Aug. 19, 1952 L. SPARE 2,607,038

BRASSIERE

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Fig. 1.

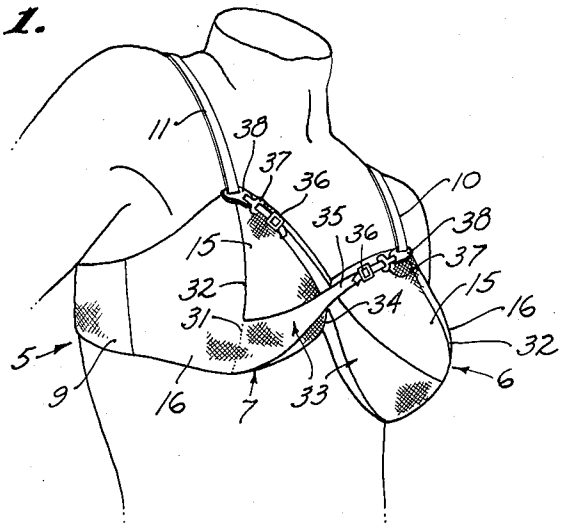


Fig. 2.

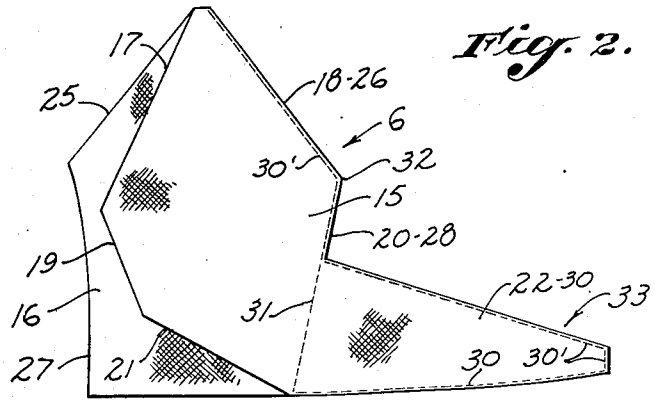
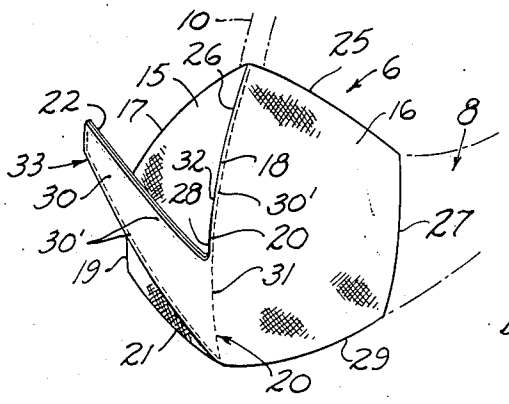


Fig. 3.



INVENTOR:
LOLA SPARE
BY HER ATTORNEYS
HARRIS, KIECH, FOSTER & HARRIS
BY Fred W Kiech

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Fig. 4.

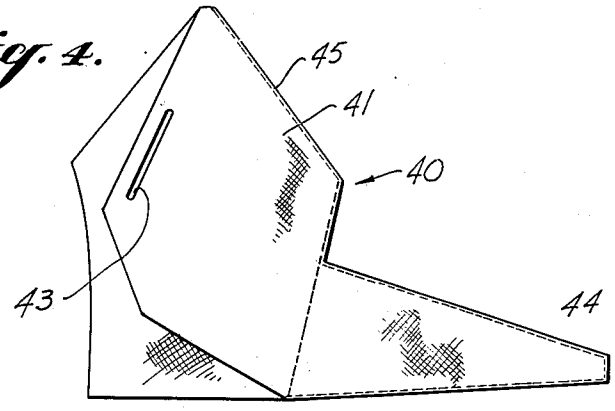


Fig. 5.

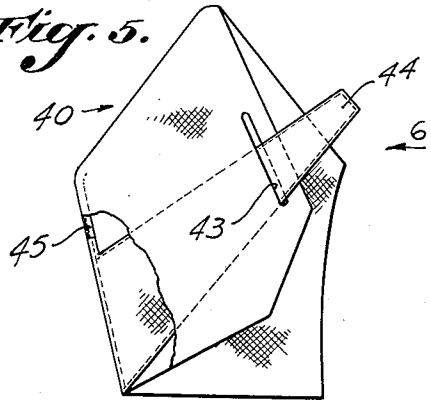


Fig. 6.

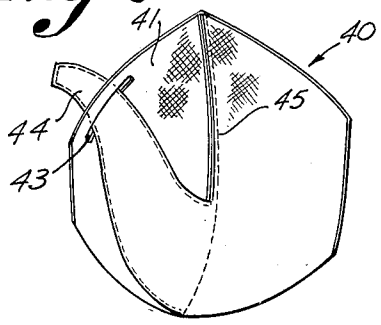


Fig. 7.

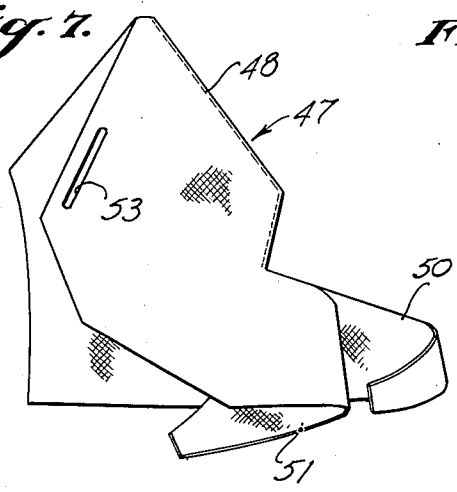
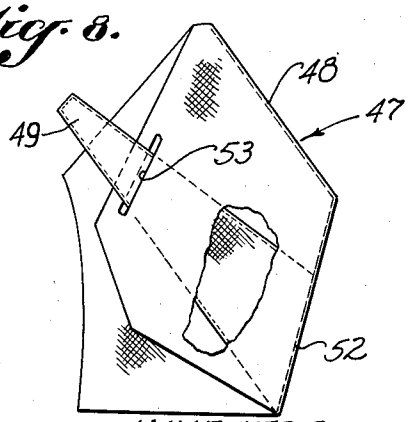


Fig. 8.



INVENTOR:
LOLA SPARE
BY HER ATTORNEYS
HARRIS, KIECH, FOSTER & HARRIS
BY Paul W Harris

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Fig. 9.

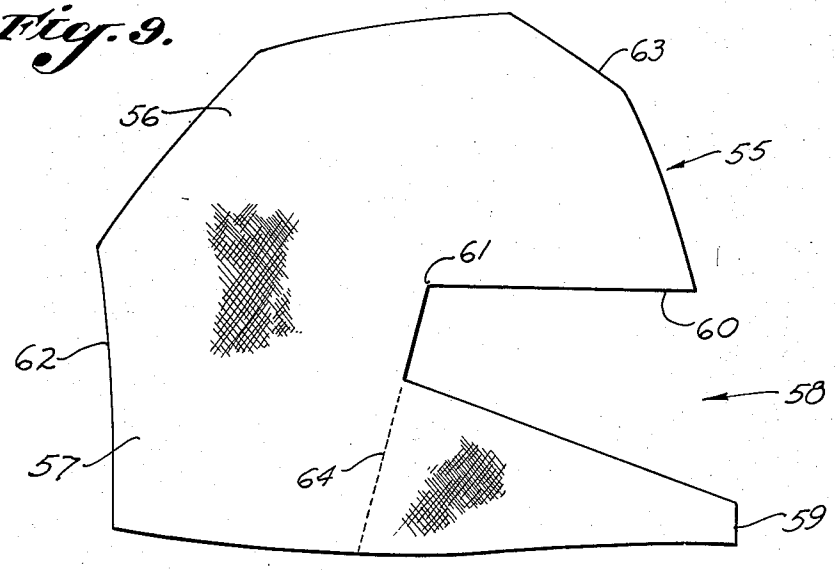
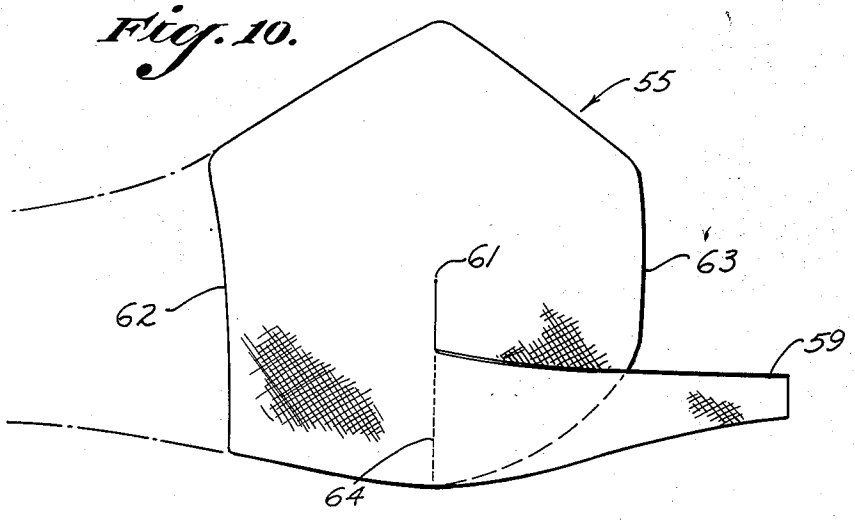


Fig. 10.



INVENTOR:
LOLA SPARE
BY HER ATTORNEYS
HARRIS, KIECH, FOSTER & HARRIS
BY Fred W Harris

Patented Aug. 19, 1952

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BRASSIÈRE

Lola Spare, Pasadena, Calif.

Application November 27, 1948, Serial No. 62,312

8 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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This invention relates to brassières or bust supports and particularly to improvements in brassières of the type disclosed in my prior Patent No. 2,067,354, issued January 12, 1937.

Brassières of the type shown and described in my patent, referred to above, are especially suitable for use in supporting the breasts of well developed or heavy-breasted women. Such brassières comprise a pair of connected breast pockets or cups provided at their outer edges with strips which, when the brassière is applied to use, extend around the back of the wearer and are releasably connected to retain the brassière in place encircling the wearer. Shoulder straps connected between each breast pocket and the outer or rearward end of its strip sustain the brassière to prevent it from slipping down. In addition, connecting straps extend from the lower portion of each breast pocket or cup to the correspondingly opposite shoulder strap, the connecting straps being so arranged that the weight, or at least a portion of the weight, of each breast is effectively supported from and by the opposite shoulder, means being provided for adjusting the effective lengths of the connecting straps so as to provide a comfortable fit and guard against release of the breasts from the pockets. It is also sometimes practiced in the art to connect each of such connecting straps to the shoulder strap of the same breast pocket, instead of to that of the other breast pocket as disclosed in my above patent, but this alternative practice is not as desirable and does not provide the measure of comfort or support provided by the construction of my above patent.

In brassières of the character discussed above, each of the breast pockets or cups is usually made from two or more pieces of cloth or other material having their edges suitably joined, as by stitching, so as to form a cup of substantially pyramidal shape. Each of the connecting straps, mentioned above, comprises a substantially triangular piece of the cloth material and its wider or base portion is sewed to the breast pocket along a substantially vertical line extending from the apex of the pocket to the lower edge thereof. This line of stitching may form a continuation or part of a seam extending from the upper edge, through the apex, to the lower edge of the pocket and serving to join the parts of the pocket together. It will be apparent that by this means of assembling the several parts, a more or less bulky and unsightly seam is produced which tends to produce discomfort. Moreover, the provision of the connecting strap as a separate element com-

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plicates the fabrication because it is necessary to insert and hold the end of the connecting strap between the adjoining edges of the parts of the breast pocket during the sewing operation. Unless the connecting strap is disposed at the proper angle, with respect to the vertical seam of the pocket or cup, the material of the pocket or that of the strap itself is apt to pucker or become folded, thus producing discomfort and impairing the supporting or uplifting action for which the brassière is designed.

It is a primary object of this invention to obviate the disadvantages of previous brassières or breast supports, referred to above, by providing a brassière in which the breast pockets or cups are each composed of two pieces of cloth, or other material, the adjoining edges of which are adapted to be stitched to produce a vertical seam and a pocket of the usual pyramidal shape to conform to the breasts of the wearer. A related object is to provide a brassière of the character referred to in which each component of the pocket has an integral, relatively narrow supporting strap, the edges of the supporting straps of each component being stitched together during the joining of the components so as to produce a supporting strap of double thickness. By this improved construction, a strong and durable supporting strap is provided and, since the number of parts is reduced, the fabrication of the brassière is greatly simplified and expedited.

Although it is usual in the art to provide brassières with the supporting straps encircling the outside of a lower portion of the breast-supporting pocket, I have discovered that straps with my present novel construction may optionally be disposed within the pocket, emerging therefrom through suitable slits or openings, and this is a further object of the invention. This feature, for some weavers, substantially improves the bust-supporting characteristics of the brassière, and in most cases improves the appearance of the brassière when in use by a wearer.

As pointed out above, such conventional brassières are made up of a number of pieces of fabric sewn together by seams, and such seams are unsightly, as well as uncomfortable to the wearer. It is a further object of this invention to provide an alternative embodiment of the invention in which such seams are largely dispensed with, thus providing increased comfort, better fit, better appearance, and greatly reduced cost of manufacture. I have discovered that the pocket and supporting strap for such a brassière may be cut from a single piece of fabric, which greatly re-

duces the expense of manufacture, and this is another object of the invention.

Further objects of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description, and from the drawings, which are intended for the purpose of illustration only, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the front of a preferred form of the present invention, showing it applied to a manikin or figure;

Fig. 2 is a side view of the two components of one of the breast pocket elements or cups employed in the brassière of Fig. 1, illustrating the manner in which they are stitched together;

Fig. 3 is a front view of the assembled components of Fig. 2, showing them opened out or expanded to provide a breast pocket of substantially conical shape.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but of an alternative form of the invention;

Fig. 5 is a view showing a step in the forming of the pocket from the elements of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a view taken from the direction of the arrow 6 of Fig. 5, showing the cup expanded;

Figs. 7 and 8 show an alternative method of manufacture of the pocket shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 9 is a view of a single piece of fabric cut so as to form another embodiment of the pocket of the invention; and

Fig. 10 is a view of the pocket of Fig. 9 assembled.

Referring to the drawing in detail, the brassière 5 shown in Fig. 1 is of the same general type as the brassière disclosed in my patent, referred to previously, and therefore will not be described in great detail. The brassière 5 includes a pair of connected pocket elements 6 and 7 which are of generally conical shape to adapt them to enclose the breasts of the woman wearer. Joined to the remote ends of the pocket elements 6 and 7 are tapered strips 8 and 9 which are adapted to extend around the sides and to substantially meet at the back of the wearer, the ends of these strips having interengageable fastening means (not herein shown) for retaining the brassière in place surrounding the body. Shoulder straps 10 and 11 have their ends respectively connected to the upper edges of the pocket elements 6 and 7 and the ends of the strips 8 and 9, and thus serve to support the brassière from the shoulders of the wearer. In the present brassière, as in my patented brassière, means are connected between the lower mid-portion of each cup or pocket elements 6 and 7 and the shoulder straps 10 and 11, such means serving to effectively support a major portion of the weight of each breast. This means will be discussed in more detail hereinafter.

In the present improved brassière, each of the pocket elements 6 and 7 comprises an inner component 15 and an outer component 16 which, when joined in a manner to be later explained, provide concavo-convex pockets of pyramidal shape. The pocket elements 6 and 7 are similar construction except that they are of opposite hand, that is, the pocket element 6 provides a support for the left breast while the other element 7 provides a support for the right breast. The left-hand breast supporting pocket element 6 is shown in detail in Figs. 2 and 3, by way of example.

The inner component 15 of the pocket element 6 consists of a sheet of cloth or other flexible material and is substantially pentagonal in shape, having converging upper edges 17 and 18, slightly converging side edges 19 and 20 and a bottom edge 21. Extending laterally from the edge 20 of the element 15 is a substantially triangular strip 22, the longitudinal edges of which converge in a direction away from the edge 20.

The outer component 16 of the breast pocket element 6 is also of substantially pentagonal shape, but is of somewhat larger area than the component 15. The component 16 has converging upper edges 25 and 26, slightly converging side edges 27 and 28 and a bottom edge 29. This component also has a strip 30 projecting laterally from the edge 28 and of a size and shape corresponding to the strip 22.

The components 15 and 16, which may be cut to any desired size, depending upon the size of the bust to which the brassière is to be applied, are preferably joined in the manner next explained. The component 16 is placed upon a flat surface and the other component 15 is superimposed thereon so that the upper edges 18 and 26, the side edges 20, 28 and the strips 22, 30 align as shown in Fig. 2. The components 15 and 16 are then joined by a sewing operation, the aligned edges of the sides and strips being first folded and then stitched along these edges, as indicated at 30'. The seam thus produced at these edges may be of either the plain or French type having a single or a double row of stitches. In addition, one or more rows of stitches 31 extend transversely of the strips 22 and 30 at their base portions, these stitches providing, in effect, a continuation of the side edges 22 and 28. The edges 17, 19, 21, 25, 27 and 29 of the components 15 and 16 may be hemmed in any suitable manner such, for example, as disclosed in my patent, referred to before.

It will be observed, by reference to Fig. 3, that after the two components 15 and 16 have been joined in the manner explained above, and then opened out, they cooperate to provide the breast pocket element 6. The intersection of the seamed upper and side edges of the components provides the apex 32 of a rounded cone which, when the brassière is applied to use, overlies the apex of the breast. The strips 22 and 30 together provide a double thickness support strap, indicated by the reference character 33, which may be folded down toward the pocket element 6 as shown in Fig. 3. The forward or front end of the strip 8 is sewed to the edge 27 of the component 6 and the forward end of the shoulder strap 10 is likewise secured to the upper pointed end of the component as shown.

The pocket elements 5 and 6 are substantially alike except that one is made right-hand while the other is made left-hand. The right and left-hand pocket elements 5 and 6 are joined by placing their side edges 19 together and sewing them in either a plain or French seam, indicated at 34 in Fig. 1.

As indicated previously, the supporting strap 33 of each pocket element 5 or 6 is adapted to be attached preferably to the shoulder strap 10 or 11 which is joined to the opposite pocket element so that the supporting straps cross each other, as shown in Fig. 1. By this arrangement, each breast is supported to a large extent by the shoulder strap disposed remote therefrom, the result being that each breast is drawn inwardly and upwardly with what is termed an "uplift" action. This extent of this uplift effect can be adjusted by means to be next described.

Each supporting strap 33 is provided with a narrow extension 35 in the form of a tape, which has an end sewed to the rearward side of the

strap. Each tape 35 is looped and its free end is adjustably held in a buckle 36 attached to the forward side of the strap 33. The loop 35 carries a hook element 37 which is adapted to pass through an opening in a connecting element 38 carried by the shoulder strap to which the particular supporting strap is to be attached. By adjusting the length of the tape loops 35, the supporting straps can be readily tightened or loosened at the will of the wearer so as to provide a comfortable fit and adequate support while preventing injury to the breasts. It will be apparent that other well-known types of connecting or fastening devices might be substituted for the elements 36, 37 and 38 and consequently the invention is not to be limited in this respect. It is also to be noted that instead of the ends 35 of the straps 33 being connected to the shoulder straps of the opposite pocket elements, they may be connected to their own pocket element if desired. Thus, the supporting strap 33 of the pocket element 7 can be connected to the buckle 36 of the pocket element 7, and, similarly, the supporting strap of the pocket element 6 can be connected to the buckle of the pocket element 6. In such alternative assembly, it may be desirable to form the supporting strap 33 of each pocket element so as to be slightly curved upwardly, as seen in Fig. 2, more closely conform to the contour of the pocket element when it is cupped as shown in Fig. 3.

It will be observed from the foregoing that the present invention provides an improved brassière or bust support which is particularly adapted for use in supporting the breasts of well developed or heavy-breasted women. The present brassière differs from brassières of conventional type in that it is provided with supporting straps which, by their construction and arrangement, serve as a means for supporting each breast from the opposite shoulder of the wearer. As a particular feature of improvement, each supporting strap is formed integral with one of the breast pocket elements so that the usual operation of joining the supporting straps to their breast pocket elements is dispensed with and the making of the brassière is greatly simplified and expedited with the result that its cost is substantially reduced.

Referring to the alternative embodiment shown in Figs. 4, 5, and 6, I show a pocket element 40 which, as will be seen from Fig. 2, is substantially identical with the pocket element 6. The pocket element 40 is provided with a component 41, similar to the component 15, which has a slit 43 therein, and is provided with a supporting strap 44, similar to the supporting strap 33. In fabrication, the outer end of the supporting strap 44 is slipped through the slit 43, and the entire pocket element 40 is then turned inside out to the shape illustrated in Fig. 5, and is then cup-shaped to the form shown in Fig. 6. This turns the stitching 45, which is similar to the stitching 30', to the inside of the pocket element, leaving a smooth seam on the outside, which substantially improves the appearance. Also, this reversal of the pocket element 40 turns the supporting strap 44 to the inside of the pocket element which further improves the appearance, and, in some cases, provides additional support to the wearer.

An alternative method of fabrication is shown in Figs. 7 and 8, in which a pocket element 47, substantially the same as the pocket element 40, is provided, and stitched at 48. The stitching is not carried across the base of the supporting strap 49, as in the preceding embodiment, so as to leave the separate tabs 50 and 51 thereof loose, as shown in Fig. 7. The tabs 50 and 51 are then drawn back upon themselves within the halves of the pocket element 47, the tabs are stitched together and the stitching is carried across the base thereof as indicated at 52, and the outer end of the supporting strap 49 is slipped through the slit 53 as shown in Fig. 8. In this manner of fabrication, obviously, the stitching 48 will be on the outside of the pocket element 47, forming a seam thereon, but the supporting strap 49 will be within the pocket element and only the end extending therefrom through the slit 53. This is merely a variation in the preceding form.

Figs. 9 and 10 show a still further method of fabrication of the pocket element of the invention. In this embodiment, the pocket element is cut from a single flat piece 55, of fabric, in the form shown in Fig. 9, the cutting providing a generally semicircular top portion 56 and a generally rectangular bottom portion 57, a notch 58 being provided so as to form a supporting strap 59 and a generally radial edge 60 along the top of the notch. The inner end of the edge 60, shown at 61, is substantially at the center of the semicircular top portion 56. The top portion 56 is also cut so as to provide substantially straight edge portions 62 and 63.

In forming the pocket in the alternative shown in Figs. 9 and 10, the end of the radial edge 60 is drawn down to approximately the position shown by the dotted line 64 and on such line stitched to the bottom portion 57 of the piece 55, so as to form a conical pocket of the piece 55, but leaving the supporting strap 59 loosely extending therefrom. The base of the supporting strap obviously lies along the line 64, and extends from the apex of the generally conical pocket to its base. The edges of the supporting strap 59 may, if desired, be suitably hemmed. As shown in Fig. 10, the edge portion 62 forms a point of connection for the strap encircling the body of the wearer, and the edge portion 63 forms a point of connection to a matching pocket to be connected thereto. This embodiment of the invention, obviously, is extremely simple and economical to fabricate, requiring only a single stitching along the line 64, and, in addition, avoids any stitching whatsoever along the upper portion of the pocket member, which adds comfort to the wearer.

Although, I have shown and described a preferred and several alternative embodiments of the invention and the methods of fabrication thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention. Consequently, I do not wish to be limited to the specific forms or methods of fabrication illustrated and described, but desire to be afforded the full scope of the following claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A bust support comprising: a pair of interconnected breast pocket elements, each consisting of a pair of components connected together to form the breast pocket to pyramidal shape; a strip connected to the outer edge of each of said pocket elements to pass around the body of a wearer and to be connected together at the back thereof; and shoulder straps attached to said pocket elements and to said strips, each of said components of a breast pocket element having an integral strip projecting laterally and upwardly

from the lower portion of the vertical median line of the breast pocket element, the two integral strips of each breast pocket element being secured together in juxtaposition so as to provide together a supporting strap of double thickness, the supporting strap of each pocket element having a free end adapted for connection near the place of attachment of the shoulder strap of the other pocket element to said last named element so that said supporting straps cross each other and each transmits a portion of the weight of each one of the breasts to the shoulder strap attached to the pocket element for the other breast, the inner end of each strap being reinforced by at least one transverse line of stitching.

2. A bust support as defined in claim 1 in which each of said components is pentagonally shaped.

3. A bust support comprising: a pair of interconnected breast pocket elements, each having two portions of fabric joined by a seam extending downward from the central region of the pocket elements; a pair of strips connected to the outer side edges of said pocket elements respectively to pass around the body of the wearer for interconnection to draw said pocket elements inward to the body; shoulder straps attached to said pocket elements and said strips; and a supporting strap for each of said pockets connected thereto in the region of said seam, said supporting strap being integral with at least one of said portions of fabric, each of said supporting straps having a free end adapted for connection near the place of attachment of the shoulder strap of the other pocket element to said last named element so that said supporting straps extend laterally and upward across each other and each transmits a portion of the weight of the corresponding breast to the shoulder strap attached to the pocket element for the other breast.

4. A bust support as defined in claim 1 in which

each of said breast pocket elements consists of a pair of substantially pentagonally shaped components having certain of their edges connected to provide a breast pocket of pyramidal shape.

5. A bust support as defined in claim 1 in which each of said supporting straps from a breast pocket element has two layers of fabric integral respectively with said two portions of the pocket.

6. A bust support as defined in claim 3 in which each of said supporting straps extends through a slit in the pocket its supports.

7. A bust support as defined in claim 6 in which the major portion of each of said supporting straps lies on the inner face of the pocket element it supports and extends through said slit.

8. A bust support as defined in claim 3 in which said two portions of each pocket element are integral with each other above said seam of the pocket.

LOLA SPARE.

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