June 8, 1948. E. A. HENDRICKS 2,442,894

BODY SUPPORTING GARMENT

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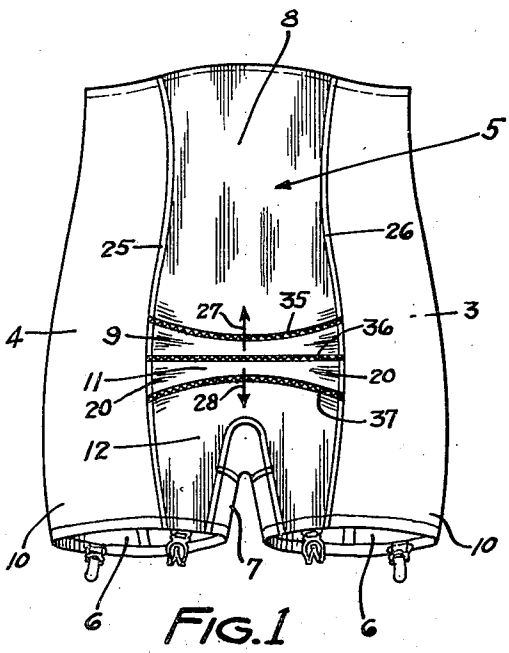



FIG. 1

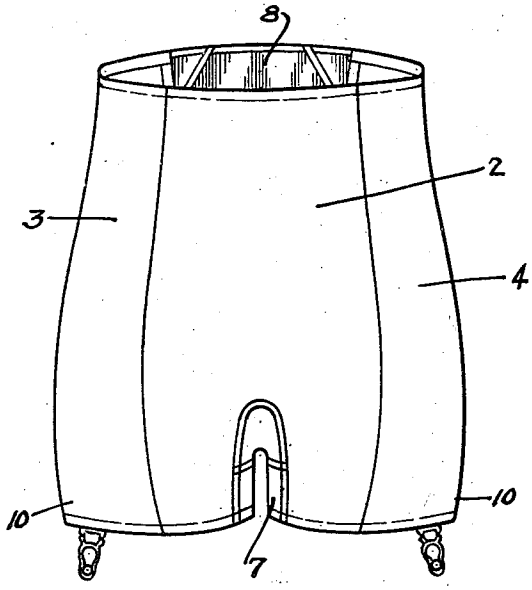



FIG. 2

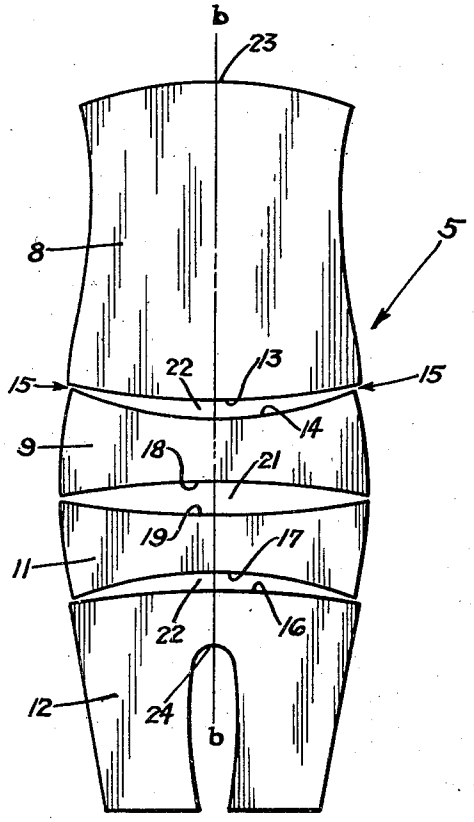



FIG. 5

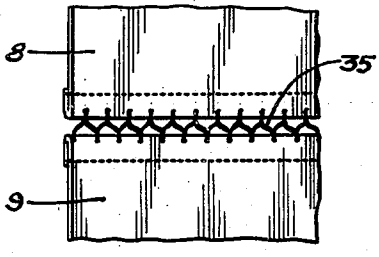



FIG. 6

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BODY SUPPORTING GARMENT

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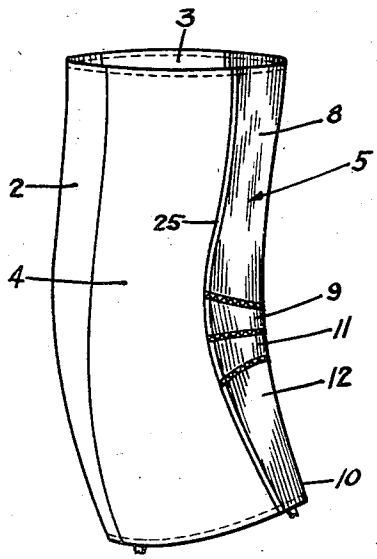



FIG. 3

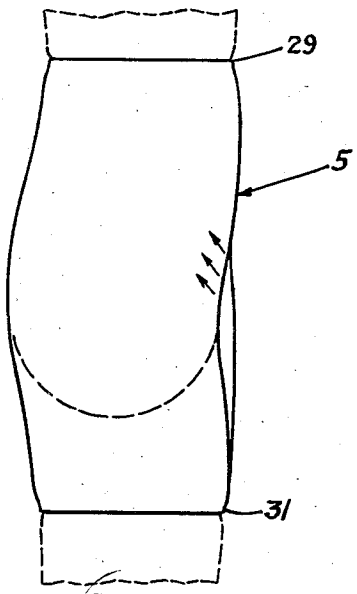



FIG. 4

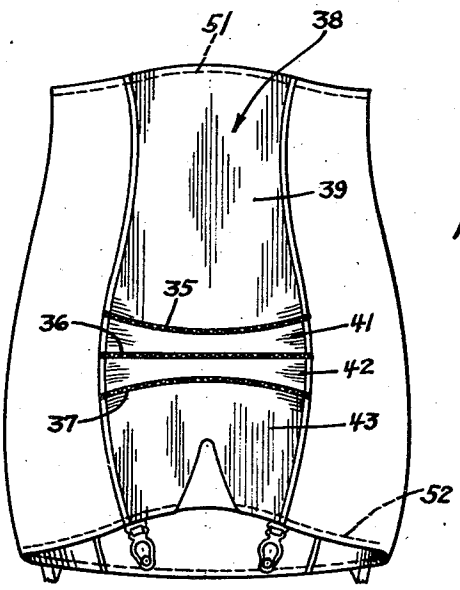
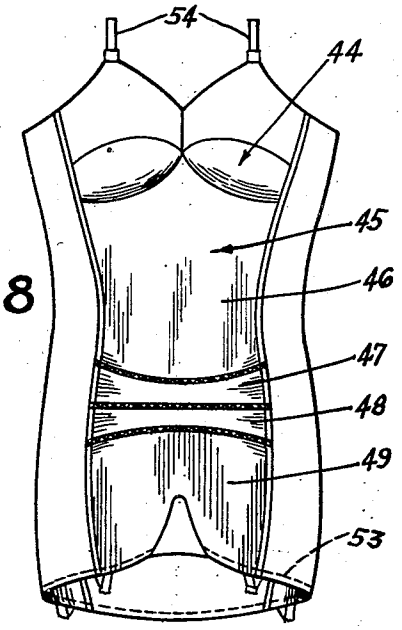



FIG. 7

FIG. 8




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BODY SUPPORTING GARMENT

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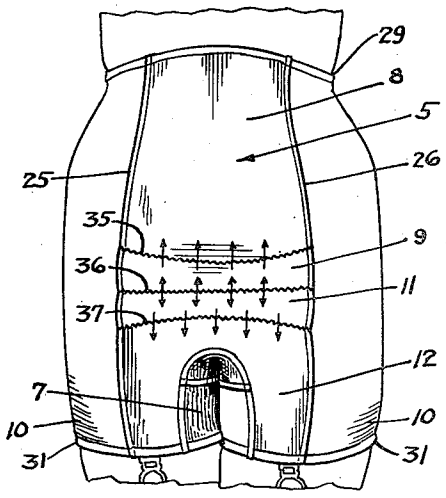



FIG. 9

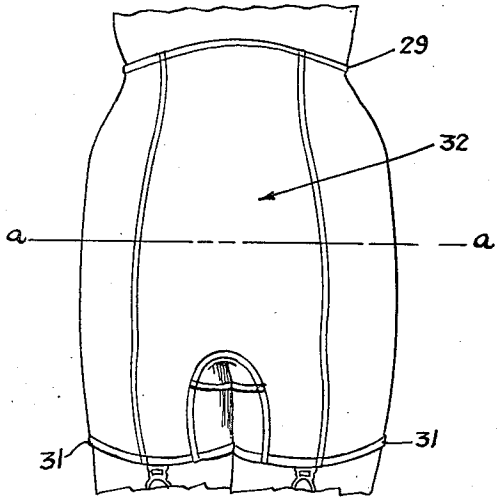



FIG. 13

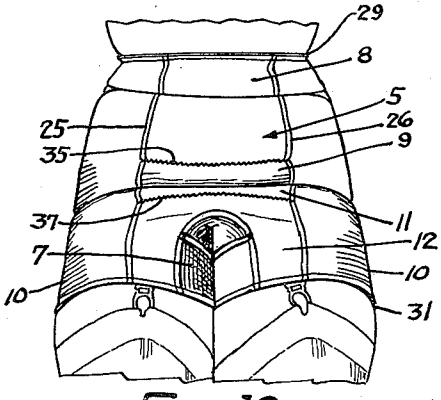



FIG. 10

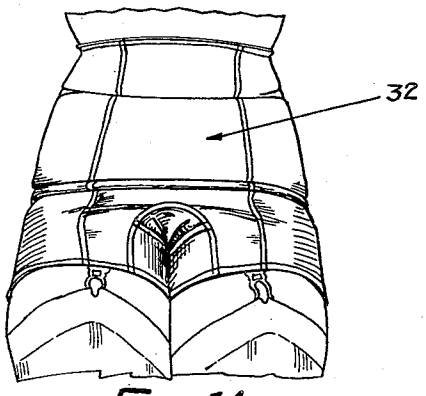



FIG. 14

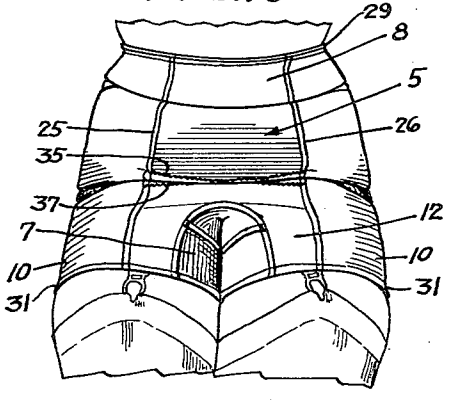



FIG. 11

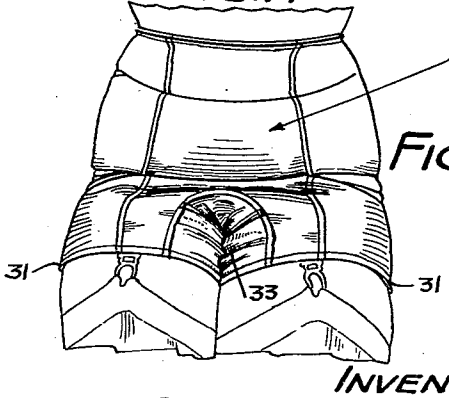



FIG. 15

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BODY SUPPORTING GARMENT

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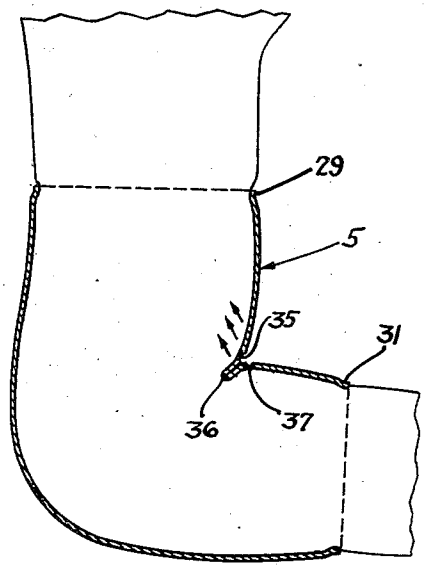



FIG. 12

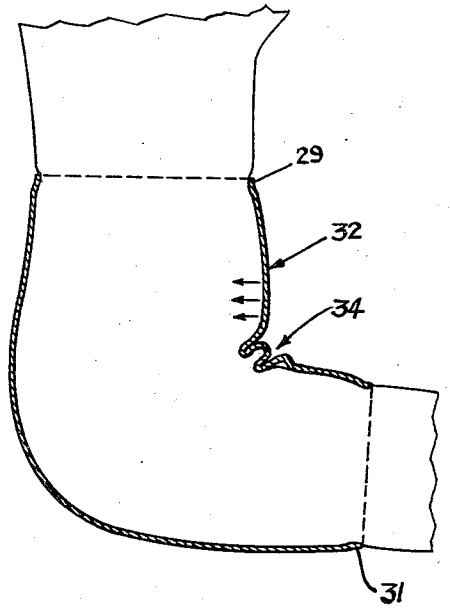



FIG. 16

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Patented June 8, 1948 2,442,894

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,442,894

## BODY SUPPORTING GARMENT

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Application September 26, 1946, Serial No. 699,414

6 Claims. (Cl. 2—43)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in body supporting garments such as commonly known to the trade as girdles, panty girdles, or combination garments of this general type.

Body supporting garments such as girdles, panty girdles, and the like, are usually constructed, at least partially, of elastic fabrics, certain sections of the garment being stretchable in a vertical direction only, while other sections may be stretchable both vertically and horizontally. Other such garments may also embody certain sections or panels which are non-elastic, depending upon the particular function of the garment.

Most such garments are designed to provide a support for the abdomen and to constrict or confine the posterior regions of the wearer's body to improve and enhance the general appearance thereof. In most such garments the front and rear panels are usually constructed of a material which is elastic or stretchable at least in a vertical direction to permit the front and rear portions of the garment to expand or contract and thereby to allow for stooping and bending positions of the wearer's body without causing the waistline of the garment to be displaced upon the wearer's body as a result of the downward pull exerted thereon during various body movements. The side sections may be constructed of material such as is commonly known in the trade as leno, which provides a very firm and durable fabric which may be stretchable in one or more directions, and is well adapted for use in body supporting garments of this general type.

One objectionable feature to garments of this type as now manufactured and distributed to the trade, resides in the construction of the front panel of the garment which is usually made of a fabric which is stretchable in a vertical direction to permit expansion or contraction of that portion of the garment, when the body of the wearer bends forward or stoops and then again assumes an erect position. The front panels of such well-known garments are usually cut from a single piece of fabric, or, if desired, they may be made from two or more pieces of fabric stitched together to provide a single panel which before being embodied in the garment is usually perfectly flat. When an individual wearing such a garment assumes a sitting position, the tension in the front panel in a vertical direction obviously is released, whereupon a plurality of bulky transverse folds may occur in the front of the garment, or across the wearer's lap as a result of the loosening of the fabric in the front section of the garment. When sheer outer garments are worn, such bulkiness of the foundation garment may cause the wearer's dress or outer

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garment to slightly protrude from the body and thereby mar the outline of the wearer's figure, which obviously is undesirable.

One of the important objects of the present invention resides in the unique construction of the front panel of a body supporting or foundation garment such as a girdle, panty girdle, or a combination garment of this general type, whereby the above referred to unsightly excess material inherent in many garments of this type now in use has been eliminated. A garment embodying the front panel construction herein disclosed, will substantially fit the wearer's form at all times, regardless of whether the individual is in a standing or sitting position, and whereby unsightly bulkiness in the appearance of the wearer's outer garments, caused by the folding or bunching up of the slackened front panel across the abdomen or lap, when in a sitting position is substantially, completely and entirely eliminated.

A further object of the invention is to provide a body supporting garment of the class described, the front portion of which is so constructed that it will effect a constricting or supporting effort against the abdomen at all times without displacing the anchoring portions of the garment upon the body, and whereby the garment is rendered extremely comfortable to the wearer in all body positions.

A further object is to provide a foundation garment having a front panel constructed of a plurality of vertically stretchable sections or parts which are sewed together transversely of the body of the garment by a well known loose type of stitching whereby the front panel will fold along the rows of transverse stitching, when the wearer's body assumes a sitting or stooping position, and also whereby unsightly bulkiness in the front of the garment when the wearer is in a stooping or sitting position is practically eliminated.

A further and more specific object of the invention is to provide a foundation garment having a front panel which is constructed of four parts or sections; an upper section, two intermediate sections, and a lower section; the two intermediate sections being comparatively narrow and extending in a direction cross-wise of the body of the garment and having their adjacent edges disposed substantially in a horizontal line and suitably stitched together by what is commonly known as fagotting, and the upper edge of the upper intermediate section being concave and similarly stitched to the lower edge of the upper section, which lower edge is made convex to correspond to the curvature of the upper edge of the adjoining intermediate section, and the lower intermediate section having its lower edge similarly concave or curved in an upward direc-

tion and stitched to the similarly shaped upper edge of the lower section, whereby three transverse rows of stitches are embodied in the front of the garment which cause the front panel of the garment to readily fold transversely of the wearer's body along said rows of stitches, the particular fashioning of the garment front panel causing any folds occurring therein when the wearer assumes a stooping or sitting position, to be comparatively small and uniform in formation, and will hug the body and give support to the abdomen of the wearer much more than garments of this general type as now constructed, thereby greatly reducing unsightly bulkiness in the front of the wearer's garment.

A further object is to provide a front panel construction for foundation garments of the character herein disclosed, wherein the front panel is constructed as if sections of the intermediate portion thereof had been cut out of the blank from which the front panel is formed, and the edges of said panel resulting from removal of said so called "cut out" portions being stitched together transversely of the panel along a plurality of transverse rows of stitching, whereby when the panel is embodied in a garment, the unique construction of the intermediate portion of the panel will cause the garment to more snugly hug the abdomen with a gentle constricting and supporting pressure which is comfortable to the wearer and prevents excessive bulging of the wearer's garment across the lower portion of the abdomen or lap, when the wearer is in a stooping or sitting position.

Other objects of the invention will appear from the following description and the accompanying drawings and will be pointed out in the annexed claims.

In the accompanying drawings there has been disclosed a structure designed to carry out the various objects of the invention, but it is to be understood that the invention is not confined to the exact features shown, as various changes may be made within the scope of the claims which follow.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view showing the front of a body supporting garment of the panty girdle type embodying the invention;

Figure 2 is a rear view of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side view of Figure 1, showing in a more or less exaggerated manner, the effect imparted to the front panel as a result of the construction herein disclosed;

Figure 4 is a schematic view showing the supporting action imparted to the lower portion of the abdomen by the novelly constructed front panel of the garment herein disclosed;

Figure 5 is a view showing on an enlarged scale the four blanks and their relative positions prior to being stitched together to form the composite front garment panel;

Figure 6 is an enlarged detail sectional view showing the preferred form of stitching for securing together the sections of the front panel;

Figure 7 is a view showing the invention embodied in a well known girdle type foundation garment;

Figure 8 is a view showing the invention embodied in a full length or combination garment and brassière garment;

Figure 9 is a view showing my improved garment on a figure disposed in a standing position;

Figure 10 is a view similar to Figure 9, but showing the garment on a figure in a stooping position;

Figure 11 is a view similar to Figure 10, but showing the figure in a sitting position;

Figure 12 is a vertical sectional view of the improved garment herein disclosed illustrating the smooth fit of the garment across the wearer's lap and the uplift effect to the abdomen;

Figure 13 is a view showing a conventional foundation garment on a figure disposed in a standing or erect position;

Figure 14 is a view showing the same garment on a figure in a stooping position;

Figure 15 is a view similar to Figure 14 showing the figure in a sitting position;

Figure 16 is a view similar to Figure 12 showing a conventional garment and the looseness usually present in the abdominal supporting portion thereof, when the wearer is in a sitting position, resulting in bulky folds at the groin line and lap of the wearer.

In the selected embodiment of the invention herein disclosed, there is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, for purposes of disclosure, a lady's undergarment of the type commonly known as a panty girdle. This garment is shown comprising the usual back panel **2** which is preferably stretchable in a vertical direction; the side sections **3** and **4** which are preferably constructed of such material as leno which may be stretchable in both vertical and horizontal directions, and a front section generally designated by the numeral **5**. In the form of the garment shown in Figures 1 and 2, the rear and front panels **2** and **5**, respectively, and the side sections **3** and **4**, are so shaped and stitched together at their lower portions as to provide leg openings **6**, a suitable crotch piece **7** being embodied in the crotch portion of the garment to complete the formation of the leg portions **10**.

An important feature of the present invention resides in the unique construction of the front panel **5** which is so designed as to eliminate excess fabric accumulating in the lap or at the groin line of the wearer when in a sitting or stooping position.

Heretofore, the front panels of such garments have usually been made from a single piece of fabric shaped to conform somewhat to the outline or contour of the panel **5**, as viewed in Figure 1, disregarding of course, the transverse rows of stitches shown in said figure, and which will subsequently be described. When the front panel of a foundation garment is constructed of a single piece of fabric, as above stated, when the wearer assumes a stooping or sitting position, the tension in the front panel is greatly released because of its inherent construction, thereby causing an excess amount of fabric to develop across the lower portion of the abdomen or at the groin line of the wearer which may assume the form of one or more relatively large transverse folds. These folds extend outwardly from the wearer's body, as indicated in Figure 16, whereby they may create an outward bulging of the wearer's dress or outer garments, which obviously is very undesirable.

In the garment herein disclosed, the front panel **5** is so constructed that the usual undesirable bulkiness which may frequently occur in the front panel or abdominal supporting portion of a conventional garment, when the body of the wearer bends forwardly or assumes a sitting position, is almost completely eliminated. At the same time the garment imparts an uplift and flat-

tening pressure to the wearer's abdomen at all times, as indicated by the arrows in Figures 4 and 12. This results in a more comfortable fitting garment and one which greatly enhances the appearance and contour of the lower portions of the wearer's torso, regardless of position.

To accomplish the desirable results above mentioned, the front panel 5 is shown constructed of four sections of fabric, namely, a top section 8, intermediate sections 9 and 11, and lower or leg section 12. When these sections, in blank form, are placed together on a flat surface or table in their proper relationship, as indicated in Figure 5, the general outline or contour of the thusly grouped sections may be substantially identical to the outline or contour of a conventional front panel as now constructed, wherein the entire front panel may be made from a single piece of fabric, or from two or more pieces stitched together in such a manner, however, that when the composite panel is completed, it will be in the form of a perfectly flat blank.

Such a one-piece, flat panel, when embodied in a foundation garment, may slacken considerably in a vertical direction, particularly in the lower abdominal region thereof, when the wearer's body assumes a stooping or sitting position, which may cause the fabric of the front panel to "bunch up," or form comparatively large bulky folds across the front of the wearer's body at the groin line, as indicated in Figures 15 and 16. Such bulky folds across the lower portion of the stomach and lap obviously are very undesirable and uncomfortable and may affect the fitting of the wearer's outer garments on the body.

The novel sectional construction of the front panel 5 herein disclosed completely eliminates such undesirable looseness or bulkiness in the front portion of a girdle or foundation garment, and thus imparts an uplift and flattening pressure against the wearer's abdomen in all body positions.

To construct the front panel of the garment herein disclosed, the four sections 8, 9, 11 and 12 thereof, have their contiguous edges stitched together to complete the formation of the panel whereby the resultant panel will have the general outline or contour of a conventional panel, but, as distinguished from a conventional flat panel, the abdominal supporting area of the panel is reduced in a vertical direction in such a manner that when the panel is completed and is embodied in a garment as shown in Figures 1 and 3, the center portion of the front panel, in a vertical direction, will be contracted as best shown in Figure 3, which will cause the front panel, when the garment is fitted onto a wearer's body, to impart a relatively greater constricting force or uplift to the abdomen or stomach, as indicated by the arrows in Figures 4 and 12. In these figures it will also be noted that the panel closely hugs the lower portion of the abdomen as a result of the increased tension in the center portion thereof, whereby the garment will impart an uplift and flattening pressure to the abdomen or stomach at all times.

By reference to Figure 5, it will be noted that the lower edge 13 of the upper section 8 of the front panel 5, is slightly convex or downwardly curved. The upper edge 14 of the intermediate section 9, is concave or downwardly curved but on a relatively smaller arc than the arc of the bottom edge 13 of the upper panel section 8, whereby a comparatively wide gap results between the edges 13 and 14 at the center of the panel, while the



outer contiguous corners of the panels 8 and 9 are substantially in contact with each other, as shown at 15 in Figure 5.

The lower leg forming section 12 of the front panel 5 has a convex or upwardly curved top edge 16, the curvature of which may be substantially the same as that of the bottom edge 13 of the top section 8, although not necessarily. The adjacent lower edge 17 of the intermediate section 11 may be curved in a manner similar to the upper edge 14 of the upper intermediate section 9. The adjacent contiguous edges 18 and 19 of the intermediate sections 9 and 11, respectively, are oppositely curved, as shown, whereby a gap 21 is formed therebetween at the center of the panel which is relatively wider than the gaps 22 provided between the upper and intermediate sections 8 and 9, and the intermediate and leg sections 11 and 12.

The edges 13, 14, 18, 19, 17 and 16 of the panel sections 8, 9, 11 and 12, are cut or formed as shown in Figure 5 for the purpose of eliminating excess fabric in the lap or at the groin line of the wearer when in a stooping or sitting position.

To complete the formation of the front panel 5, the contiguous edges 13 and 14 of the panels 8 and 9 are stitched together preferably by what is commonly known to the trade as fagotting, shown in Figure 6, or by some other known form of loose stitching suitable for the purpose, and designated by the numeral 35 in the application drawings. In like manner the edges 18 and 19 of sections 9 and 11 are secured together by similar stitching 36, and the contiguous edges 17 and 16 of the intermediate section 11 and leg forming section 12, are secured together by similar stitching 37. When the edges 13 and 14, 18 and 19, 16 and 17 have been stitched together, as above stated, the gaps or openings 21 and 22, shown in Figure 5, are closed, and the completed front panel 5 then assumes substantially the form shown in Figure 1, wherein the effective length of the panel from its upper edge 23 to the point 24 of the crotch is effectively reduced in length, because of joining together the transverse edges of the panels 8, 9, 11 and 12, as above described.

Because of this shortening effect in the vertical length of the front of the panel between the upper edge 23 and crotch 24, the front panel before being embodied in a garment, will not be flat in the sense that a conventional panel is, but will have a concave effect because of the contraction of the central portion of the panel in a vertical direction as a result of the novel shaping of the transverse edges of the sections 8, 9, 11 and 12 in the abdominal portion of the panel.

After the front panel 5 has been completed it may be embodied in a garment, as shown in Figures 1, 3, 9 to 12, inclusive, in the usual well known manner. When so embodied in the garment the upright seams 25 and 26 which secure the front panel to the side sections 3 and 4 may tend to buckle slightly as indicated at 29 in Figure 1.

When the garment is fitted onto a wearer's body as indicated in Figures 4, and 9 to 12, inclusive, any "pulling" or looseness which may appear in the vertical seams 25 and 26 when the garment is not being worn, is completely eliminated because when the garment is fitted onto a body, the central portion of the front panel is expanded in a vertical direction, as indicated by the arrows 27 and 28 which causes the abdominal engaging portion of the front panel to snugly hug the abdomen and impart an uplift and flat-

tening pressure thereto, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 4. In Figure 12 it may also be noted how the front panel closely hugs the normal contour of the wearer's body and imparts an uplift to the abdomen.

To afford a clearer explanation of the merits and advantages to be gained by the use of the present invention, there is illustrated in Figures 9 to 16, inclusive, two garments, one embodying the novel front panel construction herein disclosed, and the other embodying a front panel of more or less conventional construction.

In Figure 9, the improved garment of the present invention is shown fitted onto the body of a wearer standing in an upright or erect position. When the wearer is so positioned, the front panel 5 is placed under tension in a vertical direction because of the garment being anchored to the wearer's body at 29 and 31. Such increased tension in the front panel 5 will cause the intermediate panel sections 9 and 11, and the adjacent portions of the upper and lower sections 8 and 12, respectively, to stretch vertically, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 9, whereby said portions of the composite front panel 5 will exert an uplift and flattening pressure against the abdomen or stomach of the wearer, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 4, which may greatly improve the wearer's posture and particularly the contour of the lower or abdominal portion of her figure. The loose form of stitching or fagotting 35, 36 and 37 (see Figure 6), utilized for securing together the sections 8, 9, 11 and 12, is desirable in the construction of the panel in that such stitching serves as hinges to permit the front panel to freely fold across the abdomen when the wearer's body bends forwardly to a stooping position as shown in Figure 10, or assumes a sitting position as shown in Figures 11 and 12.

Thus, upon initial bending of the wearer's body at the hips from an erect to a stooping or sitting position, the front panel will fold or hinge along the intermediate row of stitching 36 which, if located substantially at the groin line of the wearer's body, will be held in contact with the wearer's body, as shown in Figure 12, whereby the central portion of the front panel above the row of stitching or fagotting 36 will be drawn against the abdomen at the groin line as clearly indicated in Figure 12, thereby causing the portion of the front panel above the row of fagotting or stitching 36 to impart a definite uplift and flattening pressure to the abdomen. It will also be noted by reference to Figures 11 and 12 that no looseness or bulky folds develop in the front panel when the wearer assumes a sitting position, and the transverse folding of the front panel as clearly evidenced in Figure 11, is uniform and symmetrical about the vertical median plane of the wearer's body, which is highly desirable in a garment of this general type.

It will also be noted that by constructing the abdominal portion of the front panel 5 as herein disclosed, the leg and crotch portions of the garment are not displaced upon the body, but are retained thereon substantially without any wrinkles or folds developing therein as illustrated in Figure 11.

In Figures 13 to 16, inclusive, there is illustrated a garment similar in all respects to the one shown in Figures 9 to 12, inclusive, with the exception that its front panel 32 is of the usual conventional flat type. The front panel 32 of the garment shown in Figure 13 is under a slight tension when the body is in an upright or erect position, which may cause said panel to impart a slight uplift or flattening pressure to the usual protruding or bulging portion of the wearer's abdomen, but when the wearer assumes a sitting position, all vertical tension in the front panel 32 vanishes, whereby said panel may no longer provide a support for the abdomen. Actually, in a garment such as shown in Figures 13 to 16, inclusive, when the body of the wearer assumes a sitting position, as indicated in Figures 15 and 16, the slackening of the fabric in the lower portion of the front panel 32 may cause outwardly directed folds to form therein across the groin line or lap of the wearer, as shown in Figures 15 and 16, which may tend to shove the crotch and leg portions of the garment downwardly on the body, whereby relatively large folds or creases may occur in the leg portions of the garment, as indicated at 33 in Figure 15. Futhermore, because of the lack of any means for controlling the transverse folding of the slackened panel 32, when the body assumes a sitting position, the transverse folding of the front panel and the adjacent sides of the side sections of the garment may be vertically unsymmetrical, as indicated in Figure 15, which is very undesirable and objectionable in a garment of this type, particularly when the outer garments are of a light sheer material which tend to more or less cling to the wearer's body.



Figures 11 and 12 clearly illustrate the advantages gained by the use of this invention as compared with the results obtained with a garment such as illustrated in Figures 15 and 16. Applicant's novel front panel construction gives to the garment the inherent characteristics of always providing a definite uplift and flattening pressure against the lower portion of the stomach in all positions of the wearer's body. In other words, the front panel may be said to be form fitting in that it always closely hugs the entire abdomen or stomach of the wearer's body with sufficient pressure to provide support at all times to the stomach.

The intermediate sections 9 and 11 of the front panel 5 are so located or placed as to accommodate variations of the length of an individual's torso. In Figures 9 to 12, inclusive, the central or center row 36 of fagotting, or other stitching is shown located substantially at the groin line of the wearer's body, whereby the front panel may fold along the line of stitching 36, as indicated in Figure 12, when the body assumes a sitting position. In other cases, the garment may be so positioned on a wearer's body, depending on the height thereof, that the front panel may fold transversely across the upper row of fagotting 35, or perhaps across the lower row of fagotting 37. It will thus be noted that regardless of the height or width of the wearer's body, if the foundation garment is reasonably well fitted thereto, the same desirable results will be obtained in all cases regardless of the sizes of the bodies of various individuals.

In Figure 4, it will be noted by the arrows how the front panel 5 imparts a constricting force and uplift to the abdomen. This constricting force and uplift is obtained as a result of the effective reduction in the vertical length of the front panel along the line *b—b*, shown in Figure 5, and the fact that the garment is anchored to the wearer's body as indicated at 29 and 31 in Figures 9 to 11.

The construction of the conventional garment shown in Figures 13 to 16, inclusive, is substantially the same as the garment shown in Figures 9

to 12, inclusive, with the exception of the front panel construction. By comparing the garment of Figure 13 to the improved garment shown in Figure 9, it will be noted that the lower portion of the front panel of the garment of Figure 13, from the line *a*—*a* to the crotch, does not exert the constricting force or uplift to the abdomen which is made possible by the unique construction of the front panel shown in Figure 9. In other words, the front lower portion of the front panel **32** does not closely hug the body as shown in Figure 4, but may assume a more or less straight line from the horizontal line *a*—*a* to the point adjacent to the crotch.

Because of this inherent lack of fit or tailoring in the lower front portion of the conventional front panel **32**, shown in Figures 13 to 16, when a wearer's body assumes a stooping position, as shown in Figure 14, and particularly a sitting position as shown in Figures 15 and 16, the slackness produced in the lower portion of the front panel will cause it to bulge outwardly and form a plurality of transverse folds, as indicated in Figures 15 and 16.

The objectionable looseness or folds which are inherent in a conventional garment as above described, are substantially completely eliminated in the novel garment herein disclosed as may be evidenced by a careful inspection of Figures 9 to 12 inclusive. In these figures it will be noted that the front panel always closely hugs the body regardless of whether the wearer is in a standing, stooping, or sitting position. It will also be noted that the fit of the garment in the crotch is not disturbed, because as the body bends forwardly the increased tension in the front panel in a vertical direction, or along the line *b*—*b*, causes the front panel to substantially retain its contact with the wearer's body at all times, as clearly indicated in Figure 12, which results in the lower portion of the abdomen always being supported with an uplifting force, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 12, which may greatly improve the appearance of the wearer's figure and at the same time completely remove the objectionable feature of unsightly bulkiness, resulting from folds which may develop across the lap or groin line of the wearer's body, as herebefore stated.

Figure 3 illustrates substantially the appearance of the garment when removed from the body and looking at it from one side. The so-called removal of fabric from the center portion of the front panel **5**, as herein described with reference to Figures 1 and 5, is responsible for the front of the garment assuming substantially the concave shape shown in Figure 3, as will be understood.

In Figure 7, the invention is shown embodied in a well known form of foundation garment or girdle of the type which does not employ leg portions such as shown at **10** in Figure 1. The front panel **38** of this garment, it will be noted, is composed of sections **39**, **41**, **42**, and **43**, corresponding to the sections **8**, **9**, **11** and **12** of Figure 1. The sections **39**, **41**, **42** and **43** are secured together to complete the formation of the front panel by cross seams **35**, **36**, and **37**, similar to those shown in Figure 1, whereby the action of the front panel **38** upon the wearer's body is identically the same as that obtained with the corresponding panel **5** in the panty girdle type of garment shown in Figure 1.

In Figure 8 the invention is shown embodied in a combination garment including a brassière portion **44** which is suitably secured to the upper edge of the front panel in any well known manner. The panel **45** is composed of sections **46**, **47**, **48** and **49**, substantially similar to the corresponding sections of the front panel **38** shown in Figure 7. In a garment such as shown in Figure 7, suitable elastics are usually embodied in the upper and lower edges of the garment as indicated by the numerals **51** and **52** for anchoring the garment to the wearer's body, as is well known.

The lower edge of the garment shown in Figure 8 may be provided at its bottom with a similar elastic, as indicated at **53**, the upper portion of this garment being supported upon the body by the usual shoulder straps **54**.

The invention herein disclosed has been found extremely practical and comfortable in actual use. The novel front panel construction substantially eliminates the formation of bulky transverse folds in the front of the garment when the wearer assumes a stooping or sitting position, and moreover, the construction of the front panel is such that a constricting pressure or uplift is constantly exerted against the lower portion of the abdomen, as indicated by the arrows in Figure 12, whereby the posture or configuration of the lower portion of the wearer's body may be greatly improved in appearance as will be noted by comparing Figures 12 and 16, the latter figure showing the conventional form of front panel construction.

The design and construction of the front panel is also such that it may be manufactured at low cost, as the front panel sections **8**, **9**, **11** and **12** may readily be blanked from web material in the usual manner, and the fagotting or stitching together of these sections may be quickly accomplished on conventional machinery to complete the formation of the front panel after which its embodiment in the garment is carried on in the usual well known manner.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that I have accomplished at least the principal objects of my invention, and it will also be apparent to those skilled in the art that the embodiments herein described may be variously changed and modified without departing from the spirit of the invention, and that the invention is capable of uses and has advantages not herein specifically described; hence it will be appreciated that the herein disclosed embodiments are illustrative only, and that my invention is not limited thereto.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a garment of the class described, a body portion constructed of a material capable of yielding to outward pressure of a wearer's body, a vertically elastic panel embodied in the front of the garment and extending substantially the full length thereof, said panel comprising upper and lower sections and a pair of horizontally disposed narrow intermediate sections, all of said panel sections being loosely stitched together to complete the formation of said front panel, and being so sized that when said panel is embodied in a garment and the garment is subsequently fitted onto a wearer's body, said horizontally disposed narrow panel sections will be so tensioned as to impart a constricting and uplift pressure to wearer's abdomen in substantially all positions of the wearer's body, and whereby looseness in said panel at the groin line, when the wearer assumes a stooping or sitting position, is also substantially eliminated.

2. In a garment of the class described, a body portion adapted to embrace the lower portion of a wearer's body with a yielding pressure, said garment having a vertically elastic panel embodied in the front portion thereof and extending substantially the length of the garment, said panel comprising upper and lower sections and a plurality of comparatively long narrow horizontally disposed intermediate sections interposed between and secured to said upper and lower sections respectively, whereby said horizontally disposed sections will overlie the wearer's abdomen when the garment is worn, said intermediate sections being secured to one another and to said upper and lower sections by comparatively loose rows of stitching, whereby when the wearer's body bends at the hips as when stooping or sitting, said loose rows of stitchings will serve as hinges along which the panel may fold or bend in a uniform manner across the wearer's body in the region of the groin line.

3. In a garment of the class described, a front vertically elastic panel comprising upper and lower sections and a plurality of intermediate sections, each of said intermediate sections being relatively narrower in a vertical direction at its center than at its ends and having upper and lower concave edges, and comparatively loose rows of stitches securing together the contiguous edges of said intermediate panel sections, and similar rows of stitching securing said intermediate sections to their respective upper and lower panel sections, the contour of said intermediate sections being such that when said sections are stitched to the upper and lower sections to complete the formation of said composite front panel, the abdomen-engaging portion of said composite panel will be so contracted that when the panel is embodied in a garment and the garment is subsequently fitted onto a wearer's body, said panel will impart a constricting and uplift pressure to the wearer's abdomen in all body positions, and whereby looseness and the formation of bulky folds in said panel at the groin line when the wearer is in a sitting position, is substantially eliminated.

4. In a garment of the class described, a body portion adapted to embrace the lower portion of a wearer's body with a yielding pressure, a front panel embodied in said garment and comprising an upper main section having a lower convex edge and a lower main section having an upper convex edge spaced downwardly from the lower convex edge of the upper section, a pair of horizontally disposed narrow elongated intermediate sections interposed between said upper and lower sections, the upper intermediate section having an upper concave edge of relatively greater curvature than the lower convex edge of the upper section, and the lower intermediate section having a concave lower edge of relatively greater curvature than the adjacent upper edge of the lower panel section, and the contiguous edges of said intermediate sections being concave in configuration, the configurations of all of said panel sections being such that when said sections are placed together on a flat surface in proper relation to one another, transverse gaps will appear between the complemental transverse edges of said sections, and suitable rows of stitching securing together the contiguous transverse edges of all said sections, whereby the intermediate portion of the completed panel will be contracted



in a vertical direction thereby to cause the abdominal-engaging portion of the completed front panel, when the panel is embodied in a garment, to impart a constricting and uplift pressure to the wearer's abdomen in all body positions.

5. A method of forming a composite front panel for a girdle or foundation type garment which consists in cutting an upper main panel section having a convex lower edge, placing an elongated narrow intermediate panel section adjacent to the lower edge of said main panel section whose upper edge is concave and has a relatively greater curvature than the curvature of the convex lower edge of said main panel section, stitching the upper concave edge of said intermediate panel section to the lower convex edge of said upper panel section, placing a second elongated intermediate section adjacent to said first mentioned intermediate panel section, the contiguous edges of said intermediate panel sections being concave to provide an elongated gap therebetween when said sections are placed side by side on a flat surface, stitching together the contiguous concave edges of said intermediate sections, the lower edge of said lower intermediate section being concave, and subsequently placing the upper convex edge of a lower main panel section adjacent to the lower concave edge of said lower intermediate section and stitching said edges together to complete the formation of said composite front panel, the curvatures of the edges of said panel sections, when said sections are stitched together in the completion of the panel, causing the intermediate portion of the composite panel to be so constructed that when said panel is subsequently embodied in a completed garment, the vertical central portion of said composite panel will be contracted to a relatively greater degree than the opposed vertical side edges thereof.

6. In a garment of the class described, a body portion constructed of a material capable of yielding to outward pressure of a wearer's body, a vertically elastic panel embodied in the front of the garment and extending substantially the full length thereof, said panel comprising upper and lower sections and at least one horizontally disposed narrow intermediate section, all of said sections having their contiguous edges loosely secured together by suitable stitching to complete the formation of said front panel, and the configurations of said sections and the loose stitching securing them together transversely of said front panel causing the lower intermediate portion of said panel to engage the wearer's abdomen with a constricting and uplift pressure in substantially all positions of the wearer's body, and whereby looseness in said panel at the groin line when the wearer assumes a stooping or sitting position is substantially eliminated.

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