March 14, 1944. H. J. DUBNER 2,344,237

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Filed June 25, 1943

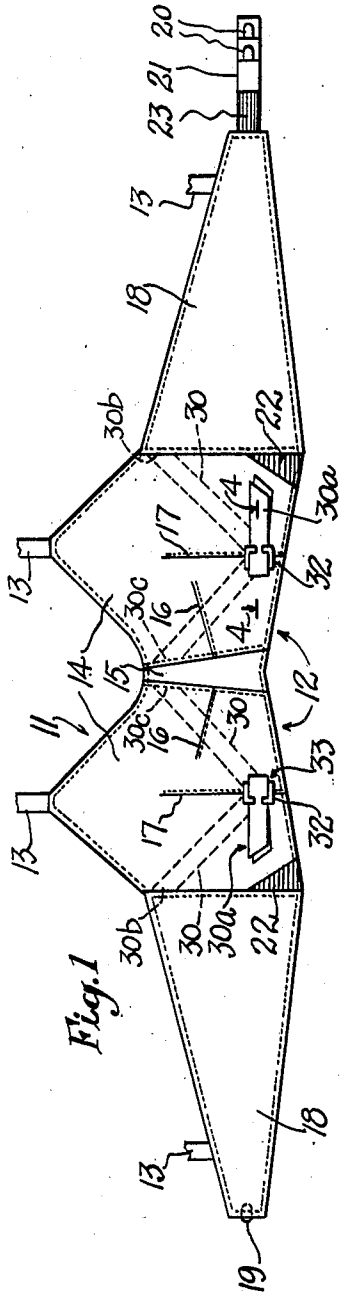


Fig. 1

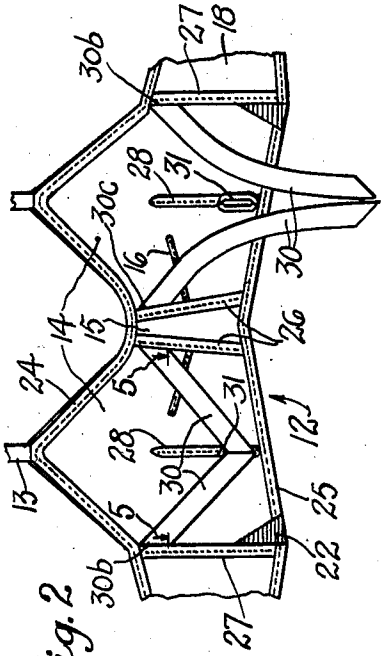


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

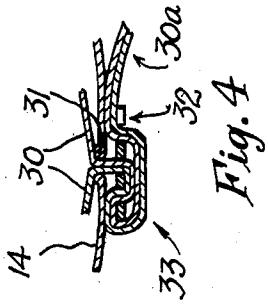


Fig. 4

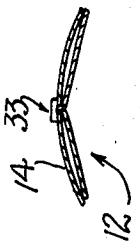


Fig. 5

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BY

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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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Application June 25, 1943, Serial No. 492,201

7 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to foundation garments and the like.

One object of the invention is to provide a garment or device especially adapted for women having small busts to give them proper support and shaping for the bust.

I have observed that while many styles and constructions of brassières and the like are known, none is well adapted to suit the needs of a woman having a very small bust, and the solution is not to be found in merely reducing the size of the bust receiving pockets, because the personality of the individual must be considered. The fitting of the brassière pockets to the small bust is best attained if adjustability is provided, because the small bust lacks the flexibility necessary with brassières made merely to standard sizes.

To my knowledge, the best attempt at a solution of the problem is that disclosed in my Patent No. 2,313,811 issued March 16, 1943, but this was rather expensive to make, lacked the conventional appearance, and caused upward and lateral pressure or confining action on the bust only through the medium of the pocket wall, with consequent excessive distortion and wrinkling of the pocket wall. Hence the brassière often looked crumpled up, and caused discomfort to the delicate tissues of the bust.

Other devices have been used to cause lateral and downward or upward pressure to cause the bust to wholly fill the pocket, but these are satisfactory only with larger busts and would cause discomfort with small busts by reason of the buckles or other devices employed, and detract from the desired appearance because of excessive wrinkles produced. Even if means are employed to shape the pocket to the bust, the result is practical only with relatively large busts, if excessive distortion, wrinkling and ungainly effects are to be avoided.

With the present invention, a plurality of well shaped pockets are used, of any desired form, and a plurality of adjustably tensioned bands converge downwardly within the pocket, the major portions of the said bands being free to directly upwardly and laterally bear on the bust to confine the lower part thereof with only a minor change in shape of the walls, the bust being in contact with the walls as it overflows the bands. Therefore, the lower halves of the pocket walls may be regarded as shields over the bands. Since a common adjusting device is provided for individually adjusting the companion bands of each pocket from a point external of the pocket, the tendency to provide wrinkling or uneven bulging of the pocket wall is avoided, and adjustment can be effected while the garment is worn in the normal manner whereby a rather precise condition, appearance and effect is quickly obtained, with the contour lines of the pockets including the bottom portions thereof flowing onto the body of the wearer.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a foundation garment having the advantages above mentioned.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a foundation garment having improved means whereby the bust may be shaped and supported.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

With the aforesaid objects in view, the invention consists in the novel combinations and arrangements of parts hereinafter described in their preferred embodiments, pointed out in the subjoined claims, and illustrated on the annexed drawing, wherein like parts are designated by the same reference characters throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation showing a garment, such as a brassière, embodying the invention, with parts removed.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary like view looking at the inside thereof, with a pair of bands released.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a buckle used to adjust the bands.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary greatly enlarged sectional view taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 2, showing the central band anchorage schematically.

The advantages of the invention as here outlined are best realized when all of its features and instrumentalities are combined in one and the same structure, but, useful devices may be produced embodying less than the whole.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, that the same may be incorporated in several different constructions. The accompanying drawing, therefore, is submitted merely as showing the preferred exemplification of the invention.

Referring in detail to the drawing, 10 denotes any garment, for instance, a brassière, embodying the invention. The same may be made to extend around the body to afford a front wall 11 having a plurality of bust receiving pockets 12,

and supported as by shoulder straps 13. Without being limited thereto, a specific structure may include a plurality of wall elements 14 interconnected by a central panel 15, whereby seams 16 may be formed to concave the wall elements 14. Other such seams 17 may provide additional concaving, and shaping, as will be understood by those skilled in the art. Connected to the walls 14 are the wings 18, the ends of which may be interconnected by fastening means such as a hook 19, and one of a plurality of eyes 20, the latter on a band 21. Elastic gussets may be arranged at 22, and an elastic insert may be provided at 23. Suitable reenforcement strips may be provided at various seams and edges, as shown in Fig. 2, for instance at the top and bottom of the brassière at 24, 25; at 26 where the panel 15 is connected to the walls 14; at 27 where the wings 18 are connected to the walls 14; and also at 28 at the shaping seams 17.

Connected to the pocket walls 14 at the sides thereof are a plurality of bands 30 for each pocket. The points of connection at 30*b*, 30*c* are substantially midway between the top and bottom of the pocket, and adequate securement is obtained with the aid of the seaming strips 26 and 27. As secured, the bands 30 tend to lie flatwise within the pockets, and to thus downwardly converge to a central point at the bottom of each pocket. At this point, an opening 31 is formed, with the seaming strips 28 affording a suitable reenforcing or finishing for the openings 31. Through each opening are passed a pair of the corresponding bands 30 to extend at the outside or front of the pocket. The end portions of the bands are engaged in a conventional friction buckle 32, which produces a rather flat anchorage indicated as a whole at 33, with the end portions 30*a* projecting in an ornamental manner. The anchorage 33 or the buckle 32 are too large to pass through the hole 31, and are free and unsecured to the wall 14, being merely caused to bear on said wall by the tension of the bands 30. The arrangement is highly effective when the garment is worn and supported by the body of the wearer. For laundering, the buckles 32 are easily removed.

In use, the wearer operates the anchorage 33 to adjust the tension on the bands 30 to suit her particular bust size and to suit her comfort and ideas of style and appearance. When she wears the garment the effect is neat and decorative, as may be seen in Fig. 1; the anchorage is external and hence will not press on the bust; and the adjustment can be made as fine as desired, while the garment is being worn. The symmetry and form of the top edge of the garment is undisturbed, and there are no straps to show through the bosom opening of the garment.

When properly tensioned, the bands 30 bear upwardly on the bust and have a lateral confining action thereon to urge the bust to fill into the central and upper region of the pockets. Being relatively wide, the bands will not cut into the bust. Since they are largely free of the walls 14, the bands 30 follow their own paths and may be spaced away from these walls as shown in Fig. 5, due to the tension on the bands. In other words, the bands form chords for the adjacent arc shaped portions of the pockets. Thus the bust can be shaped with very little or not noticeable distortion of the pockets on a different sense, the lower halves of the pocket walls may be regarded as shields over the bands to confine the flesh that tends to overlie the bands and to support and shape the excess of fatty tissue thus created.

I claim:

1. A foundation garment having a pair of bust receiving pockets, each pocket having its wall provided with an opening, downwardly convergent bands for each pocket connected at one end to said wall at the side edges of the pocket in spaced relation to said opening, said bands lying in the concavity of the pocket and extending through said opening to the front or outer side of said wall, and a single means at the outer side of said wall for adjustably tensioning said bands, said means including a member engaging the bands and being too large to pass through said opening and thus abutting the wall to maintain the tension on the bands when the garment is in use, whereby the adjustment can be made while the garment is snugly applied about the body of the wearer.

2. A foundation garment having bust receiving pockets, the wall for each pocket having a hole, a plurality of band portions for each pocket connected to the wall at the side edges of the pocket, in spaced relation to said hole, said band portions lying within the concavity of the pocket and extending through said hole to the front side of said wall, and means, interengaging and individually adjustably tensioning said band portions to prevent accidental withdrawal of the band portions from the hole, whereby the bands can be adjusted while the garment is worn in the normal manner.

3. A foundation garment according to claim 2 wherein said means includes a member too large to pass through said hole, and being thus in abutment against said wall under the tension of the band portions.

4. A foundation garment having bust receiving pockets, a pair of bands within each pocket connected to the wall thereof at the sides of the pocket at points at least at the elevation of the center of the pocket and extending thence downwardly and toward each other, said wall having an opening at the central, bottom portion of each pocket, the bands passing through said opening to the outside of the pocket, only a single buckle interconnecting the bands and lying on the outside of the pocket and being too large to pass through said opening, said bands being otherwise free of said wall so as to be capable of lying under tension in spaced relation to portions of said wall, said buckle having means for slidingly adjustably tensioning the bands and lying against said wall to maintain the tension of the bands when the garment is in use.

5. A foundation garment having a wall having bust receiving pockets, a plurality of bands for each pocket, the wall of each pocket having a central opening at the bottom portion of the pocket, the bands being respectively connected to opposite sides of the pocket so that both lie within the pocket and converge downwardly to pass outwardly through said opening, said bands being adjustably tensioningly secured on the outside of the pocket, the bands being otherwise free of the said wall so as to form chords for adjacent arcuate portions of the pocket to be thus adapted to directly engage the bust to afford a bottom support and a lateral confining action to urge the bust into the central and upper portions of the pocket.

6. A foundation garment according to claim 5 including a member of rigid material larger than said opening for adjustably tensioning the bands, with the member being held against said wall by the tension of the bands.

7. A foundation garment having bust receiving pockets, a plurality of bands for each pocket connected to the wall thereof at different side edges of the pocket, common adjusting fastener means for slidably adjustably interconnecting otherwise free end portions of the bands at a point intermediate of their connections to said wall, said wall having an opening therethrough remote from the points of connection with said wall, so that the bands form an angle with each other and are free of said wall at all points intermediate of the adjusting means and the points of connection with said wall, with the bands crossing concaved portions of the pockets and being adapted to assume positions relative to the bust to conform thereto independently of the pocket walls, said bands passing through said opening, and the common fastener means lying outside of said wall and abutting the wall at the rim of the opening to thus anchor the fastening means.

HARRY JAY DUBNER.