

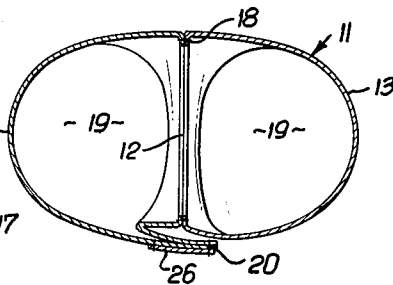
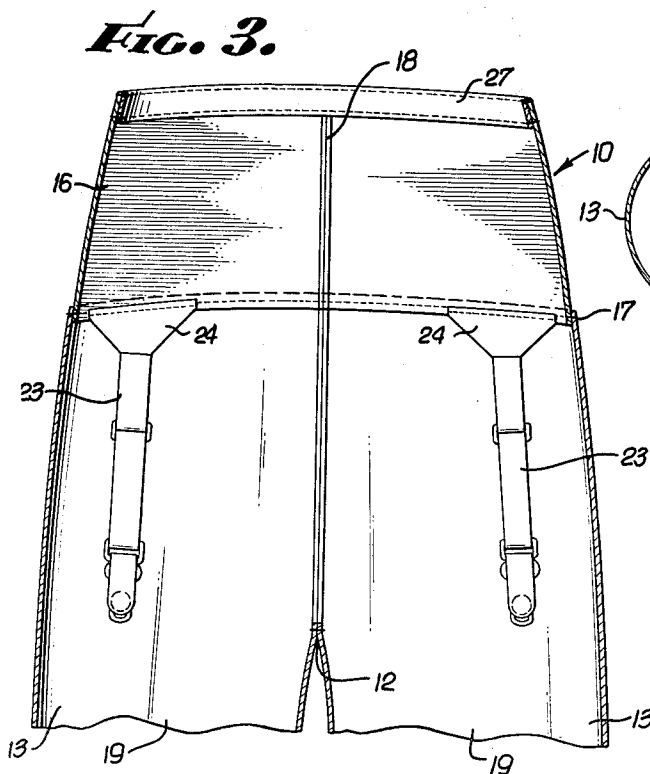
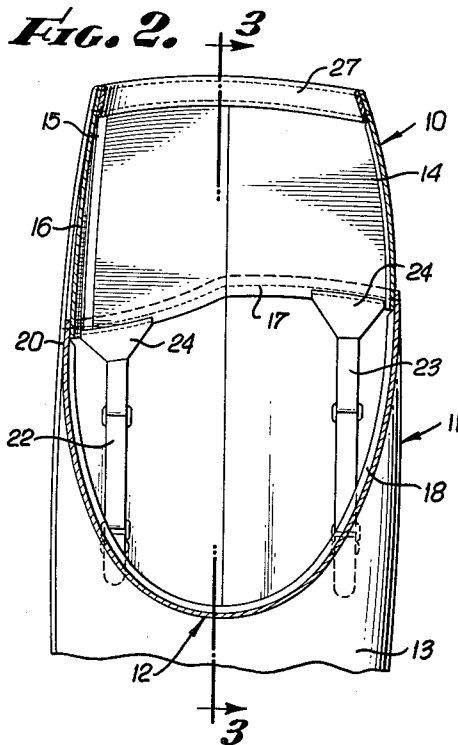
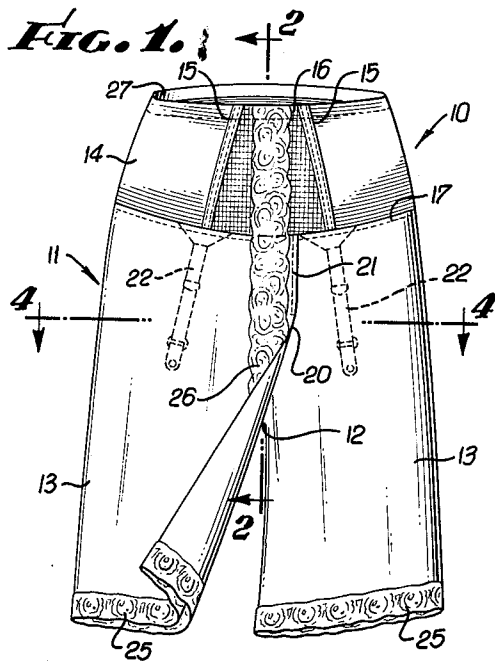
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3,162,197

MULTIPLE PURPOSE UNDERGARMENT

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3,162,197

MULTIPLE PURPOSE UNDERGARMENT

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This invention relates to improvements in women's undergarments of a type having characteristics of both a half slip and pantie, an illustration of which may be found in Patent 3,066,308, issued December 4, 1962, to me on Slip-Type Undergarment. This kind of garment heretofore has served the purpose of a half slip so changed from the ordinary to have a closed crotch and leg extents as to have also pantie features.

My general object now is to provide a multiple purpose garment of this type having characteristics not only of a combined half slip and pantie, but also of a girdle and integrated garter support or belt, all in a manner such that each function and feature is without interference by the others and the assembly therefore is comfortably wearable as well as being highly functional.

Structurally, this type of garment comprises an upper torso encircling portion, a closed crotch, and legs extending below to normal slip length. Serving as a slip and pantie, the wearer would require a separate girdle and garter supports.

In accordance with the present invention, I combine slip, pantie, girdle and garter support features in a single garment by making the upper torso encircling portion of elastic fabric to an extent and in a manner capable of serving as a girdle, and join thereto the lower crotch construction of inelastic fabric having slip and pantie suitability, within the upper leg portions of which are contained garters supported from the elastic section.

The invention particularly contemplates a lower section construction which provides one front side and leg portion with a fold overlapping the other side and leg for the dual purposes of crotch concealment, and to present an apparent skirt continuity in a normal straight hanging condition of the fold, which further adds to leg concealment as the wearer walks.

While the girdle section may be made entirely of elastic material, and with or without inelastic or differentially elastic inserts or sections, I preferably provide the girdle area with a front essentially inelastic panel for less yielding stomach support. This panel may be made of a relatively thin, but stretch resistant fabric, presenting the feature of added attractiveness and suitability for decoration as later explained.

The invention has various additional features and objects, all of which will be more fully understood from the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment shown by the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a view showing the garment in front elevation, with the fold turned back to show the bottom extent of the crotch;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary cross section on line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross section on line 3—3 of FIG. 2; and
FIG. 4 is a cross section on line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

The garment is shown to comprise an upper elastic torso encircling portion generally indicated at 10, and a lower portion 11 made of relatively lighter weight inelastic fabric such as a knitted weave fabric commonly used as slip material. In the manner later described, the lower section 11 of the garment is constructed with a closed crotch formation, the bottom extent appearing at 12 in FIG. 1, with circularly closed legs 13 extending below the crotch to normal half slip length.

The upper section 10 is shown to be made of elastic fabric 14 to extend about the body of the wearer from

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seams 15 where the elastic material is sewed to an inelastic front center panel 16. For proper stretch resistance and body confinement, the fabric 14 has its elastic threads running horizontally, and the material may or may not have consequent stretchability or elasticity vertically. The center panel 16 desirably is made of a relatively thin sheer fabric which is inelastic and non-stretchable, as is characteristic for example of a sheer nylon weave.

The slip material fabric of the lower section 11 is sewed to the described upper section 14 at the body encircling seam line 17. The slip material is sewed along a seam line 18 curving downwardly from its juncture with the seam 17 to the bottom extent indicated at 12, to form a closed crotch structure, at opposite sides of which results the leg openings 19. Referring particularly to FIGS. 1 and 4, it will be observed that the fabric at 20 is doubled upon itself to form a fold extending from one side and corresponding leg of the garment beyond its vertical center line (corresponding to the section line 2—2), to provide a multiple thickness overlap of such width, as substantially according to the portions illustrated, to serve the dual purposes of crotch concealment and an extent of leg overlap which in the normal straight hanging condition of the fold gives apparent skirt-like continuity to the garment. The edge of the fold 20 is sewed to the fabric underneath along a seam line 21 extending downwardly from the seam 17 a distance which may be substantially as illustrated, which assures positional definition of the fold at the top part with allowance for leg freedom below.

Front and rear pairs of garters 22 and 23 depend within the upper leg openings from attachments at 24 to the upper section 11 at the seam 17.

The garment may be decorated by the attachment of lace bands 25 about the bottom edges of the legs, and also by a lace band 26 which overlies the fold 20 and extends from its bottom upwardly to the waist band 26 and in central overlying relation to the inelastic panel 16.

As will be understood from the foregoing, the elastic section 10 serves the plural functions of support for the leg slip construction below, as a body confining girdle, and also as support for the garters 22 and 23. The lower section 11, including its overlapping fold construction, is symmetrically oriented in relation to the upper elastic section as are the positioning and arrangement of the depending garters within the upper leg openings.

It will be understood that the drawing is intended to be illustrative of the invention in a typical though preferred form, and that various changes in detail may be made without departure from the intended scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A half-slip length undergarment comprising an upper torso encircling portion made at least in part of elastic fabric to have girdle characteristics, a lower portion made of inelastic fabric sewn at its top about the garment to the lower edge portion of said elastic fabric, said lower portion comprising side sections sewn together, and a closed crotch formed by said sewing together of the side sections at a seam extending upwardly to a terminal at the bottom front center of said torso encircling portion, said side sections forming separate leg extents below the crotch and adapted to be worn loosely about the legs of the wearer, the fabric of one of said leg extents having a fold extending from a bottom front central edge of said torso encircling portion to the bottom of the garment and the fold extending laterally beyond the vertical center line of the garment to overlap said crotch seam terminal and to overlap also the other of said leg extents.

2. A garment according to claim 1, in which the

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overlapping extent of the fold is sewed to the underlying fabric at an upper extent only of the fold.

3. A garment according to claim 2, in which the front of said torso encircling portion contains a panel of inelastic material vertically coextensive with said elastic fabric and alined with and sewn to said fold, said inelastic fabric being attached by side edge seams to said elastic fabric, and garter straps depending inside the garment from the lower ends of said seams. 5

4. A garment according to claim 1, in which the overlapping extent of the fold is sewn near its edge to the underlying fabric along a sewn line extending from the top of the fold downwardly to a location above said crotch. 10

5. A garment according to claim 1, including also garter straps depending from said elastic fabric inside said leg extents at opposite sides of the crotch. 15

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6. A garment according to claim 1, in which the front of said torso encircling portion contains a panel of inelastic fabric vertically alined with said fold and to which the fold is sewn.

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