April 5, 1949. T. SCHAUMER 2,466,280

BRASSIERE

Filed April 11, 1945

Fig. 1.

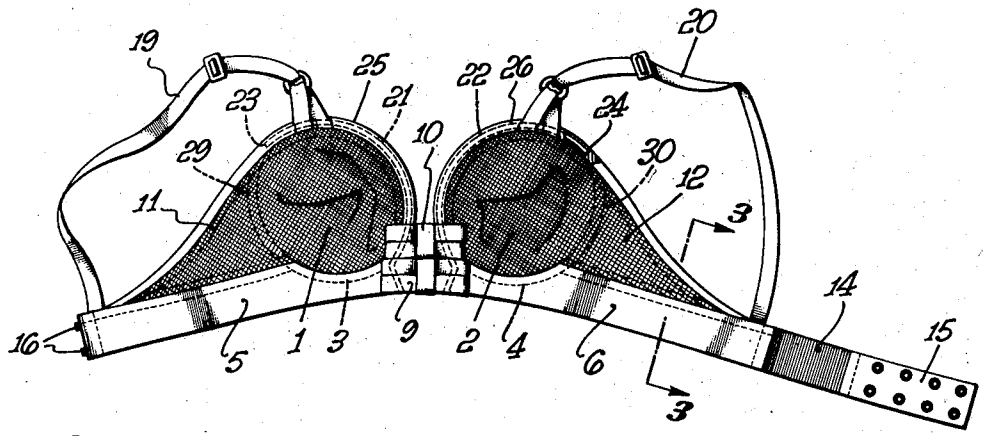


Fig. 2.

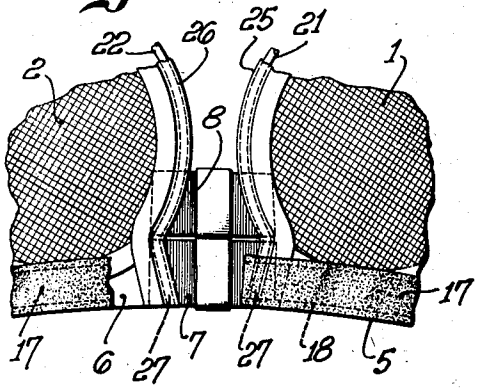


Fig. 3.

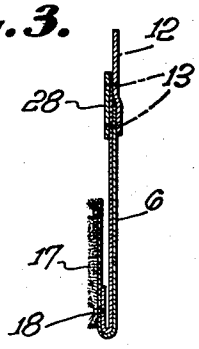
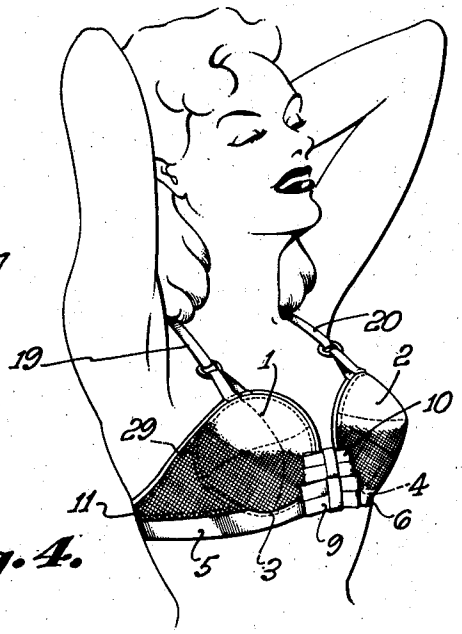


Fig. 4.



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BRASSIÈRE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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This invention relates to brassières.

In garments of this character, two breast receiving cups are provided for supporting the breasts. A body-encircling band, to which the cups are appropriately fastened, serves to hold the garment in place. This band is often supplemented by shoulder straps.

Brassières of this character are entirely satisfactory; but, when low-cut evening gowns are worn, such gowns reveal that part of the brassière which extends between the cups. It is one of the objects of this invention to provide a brassière that can be worn under such gowns without exposing any part of the brassière.

In order to accomplish this result, the material connecting the breast cups at the hollow between the breasts is disposed well below the rounded portions of the breasts; and the cups are otherwise supported so that they are maintained in proper position with respect to the breasts. Accordingly, it is another object of this invention to provide a cup-supporting means that may be left concealed even when low-cut gowns are used.

This invention possesses many other advantages, and has other objects which may be made more clearly apparent from a consideration of one embodiment of the invention.

For this purpose there is shown a form in the drawings accompanying and forming part of the present specification. The form will now be described in detail, illustrating the general principles of the invention; but it is to be understood that this detailed description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, since the scope of this invention is best defined by the appended claims.

Figure 1 is an elevation of a brassière embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary elevation of the lower front portion of the brassière as viewed from the inner side of the garment;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view, taken along plane 3—3 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a pictorial view showing the brassière in position on a wearer.

The brassière is provided with two breast cups 1 and 2 that are domed to accommodate the breasts of the wear. These cups may be made of any suitable fabric, such as lace, silk, or a combination of such fabrics.

The lower edges 3 and 4 of the cups 1 and 2 are joined, as by sewing, to the members 5 and 6 which may be of stout satin, or the like, and which may each be provided with a concave upper edge for reception of the lower portions of the cups. These two members 5 and 6, as shown most

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clearly in Fig. 2, may be joined by the elastic webbing 7. A supplemental elastic webbing 8 may join the lower edges of the cups 1 and 2 and may be covered, as indicated in Fig. 1, by the decorative bows 9 and 10. The outer edges 29 and 30 of the cups 1 and 2 are shown as joined to the generally triangular members 11 and 12. The lower edges of these members are joined, as by the stitching 13 (Fig. 3), to the members 5 and 6. A thin reinforcing band 28, as of satin, may be used as a backing for the seam or stitching 13. Such reinforcement, as indicated in Fig. 1, may also be utilized along the upper edges of the members 11 and 12, as well as at their lower edges.

The member 6 is provided with an elastic webbing extension 14 and an eyelet-forming member 15 adapted to co-operate with hooks 16 at the end of the member 5. In this way, the elements 5, 9, 6, 14, and 15 provide a body-encircling member adapted to encompass the body of the wearer.

In order to avoid irritation of the skin of the wearer, a fabric member 17 (Figs. 2 and 3) having a soft, long nap, such as velvet, may be provided along the inner side of the members 5 and 6. This high pile fabric may be appropriately sewed, as by the seam 18, to the upturned lower edge of the member 5 or 6. Other pieces of such high pile fabric may also be attached at other points as desired, where the garment touches the skin of the wearer.

Adjustable shoulder straps 19 and 20 are also provided. These shoulder straps are joined to the body-encircling members 5 and 6, and to the top portion of the cups 1 and 2.

The elastic members 7 and 8 are disposed close to the bottom line of the garment. In this way, as heretofore stated, low-cut dresses may be worn without exposing the brassière in the depression formed between the inner sides of the breasts. However, it is necessary to provide reinforcement for the cups 1 and 2 in order to ensure that they will remain in close breast-supporting position. For this purpose, use is made of two separate reinforcing or stiffening members 21 and 22, such as a stiff wire. These members extend along the inner edges of the cups 1 and 2 and over the upper edges to points beyond the shoulder straps. The ends of the wires are indicated by the lines 23 and 24 in Fig. 1. These reinforcing wires are passed through the narrow fabric piping 25—26 formed around the edges of the cups 1 and 2. The lower ends of the reinforcing members 21 and 22 are bent toward each other, as indicated at 27 in Fig. 2, and extend entirely to the lower edge of the garment.

Reinforcement of material other than a metal wire may be provided so long as it is sufficiently rigid to support the inner and upper edges of the breast cups 1 and 2. By the provision of these reinforcing members or stiffeners 21 and 22, together with the elastic webbing 7 and 8, the brassière cups remain in position although the wearer may impose considerable stress upon them.

The inventor claims:

1. In a brassière: a pair of breast cups; separate body-encircling members supporting the breast cups at their lower edges; an elastic portion connecting the encircling members between the breast cups and adjacent their lower edges; separate stiffeners having their lower ends anchored in the connections of the encircling members and elastic portion; said stiffeners being secured in the inner edges of the breast cups and extending to a point along the upper edges thereof; and shoulder straps attached to the body-encircling members and to the breast cups at their upper edges in a manner to support the upper ends of the stiffeners.

2. In a brassière: a pair of breast cups; separate body-encircling members supporting the breast cups at their lower edges; an elastic portion connecting the encircling members between the breast cups and adjacent their lower edges; separate stiffeners having their lower ends anchored in the elastic portion; said stiffeners supporting the inner edges of the breast cups and extending to a point along the upper edges thereof; and shoulder straps attached to the body-encircling members and to the breast cups at their upper edges in a manner to support the upper ends of the stiffeners.

3. In a brassière: a pair of breast cups; separate body-encircling members supporting the breast cups at their lower edges; an elastic portion connecting the encircling members between the breast cups and adjacent their lower edges, said elastic portion also connecting the breast cups immediately above said encircling members, the inner edges of said cups being free from interconnection above said elastic portion; separate stiffeners having their lower ends anchored in the connections of the encircling members and elastic portions; said stiffeners being secured in the inner edges of the breast cups and extending to a point along the upper edges thereof; and shoulder straps attached to the body-encircling members and to the breast cups at their upper edges in a manner to support the upper ends of the stiffeners.

4. In a brassière: a pair of breast cups; separate body-encircling members supporting the breast cups at their lower edges; an elastic portion connecting the encircling members between the breast cups and adjacent their lower edges, said elastic portion also connecting the breast cups immediately above said encircling members, the inner edges of said cups being free from interconnection above said elastic portion; separate stiffeners having their lower ends anchored in the elastic portion; said stiffeners supporting the inner edges of the breast cups and extending to a point along the upper edges thereof; and shoulder straps attached to the body-encircling members and to the breast cups at their upper edges in a manner to support the upper ends of the stiffeners.

THEO SCHAUMER.

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