fig. 6

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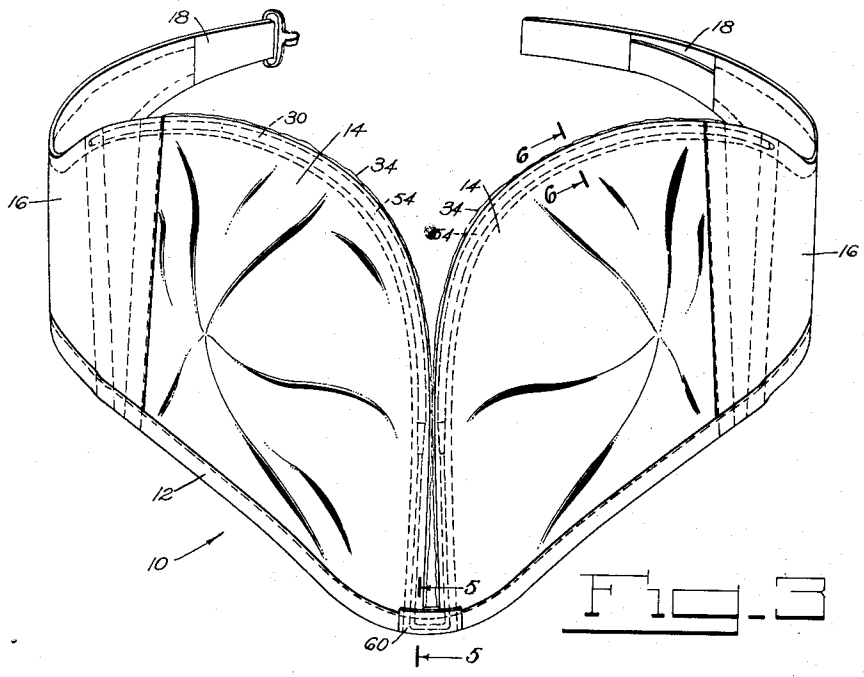


Fig. 3

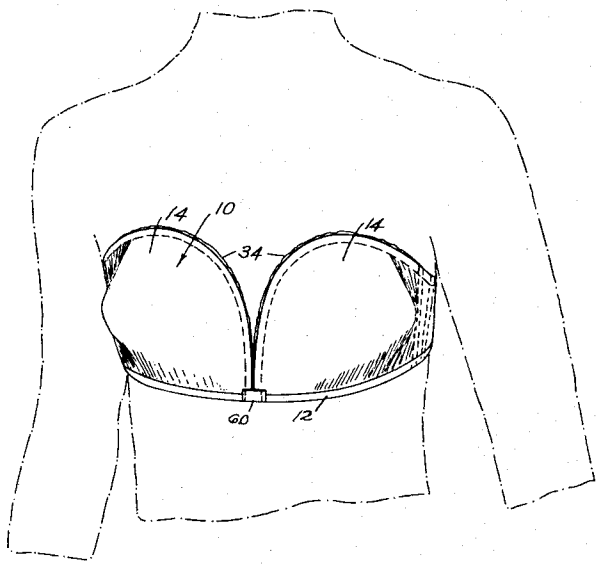


Fig. 4

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BRASSIÈRE

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6 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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This invention relates to brassières.

It is customary to insert in the breast-supporting cups of a brassière a wire form which is more or less resilient and adapted to preserve the shape of these cups and hold them in place when the brassière is worn. To this end, there is usually inserted in pockets at the rim of the cups of a brassière a wire which is customarily pre-bent into form-giving shape from which it will not readily yield.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide for the cups of a brassière a form-preserver which has all the advantages of a wire form, adjusts itself to any wearer's form, and is more flexible and accordingly more comfortable to wear than a wire form.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be fully understood from the following description, considered in connection with the accompanying illustrative drawings.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a form preserver embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a brassière in which the instant form preserver is incorporated;

Fig. 4 shows the brassière when worn; and

Figs. 5 and 6 are enlarged sections taken on the lines 5—5 and 6—6, respectively, of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings, and more particularly to Fig. 3 thereof, the reference numeral 10 designates a brassière in which a form preserver of the present invention may be incorporated. The brassière 10 which may be of any conventional kind, comprises in the present instance a waist band 12 to which are secured, as by sewing, the customary breast-supporting cups 14, as well as the side and back sections 16 to which the parts 18 of an elastic strap are customarily sewn. The waist band 12 may be in the form of a strong non-elastic tape which may extend to the elastic strap parts 18. The cups 14 may, if desired, be tailored from separate pieces of fabric suitable for the purpose, and these may be sewn to the waist band 12. The side and back sections 16 may also be tailored from separate pieces of material and sewn to the waist band 12, as well as to the adjacent margins of the cups 14. The cups 14, which are fashioned in the usual manner, are provided at their exposed margins with pocket 24, respectively, which may be formed by doubling-back the adjacent marginal edge portions of these cups in the

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fashion shown in Fig. 6, and securing them in place by stitching 26. The pockets 24 in the cups 14 are open adjacent the waist band 12 for the insertion thereinto of a form-preserver 30. The pockets 24 may, on the inside of the respective cups 14, be lined with cushion bands 34, respectively, which may be of any suitable soft material, such as velvet, for instance. The cushion bands 34 may conveniently be secured to the brassière by the pocket-holding stitches 26 and additional stitches 27 (Fig. 6).

Referring now to Fig. 1, the form-preserver 30 comprises, in the present instance, a generally U-shaped part 40 having opposite legs 42 and a connecting yoke 44, and being preferably made from resilient wire. The legs 42 of the part 40 are provided with resilient wire extensions 46 which are preferably of finer gauge than the wire of part 40 and may be bent into a shape approximating to some extent the normal outline of the rims of the cups 14 of the brassière when worn. The wire extensions 46 are, in the present instance, connected with the adjacent legs 42 of the part 40 through intermediation of ferrules 48. Each ferrule 48 may conveniently be pressfitted over the adjacent leg 42 of the part 40, and be provided with a projecting shank 50 which may be bored at 52 for the reception of a wire extension 46. Each wire extension 46 may, for secure mounting in its respective ferrule 48, be conveniently pressfitted in the bored shank 50 thereof. Passed over each wire extension 46 is a spiral spring 54 the turns of which may be wound so closely as to form a flexible tube. Each spiral spring 54 is conveniently anchored on its respective ferrule 48 by being forcibly turned over the shank 50 of the latter. The springs 54 are straight prior to their placement over the respective wire extensions 46, and they will assume the curved disposition shown in Fig. 1 only when passed over the pre-bent wire extensions 46. Inasmuch as the springs 54 have a tendency to recover their original straight disposition, it stands to reason that they normally bend the pre-formed wire extensions 46 out of their original disposition into a disposition similar to that shown in Fig. 3, for instance, when the brassère is not worn. Thus, the wire extensions 46 are, by the action of the springs 54 and when the brassière is not worn, sufficiently drawn from their pre-formed shape that they definitely deform the brassière cups 14 at the margins thereof from their intended form for wear. Moreover, the wire extensions 46 are preferably further pre-formed, particularly in

the part 40 thereof, normally yieldingly to urge the brassière cups 14 from their normal disposition on the wearer's breasts (Fig. 4) into relatively close proximity to each other (Fig. 3). Hence, some tensioning of the form-preserver 30 is required in order to bring the cups 14 into proper disposition over the wearer's breasts when the brassière is worn. The tension in the form preserver 30 requisite for this purpose is readily attained on merely applying the brassière to one's person, and is so slight as not to inconvenience the wearer in the least. To this end, it is further preferable to select the wire extensions 46 and surrounding springs 54 so that their combined flexibility is greater than that of the part 40. The great advantage of the normally resiliently deformed preserver 30 and brassière cups 14 lies, of course, in the forced assumption of the latter of their form-correcting disposition every time they are placed over the wearer's breasts. The instant form preserver 30 thus retains its form-preserving qualities easily over the useful life span of the brassière. The normal and deliberate resilient deformity of the instant form preserve 30 secures the further advantage of lending to the brassière equipped therewith unusual adaptability to differently formed breasts, including misformed breasts. Thus, the above-mentioned and other advantages of the instant form preserver 30 spring from the concept of its use in a brassière in resiliently deformed condition. The provision of the spiral springs 54 over the wire extensions 46 further lends particularly lasting resiliency to the form preserver 30, as will be readily understood.

The cups 14 of the brassière may be completely separated from each other at the front of the latter so that they are connected only by the waist band 12 (Fig. 3). The marginal pockets 24 in the brassière cups 14 are preferably open where the waist band 12 connects the latter, to permit the introduction thereat of the form preserver 30 into the pockets 24. After its introduction into the pockets 24 of the brassière, the form preserver 30 may be arrested in the pockets 24 by covering the open ends thereof with a flap 60 (Figs. 3 and 5) which may be sewed to the waist band 12 and adjacent portions of the brassière cups 14.

The wire extensions 46 preferably terminate short of the adjacent ends of the springs 54 which are closed by forced-in caps 62. In thus terminating the wire extensions 46 short of the adjacent ends of the springs 54, a substantial end length of each spring 54 is free to bend unimpeded by the wire extensions 46 in the latter. By this provision, the form preserver 30 conforms more readily to the curvature of the cups 14 in the vicinity of the side and back sections 16 of the brassière when the latter is worn.

While I have shown and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it will be understood that various changes may be made in the present invention without departing from the underlying idea or principles of the invention within the scope of the appended claims.

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

1. A form preserver for a brassière, comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent legs and a connecting yoke, and first and second continuous resilient wire extensions on each of said legs of which said first wire extension is next to said leg, said wire extensions on said legs are outwardly curved and the diameter of said first wire extensions is smaller than the diameter of said first wire whereby the flexibility of said first wire extensions is greater than that of said first wire while the flexibility of said second wire extensions is greater than that of said first wire extensions, said adjacent legs converging towards each other in the relaxed condition of said first wire.

2. A form preserver for a brassière, comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent legs and a connecting yoke, outwardly curved resilient wire extensions on said legs, respectively, said wire extensions being of smaller diameter than said first wire and having free end portions remote from said legs, and spiral springs surrounding said wire extensions, respectfully, and extending for a substantial distance beyond said free end portions of the latter, consecutive turns of each spring being in uninterrupted engagement with each other and the combined flexibility of each wire extension and surrounding spring being greater than that of said first wire.

3. In combination with a brassière having a waist band and spaced breast-receiving cups upwardly extending from said band, continuous resilient wire means extending along said band between said cups and secured to and further extending along the adjacent upwardly extending margins and continuing marginal portions of said spaced cups, said wire means comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent legs converging towards each other and a connecting yoke extending along said band between said cups, first resilient wire extensions on said legs, respectively, extending along lengths of said continuing marginal cup portions, respectively, and second resilient wire extensions on said first extensions, respectively, extending along the remaining lengths of said continuing marginal cup portions, respectively, said first wire extensions being of smaller diameter and having greater flexibility than said first wire, and said second wire extensions having greater flexibility than said first wire extensions, said extensions being outwardly curved and adapted to give said cups deliberately misformed marginal outlines different from those given to said cups by the wearer's breasts when the brassière is worn, said U-shaped resilient wire being effective to yieldingly hold said cups in engagement with each other when the brassière is not worn.

4. In combination with a brassière having a waist band and spaced breast-receiving cups upwardly extending from said band, continuous resilient wire means extending along said band between said cups and secured to and further extending along the adjacent upwardly extending margins and continuing marginal portions of said spaced cups, said wire means comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent lags extending along said upwardly extending cup margins, respectively, and a connecting yoke extending along said band between said cups, resilient wire extensions on said legs, respectively, extending along lengthwise parts only of said continuing marginal cup portions, respectively, and spiral springs surrounding said wire extensions, respectively, and extending along the full longitudinal expanse of said continuing marginal cup portions, respectively, the combined flexibility of each wire extension and surrounding spring being greater than that of said first wire, said resilient wire extensions and said spiral

springs being outwardly curved so as to give said cups deliberately misformed marginal outlines different from those given to said cups by the wearer's breasts when the brassière is worn.

5. A form preserver for a brassière, comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent legs and a connecting yoke, originally outwardly curved resilient wire extensions secured to said legs, respectively, and having free end portions remote from said legs, originally straight spiral springs surrounding said wire extensions, respectively, and extending for a substantial distance beyond said free end portions of the latter, said springs yieldingly forcing the respective wire extensions into curved shapes other than their original curved shapes, and the combined flexibility of each wire extension and surrounding spring being greater than that of said first wire, said adjacent legs converging towards each other in the relaxed condition of said first wire.

6. In combination with a brassière having a waist band and spaced breast-receiving cups upwardly extending from said band, continuous resilient wire means extending along said band between said cups and secured to and further extending along the adjacent upwardly extending margins and continuing marginal portions of said spaced cups said wire means comprising a first substantially U-shaped resilient wire having adjacent legs converging towards each other and a connecting yoke extending along said band between said cups, and resilient wire extensions on

said legs, respectively, said extensions adjacent said legs converging towards each other into abutting relation, said extensions upwardly from the point of abutting relation thereof being outwardly curved and having a greater flexibility than said U-shaped wire, said extensions extending along said continuing marginal cup portions so as to give said cups deliberately misformed marginal outlines different from those given to said cups by the wearer's breasts when the brassière is worn, said U-shaped resilient wire being effective to yieldingly hold said cups in engagement with each other when the brassière is not worn.

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