

Dec. 23, 1941.

N. BLUM

2,267,365

BRASSIÈRE

Filed July 17, 1940.

FIG. 1.

Fig. 2.

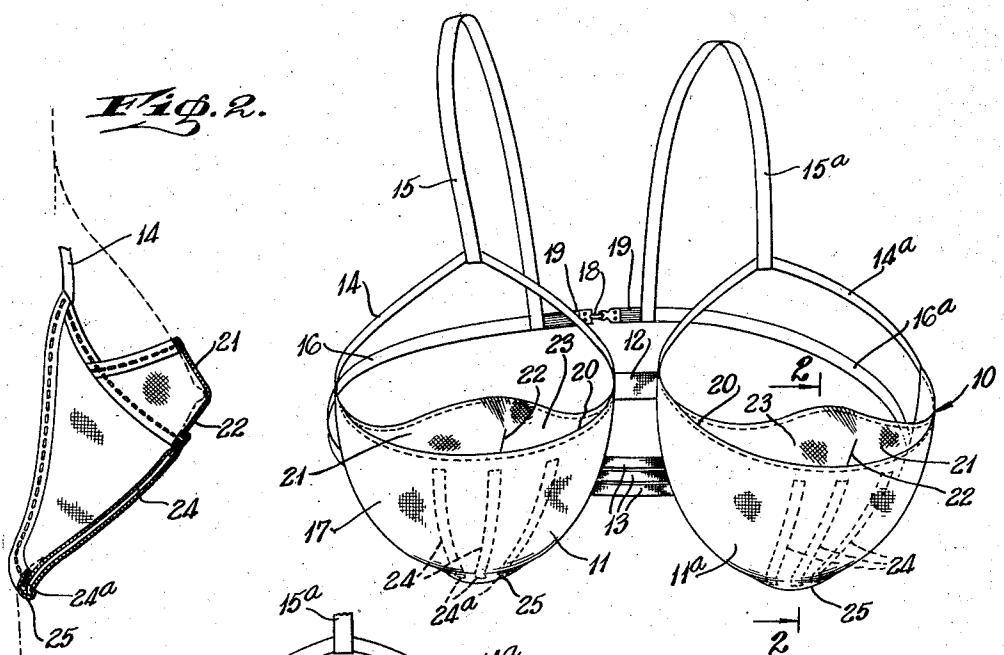


Fig. 3.

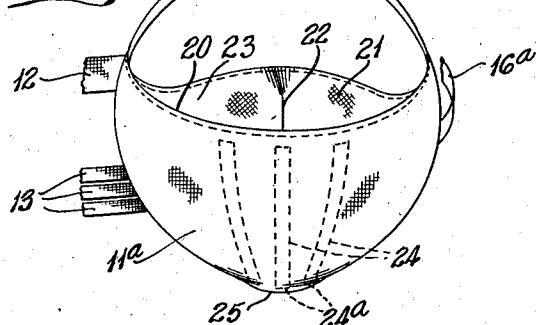


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR
NETTIE BLUM
BY

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,267,365

BRASSIÈRE

Nettie Blum, Oceanside, N. Y.

Application July 17, 1940, Serial No. 345,886

5 Claims.

(Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to what are commonly referred to as brassières, and particularly to devices of this kind constructed in a manner to support the breasts in youthful form; and the object of the invention is to provide a brassière of the character described, each breast supporting portion of which comprises a supporting or bracing band disposed upon the lower portion of the breast and extending upwardly along the sides of the breast in a manner to support the upper portion of the breast in an exposed manner, and still further in providing on the upper edge of the breast supporting band a flap or segment arranged from the central nipple portion of the breast substantially to the outer sides thereof and covering a portion of the top of the breast adjacent the nipple in retaining the breasts against displacement from said bands; a further object being to provide a brassière of the character described wherein each band comprises a substantially straight upper edge, a curved lower edge, and a substantially straight outer edge; a further object being to provide each supporting band with an upper supporting strap extending from the corner portions of the upper edge of the band and of sufficient length to encircle the upper portion of the base of the breast to form means engaging shoulder straps for supporting the brassière upon the body of the wearer; a further object being to provide a body encircling strap attached to the outer edge of each band where the lower edge joins said outer edge, said strap supporting the rear ends of the shoulder straps and having means detachably coupling the ends of the body encircling straps at the back; a further object being to provide elastic and non-elastic strap members joining and spacing adjacent inner edge portions of said bands intermediate the breasts; and a still further object being to provide breast supporting bands of relatively firm material or of reinforced material in maintaining and supporting the breasts in youthful position; and with these and other objects in view, the invention consists in a garment of the class and for the purpose specified, which is simple in construction, efficient in use, and which is constructed as hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, in which the separate parts of my improvement are designated by reference characters in each of the views, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective front view of a brassière

illustrating the parts substantially in a position for use.

Fig. 2 is a partial section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a front view of one of the breast supporting members of the brassière.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing a modified adaptation of the invention, and

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the general structure of the breast supporting bands in extended position, as employed in Figs. 1 to 4 inclusive.

In the construction of brassières and similar garments of this type and kind, it has been the common practice to employ what are commonly referred to as breast supporting pockets; that is to say, members which would completely receive and cover the entire breast or at least the major portion thereof. Many efforts have been made in constructing such breast pockets to maintain youthful form of the breasts. However, in most instances, the structure in attempting to correct one defect, namely that of raising the breasts, is counteracted by a tendency to depress the breasts. In overcoming these objectionable features, I have constructed a brassière wherein the conventional pocket structure has been eliminated and supplemented by the use of what may be termed bands which engage the lower portion of the breasts as well as the sides thereof at a point above the central portion of the breast so as to form of the bands what may be termed supporting or bracing members which raise the breasts and support them in youthful position. By supporting the upper corner portions of the band in loop-shaped straps which encircle the breasts at the base thereof and are attached to the shoulder straps of the brassière, the breasts are supported with the major part of the top of the breasts exposed.

To maintain the breasts in firm position and against displacement, I also employ centrally of the upper edge of the bands and extending well to the outer sides thereof, flanged portions engaging the nipples of the breasts and arranged over a part of the top of the breasts. Further, by constructing the bands of a relatively rigid and firm material or by reinforcing a flexible material through the medium of stays, these bands will form what might be termed supporting shields or plates which firmly and yet comfortably support the breasts in raised or youthful position.

In the accompanying drawing, I have shown for the purpose of illustration, two of the many

adaptations of this invention; Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive showing one form of construction, and Fig. 4 illustrating a modified form of structure. In Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the brassière generally is indicated at 10 and comprises two substantially similar bands 11, 11a forming breast supporting members. These bands are joined at adjacent edges by one non-extensible strap 12 and three elastic straps 13. Upper and outer corner portions of the bands 11, 11a are joined by strap loops 14, 14a to which are fixedly or slidably attached the forward ends of shoulder straps 15, 15a. The rear ends of the straps 15, 15a are attached to body encircling straps 16, 16a, and the forward ends are attached to corner portions 17 of each of the bands 11, 11a. The rear ends are detachably coupled by suitable couplings 18. These rear ends may also include elastics 19 to provide yieldable mounting of the straps 16, 16a upon the body of the wearer.

To the upper edge 20 of the bands 11, 11a is attached a flange, segment, or flap 21, which is disposed primarily to the outer sides of the bands 11, but includes a central shirred portion 22 to receive the nipple of the breast, with a short section 23 extending to the central portion of the band, but short of the end thereof. As will be seen from a consideration of Fig. 2, the segment or flap 21 protrudes forwardly of the band 11 when arranged upon the body of the wearer. The purpose of this construction is to leave the major part of the breast exposed and particularly the adjacent upper portions of the breast. The flanged portions 21 extend upwardly onto the breasts a sufficient degree to retain the breasts in proper position on the bands 11, 11a and so as to prevent relative displacement between the breasts and said bands.

In the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the bands 11, 11a may be composed of any suitable type of fabric, lace or combination of lace and fabric of the freely flexible type and kind, in which event, a plurality of stays 24 are arranged vertically in the central portion of the bands to provide firm supports directly beneath the central portion of the breasts. It is also preferred that the lower ends 24a of these stays curve outwardly so that the lower edge 25 of the bands 11, 11a, will fold to a slight degree to rest flatly upon the body of the wearer around the breasts, as is partially indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing.

In Fig. 4 of the drawing is shown a slight modification which consists in the use of a rubber or other composition sheet material 26 in forming each of the bands and in using an inner facing 26a of any suitable soft materials. The sheet 26 including the facing 26a will have perforations 27 of any desired arrangement thereon and of any suitable contour to provide ventilation and further to reduce the weight of the material employed in said bands.

In some instances, the bands 26 may be composed of a semi-rigid but readily flexible material such as sheet rubber, but this material may be of various synthetic materials including acetates and the like having sufficient flexibility to assume the arc-shaped form to fit the breasts of the wearer, while at the same time having sufficient transverse rigidity to support the breasts in raised position without the use of stays or other reinforcements. In other instances, the structure of the bands may be so devised as to give the required rigidity if the

material in itself is not sufficient to accomplish this result.

At 21a are shown flanges or other members similar to the members 21 in Figs 1 to 3 inclusive, which will be composed of fabrics, nettings, lace, or the like. The structure of Fig. 4 will otherwise be the same as the structure shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive insofar as the use of the various straps and couplings is concerned.

In both forms of construction, the band members are formed from blanks such as illustrated at 28 in Fig. 5 of the drawing. These blanks are shaped to form relatively straight upper edges 29, curved inner and lower edges 30, and a substantially straight outer edge 31 arranged at an angle less than 90° to the edge 29. The outer edge 31 joins the curved edge 30 in a corner portion 32 to which straps 33 similar to the straps 16, 16a are attached. At 34 is shown the attachment of the straps loops similar to the loops 14, 14a to the upper corner portions of the bands. At 35 is shown the strap similar to the strap 12, and at 36, three elastic straps similar to the straps 13.

The illustration in Fig. 5 of the drawing is to show the approximate angular arrangement of the different straps with respect to the odd shaped contour of the band blanks 28 employed. It will be understood, however, that when the brassière is in use, the corner portions of the bands to which the straps equivalent to the straps 14, 14a are attached, extend upwardly to the sides of each breast to a point above the central portion of the breast, as is indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The straps loops 14, 14a extend around the upper portion of the breast at the base thereof, thus the base of the breast will be completely encircled by the edges 30, 31 in combination with the straps loops 34 as will be apparent.

It will also be apparent that the upper edge 29 of the band devices, or in other words, the edge 20 as seen in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, is disposed below the nipple of the breast but in close proximity thereto, whereas the flange or flap members 21 extend over the nipple and upon part of the upper portion of the breast, firmly supporting the same within the curved band. The band members of the brassière when arranged upon the breasts assume what might be termed arc-shaped supporting members, and these members may be composed in themselves of rigid materials, capable of the bending or flexure to conform with the breasts while maintaining the vertical rigidity to support the breasts in raised position, or the materials may be of the flexible type, reinforced by stays or other bracing members. These supporting bands or other members form upon the body of the wearer what might be termed open pockets in which the breasts seat or rest comfortably while being supported in raised youthful position. It will also be apparent that in referring to brassières, that it is intended that my invention relates to brassière structures as applied to garments of this type and kind per se or as may be applied to garments including brassières as a combination thereof.

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

1. A garment of the class described comprising two substantially similar breast receiving and supporting members, each of said members comprising a band disposed on the lower portion and

sides only of the breast, a segment of concave contour attached to the upper edge of the band, said segment overlying the nipple and adjacent area of the breast leaving the major part of the upper portion of the breast exposed, means joining adjacent ends of said bands intermediate the breasts, loop-shaped straps joining the ends of each band, means attached to the outer edges of the bands and detachably coupled at the back of the wearer to retain the garment around the body, and shoulder straps coupled with said last named means and with said loop-shaped straps in supporting the brassière upon the shoulders of the wearer, the upper edge of said segments being free of the loop-shaped straps.

2. A garment of the class described comprising two substantially similar breast receiving and supporting members, each of said members comprising a band disposed on the lower portion and sides only of the breast, a segment of concave contour attached to the upper edge of the band, said segment overlying the nipple and adjacent area of the breast leaving the major part of the upper portion of the breast exposed, means joining adjacent ends of said bands intermediate the breasts, loop-shaped straps joining the ends of each band, means attached to the outer edges of the bands and detachably coupled at the back of the wearer to retain the garment around the body, shoulder straps coupled with said last named means and with said loop-shaped straps in supporting the brassière upon the shoulders of the wearer, the upper edge of said segments being free of the loop-shaped straps, and said bands having means imparting rigid characteristics to at least the central portions thereof to firmly support the breasts in raised position.

3. A garment of the class described comprising two substantially similar breast receiving and supporting members, each of said members comprising a band disposed on the lower portion and sides only of the breast, a segment of concave contour attached to the upper edge of the band, said segment overlying the nipple and adjacent area of the breast leaving the major part of the upper portion of the breast exposed, means joining adjacent ends of said bands intermediate the breasts, loop-shaped straps joining the ends of each band, means attached to the outer edges of the bands and detachably coupled at the back of the wearer to retain the garment around the

body, shoulder straps coupled with said last named means and with said loop-shaped straps in supporting the brassière upon the shoulders of the wearer, the upper edge of said segments being free of the loop-shaped straps, said bands having means imparting rigid characteristics to at least the central portions thereof to firmly support the breasts in raised position, said means comprising stays arranged vertically in the central portions of said bands, and the lower ends of said stays being offset outwardly to fit snugly upon the body of the wearer beneath the breasts.

4. A garment of the class described comprising two substantially similar breast receiving and supporting members, each of said members comprising a band disposed on the lower portion and sides only of the breast, a segment of concave contour attached to the upper edge of the band, said segment overlying the nipple and adjacent area of the breast leaving the major part of the upper portion of the breast exposed, means joining adjacent ends of said bands intermediate the breasts, loop-shaped straps joining the ends of each band, means attached to the outer edges of the bands and detachably coupled at the back of the wearer to retain the garment around the body, shoulder straps coupled with said last named means and with said loop-shaped straps in supporting the brassière upon the shoulders of the wearer, the upper edge of said segments being free of the loop-shaped straps, and each of said bands being composed of a sheet of semi-rigid perforated material including an inner facing of soft material.

5. A brassière of the class described comprising two substantially similar breast receiving and supporting members, each of said members comprising a band disposed on the lower portion and sides only of the breast, a segment of concave contour attached to the upper edge of the band, said segment overlying the nipple and adjacent area of the breast leaving the major parts of the upper portion of the breast exposed, means joining the adjacent ends of said bands, and means comprising back and shoulder straps attached to said members and independent and free of said segments for supporting said members upon the body of the wearer in the support of the breasts by said members and segments.

NETTIE BLUM.