Dec. 6, 1949 J. CIRINGIONE 2,490,415

FOUNDATION GARMENT

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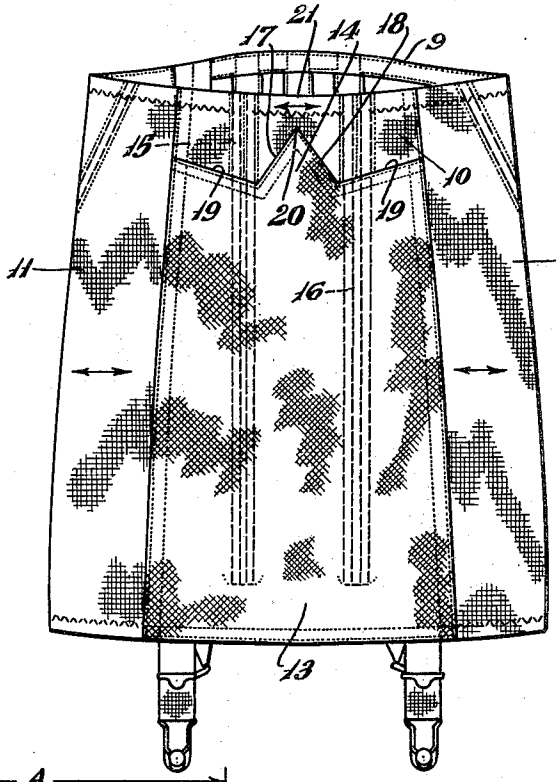


Fig. 1

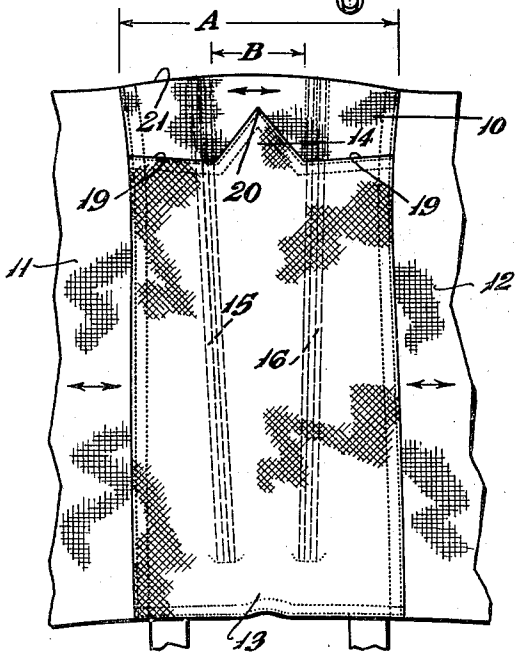


Fig. 2

INVENTOR.
Joseph Ciringione
BY
E. R. Lorraack
ATTORNEY

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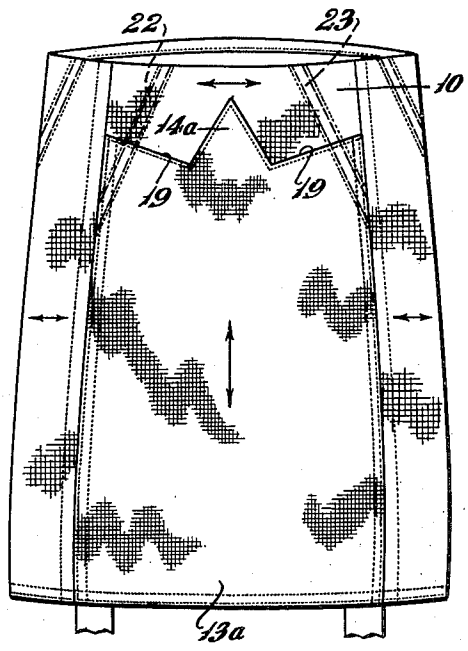


Fig. 3

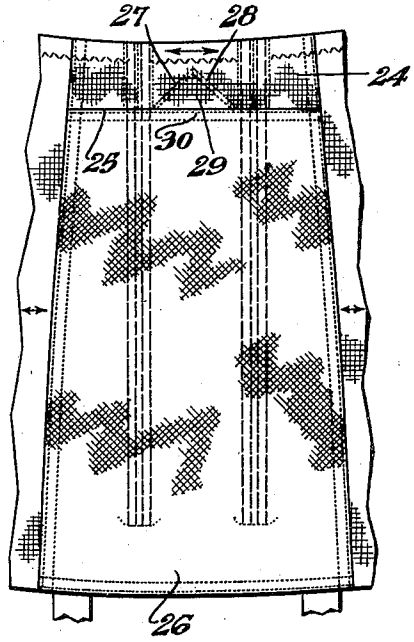


Fig. 4

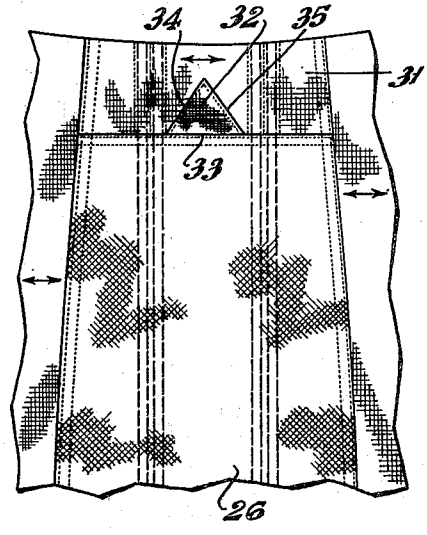


Fig. 5

INVENTOR.
Joseph Ciringione
BY
E. R. Schmeck
ATTORNEY

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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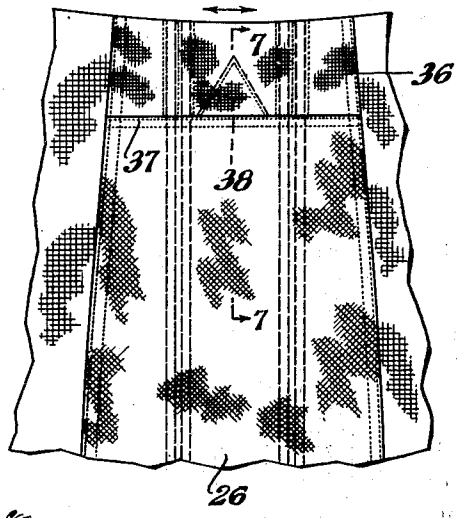


Fig. 6

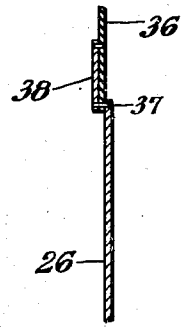


Fig. 7

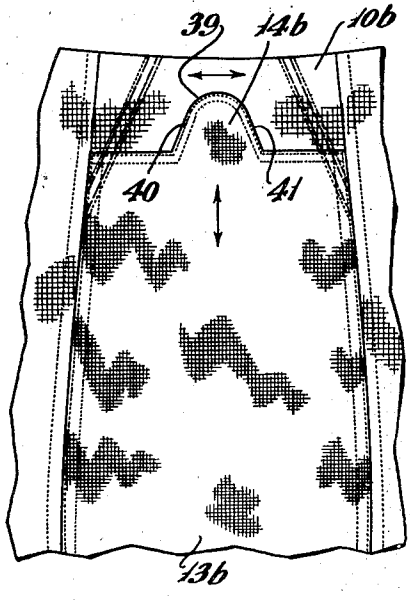


Fig. 8

INVENTOR.
Joseph Ciringione
BY
E. R. Lorraack
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,490,415

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Joseph Ciringione, Bronx, N. Y., assignor to Magic Corset Co., Inc., Bronx, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application November 6, 1947, Serial No. 784,346

9 Claims. (Cl. 2—37)

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This invention relates to girdles, corsets, polo belts and other supports generally classified as foundation garments.

It is primarily within the contemplation of my invention to provide a foundation garment capable of firmly embracing and moulding the waistline, and yet permitting freedom of movement. And in this aspect of my invention it is an important object to provide a supporting garment of this category with a resilient waist portion capable of providing a gentle yieldable pressure in the region of the waistline, and at the same time producing a firm hugging of the hip portion of the wearer.

It is a further important object of this invention to provide the resilient waist portion above mentioned with a restraining band so constructed as to permit the necessary stretching or yielding of the upper portion of the garment, with a progressively reduced amount of stretching along the lower portion thereof, thereby producing a two-fold effect—first, a pivotal inward movement of the lower rear portion of the garment while the upper portion is stretched outwardly laterally, and second, a resistance against sagging of the upper stretched resilient edge.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a simple, readily fabricated and inexpensive garment capable of performing the functions hereinabove mentioned.

Other objects, features and advantages will appear from the drawings and the description hereinafter given.

Referring to the drawings,

Figure 1 is a rear view of a girdle embodying a preferred form of my invention, shown in its unstrained condition.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary rear view of the garment of Fig. 1, shown in a strained or stretched condition.

Figure 3 is a rear view of another form of my invention, showing an upper rear section laterally elastic, and a lower adjoining rear section vertically elastic.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary rear view of still another form of my invention, wherein the restraining means consists of two converging and intersecting lines of stitching.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary rear view of another modification, wherein the restraining means consists of an elastic insert of stiffer material and more resistant elasticity than the upper elastic section.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear view of still another modification of my invention, wherein the

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restraining means consists of an inelastic lining at the rear of the resilient upper portion.

Figure 7 is a vertical section of Fig. 6 taken along line 7—7, and

Figure 8 is a fragmentary rear view of another form of my invention substantially like that of Fig. 2, but with a restraining portion of rounded configuration.

The essence of my invention resides in a structure containing a resilient upper rear section or band that is laterally elastic, this band extending in the region of the waist line, and provided with restraining means extending upwardly from the bottom edge of the band to a predetermined point below the upper edge thereof. In the preferred form of my invention, the said upwardly extending restraining means consists of a section that is inelastic, or that offers greater resistance to stretching than the resilient band, the restraining section preferably exending upwardly with converging lateral sides from a relatively wide base at the lower medial portion of the band. The said restraining means may be of various forms and constructions, some of which are illustrated, for exemplary purposes, in the various drawings of this specification.

In the form illustrated in Fig. 1, the girdle shown comprises a body-embracing member having a front section 9, an upper rear laterally elastic resilient band 10, two side sections 11 and 12, both being laterally elastic, a lower rear inelastic panel 13 adjoining the band 10, an upwardly extending inelastic section 14 constituting the restraining means of my invention, and stays 15 and 16 extending downwardly through at least a portion of band 10 and panel 13.

In this form of my invention the restraining section 14 is a continuation of panel 13, being of inelastic material and containing two lateral edges 17 and 18 converging upwardly from the lower edges 19 of band 10, and meeting at apex 20 a predetermined distance below the upper edge 21 of band 10. The said stays 15 and 16 are of conventional structure, and are preferably contained within suitable pockets for the purpose.

When the garment of Figure 1 is applied to a wearer, and subjected to a stretch as indicated in Fig. 2, the upper edge 21 of the band will be increased in length from its original dimension shown in Fig. 1 to the length A of Fig. 2; and similarly the distance between the upper ends of the stays 15 and 16 will be greater than in the unstrained condition of the garment, length B indicating the stretched dimension. In this stretched or strained condition, it has been found

that a pivotal effect is produced, whereby while the upper portion of the rear of the garment and the upper portion of the stays are moved laterally outwardly, the lower portions are moved laterally inwardly. The lower portions of stays 15 and 16 accordingly converge inwardly as indicated in Fig. 2, and the entire lower portion of the garment exerts an inward pressure against the hips, whereas the upper portion is stretched to accommodate the waist of the wearer. The lateral stretchability of side sections 11 and 12 permit this action to take place without distorting the garment and without discomfiture to the wearer.

The above result is rendered possible by virtue of the fact that section 14 provides a maximum restraining effort upon the lower portion of elastic band 10, and a constantly decreasing restraining effort upwardly to the point 20. The extension of said section 14 upwardly into the region of band 10 up to said apex 20 also has a restraining effect upon the portion of the band above the apex, although not to the same extent as upon the portion therebelow. The net result is that the restraining influence of section 14 upon band 10 is progressively increasing in magnitude from the upper edge 21 to the lower edges 19, thereby producing the pivotal effect above described. Furthermore, due to the fact that there actually is an inelastic portion, or less elastic portion, below the band's edge 21, there will be sufficient resistance to a stretching of said upper edge to prevent its sagging, a defect often found in many elastic bands of this general category.

Figure 3 is substantially like Fig. 1, except that the lower rear panel 13*a* is not inelastic, but is rather vertically elastic, as indicated by the arrow. Furthermore, the stays 22 and 23 do not extend vertically down along the major portion of the lower panel, as in Fig. 1, but are rather inclined in direction, intersecting the lower edges 19 of band 10 and extending only across the upper lateral portions of panel 13*a*. This is a form of girdle more particularly adapted for youthful figures. In this form of construction, the restraining section 14*a*, not being laterally stretchable, is the equivalent of the inelastic section 14 of Fig. 1, having a similar restraining influence against the lateral stretching of section 10. Although there are no stays extending down to the bottom of lower panel 13*a*, it is nevertheless otherwise similar in action to the structure of Fig. 1 in the converging effect hereinabove described.

In Fig. 4, the laterally stretchable rear band 24 has a single straight lower edge 25 extending horizontally across the lower panel 26. However, there are two lines of stitching 27 and 28 which extend in converging relation upwardly from said edge 25. It has been found that the triangular section 29 formed by the said inelastic stitches 27 and 28 and the inelastic stitches 30 along lower edge 25 serve to restrict the stretching of said section 29, thereby producing a restraining effect substantially like that of the two forms hereinabove described.

In Fig. 5, the lower panel 26 is like that of Fig. 4, and the laterally elastic band 31 is substantially like that of Fig. 1. However, the restraining section 32 is a separate insert attached to panel 26 along edge 33, and to band 31 along converging edges 34 and 35. This section 32 is of elastic material also, but of greater resistence to stretching than the elastic material of band 31. Although the restraining effect of member 32 will be less than that of inelastic section 14 of Fig. 1, for example, it nevertheless does exert a restraining influence substantially in the manner above described.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate another form of my invention in which the rear panel 26 and the laterally stretchable upper band 36 are substantially like that of Fig. 4, the band and panel meeting at the seam 37. However, the rear of band 36 is provided with an inelastic triangular lining 38, sewed on by suitable stitching. This section 38 similarly serves as a restraining element in the manner aforesaid.

Figure 8 illustrates a form of my invention substantially like that of Fig. 3, having a rear lower panel 13*b* and a laterally stretchable rear band 10*b*. But the restraining section 14*b*, instead of having lateral sides converging to a point, has an upper substantially rounded portion 39. The lateral sides 40 and 41, however, are sloping inwardly and upwardly, thereby producing a progressively decreasing restraining influence from the lower portion of the band 10*b* upwardly.

In the above description, the invention has been disclosed merely by way of example and in preferred manner; but obviously many variations and modifications may be made therein which will still be comprised within its spirit. It is to be understood, therefore, that the invention is not limited to any specific form or manner of practicing same, except in so far as such limitations are specified in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a foundation garment, a body embracing member having a front section and a rear section, the rear section containing an elastic band adapted for positioning in the region of the wearer's waist, said band being elastic in a lateral direction only, and a restraining member extending upwardly a predetermined distance from the bottom edge of the band along the medial portion thereof, whereby the amount of lateral stretching of the band will be reduced along a vertical distance substantially equal to the height of the restraining member.

2. In a foundation garment, the combination according to claim 1, the restraining member being of progressively decreasing width from the bottom upwardly.

3. In a foundation garment, a body embracing member having a front section and a rear section, the rear section containing an elastic band adapted for positioning in the region of the wearer's waist, said band being elastic in a lateral direction only, and a restraining member extending upwardly a predetermined distance from the bottom edge of the band along the medial portion thereof, whereby the amount of lateral stretching of the band will be reduced along a vertical distance substantially equal to the height of the restraining member, the restraining member being of progressively decreasing width from the bottom upwardly, the restraining member being of relatively inelastic material.

4. In a foundation garment, a body embracing member having a front section and a rear section, the rear section containing an elastic band adapted for positioning in the region of the wearer's waist, said band being elastic in a lateral direction only, and a restraining member extending upwardly a predetermined distance from the bottom edge of the band along the medial portion thereof, whereby the amount of lateral stretching of the band will be reduced along a vertical distance substantially equal to the height of the restraining member, the restraining member be-

ing of progressively decreasing width from the bottom upwardly, the restraining member offering greater resistance to lateral stretching than the band.

5. In a foundation garment, a body embracing member having a front section and a rear section, the rear section containing an upper laterally elastic band adapted for positioning in the region of the wearer's waist, a lower panel adjoining the band, and two side sections flanking said panel and adjoining said band, said panel containing an upper medial restraining portion with converging sides extending upwardly above the lower edge of the band to a predetermined level below the upper edge thereof, said upper edge of said band being free for expansion.

6. In a foundation garment, the combination according to claim 5, the said panel and said restraining portion being of inelastic material.

7. In a foundation garment, the combination according to claim 6, the said side sections being of laterally elastic material.

8. In a foundation garment, the combination according to claim 5, the said panel and said restraining portion being of vertically elastic material.

9. In a foundation garment, a body embracing member having a front section, side sections and

a rear section, the rear section containing an elastic band adjoining said side sections and adapted for positioning in the region of the wearer's waist, and a restraining member extending upwardly a predetermined distance from the bottom edge of the band along the medial portion thereof, whereby the amount of lateral stretching of the band will be reduced along a vertical distance substantially equal to the height of the restraining member, the upper edge of said band being free for expansion.

JOSEPH CIRINGIONE.

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