Feb. 28, 1967 B. I. PARAMORE 3,306,299

BACKLESS BRASSIERE

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Fig. 1

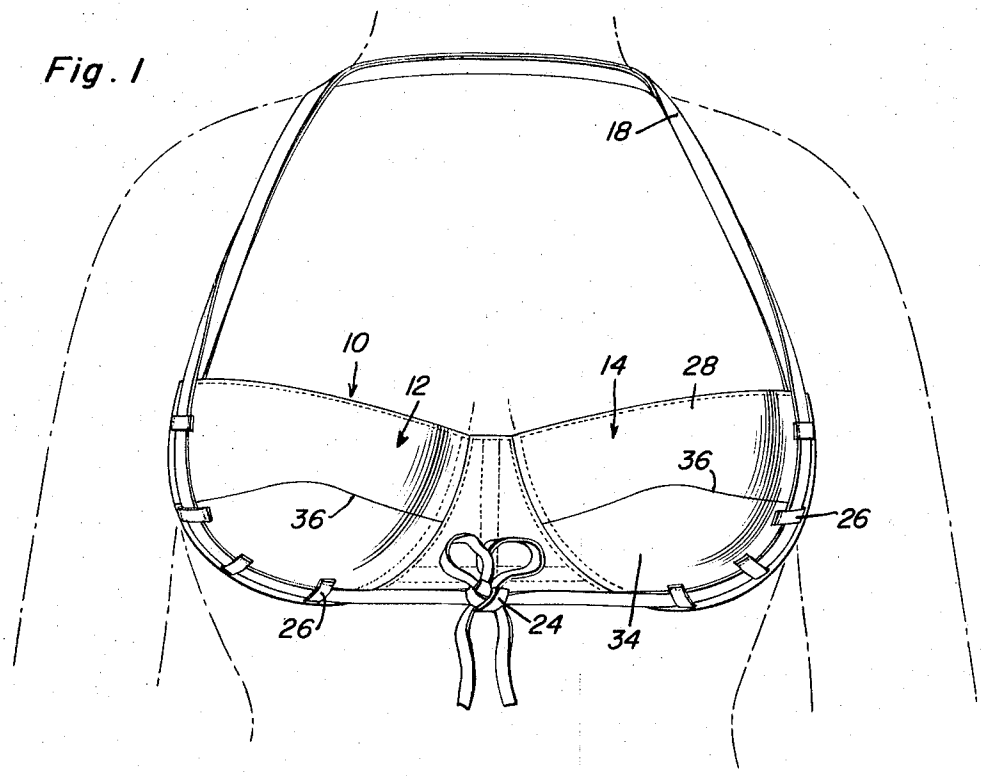


Fig. 2

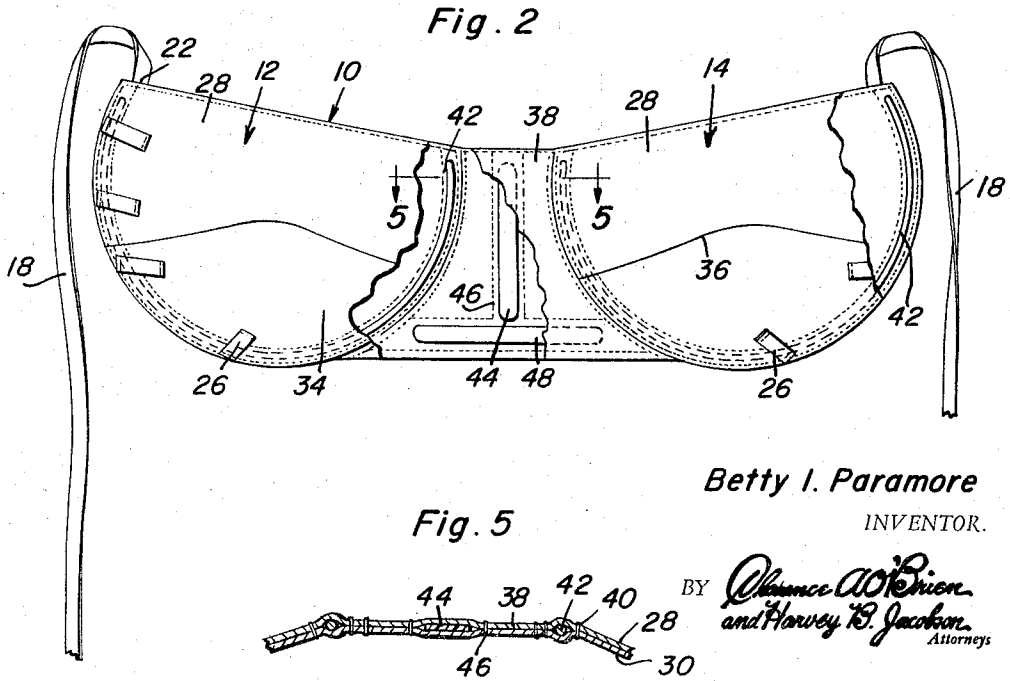


Fig. 5

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Fig. 3

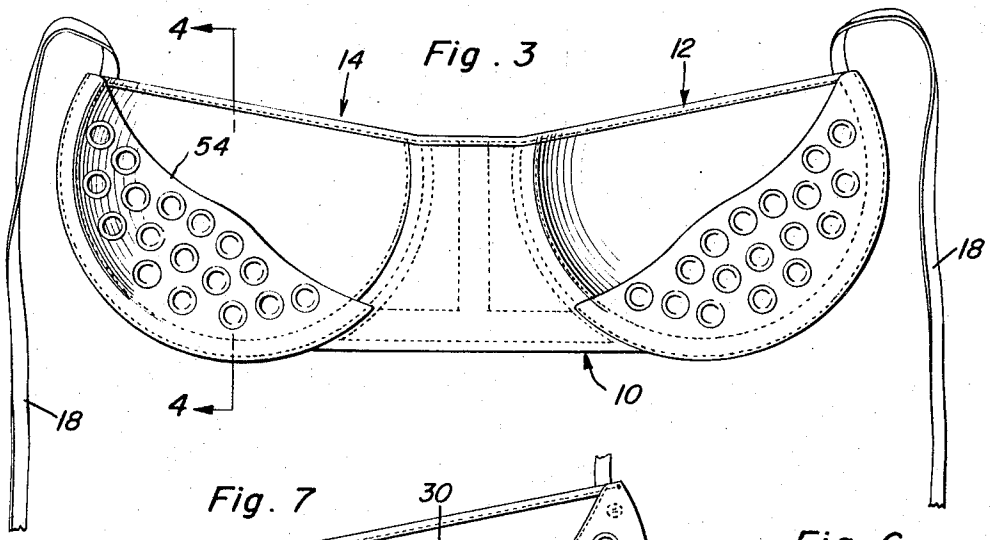


Fig. 7

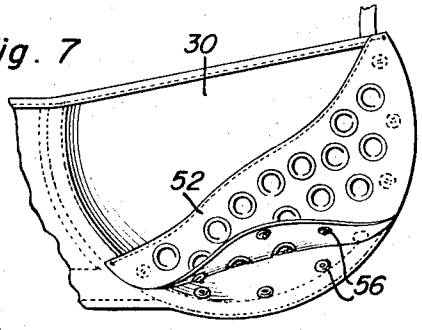


Fig. 6

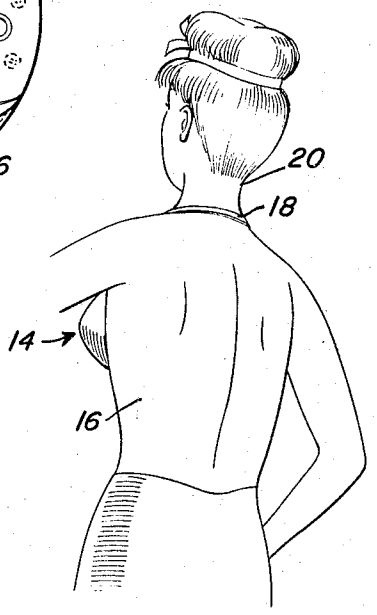
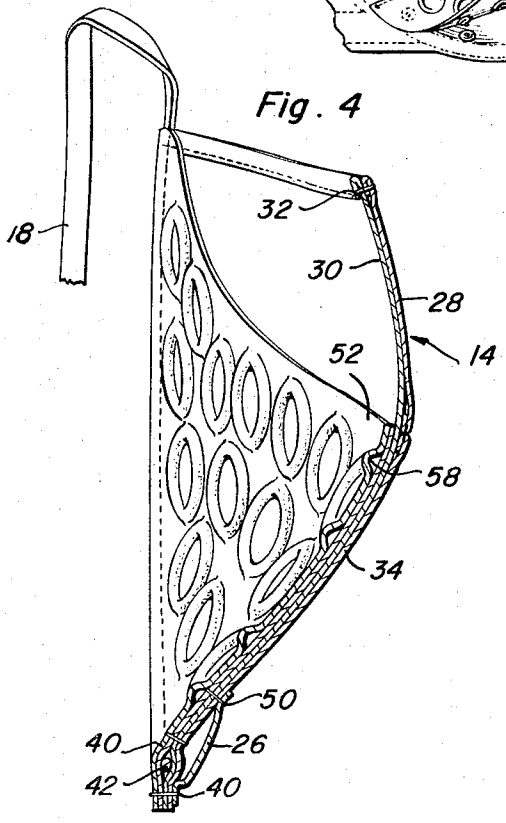


Fig. 4



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BACKLESS BRASSIERE

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Filed June 4, 1965, Ser. No. 461,360
6 Claims. (Cl. 128—505)

The present invention generally relates to an article of wearing apparel and basically involves a brassiere construction that does not have any back or side structure.

An object of the present invention is to provide a backless brassiere that may be most advantageously used as a lingerie item for backless dresses but it can also be incorporated into a two-piece bathing suit.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a backless brassiere that is so constructed that the front portion will be supported snugly in place in supporting and covering relation to the breasts by the use of only a band around the neck. This leaves the back and sides of the wearer uncovered so that the brassiere may be effectively employed in combination with so-called backless dresses. Also, when this construction is incorporated into a two-piece bathing suit, this enables the wearer to have sun impinge the surface of the back as well as the sides of the wearer without the necessity of removing conventional straps such as normally encircle around the back of a wearer.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a backless brassiere supported by a flexible strap which extends upwardly and passes behind the neck together with a novel structure disposed interiorly of the cup area for adhering directly to the skin surface thus assuring that the brassiere will stay in place and perform its function while the wearer performs normal duties and enables various activities to be undertaken such as swimming, playing beach games and the like.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a brassiere which is simple in construction, easy to apply, effective for its particular purpose and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a front view of the backless brassiere of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a front view of the brassiere with portions thereof broken away;

FIGURE 3 is a rear view of the brassiere;

FIGURE 4 is a vertical sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 4—4 of FIGURE 3 illustrating the structure details of the brassiere;

FIGURE 5 is a detailed sectional view taken substantially upon a plane passing along section line 5—5 of FIGURE 2 illustrating the reinforcing materials incorporated into the brassiere;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view illustrating the manner in which the backless brassiere of the present invention is worn; and

FIGURE 7 is a sectional view similar to FIGURE 4 but illustrating an alternative construction.

The brassiere of the present invention is generally designated by the numeral **10** and includes two flexibly interconnected cups **12** and **14** for supportingly embracing the breasts of a wearer **16** in the usual manner. In this construction, there are no bands or straps which encircle the shoulders or back of the wearer **16** but there is an elongated flexible strap **18** which extends upwardly and around behind the neck **20** of the wearer **16** as illustrated

in FIGURE 6. There are actually two straps **18** of similar construction which are attached to the outer edge of the cups **12** and **14** as at point **22** and the two straps extend around behind the neck in overlapping relation and the free ends thereof extend downwardly and inwardly along the outer edge of each cup **12** and **14** and then extend inwardly toward each other and are secured together by a suitable knot **24** or other suitable means. The straps **18** are retained in position along the outer edge and under the bottom inner edge of the cups **12** and **14** by loops **26** which are secured to the exterior surface of the cups **12** and **14** in the manner illustrated specifically in FIGURES 1 and 2, so that the straps **18** when properly assembled and tied will form a support for the cups **12** and **14**.

Each cup **12** and **14** is provided with an outer fabric member **28** and an inner fabric member **30** both of which may be hemmed and stitched together at the top edge thereof as at **32**. The outer member **28** is actually constructed of two pieces with the lower portion **34** being secured to the upper portion along a line of stitching **36** in accordance with well known brassiere construction. The particular materials from which the cups are constructed is variable in that any material normally used in brassiere construction may be employed. The fabric members **28** and **30** extend between the cups **12** and **14** and form a flexible connecting portion **38** which is separated from the cups **12** and **14** by curved lines of stitching **40**. The stitching **40** extends completely around the bottom periphery of the cups **12** and **14** and forms a peripheral hem for receiving a reinforcing wire, rod or bone **42**. Also, a reinforcing rod or bone **44** is disposed vertically centrally in the connecting portion **38** and is retained in place by stitching **46**. Extending across the bottom of the reinforcing bone or rod **44** is a horizontally reinforcing bar or bone **48** also secured in place by suitable stitching.

As illustrated in FIGURE 4, the reinforcing rod **42** is retained in place by stitching **40** which also serves to secure the lower end of the loops **26** in place and stitching **50** also secures the upper ends or inner ends of the loops **26** to the cups and serves to secure the inner and outer fabric members **28** and **30** together.

Attached to the interior of each cup is a laminated flexible panel **52** constructed of glue impregnated moleskin which is attached to the cup along the bottom and side edges thereof and which has a top edge **54** extending generally diagonally from the upper outer corner of each cup downwardly toward the inner lower corner thereof. The upper edge of the moleskin panel **52** may be left free for enabling insertion of pads or the like for increasing the size characteristics of the breasts. If the top edge of the moleskin panel **52** is secured to the cup, then snap fastener elements **56** are provided along the bottom edge of and around the sides of the cup and corresponding snap fastener elements are mounted on the liner **52**, see FIG. 7, for detachably connecting the lower edges of panels **30** and **52** thereby enabling the insertion of conventional size increasing resilient pads of foam material or the like. Thus, a slot is provided which enables the wearer to size increasing pads interiorly from either the top or the bottom of the moleskin panel **52** whichever method is most desirable for manufacturing.

For retaining the brassiere in place, a plurality of annular resilient ribs **58** are provided in the liner **52** of glue impregnated moleskin. The annular ribs **58** are corn plaster type foam rubber elements with a glue backing for lamination with the moleskin panel thus retaining the brassiere in place without necessitating the contact of the skin with glue. The use of corn plaster type elements is optional, since other suction cup like devices may be employed in lieu thereof.

The wire reinforcement members may be any suitable configuration and shape depending upon the size and design characteristics of the brassiere. The foam rubber circular elements provide sufficient grip in conjunction with the strap placement for the brassiere to work effectively on a woman having average to large sized breasts. However, these devices may be peeled easily for washing and for the purposes of presenting the adhesive surface of the moleskin directly to the skin of the wearer which is desirable for active women and for those having smaller sized breasts.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. A backless brassiere comprising a pair of flexibly interconnected shape sustaining cup-shaped members, means on the interior surface of each cup-shaped member for adhering engagement with the skin surface of a breast of a wearer, and flexible straps connected to the outer upper extremities of the cup-shaped members for encircling around the neck of the wearer forwardly of the shoulders, said straps having end portions extending downwardly along the outer edge of the cup-shaped members and under the cup-shaped members, the outer peripheral edge and the lower peripheral edge of each of said cup-shaped members being provided with loops for receiving the free end portion of the flexible straps which are terminally connected to the upper outer corner of the oppositely disposed cup-shaped member for guidingly retaining the straps so that the free ends of the straps may be adjustably secured together at a point between and below the flexibly interconnected cup-shaped members.

2. The structure as defined in claim 1 wherein each of said cup-shaped members is provided with a liner of moleskin forming said means for adherence to the skin surface of the breast.

3. The structure as defined in claim 2 together with a plurality of annular resilient foam members on the inner surface of the moleskin liner for enhancing the adherence thereof to the skin surface, said moleskin liner being glue impregnated.

4. The structure as defined in claim 3 wherein the upper edge of the moleskin liner is independent of the cup-shaped member thereby enabling insertion of pads for changing the shapes and characteristics of the brassiere when worn.

5. The structure as defined in claim 3 wherein said moleskin liner has the upper edge thereof permanently connected to the cup-shaped member, and releasable fastener elements interconnecting the lower peripheral portions of the moleskin liner and cup-shaped member thereby enabling insertion of size increasing pads under the liner for changing the size characteristics of the brassiere when worn.

6. The structure as defined in claim 3 wherein the bottom peripheral surfaces of the cup-shaped members is reinforced and the portion of the brassiere between the cup-shaped members is provided with reinforcing members thereby retaining the shape of the brassiere.

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