

Nov. 28, 1944.

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2,363,648

UNDERGARMENT

Filed Dec. 10, 1942

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig:1.

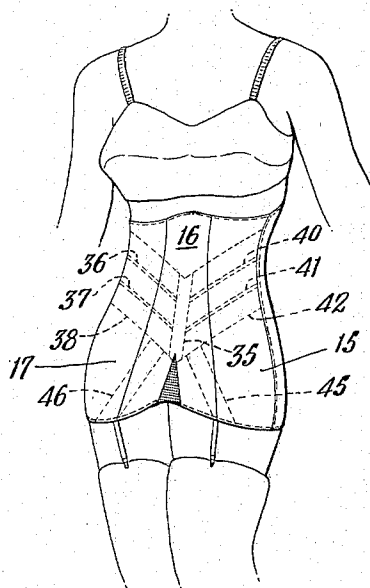
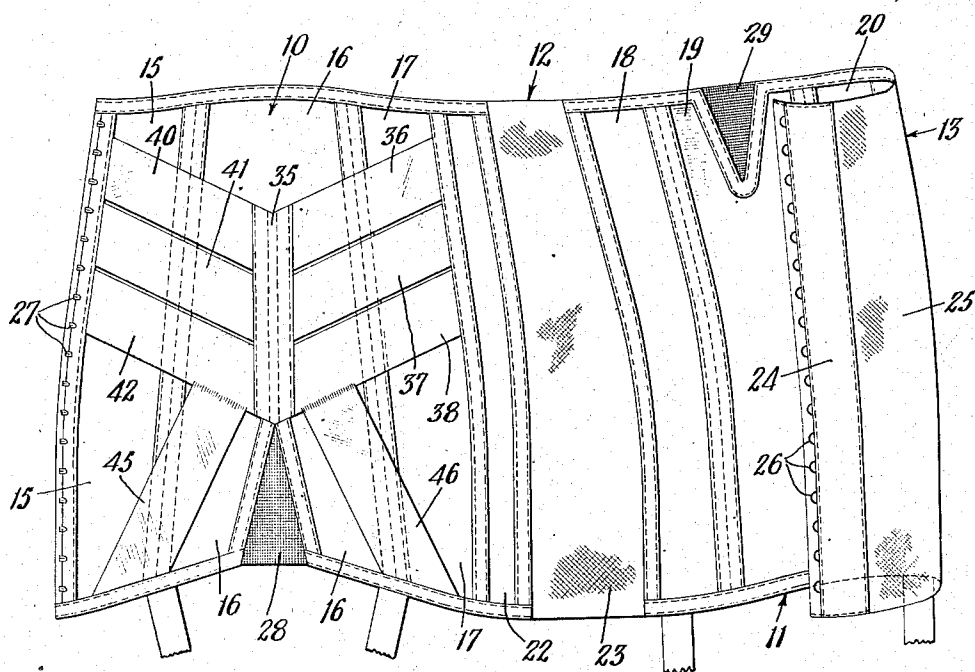


Fig:2.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 3.

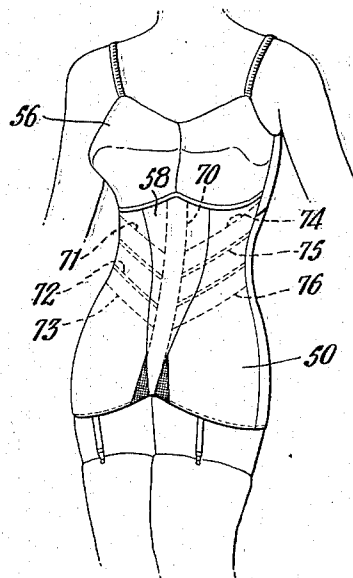
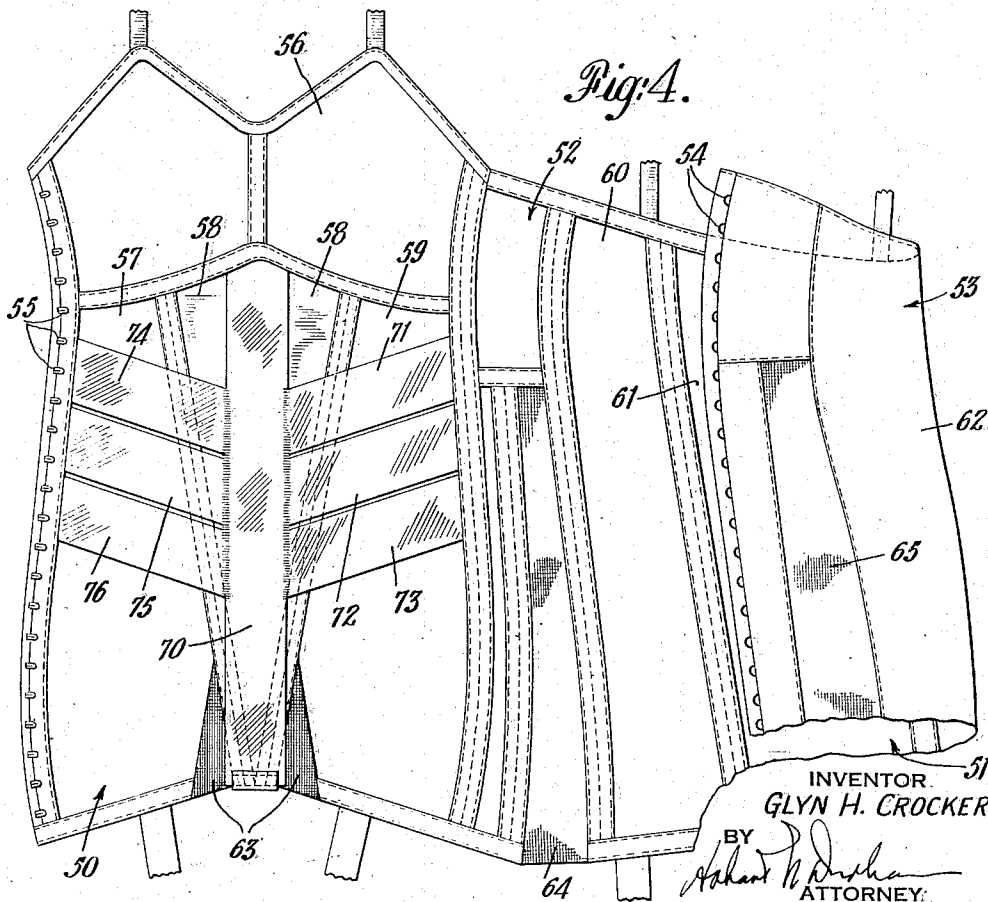


Fig. 4.



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UNDERGARMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—28)

The present invention relates to undergarments and more particularly to ladies' undergarments such as foundation garments, corsets, corselettes and girdles.

Objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part hereinafter and in part will be obvious herefrom, or may be learned by practice with the invention, the same being realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention consists in the novel parts, constructions, arrangements, combinations and improvements herein shown and described.

The accompanying drawings, referred to herein and constituting a part hereof, illustrate one embodiment of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a ladies' undergarment which is adapted to control the figure as a foundation for outer clothing and which is of simple and light weight construction and may be easily manufactured. A further object of the invention is the provision of such a garment which will stand up under long wear without becoming deformed and useless in its function as a foundation and does not require the use of large amounts of elastic in its construction. Still another object is to provide a foundation garment having adequate, comfortable and healthful means for restraining and controlling the abdominal region of the wearer of the garment.

Of the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of an undergarment embodying the present invention showing the garment in place upon the wearer;

Fig. 2 is a view of the undergarment shown in Fig. 1 off of the wearer and showing the inside of the garment;

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of another embodiment of the invention shown in place upon the wearer; and

Fig. 4 is a view of the embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 3 and showing the inside of the garment.

With the stated and other objects in view, there is provided in an illustrative embodiment of the present invention a foundation garment of the girdle type having body encircling elements in a generally customary form, the garment covering the body of the wearer from a position just below the ribs down over the hips and the upper leg region. The body encircling elements of the gar-

ment generally comprise front and back panels which are of fabric and relatively inelastic material, and elastic side panels joining the front and back panels, with closure means being provided at one side for fastening the garment in place upon the wearer.

Reinforcing means are provided at the front of the garment to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and firmly and comfortably restrain the same. These means comprise a median band or tape which is vertically and centrally disposed at the inside of the front panel of the girdle at a position to lie across the abdomen of the wearer when the garment is put on, and this band is not sewn or attached at any place along its length to the panel. Three side bands or tapes are provided at either side of the median band, and these bands are sewn at their ends to the median band, from which they angularly extend upwardly and outwardly to the respective outer edges of the front panel and are there secured to the panel, being otherwise unattached thereto. The side bands at either side of the median band are positioned side by side and parallel with each other, and are preferably relatively close together.

A pair of lower bands or tapes are provided one secured at its end to each of the lowermost side bands relatively close to the inner ends of these side bands, and the other or lower ends of each of these bands is secured to the lower edge of the front panel. These lower bands are angularly disposed, extending downwardly and outwardly from the lowermost side bands, forming substantially a ninety degree angle where they are secured thereto.

Another illustrative embodiment of the present invention comprises a corselette or all-in-one type of garment having an integral brassiere portion. At the inside of the front panel of the garment there is provided a vertically and centrally disposed median band which extends the length of the front panel and is secured at its upper and lower ends to the upper and lower edges respectively of the panel, being otherwise unsecured thereto. Three angularly disposed side bands are provided at either side of the median band as already described above in connection with the first illustrative embodiment.

It will be understood that the foregoing general description and the following detailed description as well are exemplary and explanatory of the invention but are not restrictive thereof.

Referring now in detail to the illustrative embodiment of the present invention as shown by way of example in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, a foundation

garment of the girdle type may comprise body encircling elements in a generally customary form, having a front panel 10, a back panel 11, and side panels 12 and 13. The front panel may preferably comprise three smaller panels 15, 16, 17, the central panel 16 being preferably comprised of two or more thicknesses of fabric in order to be somewhat reinforced in its position over the abdomen of the wearer.

The rear panel 11 is similarly composed of three individual panels 18, 19, 20 sewn together along their adjacent edges, and the central panel 19 is likewise preferably of two or more thicknesses of fabric to provide additional reinforcement at the back of the garment.

The side panel 12 may comprise individual panels 22 and 23, the former being of fabric and the latter of preferably elastic material. The side panel 13 comprises individual panel 24 of fabric and an elastic panel 25, the former being provided with a plurality of eyes 26 with which the hooks 27 on panel 15 are engageable to fasten the garment about the wearer.

A triangularly shaped elastic insert 28 may be provided in panel 16 at the front of the garment to insure the fit about the hips of the wearer, while another triangularly shaped elastic insert 29 is provided in panel 19 at the back of the garment to make the girdle fit snugly and neatly about the waist.

Auxiliary reinforcing means are provided at the inner side of the front panel 10 to lie across the abdomen of the wearer, and these means comprise a median band 35 which is centrally and vertically disposed of the front panel. Relatively broad side bands 36, 37, 38 are securely stitched at their ends to median band 35, and at the other ends to the outer edge of front panel 10, that is, at the place where panel 17 is sewn to panel 22.

Other side bands 40, 41, 42 are stitched at their ends to median band 35 at its other side and at their other ends to the edge of panel 10, that is, to the edge of panel 15 along which the hooks 27 are positioned.

The median and side bands are preferably fashioned of relatively unstretchable material, and are unsecured to the front panel 10 of the girdle except at the outer ends of the side tapes, as has been described. The three side bands at either side of the median band are positioned relatively closely together so that there is no substantial space between their adjacent edges.

Lower bands 45 and 46 are provided to anchor the abdomen restraining construction already described to the lower portion of the garment. As shown, these are securely stitched to the lower edges of the lowermost side bands 38 and 42 at positions relatively close to the median band 35, and form substantially 90 degree angles with said side bands. At their lower ends the lower bands 45 and 46 are stitched to the lower edge of the front panel 10, that is, to the lower edges of the individual panels 15 and 17 respectively.

Another illustrative embodiment of the present invention is shown by way of example in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. As there shown an all-in-one type of foundation garment may comprise body encircling elements of a generally customary design. There is provided a front panel 50, a back panel 51, side panels 52 and 53, and a brassiere portion 56 stitched to the upper edge of the front panel and to side panel 52. Eyes 54 are provided along the edge of side panel 53 to engage hooks 55 arranged along the edge of front panel 50 and bras-

siere portion 56 in fastening the garment in place upon the wearer.

The front panel 50 may comprise three individual panels 57, 58 and 59, the central panel 58 being preferably fashioned of two plies of material for reinforced strength in its position over the abdomen of the wearer. The back panel 51 is likewise fashioned of three individual panels 60, 61 and 62, the central panel 61 similarly being of two plies for reinforcement over the back of the wearer. Triangular shaped elastic inserts 63 are provided at the lower edge of front panel 50 between central panel 58 and panels 57 and 59, and rectangular elastic inserts 64, 65 are provided in the side panels 52 and 53 respectively.

Auxiliary abdomen restraining means are positioned at the inside of the front panel 50. As shown, these means comprise a vertically and centrally disposed median band or tape 70 which is secured at its ends to the upper and lower edges of front panel 50. Three side bands 71, 72 and 73 are angularly disposed at one side of median band 70, stitched at their ends to the median band and at their other ends to the edge of front panel 50 adjacent side panel 52. Three other side bands 74, 75 and 76 are provided at the other side of median band 70 and have their ends stitched to the median band and to the edge of front panel 50 along which the hooks 55 are spaced.

The several panels of the embodiments of the invention herein shown and described are preferably of relatively inelastic material in order to restrain the figure of the wearer and provide a foundation for clothing to be worn over the garments, except those panels and inserts which have been described as of elastic material. These latter serve to position the garments firmly on the wearer, modeling the figure of the wearer along desired lines and insuring the fit of the garments.

The several bands of the auxiliary abdomen restraining means herein shown and described for the embodiments of the present invention are preferably of strong and unstretchable material in order to provide a firm and unyielding restraint over that portion of the body of the wearer. It will be noted that the abdomen restraining means provide a substantially continuous panel of strong material over the abdomen to reinforce the front panel of the garments, but is relatively flexible to comfortably accommodate the movements of the wearer, due to its formation of several bands of material. The restraining bands are not stitched to the front panel at any place where the latter overlies the abdomen of the wearer but only at the edges of the panel, which further insures the comfort of the wearer in the whole garment and a firm restraint over the abdomen.

The angularly upwardly and outwardly extending positioning of the side bands provides a healthful and comfortable support for the abdomen while restraining it within desired bounds. Any sidewise stretching of the garments tends to increase the restraint, thus insuring the effectiveness and long useful life of the garment. The auxiliary means for restraining the abdomen provides a firmer and more healthful support for the abdominal muscles than is the case with elastic, while allowing at the same time for the freedom and comfort of the wearer.

The invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific mechanisms shown and described but departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the accompanying claims without departing from the principles of the in-

vention and without sacrificing its chief advantages.

What I claim is:

1. A foundation garment comprising, in combination, a front panel to overlie the front of the wearer, and auxiliary abdomen restraining means on the inside of the panel to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and unsecured to the panel at its abdomen covering portion, said means comprising a median band centrally and vertically disposed of said panel, and a set of side bands arranged mainly above the horizontal transverse center of the panel at each side of the median band and extending respectively outwardly and upwardly at an angle in opposite directions between the opposite side edges of the median band and the opposite side edges of the panel, each set of side bands being similar to but independent of the other set and comprising a plurality of bands arranged one above the other, the side bands of the respective sets being secured at their inner ends to the median band and at their outer ends to the opposite side edges of the panel, said side bands being otherwise free from connection with the panel and said median band being free from connection with the panel at the points of attachment of the side bands therewith.

2. A foundation garment comprising, in combination, a front panel to overlie the front of the wearer, and auxiliary abdomen restraining means on the inside of the panel to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and unsecured to the panel at its abdomen covering portion, said means comprising a relatively inelastic median band centrally and vertically disposed of said panel, and a set of side bands arranged mainly above the horizontal transverse center of the panel at each side of the median band and extending respectively outwardly and upwardly at an angle in opposite directions between the opposite side edges of the median band and the opposite side edges of the panel, each set of side bands being similar to but independent of the other set and comprising a plurality of relatively inelastic bands arranged one above the other in parallel relation side by side and substantially in edge to edge relation with each other, the inner ends of the side bands of the respective sets being secured at their inner ends to the median band and at their outer ends to the opposite side edges of the panel, said side

bands being otherwise free from connection with the panel and said median band being free from connection with the panel at the points of attachment of the side bands therewith, the said auxiliary abdomen restraining means including a connection between the bands and the panel to hold the bands from displacement in at least one direction vertically thereof.

3. A foundation garment comprising, in combination a front panel to overlie the front of the wearer, and auxiliary abdomen restraining means on the inside of the panel to overlie the abdomen of the wearer said means being unsecured to the panel at its abdomen covering portion, said means comprising a median band centrally and vertically disposed of said panel so as to overlie the abdomen of the wearer, said band being unsecured to the panel, a plurality of angularly disposed side bands at either side of said median band each secured at one end to said median band and extending outwardly and upwardly across said panel so as to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and secured at its other end to said panel at a lateral edge thereof said side bands at either side of said median band being parallel to each other and disposed side by side, and a pair of lower bands one secured to the lowest side band at either side of the median band and angularly disposed extending downwardly and outwardly and secured to the panel adjacent the lower edge thereof.

4. A foundation garment comprising, in combination, a front panel to overlie the front of the wearer, and auxiliary abdomen restraining means on the inside of the panel to overlie the abdomen of the wearer said means being unsecured to the panel at its abdomen covering portion, said means comprising a median band vertically and centrally disposed so as to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and secured to the panel at the upper and lower edge thereof and being otherwise unsecured thereto, and a plurality of angularly disposed side bands at either side of said median band each secured at one end to said median band and extending outwardly and upwardly across the panel so as to overlie the abdomen of the wearer and secured at its other end to said panel at a lateral edge thereof said side bands at either side of said median band being parallel to each other and disposed side by side.

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