June 13, 1950 G. KUHN 2,511,641

APPAREL

Filed Nov. 4, 1946

FIG. 1.

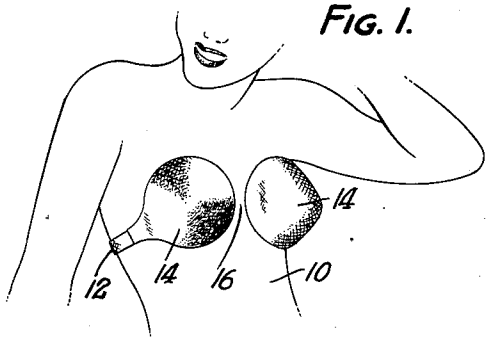


FIG. 4.

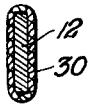


FIG. 2.

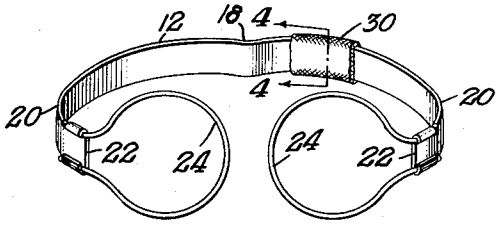


FIG. 5.

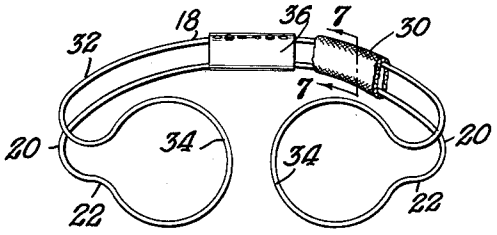


FIG. 3.

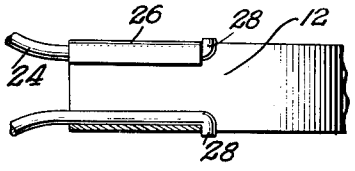


FIG. 7.

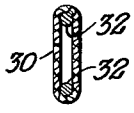


FIG. 6.

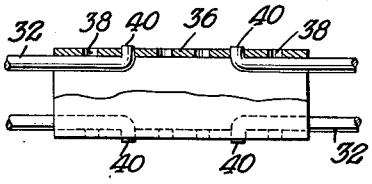
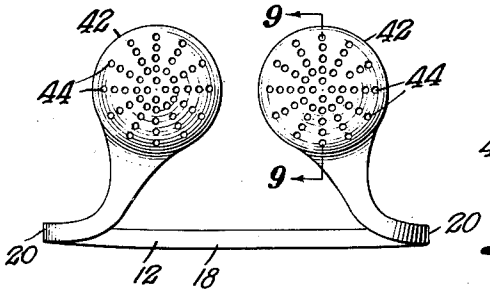


FIG. 8.



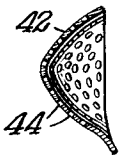


FIG. 9.

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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The current tendency to eliminate shoulder supports for women's garments has posed quite a problem in conjunction with brassières. Thus far, there seems to have been no satisfactory solution to the problem, since the structures proposed have failed to retain their proper position without uncomfortably tight encirclement of the body, tending to restrict breathing and produce irritation of the skin.

By way of contrast this invention provides a comfortable self supporting brassière which fits snugly without completely encircling the torso, permitting free expansion of the chest without injury to the skin, and producing the novel effect of exposing an area of the body between the breasts.

Brassières of the strapless type are potentially very popular, particularly for sport and evening wear and those of the type contemplated herein are especially compatible with evening gowns which are cut low in front, since the brassières themselves are ventrally discontinuous to provide a gap between their breast receiving portions. Such brassières may comprise a discontinuous curved resilient torso engaging member having a dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, the ventral portions being biased towards the dorsal portion and terminating in spaced breast engaging members. The torso engaging member may be unitary or composite, of constant length or adjustable, strip-like or filamentary, metallic or otherwise. The breast engaging or embracing members may be integral with the torso engaging member or attached thereto, removable or fixed thereto. These breast receiving members may be contoured to engage above and below the mammillae as well as ventrally with respect thereto. They may assume the form of loops or segments thereof or they may be cup-shaped and continuous or perforated to cover the breasts entirely or partially. Fabric, plastic or other types of covering may be employed for the torso engaging member for contact with the body and may at the same time impart suitable decorative effects. The breast receiving or engaging members may likewise be covered with such fabric or may be composed entirely of suitable shape-retaining material to serve one or both of these same purposes. While the brassière of the present invention is self supporting and ordinarily dispenses with the need for shoulder straps, their use where desired is not excluded. The torso engaging portion may be substantially C-shaped or it may have a downwardly offset dorsal portion to cooperate with an outer garment which is cut low in back.

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A more complete understanding of the invention will follow from a more detailed description of the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective showing a brassière of the type contemplated herein applied to a portion of a torso;

Fig. 2 is a perspective showing one form of such a brassière;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary portion of the structure shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a section taken along line 4—4 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a perspective showing another form contemplated;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary view, partially in section showing a detail of the structure of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a sectional elevation taken along line 7—7 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 8 is an elevation of a modification; and

Fig. 9 is a section along line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

The torso 10 depicted in Fig. 1 has been fitted with a brassière of the type herein proposed, having a torso engaging member 12 extending from the remote portions of the breast receiving members 14, around the sides and back of the torso. The breast receiving members 14 being spaced in front, define a gap 16 between the breasts, thus readily cooperating with a low cut evening gown without effecting undesired exposure.

The torso engaging member 12 depicted in Fig. 2 is in the form of a strip of metal, plastic, wood, or combinations of these or other suitable materials of a resilient nature, curved to more or less conform with the human torso, having a dorsal portion 18, lateral portions 20 and ventral portions 22, the latter being normally biased by the inherent resilience of the material, toward the dorsal portion 18. These spaced ventral portions terminate in loops 24, which may be suitably constructed from wire or other appropriate material to embrace or engage the breasts.

As shown in Fig. 3, the ends of the torso engaging member may be provided with flanges 26 defining channels for receiving the ends of the wire loops 24. The terminals 28 of these loops may be bent to serve as latching means in cooperation with the flanges, the inherent resilience of the loop biasing these terminal portions outwardly. The positions of the loops with respect to the body may be adjusted by forming the terminal portions 28 at any desired length. Moreover, the loops of this modification may be removed from the torso engaging member by pressing the loop ends inwardly with respect to

the channel in opposition to the normal bias. Such removal will permit the application of fabric covers to the loops and ready removal of such covers for laundry purposes or renewal. The application of a covering material **30** to the torso engaging member is depicted in Fig. 4.

The body engaging member **32**, Fig. 5, likewise has a dorsal portion **18**, lateral portions **20** and ventral portions **22**, the torso engaging member in this case being shown as constructed from resilient wire to form a discontinuous curved member. In this case the loops **34** are integral with the torso engaging member, the entire assembly being rendered adjustable if desired, by the provision of a sleeve **36** containing suitably spaced openings **38** for selective reception of the bent ends **40** of the torso engaging member **32**.

Here again, the size of the brassière can be adjusted by retracting the ends **40** from one pair of openings and permitting them to expand into another pair. The entire brassière or portions thereof may be covered with protective and/or ornamental fabric by sewing, the use of suitable fasteners or otherwise. The application of such a fabric cover has been depicted in connection with the torso engaging member in Fig. 7 of the drawing.

In some cases, as for evening wear, the body embracing member **12** may have its dorsal portion **18** downwardly offset with respect to the breast engaging members **42**, as depicted in Fig. 8, to cooperate with a gown which is cut low in back. The breast receiving members have been shown in this case, Fig. 9, as rigid or semi-rigid cup-like elements provided with fine perforations **44** for ventilation.

Brassières intended for sport wear, such as bathing or sun suits, may have their torso engaging members enclosed by a strip or covering of colored, tinted or transparent plastic, rubber, leather or other desired material.

Such brassières would provide adequate support for strapless garments which might be attached thereto or integral therewith. In any event, the resilience of the structure in cooperation with the breasts, renders it self supporting and self positioning once it has been applied.

Whereas examples of brassières of the type herein contemplated have been shown and described, no effort has been made to show many other modifications contemplated, in appreciation of the fact that the invention will not be restricted beyond the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A brassière comprising a ventrally discontinuous curved resilient torso embracing member having a united dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, said ventral portions biased by the resiliency of said torso engaging member towards said dorsal portion and terminating in mutually spaced ventrally unconnected breast receiving members.

2. A brassière comprising a ventrally discontinuous curved resilient wire torso embracing member having a united dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, said ventral portions biased by the resiliency of said torso engaging member towards said dorsal portion and terminating in mutually spaced ventrally unconnected breast embracing members, and a covering for said members.

3. A brassière comprising a ventrally discontinuous curved resilient torso embracing member having a united dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, said ventral portions biased by the resiliency of said torso engaging member towards said dorsal portion and terminating in ventrally unconnected mutually spaced form-fitting breast receiving cups.

4. A brassière comprising a relatively narrow substantially C-shaped member of spring material substantially complementing the back and sides of a female torso, the ends of said member terminating in a pair of ventrally unconnected mutually spaced breast receptacles.

5. A self-supporting brassière comprising a pair of ventrally unconnected and spaced breast receptacles, and a substantially C-shaped strip of spring material curved and substantially complementing the back and sides of a female torso and attached at each of its respective ends to one of said breast receptacles.

6. A brassière comprising a discontinuous curved resilient torso engaging member having a united dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, said ventral portions biased by the resiliency of said torso engaging member towards said dorsal portion and terminating in mutually spaced ventrally unconnected breast embracing members, said dorsal portion being offset downwardly with respect to said ventral portions.

7. A brassière comprising a ventrally discontinuous curved resilient torso engaging member having a united dorsal portion, lateral portions and spaced ventral portions, said ventral portions biased by the resiliency of said torso engaging member towards said dorsal portion and terminating in mutually spaced ventrally unconnected breast embracing members and adjusting means for varying the spacing of said embracing members.

GEORGE KUHN.

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