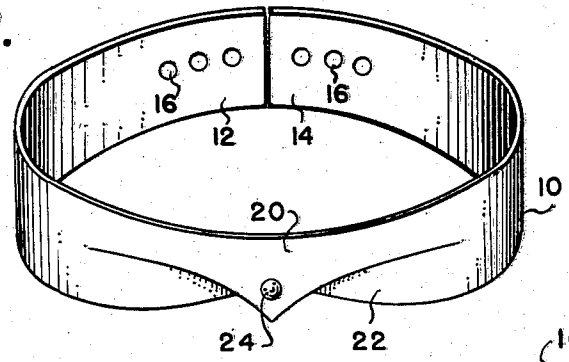
March 24, 1959 F. REBAJES 2,878,482

BELT AND BLANK THEREFOR

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FIG. 1.



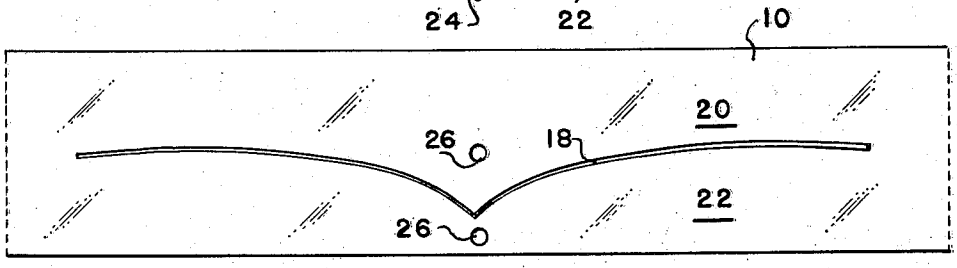


FIG. 2.

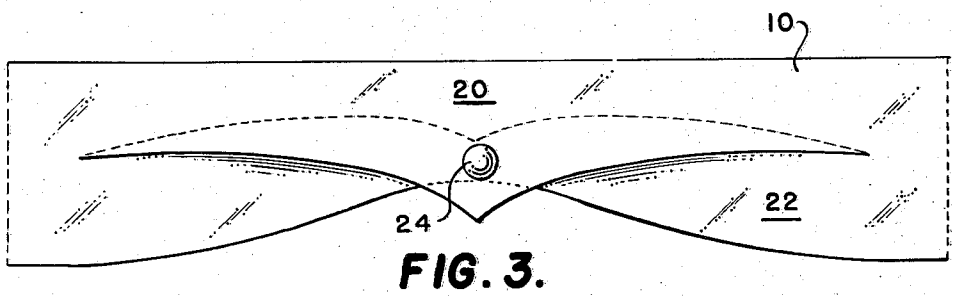


FIG. 3.

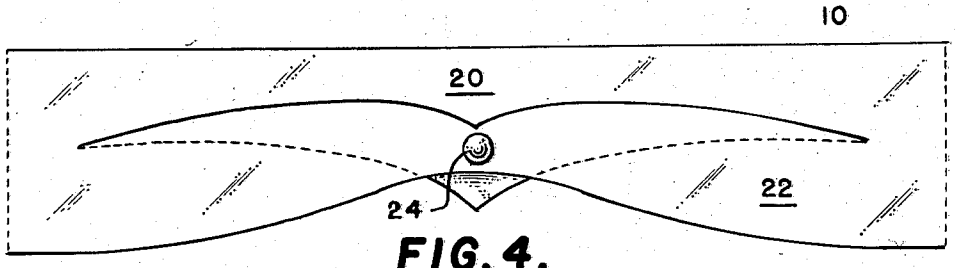


FIG. 4.

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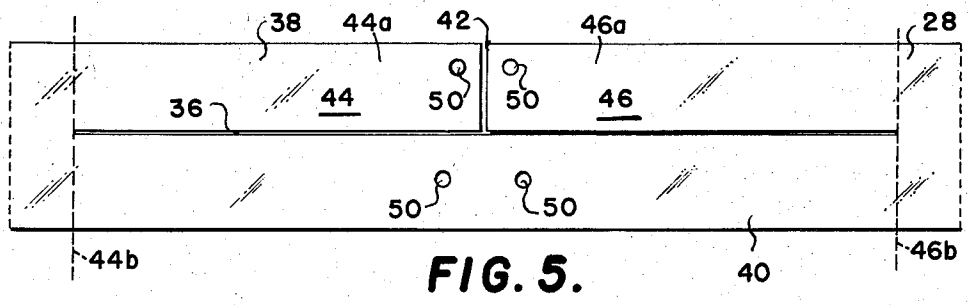


FIG. 5.

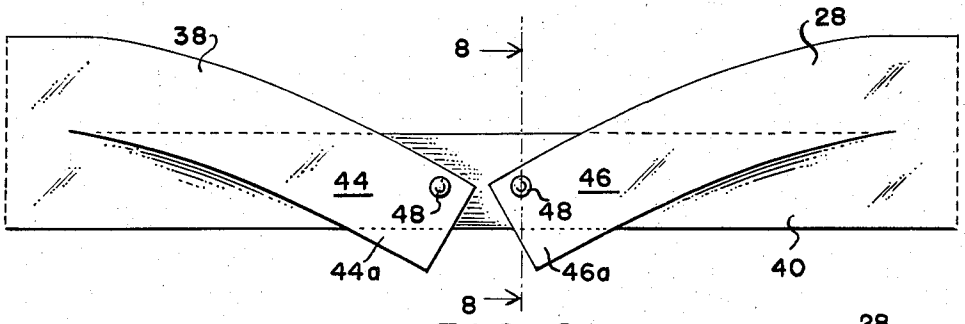


FIG. 6.

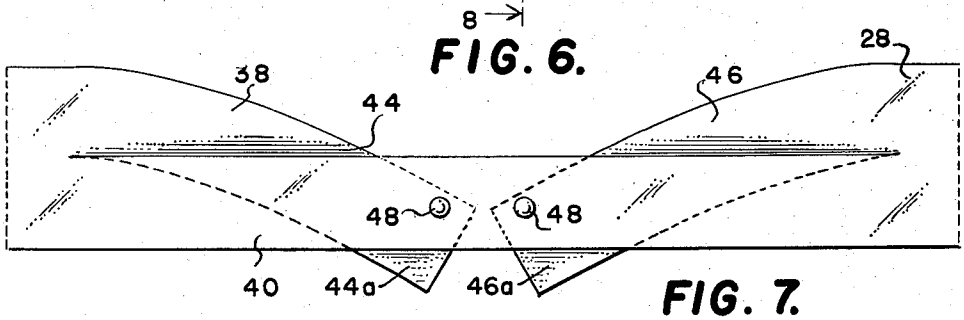


FIG. 7.

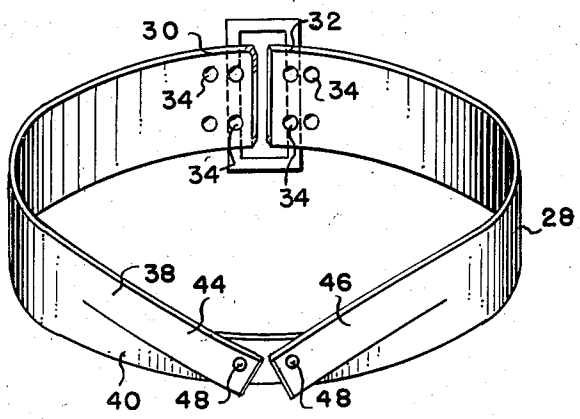


FIG. 9.

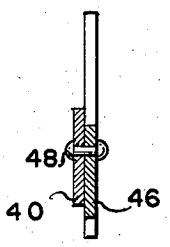


FIG. 8.

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BELT AND BLANK THEREFOR

Francis Rebajes, Malverne, N.Y.

Application June 27, 1956, Serial No. 594,171

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—300)

This invention relates to an improvement in a garment type body encircling belt and blank therefor.

It is an object of this invention to provide a garment type body encircling belt having improved features of comfort and appearance.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a body encircling belt particularly of the ornamental type usually worn by women which conforms itself to the curves and contours of the body of the wearer in such manner as to provide a comfortable fit in the region of the back and hips of the wearer and simultaneously present a highly ornamental appearance.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a belt of comparatively large transverse dimension or width which, nevertheless, embodies the comfort and ornamental features referred to above.

Other and further objects, benefits and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the description thereof contained in the annexed drawings, specifications and claims or will otherwise become obvious. It will be understood that the invention herein disclosed may be employed for other purposes for which the parts, structure and arrangement are adapted.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a belt in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary plan view on an enlarged scale of the back portion of the blank from which the belt shown in Figure 1 is formed;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view on an enlarged scale of the portion of the belt shown in Figure 1 normally positioned at the back of the wearer;

Figure 4 is a view of the portion of the belt shown in Figure 3 as seen from the interior or reverse side thereof;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary view on an enlarged scale of the back portion of the blank from which the belt shown in Figure 9 is formed;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary view on an enlarged scale of the portion of the belt shown in Figure 9 normally positioned at the back of the wearer;

Figure 7 is a view of the portion of the belt shown in Figure 6 as seen from the interior or reverse side thereof;

Figure 8 is a cross-section of the fragment of the belt shown in Figure 6 taken along line 8—8 thereof; and

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a modified form of belt in accordance with the present invention.

It has often been found desirable in the manufacture and sale of belts, particularly belts of the type worn by women, to form the belt with a comparatively large transverse dimension. The wide type of belt has often been considered to be desirable from the point of view of style and appearance. However, there are a number of features in connection with the manufacture and use of a belt of this character which have been found undesirable. An undesirable feature of the wide type belt resides in the fact that since it is formed out of flat sheet material, the belt does not conform itself transversely to the natural contour of the body in the region of the hips and back.

Consequently, belts of this type, when worn, are a source of discomfort to the wearer and often present an unsightly appearance due to the inability of the belt material to conform itself in any appreciable degree to the shape or contours of the figure to which it is applied. As pointed out, belts of this character are most economically manufactured of flat sheet material. Finer type belts are manufactured of leather. This material presents certain physical limitations in that it does not readily conform to the figure, particularly in the case of thicker type leathers. The instant belt, as illustrated in Figure 1, is designed so as to comfortably conform to the indicated contours of the body of the wearer in spite of the comparatively large transverse dimension or width of the belt. At the same time the belt may be manufactured cheaply and economically from flat sheet material, such as for example, heavy gauge leather. The belt shown in Figure 1 is formed of an elongated strip **10** of sheet material, preferably heavy gauge leather. The length of strip **10** is such as to comfortably encircle the body of the intended wearer and may be in any number of sizes in accordance with conventional belt manufacturing practices. The free ends **12** and **14** of the elongated body encircling strip **10** meet in the abdominal region or front of the wearer and said ends may be provided with a suitable disengageable closure arrangement, such as a belt buckle not shown, which may be attached by means of suitable perforations **16** formed in the ends of the belt or may be attached by other suitable means well known to those skilled in the belt making art.

The construction of the portion of the belt which lies at the back of the wearer may be more readily understood by reference to Figure 2 which will illustrate the portion of the blank from which it is formed. Thus, as may be seen from Figure 2, blank **10** is provided with a longitudinally extending slit **18** which is so dimensioned as to extend across a substantial portion of the back of the wearer. The longitudinally extending slit **18** may be formed by merely severing the belt material or a thin slot may be formed by removing a narrow portion thereof. The term "slit" is intended to denote both forms of severance. The longitudinally extending slit **18** is disposed generally parallel with and intermediate the side edges of the belt blank and divides the back portion of the belt into upper and lower sections **20** and **22** respectively. These sections are each, of course, of lesser transverse dimensions or width than the total width of the strip from which they are formed. The formation of the longitudinally extending slit **18** permits the two sections thus formed to be drawn over one another in overlapped relation as shown in Figure 3. The two sections are secured to each other in such overlapped relation by any suitable means in the medial region of the back of the belt as by a rivet **24**. In order to facilitate this attachment perforations **26** may advantageously be provided in the blank from which the belt is formed so that when the two sections are overlapped the perforations are brought into registration to permit the insertion of the rivet therethrough. It will of course be understood that other similar fastening means may be employed for the indicated purpose as is well known to those skilled in the art. In overlapping the two sections **20** and **22** of the strip, the overall transverse dimensions or width of the belt is reduced in the central portion of the back thereof corresponding to what is usually termed the small of the back of the wearer. Furthermore, by attaching the overlapped sections in the central region, the transverse dimension of the belt is gradually reduced as it approaches the medial point of attachment or rivet **24**. By overlapping the two sections of the belt as indicated a degree of curvature is imparted to the cross-section of the belt in this region so that when the belt is worn it

tends to follow and conform itself to the curvature encountered in this region of the body of the wearer. There is thus assured a more comfortable fit while retaining the generally desirable ornamental appearance of a wide type belt. Additionally, by forming the longitudinal slit 18 with an appropriate curvature, highly desirable ornamental features may be imparted to the belt. Thus, for example, the belt shown in Figure 1 is provided with a slit which forms a downwardly extending converging point. By varying this shape of the slit such as by slitting the material along an undulating or zig-zag line other ornamental designs may be readily achieved which form highly pleasing effects.

A modified form of belt is illustrated in Figure 9. The belt illustrated in Figure 9 is advantageously formed from a blank, the back portion of which is illustrated in fragmentary form in Figure 5. This belt is similarly formed of an elongated strip of belt material **28** and may even be formed of a heavy gauge leather. The strip is adapted to encircle the body of the wearer and may be similarly provided with disengageable means at the free ends **30** and **32** thereof, such as a belt buckle **51**, which may be attached by means of perforations **34** or by any other suitable means. As shown in Figure 5 the blank is provided with a longitudinally extending slit **36** in the medial portion thereof corresponding to the portion of the back of the belt and wearer. Said slit **36** is disposed intermediate the side edges of the belt and generally parallel therewith. The longitudinal slit **36** thus divides the back of the belt into an upper and lower section **38** and **40** respectively. The upper section **38** is further completely slit transversely as shown at **42**. The transverse slit **42** thus divides the upper section into two segments **44** and **46** having extremities **44***a* and **46***a* and being secured only along transverse lines **44***b* and **46***b* adjacent the extremities of the longitudinally extending slit so that they may each be overlapped with the lower section as shown in Figures 6 and 7 and attached thereto by means of rivets **48** passed through perforations **50** as may be clearly seen in Figure 8. This modified form of belt is readily formed of heavy gauge and relatively stiff belt material and permits a greater degree of adjustment in the ultimate contour to be achieved by the belt in this region since the spacing between the attachment points corresponding to the rivets **48** may be varied to thereby determine the degree of transverse curvature to which the belt may be made to conform. Thus, the free ends of the upper segments may be actually brought into overlapping relation in addition to being overlapped over the lower section thus imparting a relatively marked progressive curvature of the cross-section of the belt in this region.

I have here shown and described preferred embodiments of my invention. It will be apparent, however, that this invention is not limited to these embodiments and that many changes, additions and modifications can be made in connection therewith without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as herein disclosed and hereinafter claimed.

I claim:

1. A blank for the formation of a body encircling belt, said blank comprising an elongated strip of material, a longitudinally extending slit formed in said strip of material, said slit being medially disposed between the ends of said strip and lying generally parallel with the side edges thereof, whereby the slit portion of said strip is divided into two sections, one of said sections being completely transversely slit, whereby said one section is divided into two segments, each of said segments being secured to the strip along a transverse line adjacent an extremity of said longitudinally extending slit and secured in overlapping relation to said other section.

2. A body encircling belt comprising an elongated strip of material having terminal ends and side edges, the terminal ends of said strip being adapted to be disengageably secured to each other at the front of the body of the wearer, an elongated slit formed in said strip medially of said free ends and extending longitudinally thereof in the region which extends across the back of the body when said belt is worn, said slit dividing the back portion of the belt into sections, one of said sections being completely transversely slit thereby dividing said slit section into two segments, said segments being secured to the strip along a transverse line adjacent an extremity of said elongated slit and secured to the other of said sections in overlapping relation with respect thereto.

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