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O. ERTESZEK
FOUNDATION GARMENT

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Fig. 1.

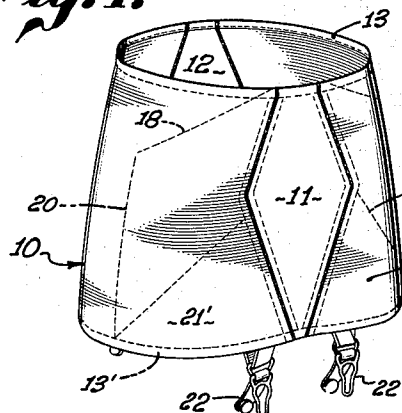


Fig. 5.

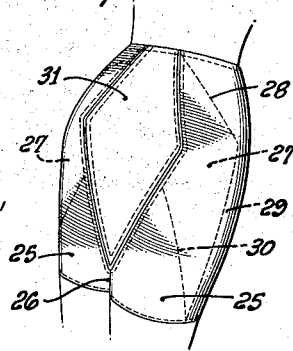


Fig. 3.

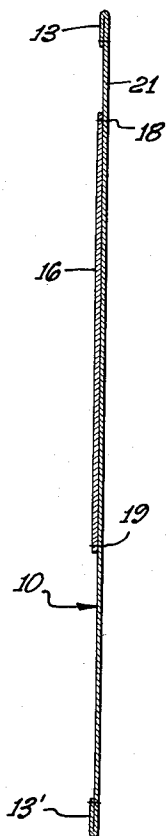


Fig. 2.

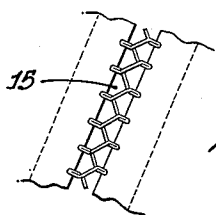
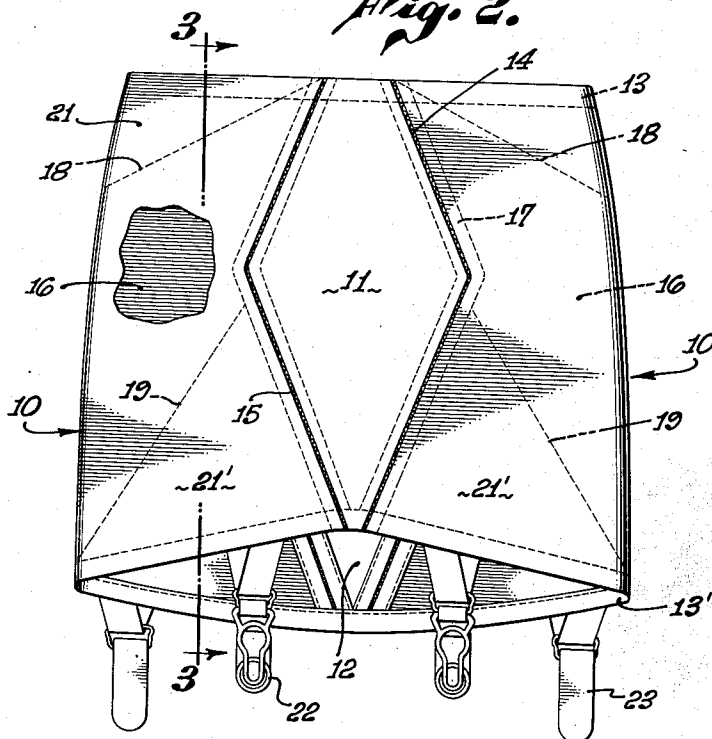


Fig. 4.

OLGA ERTESZEK,
INVENTOR.

BY *Andrew White*

ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

Olga Erteszek, Los Angeles, Calif.

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2-28)

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This invention has to do with improvements in foundation garments of the girdle and combination girdle-pantie type designed to give desired shape to the wearer by selective support and confinement principally of the abdomen and hips.

The general and major object of the invention is to provide an improved foundation garment construction having the particular advantages in addition to its economy and simplicity, of combined selectivity and elastic confinement of the body portions to be supported, together with desirable comfort and freedom for easy movement by the wearer. More specifically, the invention provides for proper shape-producing support of the abdomen with elastic confinement of the hips, while assuring the wearer's comfort at the upper waist edge of the garment and permissible leg movement free from the more highly tensioned or stretch-resistant portions of the garment performing primarily supporting functions.

Structurally, the garment has an elastic body, preferably comprising a ply of fabric material having elastic inserts or threads rendering it elastic both horizontally and vertically, the front of the body containing a relatively inelastic, non-elastic or unidirectionally elastic section designed to fit and support the abdomen. The invention is primarily concerned with elastic reinforcement of the body ply in a manner giving the material greater resistance to stretching locally within areas so positioned at opposite sides of the less elastic or unidirectionally elastic section as to best serve its supporting functions, while leaving the body ply elsewhere more freely flexible for the comfort and convenience of the wearer.

According to its preferred construction, the elastic body ply is reinforced by additional plies extending angularly from opposite sides of the central section to approximately the sides of the garment, the general course of the reinforcement plies being downwardly and outwardly above a more freely elastic area below the reinforcement, and below a more freely elastic extent of the body ply at the top of the garment. As will appear, provision may be made for a horizontally less elastic or horizontally inelastic insert panel also in the seat of the garment, but without the reinforcement used in conjunction with the front insert, so that the seat portion has easier and comfortable stretchability.

All the various features and objects of the invention as well as the details of an illustrative embodiment will be further and clearly understood from the following description of the accompanying drawing, in which;

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Fig. 1 is a view showing the garment in front perspective.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged front elevation of the garment.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged section on line 3-3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary enlargement of the open ventilation seam between the front panel and the body of the garment, and

Fig. 5 is a view showing a variational form of the invention.

Referring to the drawing, the garment is shown to be made in unit circular form comprising an elastic body material 10 secured to front and rear relatively inelastic and preferably horizontally non-stretchable front and rear sections or panels 11 and 12. According to the preferred construction of the garment, the body material 10 consists of a single ply of commercially known two-way stretch fabric material containing horizontal courses of rubber inserts or threads giving the material a degree of elasticity appropriate for the overall body shaping functions of the garment. As will be understood, the body material 10 is elastic and stretchable both horizontally and vertically. The top and bottom edges of the garment are shown to be finished with in-turned seams 13 and 13'.

The primary function of the front section 11 is to give abdominal support, and to best serve this function, particularly in relation to the later described reinforcing plies, it is shown to extend continuously from the top to the bottom of the garment with the upper and lower edges 14 and 15 of the insert secured to the body material 10 by open ventilated seams, see Fig. 4, and converging respectively to the top and bottom edges of the garment. The panel 11 preferably is made of an elastic fabric which is stretchable vertically of the garment, while being substantially inelastic horizontally. If desired, the garment may contain a similar rear insert 12 attached to the single ply body of material 10 but without additional reinforcement as used in conjunction with the front insert 11, to afford easy conformability and stretchability in the seat.

The forward half of the garment is reinforced at opposite sides of the insert 11 by a pair of under plies 16 made of the same elastic material as the body ply 10 (with the elastic threads running horizontally) and secured thereto along seam lines 17 adjacent the insert 11 and along upper and lower downwardly and outwardly inclined seam lines 18 and 19, the slope of the latter being greater than the upper seam lines 18 so that the

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reinforcement plies occupy areas flaring downwardly and outwardly to seam lines 20, see Fig. 1, at substantially the medial sides of the garment. As shown in Fig. 1, the seam lines 18 intersect the seams 14 at the waistline of the garment, leaving the body material single ply and unreinforced at 21 to lend easy conformability and full comfort about the waist.

A feature of major importance is the arrangement of the reinforcing plies 16 to give to the insert 11 that degree and direction of support which will assure proper and comfortable shape maintenance of the abdomen without inhibition or discomfort in the leg movements of the wearer by reason of any excessive resistance or tensioned condition of the lower front portion of the garment. It will be noted that the lower reinforcement ply seam lines 19 extend downwardly and outwardly from the insert 11 from locations substantially midway vertically of the garment, leaving unreinforced areas 21 of the single ply body material which contact the legs and by reason of relatively less resistance to stretching, permit free and comfortable movements of the wearer. As illustrated, the usual garters and appendages 22 and 23 may be affixed to the bottom portion of the garment.

Fig. 5 illustrates a variational form of the invention similar in all respects to the previously described girdle, but particularly adapted to a so-called pantie-type girdle. Here the garment has leg portions 25 extending a short distance below the crotch at 26 and adapted to fit snugly about the wearer's legs. The boundaries of the reinforcement plies 27 as before are defined by the angular seam lines 28 extending downwardly and outwardly from a location near the waist line of the garment at the vertically elastic but horizontally inelastic front panel 31 to the side seams 29, the lower seams 30 however being extended downwardly and outwardly to the bottoms of the leg portions 25.

I claim:

1. A continuously circular essentially one-piece foundation garment comprising a single ply horizontally relatively inelastic and vertically elastic abdomen supporting front panel extending from the top to the central bottom of the garment, a single ply of elastic horizontally and vertically stretchable material forming the body of the garment and extending from the sides of said front panel, reinforcing plies of horizontally and vertically elastic material secured to the body ply along upper seam lines extending downwardly and outwardly from the sides of the front panel and from locations near the top of the garment, and along lower seam lines extending downwardly and outwardly from below the vertical midpoints

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of said panel sides to near the bottom of the garment, said body ply extending continuously along substantially the entire vertical extent of said front panel at opposite sides thereof, and extending continuously between and vertically beyond said upper and lower seam lines.

2. A garment as defined in claim 1, in which said seam lines terminate near the median sides of the garment and are interconnected by vertically extending seams.

3. A garment as defined in claim 1, in the form of a pantie girdle having leg portions formed by said body material, said front panel extending downwardly to the crotch of the garment and said lower seam lines extending to near the bottoms of said leg portions.

4. A garment as defined in claim 1, in which said front panel has upper and lower sides converging respectively upwardly and downwardly to near the top and bottom edges of the garment from locations vertically intermediate those edges.

5. A garment as defined in claim 1, in which said front panel has upper and lower sides converging respectively upwardly and downwardly to near the top and bottom edges of the garment from locations substantially midway between the last mentioned edges, so that said lower seam lines extend downwardly and outwardly from the lower downwardly and inwardly divergent sides of the front panel, said seam lines terminating near the median sides of the garment and being interconnected by vertically extending seams.

6. A garment as defined in claim 5, in the form of a pantie girdle having leg portions formed by said body material, said front panel extending downwardly to the crotch of the garment and said lower seam lines extending to near the bottoms of said leg portions.

7. A garment as defined in claim 5, in which said lower seams have greater slope than said upper seams.

OLGA ERTESZEK.

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