March 5, 1940. L. J. A. AMYOT 2,192,427

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Filed March 7, 1938 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

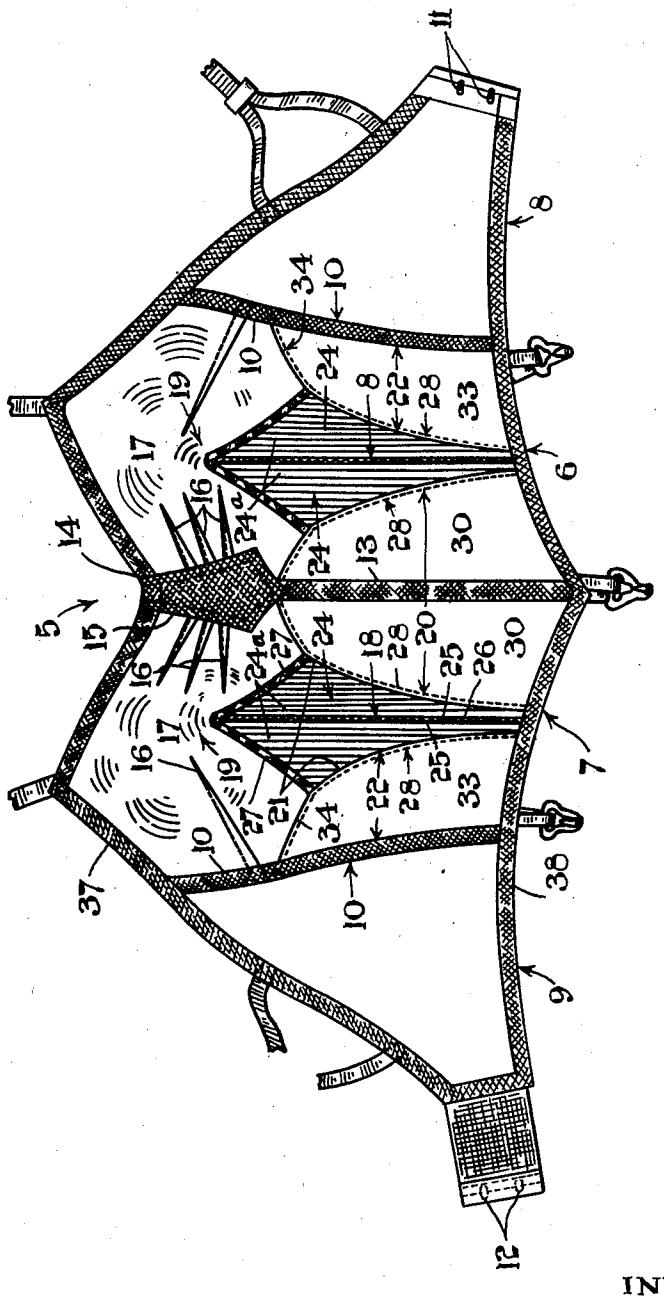


FIG. 1

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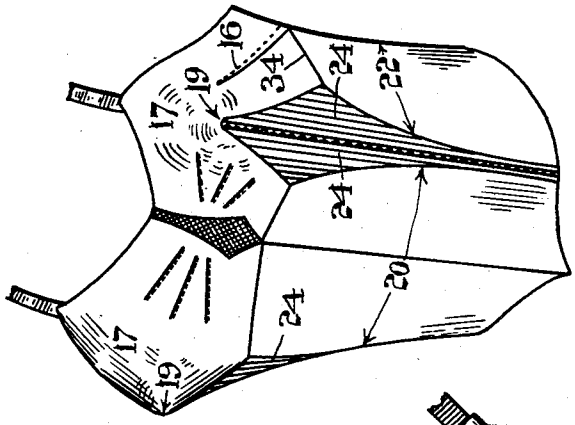


FIG. 3

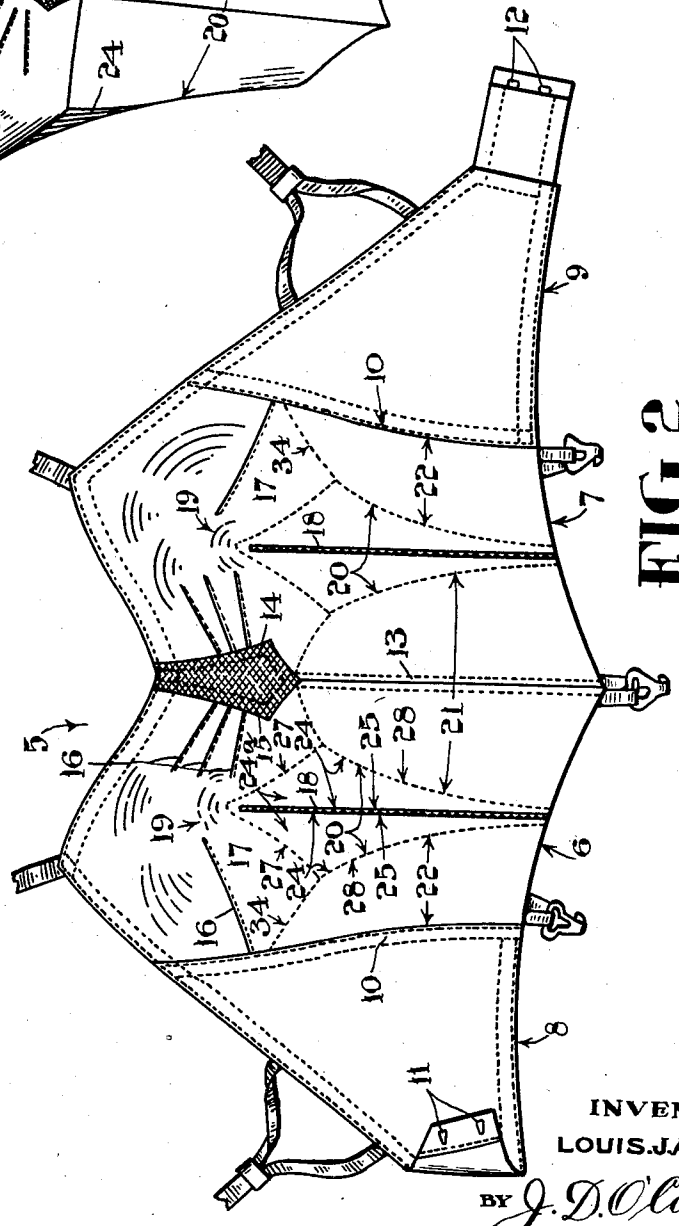


FIG. 2

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Patented Mar. 5, 1940 2,192,427

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,192,427

FOUNDATION GARMENT

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Application March 7, 1938, Serial No. 194,362

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to brassières and other bust-moulding garments; and it comprises a body encircling band of sufficient vertical depth to cover the breasts and diaphragm of the wearer, the breast covering portions being shaped to provide preformed breast receiving pockets and being reinforced to provide front and side breast control panels which exert uplifting pressure against the lower portions of the breasts to give them a high, well separated, rounded appearance when the garment is fastened about the wearer.

The invention further comprises a garment in which the side control panels exert inward as well as upward pressure on the breasts so that the latter are pushed forward and prevented from spreading toward the armpits when the garment is tightened in place. This feature, in addition to improving the moulding effect of the garment, tends to minimize the breadth of the chest.

The invention further comprises a garment of the character described in which the size of the breasts is minimized by a gradual concave curvature of the garment along lines extending from the nipples to the lower edge of the garment, such curvature being due to the stiffening and shaping effect of the front breast control panels and their mode of attachment.

The invention further comprises a garment of the character described in which the diaphragm covering portion is reinforced to provide a flat diaphragm control panel which exerts flattening pressure on the diaphragm and is strongly resistant to stretching and bulging.

The invention further comprises a garment of the character described in which the reinforcing elements of the areas constituting the breast and diaphragm control panels are interconnected to conjointly resist stretching at these areas when the garment is secured in place.

The invention further comprises a garment of the character described in which the reinforcement at the two areas constituting the front breast control panels consists, in each instance, of companion sections of cord-stiffened fabric hingedly joined together along one of the aforesaid lines of curvature extending from the nipples to the lower edge of the garment. This method of reinforcement gives desirable flexibility along the breast minimizing curves and otherwise enhances the fit and moulding properties of the garment.

The invention further comprises a garment of the character described in which ventilating openings are provided between the hingedly connected edges of the companion reinforcing sections of each front breast control panel.

Other features, advantages and characteristics of the invention will become evident from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of my improved reinforced bust-moulding garment as it appears when looking toward the outer or facing side.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the garment as it appears when looking toward the inner or lining side to which the reinforcement is applied.

Fig. 3 is a front perspective view in which the garment is shown substantially as it appears when in use.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 5 designates a body encircling band made of any suitable soft, flexible material. As here shown the band comprises four sections designated 6, 7, 8 and 9. The outer vertical edges of sections 6 and 7 are stitched to adjacent edges of sections 8 and 9 to form flat seams 10. Sections 8 and 9 are secured together at the back of the wearer by hooks 11 and eyes 12 or other suitable fastening means.

Portions of the inner vertical edges of sections 6 and 7 are stitched together to form a flat seam 13 extending from the lower edge of the garment to a point well below the upper edge. Above the seam 13 the adjacent edges of sections 6 and 7 are shaped to provide an intervening space 14 over which a section 15 of lace or other reticulate material is appropriately secured.

Sections 6 and 7 are cut on the bias and their upper portions are shaped, by darts 16, to provide the breast pockets 17. Each of these sections is also cut vertically to provide a substantially central slit 18 extending from the lower edge of the section to the nipple area 19 of the breast pocket. The material lying at opposite sides of each slit 18 is reinforced to provide a somewhat diamond-shaped stiffened area 20 constituting one of the front breast control panels. The area 21 lying between the two stiffened areas 20 is also reinforced to constitute a flat diaphragm control panel which covers the diaphragm of the wearer and is strongly resistant to stretching and bulging. The areas 22 lying at the outer sides of the stiffened areas 20 are also reinforced to constitute the previously mentioned side breast-control panels.

The method of reinforcing the garment at the areas 20, 21 and 22 is clearly shown in Fig. 2.

The reinforcement at each area 20 comprises companion sections 24 of cord-stiffened fabric such, for example, as that disclosed in my prior U. S. Patent 2,096,835, dated October 26, 1937. The outline of each section 24 is roughly similar to that of a scalene triangle. The companion triangle sections 24 are stitched in place so that the long straight sides 25 constituting the bases of the triangles are opposed to each other and lie substantially flush with opposite sides of slit 18. These edges 25 are hingedly connected by faggoting 26 which also provides for ventilation along the slit 18. The edges 27 and 28 constituting the remaining sides of each triangular section 24 are concavely curved to improve the fit of the garment.

The upper portions 24*a* of companion stiffening sections 24 extend into and stiffen the lower half of the adjacent breast pocket 17. These portions 24 also tend to give the pocket a pointed effect due to the manner in which their outer side edges 27 converge to a point located within the nipple zone 19.

The reinforcement at the area 21 comprises fabric tension strips 30 having their inner vertical edges joined together at the central vertical seam 13. The outer vertical edges of strips 30 are convexly curved and are stitched to the adjacent cord-stiffened sections 24 along the concave edges 28. The lower edges of strips 30 incline downwardly to meet in a point at the lower end of the seam 13 while the upper edges of said strips incline upwardly as they approach the seam 13. This method of fastening the strips 30 gives the desired control-panel effect to the diaphragm covering area 21 and renders this area strongly resistant to bulging or stretching.

The reinforcement at each area 22 comprises a tension strip 33 having its outer vertical edge stitched to the band 5 at one of the side seams 10. The inner vertical edge of strip 33 is convexly curved and is stitched to the adjacent cord-stiffened section 24 along the concave edge 28. The upper edge 34 of each strip 33 is located within the lower portion of the adjacent breast pocket 17 and is cut so that it inclines upwardly toward the seam 10.

It will be noted that each of the tension strips 30 and 33 is made of gradually increasing width toward the lower edge of the garment so that they may be properly joined to the cord-stiffened sections 24 which gradually diminish in width as they approach the said lower edge of the garment.

When the herein described garment is secured in place about the wearer, the upper portions 24*a* of the cord-stiffened sections 24 are flexed outwardly so that there is a gradual concave curvature of the garment along vertical lines coinciding with the slits 18 which extend from the nipples to the lower edge of the garment. The garment is stiffened along these lines of curvature by the edges 25 of the sections 24. The important effect obtained here is that the curves shaping the lower halves of the breasts are flattened out in a desirable manner to minimize the size of the breasts.

The upper and lower edges of the band 5, together wtih the lower edges of the tension strips 30 and 33, are finished off by appropriate binding strips 37 and 38, the latter also serving to close off the lower ends of the slits 18.

Having thus described what I now consider to be the preferred embodiment of this invention, it will be understood that various modifications may be resorted to within the scope and spirit of the appended claims. For example, the ventilating openings provided between the stiffening sections 24 of each front breast-control panel may be eliminated by joining the edges of the slit 18 in a closed seam overlying the faggoting 26.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In a bust-molding foundation garment, a body encircling band including breast covering portions shaped to provide preformed breast receiving pockets, said band being provided with two vertical slits each extending from the nipple area of one of the breast receiving pockets to the lower edge of the band, the opposite edges of each slit being hingedly connected by faggoting and reinforcing sections of cord stiffened fabric secured to the inside of the band at opposite sides of each slit, said reinforcing sections extending the full length of said slits and serving as front breast supporting panels adapted to support and uplift the breasts when the garment is secured in place about the wearer.

2. A garment as set forth in claim 1 in which additional reinforcing elements are secured to the central portion of the band to provide a diaphragm flattening panel lying between said previously mentioned panels.

3. A garment as set forth in claim 1 in which additional reinforcing elements are secured to the inside of the lower portion of the band to provide a diaphragm flattening panel lying between said previously mentioned panels and a pair of outer side panels located immediately adjacent the outer sides of said first mentioned panels, the upper portions of said outer side panels terminating at points located within the lower halves of the breast pockets.

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