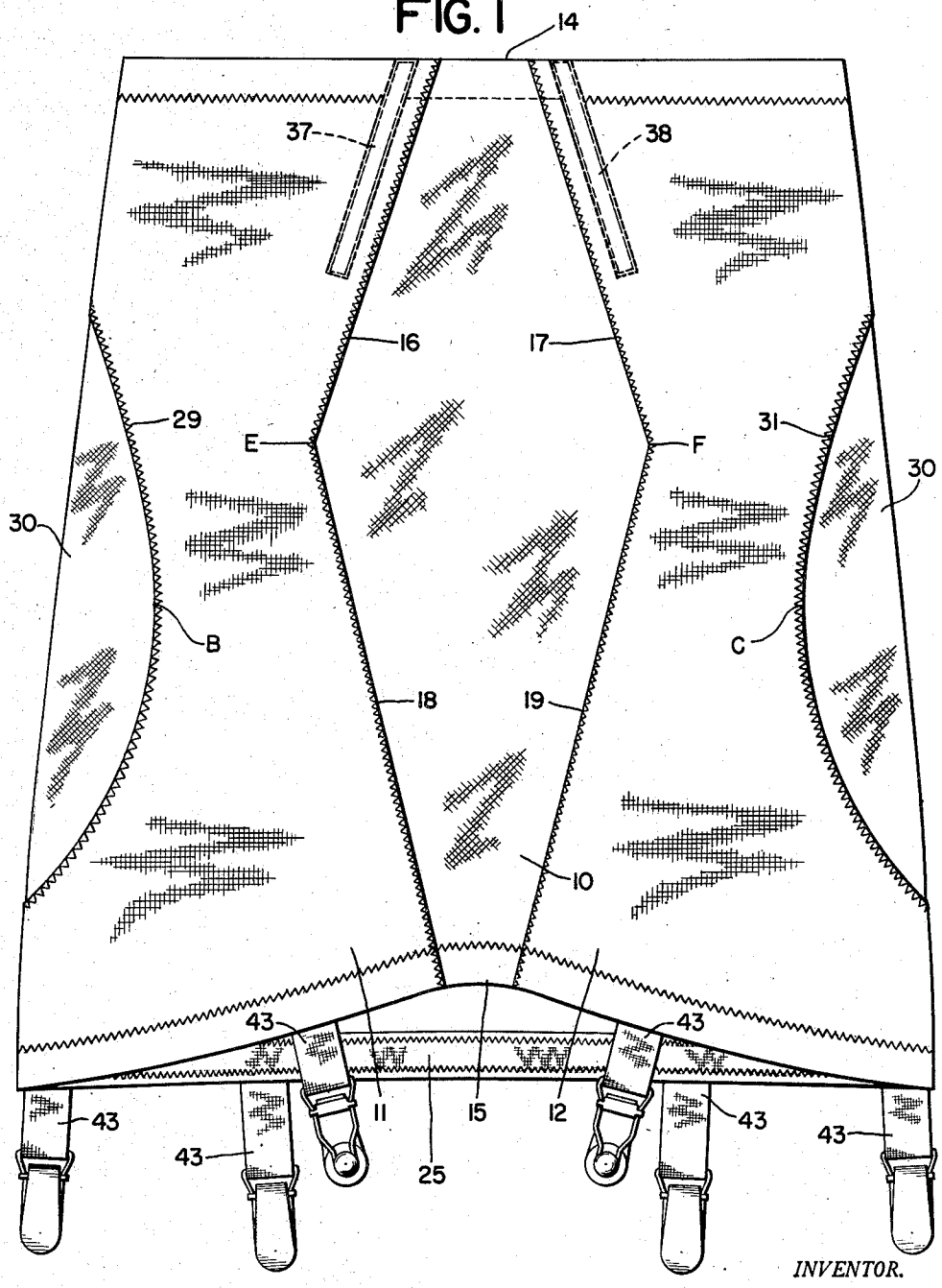
May 1, 1951 R. S. KOPS 2,551,139

FOUNDATION GARMENT

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FIG. 1



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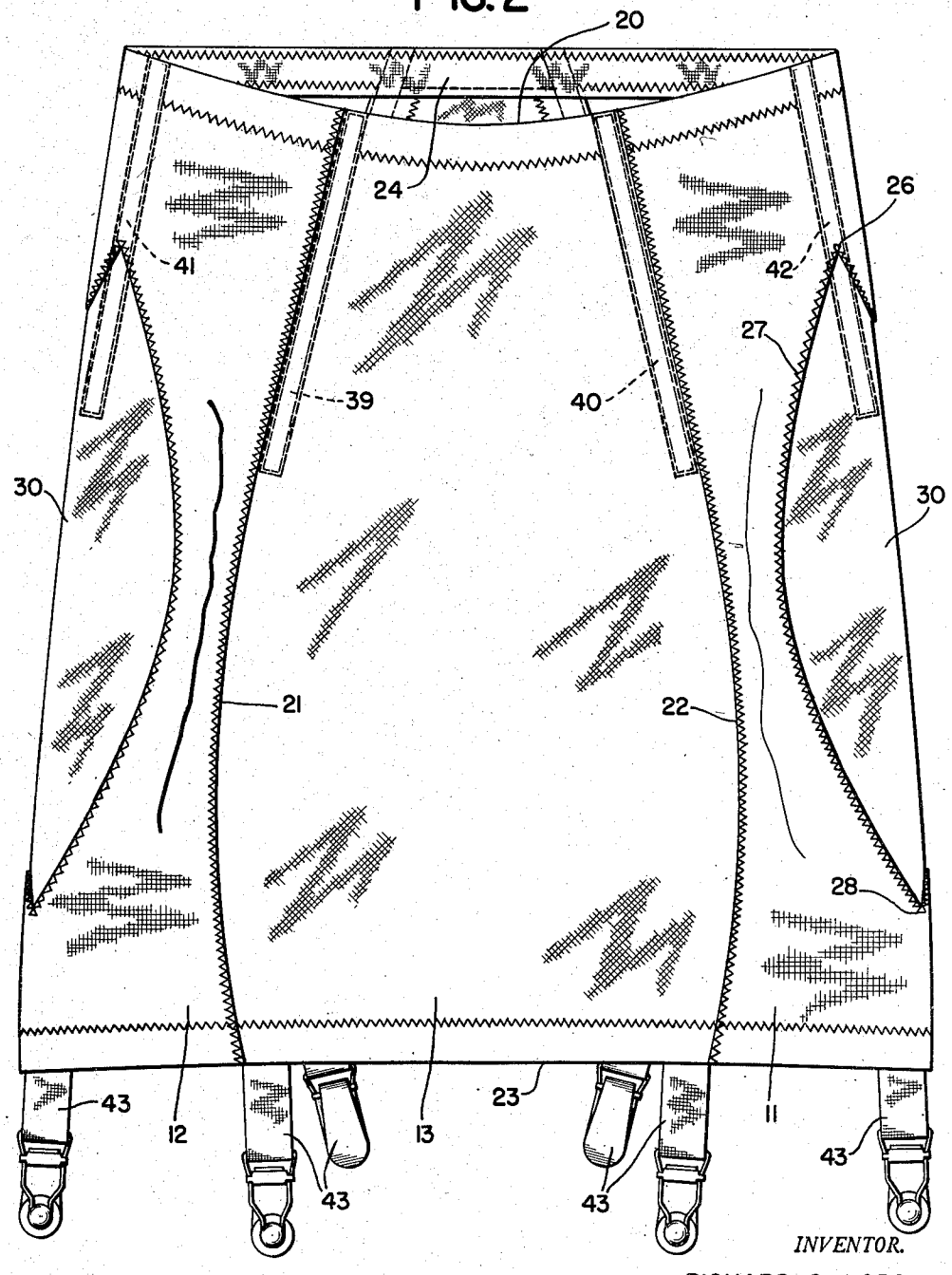
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FIG. 2



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FIG. 3

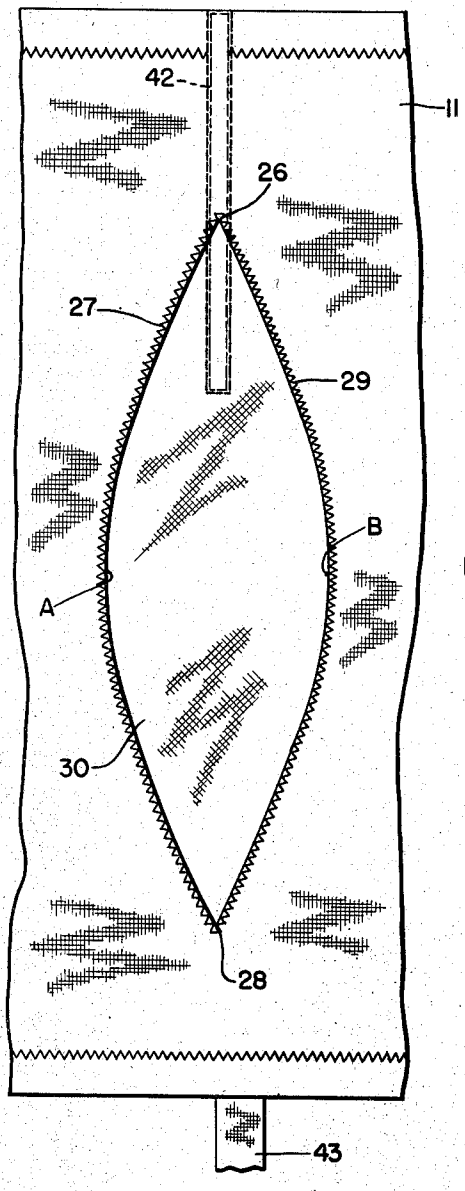
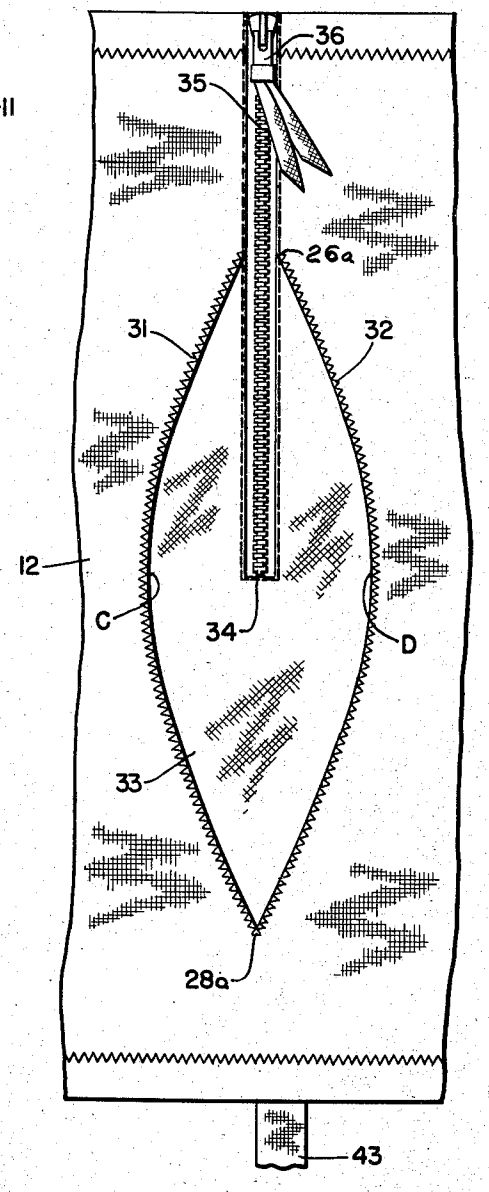


FIG. 4



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2,551,139

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,551,139

FOUNDATION GARMENT

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Application June 5, 1950, Serial No. 166,129

7 Claims. (Cl. 2—29)

1

This invention relates to foundation garments, of the girdle or corset type, adapted to mold and confine portions of the figure of the wearer.

A primary object of the invention has been to provide a foundation garment of simple, relatively light but sturdy construction adapted, in addition to its usual functions, to control and confine the hips of the wearer and, more particularly, to flatten the same and produce a silhouette with relatively narrow hips. At the same time an extended waistline effect is produced.

Another object has been to provide a garment of the character indicated which may be worn without discomfort and will permit full freedom of action of the wearer.

A further object has been to provide a garment, having the foregoing characteristics, which is free of separate bands or belts that either require separate fastening or add bulk and weight to the garment. The construction contemplated by the invention is of the step-in type and involves a single body encircling member which is permanently connected in tubular form, with or without a partial opening at some convenient point, closable by a slide fastener or the like, to facilitate application of the garment to the body. The arrangement is such that a perfectly smooth contour is provided which adapts the garment to be worn beneath outer garments of any desired form.

The foregoing objects are attained by the provision of special control panels, having a particular form and construction, disposed in a certain manner at the sides of the garment, over the hips. These panels perform the desired effect upon the hips without, however, restricting the freedom of expansion of the garment at the waistline and around the thighs.

Other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will appear from the detailed description of an illustrative form of the same which will now be given in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of an illustrative form of the garment laid flat;

Fig. 2 is a back view of said garment;

Fig. 3 is a detail view showing a portion of the garment as viewed from the right side of the wearer; and

Fig. 4 is a similar detail view showing a portion of a modified form of the garment, as viewed from the left side of the wearer.

Referring now to the drawings, the garment in its preferred form comprises a front panel 10, side panels 11 and 12 and a back panel 13, all extending from the upper edge of the garment to its lower edge. The front panel 10 is preferably cut in the shape of two trapezoids inverted in relation to each other and joined along the longer of their parallel sides to provide a relatively narrow top 14 and a narrow bottom 15. The sides of this panel diverge along lines 16 and 17 from the extremities of the top edge to points E and F, respectively, and then converge along lines 18 and 19 toward the lower end 15. The back panel 13 is preferably made broader than the front panel and is so shaped as to provide a relatively narrow top 20 from which the side edges firstly diverge somewhat and then converge slightly, along smoothly curved lines 21 and 22, to the lower end 23 which is slightly narrower than the maximum width of the panel. The several panels are stitched together along the lines 16, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22 to form a permanently connected tubular member adapted to encircle the body of the wearer. As shown, the tubular body-encircling member is suitably shaped to correspond substantially with the contour of the figure. Thus its circumferential dimension at the upper end is smaller than at the lower end and there is a slight extra fullness across the hips, as indicated in Fig. 2.

The several panels of the garment may be formed of various appropriate materials. In the preferred embodiment, the side panels 11 and 12 are formed of two-way stretch elastic material capable of stretching both in a direction longitudinally of the garment and in a direction transversely thereof. These panels may, however, be formed simply of one-way stretch material, if desired, with capability of stretching only in a direction around the body. It will be understood that desirable body molding and confining forces are imparted by the garment and the lateral elasticity of the side panels permits expansion at the desired points to provide the necessary freedom of movement of the wearer. The material of which the side panels are formed may be either knit or woven, depending upon the construction as a whole and the characteristics desired. The front and back panels of the garment may be formed of non-elastic material, having substantially no capability of stretching in either direction, or they may be formed of one-way elastic material capable of stretching longitudinally of the tubular member but not laterally thereof. In the preferred garment, embodying the two-way stretch side panels, the front and back panels are preferably formed of one-way elastic material arranged in the manner in-

dicated. The form of stitching employed to connect the various panels together should be of a type permitting elongation or stretch in a direction lengthwise of the seam if the panels are formed of material having the capability of vertical stretch. The upper edge of the garment is preferably reinforced by a tape 24, preferably formed of elastic material, which completely encircles the garment and is stitched thereto along the lines of stitching indicated. This stitching is also preferably of a type capable of extension so as not to interfere with the lateral elasticity of the upper end of the garment. Similarly, the lower edge of the garment is reinforced by an elastic tape 25 completely encircling the same and secured by the same type of stitching.

Referring now to Fig. 3, the side panel 11 is cut away in a substantially elliptical area from a point 26, below the upper edge of the panel, along a smoothly curved line 27 forming one side of the ellipse down to a point 28 some distance up from the lower edge of the panel. A correspondingly curved edge 29 is provided at the opposite side of the cut-out to complete the ellipse which has its major axis from 26 to 28 disposed along the axillar line of the body of the wearer. The maximum width of the ellipse, between the points A and B, is disposed along the hip line of the wearer, i. e. at the point of maximum girth around the hips. Underlying the panel 11, in the region of the elliptical cut-away portion, is a section 30 of material having substantially no capability of stretch in a lateral direction, i. e. around the body of the wearer. If the panel 11 is formed of one-way stretch elastic, the section 30 may be formed of non-elastic material. However, if the panel 11 is formed of two-way stretch elastic, the section 30 is preferably formed of one-way elastic material capable of stretching vertically, or lengthwise of the garment, but not laterally around the body of the wearer. Section 30 is firmly secured to the panel 11 along the edges 27 and 29. The stitching employed for this purpose should be of a type permitting extensibility of the seams if the section 30 and the material of the side panel are capable of stretching vertically. Preferably the section 30 is shaped to conform with the elliptical opening or cut-away portion of the panel 11 and it is sufficiently larger than the cut-away portion to enable firm attachment, in the manner explained, without danger of pulling out the seams. However, the section 30 may, if desired, be of any other suitable configuration so long as it is stitched to the panel 11 along the lines of the opening therein and is free of the panel 11 outwardly of those lines. It will be understood, in this connection, that the section 30 may be secured to the panel 11 by a plurality of lines of stitching, if desired, so long as the outermost lines of stitching conform with the general contour of the lines 27 and 29. In fact, the panel 11 may, if desired, be left intact instead of providing it with the cut-out opening indicated and described, so long as the section 30 is stitched to the side panel along lines corresponding generally with the lines 27 and 29. The area within the lines 27 and 29 may, in this event, be provided with any other lines of stitching which may be considered desirable from the standpoint of appearance. The securement of the section 30 to the elastic material of the panel 11 along lines extending generally in the direction of the lines 27 and 29 will eliminate the lateral stretch of this elastic material within the area defined by those lines so that the presence of any part or all of the material of panel 11 within this area will not modify the stretchability of this area of the panel or of the panel 11 as a whole. Therefore, it is possible to provide the cut-out portion of the panel with a scalloped edge, for example, creating any artistic design within the area defined by the lines of stitching 27 and 29. Or such a design may be provided within the specified area without cutting away any of the elastic material of panel 11. Moreover, while the elliptical form of the area defined by the lines 27 and 29 is preferred, this may be modified, if desired. For example, the area over which lateral stretching of the section 11 is inhibited may be diamond shaped or provided with a scalloped outline following generally the contour of the edges 27 and 29. It is primarily important that the area in which the lateral stretch of the panel 11 is substantially elimianted should extend in a generally divergent direction from a point, or relatively narrow line, in the region of the point 26 to the points A and B on a line extending along the hip-line and should then extend in a generally convergent direction toward the point 28, or a relatively narrow line in the region of the point 28. For the sake of lightness, durability, elimination of bulk, smoothness of surface, and the like, the arrangement illustrated in Fig. 3, in which the material of panel 11 is cut away along the edges 27 and 29, is preferred.

The overall length of the garment may be varied to suit the requirements, but in the preferred form it extends from a position well above the waistline to a position below the buttocks where it encircles the thighs of the wearer. The point 26, at the upper end of the cut-away portion of the side panel, is preferably positioned at or slightly below the waistline while the point 28 is positioned at least a slight distance upwardly from the lower edge of the garment. This provides for the full stretching of the side panels at and above the waistline and around the thighs, while the stretch over the hips is gradually decreased from the waistline to the hip line and then increased toward a line encircling the thighs.

Panel 12 may be of the same construction as the panel 11, if desired, having in mind the reverse arrangement of the longitudinally extending edges at the back and front of the garment. The tubular member forming the garment may thus be permanently closed throughout its length, if desired. To facilitate application of the garment to the body, however, it may be provided with an opening extending downwardly from the upper edge to a point substantially along the hipline of the wearer. This opening may be located at any suitable point around the garment and may be closed by an appropriate fastening means. Preferably such means are of the slide fastener type to facilitate closing of the opening. In the preferred construction the opening indicated is located at the left side of the garment in axial alignment with the cut-away portion of the side panel or the vertical axis of the stretch control section 30. Thus, the opening is preferably disposed along the axillar line of the body of the wearer. This arrangement is illustrated in Fig. 4, in which the left side panel 12 is shown as being provided with an elliptical cut-out having the upper end of its major axis positioned at a point 26a below the upper edge of the garment, substantially along the waistline of the wearer. The cutaway or stretch restricted area is defined by sweepingly curved edges 31 and 32 which first diverge and then converge to a point 28a above the lower edge of the garment.

The maximum width of the cut-away area is located along a line C—D substantially at the hip line of the wearer. A section 33 of material similar to the section 30 is positioned beneath the cut away area and is stitched to the edges 31 and 32 in the manner explained in connection with section 30. A slit or opening is provided from the upper edge of the panel 12 along an extension of the line from 28a to 26a and this slit or opening extends downwardly to a suitable point 34, which is preferably along or below the line C—D. A slide fastener is preferably provided for closing the opening thus provided, the interengaging and interlocking elements 35 of the fastener being carried by tapes suitably secured to the free edges of the opening. A rider 36, of well-known form, is adapted to slide along the fastening elements to interengage and disengage the same.

To stiffen the upper portion of the garment and assist in maintaining it in proper position on the body, suitable boning may be provided. This may suitably include a pair of stays 37 and 38 at the front of the garment, preferably inclined slightly to the vertical along lines parallel with the edges 16 and 17 of the front panel. In the rear of the garment similar stays 39 and 40, preferably of somewhat greater length than those at the front, are provided, these being preferably carried by the back panel 13 and disposed adjacent to and parallel with the edges 21 and 22 thereof. Similar stays 41 and 42 may be provided at the sides of the garment, these being preferably disposed in vertical alignment with the axes of the elliptical cut-outs formed in the side panels. It will be understood that suitable pockets to receive and retain the stays may be formed by tapes appropriately stitched to the various panels at the desired points. If the side opening described above is provided, in the manner indicated in Fig. 4, the stay 41 will, of course, be omitted. A corresponding stiffening action is provided in this case by the slide fastener means. Suitable garter attachments 43 may be provided along the lower edge of the garment at appropriate points.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention and some possible modifications have been described in considerable detail, it will be understood that various other changes may be made in the construction and arrangement of the various parts without departing from the general principles and scope of the invention. For example, the body encircling member may, if desired, be formed completely of elastic material, either of the one-way stretch type having ability to stretch in a lateral direction around the body of the wearer or of the two-way stretch type of elastic material capable of stretching longitudinally as well as laterally. So also, when the garment is formed of a plurality of panels of material of the same or different types, these may be shaped and arranged in a variety of different ways. It is primarily important that laterally elastic material be provided from top to bottom of the side portions of the garment and that lateral stretch be eliminated or controlled in areas, of the character indicated, over the hips. An advantageous feature of the preferred construction illustrated, however, is that the form of the front and rear panels are such that the elastic side panels will have a maximum circumferential dimension adjacent the lower end of the garment and a minimum circumferential dimension in a zone between the waist-line and the hip-line of the wearer. The circumferential dimension of the elastic side panels increases gradually both upwardly and downwardly from the zone of minimum dimension. This phase of the preferred embodiment of the invention combines with the stretch controlling function of the sections 30 and 33, applied to the indicated areas over the hips of the wearer, to attain most advantageously all of the objects hereinabove set forth.

What I claim is:

1. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member being formed at least in part of elastic material capable of stretching and exerting a confining force in a direction around the body of the wearer throughout the vertical length of the member, said elastic material being disposed at least in part so as to extend around the sides of the wearer from a line at the back to a line at the front, and means comprising sections of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body positioned in the region of the hips of the wearer, one of said sections being stitched to said elastic material at each side of the member along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip lines and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section.

2. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member being formed at least in part of elastic material capable of stretching and exerting a confining force in a direction around the body of the wearer throughout the vertical length of the member, said elastic material being disposed at least in part so as to extend around the sides of the wearer from a line at the back to a line at the front, and means comprising sections of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body positioned in the region of the hips of the wearer, one of said sections being stitched to said elastic material at each side of the member along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip line and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section, said lines of stitching at each side of the garment serving to enclose an area of generally elliptical form.

3. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member being formed at least in part of elastic material capable of stretching and exerting a confining force in a direction around the body of the wearer throughout the vertical length of the member, portions of said elastic material extending around the sides of the wearer from a line at the back to a line at the front, each of said portions being cut-away in a region overlying one of the hips of the wearer

along lines extending in generally divergent directions from a position below the upper edge of said member to substantially the line of maximum girth around the hips and then extending in generally convergent directions to a position above the lower edge of said member, and a section of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body stitched to the edges of each of said portions provided by said cut-away regions, the arrangement being such that stretching of said member in a direction around the body is prevented in each of said cut-away regions but is permitted in areas directly above and below said regions.

4. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member having portions at the sides thereof formed of two-way stretch elastic material, each of said portions extending the full length of the member around one of the sides of the wearer from a line at the back to a line at the front, and means comprising sections of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body but being capable of stretching longitudinally of said member positioned in the region of the hips of the wearer, one of said sections being stitched to said elastic material at each side of the member along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip line and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section.

5. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member comprising two side panels, a front panel and a rear panel each extending the full length of said member, said four panels being successively stitched together along at least a portion of their adjoining edges into permanently connected tubular form, said side panels being formed of elastic material capable of stretching and exerting a confining force in a direction around the body of the wearer, said front and rear panels being substantially incapable of stretching in said direction, said side panels being so shaped as to provide greater circumferential dimensions at their upper and lower edges than in a region intermediate said edges, each of said side panels having stitched thereto a section of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body, said sections being so disposed as to extend over the hips of the wearer and being stitched to said side panels along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip line and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section.

6. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member comprising two

side panels, a front panel and a rear panel each extending the full length of said member, said four panels being successively stitched together along at least a portion of their adjoining edges into permanently connected tubular form, said side panels being formed of two-way stretch elastic material, said front and back panels being formed of one-way stretch elastic material so disposed as to enable stretching of the same longitudinally of the member but not transversely thereof, each of said side panels having stitched thereto a section of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body but being capable of stretching longitudinally of said member, said sections being so disposed as to extend over the hips of the wearer and being stitched to said side panels along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip line and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section, the maximum width of the area defined by said lines of stitching at each side of said member being substantially less than that of said front and rear panels.

7. A foundation garment comprising a body encircling member adapted to extend from a point at or above the waistline of the wearer to a point below the buttocks, said member being formed at least in part of elastic material capable of stretching and exerting a confining force in a direction around the body of the wearer throughout the vertical length of the member, said elastic material being disposed at least in part so as to extend around the sides of the wearer from a line at the back to a line at the front, and means comprising sections of material having substantially no stretch in a direction around the body positioned in the region of the hips of the wearer, one of said sections being stitched to said elastic material at each side of the member along lines each of which extends from a point below the upper edge of the member to a point above the lower edge of the member, said lines of stitching at each side extending in generally divergent directions from the upper end of said section to the region of the hip line and extending in generally convergent directions from said region toward the lower end of said section, the area defined by said lines of stitching at each side of said member being substantially symmetrically disposed in relation to the axillar line of the body of the wearer.

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