

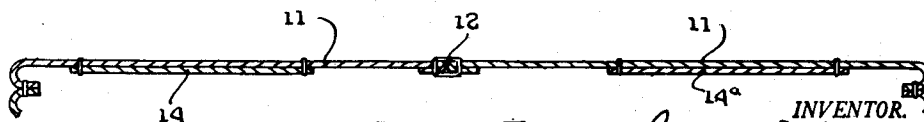
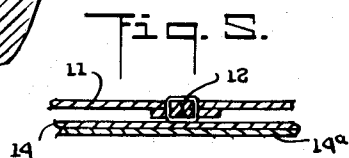
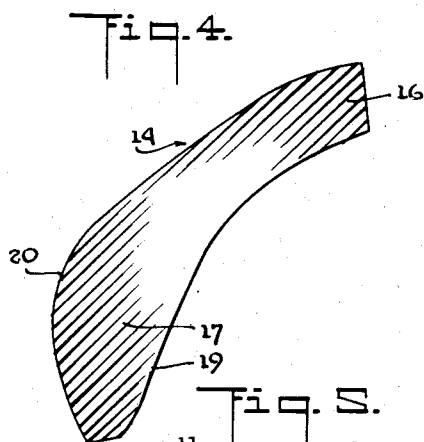
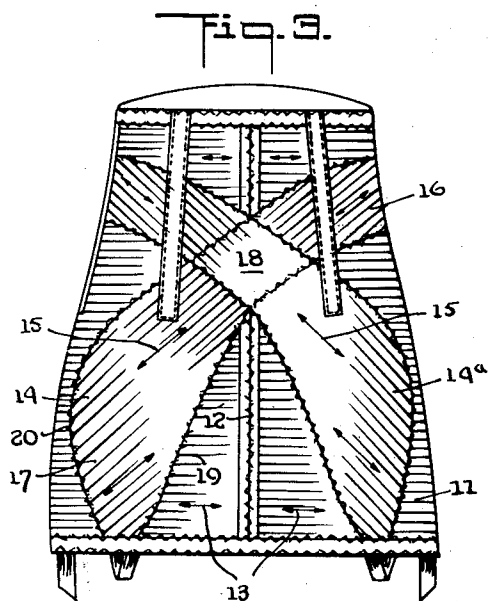
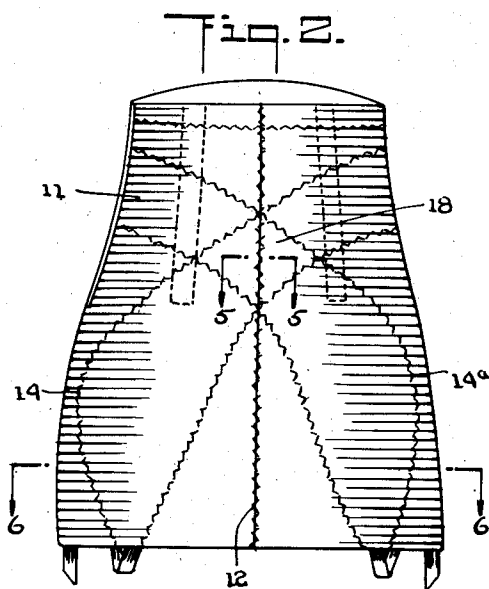
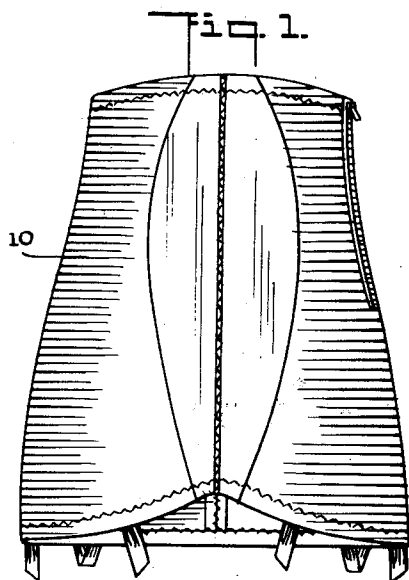
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J. B. CONNORS

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GIRDLE

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INVENTOR.
Joseph B. Connors
BY
A. Merton Baker
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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GIRDLE

Joseph B. Connors, Jersey City, N. J.

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This invention relates to girdles.

The functions of a girdle are of course well understood. It is employed to support and control the abdomen, thigh and buttock areas. In so doing, it applies a certain tension to these areas which often necessarily restricts natural movements of the wearer and involves varying degrees of discomfort. There have been many attempts to remedy or minimize such disadvantages, such as the introduction of girdles fabricated of elastic material throughout. While such an expedient tends to relieve uncomfortable tension, it correspondingly sacrifices desired control.

With the foregoing in mind, I have devised a girdle which provides a high degree of comfort and yet provides an unusually high degree of support in precisely those areas where support is most needed. Thus, in the form shown, the body itself of the girdle is predominantly of an elastic material. Specific means are employed in order to modify the elasticity at certain areas and to retain it at other areas. The areas of full elastic retention eliminates such binding or constriction which undesirably affects freedom of movement of the legs or buttock areas whether walking or sitting. On the other hand, and in order to provide effective control over specific areas, the invention provides a pair of substantially arcuate panels which are sewn to the rear of the girdle in such a manner as to modify and reduce the elastic characteristics thereof. The two areas of modified elasticity serve to suppress, flatten and mold the two buttock sections independently of each other and without rendering the garment uncomfortable. The arcuate panels, being crossed, further provide a most important double strength supporting area at the small of the back, thus producing a high degree of back support, a feature which is of particular importance in corsets or girdle garments.

The provision of the specially formed panels as above described, further lends a degree of support to said body areas directly below the waist. These areas are technically termed the glutius maximus areas which, in many women, are excessively fleshy and require firm control.

The girdle of the instant invention is further formed in such a way that it will remain effective for longer periods of time than conventional girdles. This is attributable to the provision or retention of the horizontal stretch areas in the garment where control is not required. These areas take up strain or tension during walking or sitting and accordingly relieve the inelastic, support areas from such strain. As a result, the

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garment tends to maintain and retain its required control and support characteristics even after long periods of use.

The invention will be further understood from the following description and drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a girdle constructed according to the instant invention;

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view thereof;

Figure 3 is a rear elevational view of the garment turned inside out;

Figure 4 is a plan view of one of the arcuate supporting panels;

Figure 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view as taken along the line 5—5 of Figure 2; and

Figure 6 is an enlarged cross-sectional view as taken along the line 6—6 of Figure 2.

The front section 10 of the girdle body is of conventional construction and may assume conventional form. The rear section 11 comprises a pair of panels which are connected through a central seam 12. The rear section is basically of elastic material which is predominantly stretchable horizontally as indicated by the arrows 13 of Figure 3. Actually, the rear panels embody some degree of vertical stretchability but this is quite limited, generally being about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the horizontal elasticity. Essentially, however, the rear panels stretch horizontally to provide maximum leg action as will be hereinafter set forth. In any event, the vertical stretchability is not critical and may be less or equal to the horizontal stretchability.

Secured to the rear section of the girdle body are a pair of substantially arcuate, twin panels 14 and 14a. In a satisfactory embodiment of the girdle, the twin panels were formed of satin Lastex with one way stretch. Thus, each panel is of one way stretch resilient fabric and is disposed so that the direction of stretch is diagonally of the garment body as indicated by the arrows 15. Considering the rear section 11 of the body as of substantially rectangular outline, the panel 14 is set and sewn in diagonally with its upper, narrow end 16 adjacent the top right end of the girdle body (as viewed in Figure 3) and its bottom, wider end 17 adjacent the lower opposite corner.

The opposing panel 14a is likewise set and sewed in diagonally in the manner above described. Accordingly, a central, substantially diamond-shaped portion 18 is formed which is of double control panel thickness. The opposing panel 14a is a reflection of panel 14 and the same reference numerals in the drawing may generally be applied thereto. It will be observed

that the bottom, wider portion 17 of control panel 14 is formed with a relatively straight inner edge 19 and an arcuate, bowed outer edge 20.

A girdle constructed according to the above description will provide numerous advantages fulfilling the objectives set forth herein. Thus, the one way stretch control panels modify the over-all elasticity of the garment body in accordance with specific control requirements. The girdle body area between the wide portions of the control panels remains horizontally stretchable. This provides freedom of walking action inasmuch as this section will permit horizontal stretch to accommodate such an action. It will further render the girdle more comfortable during sitting.

On the other hand, the control panels 14 and 14a exercise particular control functions upon the buttocks where horizontal stretch is of lesser desirability. The bias disposition of control panel stretch, which is indicated by the arrows 15, reduces the horizontal stretch of the garment where the control panels are disposed. As the garment is put on by the wearer, it stretches horizontally where it is permitted to do so. The same tendency to stretch horizontally exerts a stress upon the control panels which effectively depresses them inwardly so as to confine, mold, and support the fleshy buttock areas in highly desirable fashion. In the form shown, the actual direction of stretch of the panels is 30° from horizontal as indicated by the arrows 15.

Section 18 which comprises the crossed portions of both control panels is of particular benefit in the garment. This diamond shape area affords an extreme degree of support for the lower back or spine which is considered to be of great value in reducing back fatigue in many persons. This results from the stretching of the garment in various predetermined directions when it is put on by a wearer in accordance with the arrows shown in Figure 3. Thus, the top, narrow sections and the lower, wider sections all act to produce a cumulative depressing effect upon the diamond-shaped central section 18. This action in conjunction with the horizontal stretch of the girdle body itself, produces the superior support characteristics of this diamond-shaped section.

The narrow, top end sections 16 are further of particular benefit. The fleshy tissue in the area of the glutius maximus most often requires support and flattening and such top end sections serve this purpose. It will be noted that such top end sections may flare out to a slightly wider form if desired in order to encompass a somewhat larger area.

It will be seen from the foregoing that I have provided a girdle embodying elasticity where it is required and modifying such elasticity in a particular manner so as to provide specific areas with a large degree of support and control. Thus, the control panels 14 and 14a which, in the form shown, are set in with a bias stretch and which reduce the over-all horizontal stretch of the girdle body by approximately 50 per cent, effectively suppress, flatten and mold the buttock areas without involving binding or constriction of leg movements. It will be recognized, however, that the panels may be set in with a different direction or type of stretch or indeed may be non-stretching and they will still exhibit many advantages as set forth herein. Such variations in the stretch of the panels may be dictated by the requirements of various figures and figure problems.

What is claimed is:

1. A girdle comprising a rear section of elastic material and which is capable of horizontal stretch, and a pair of crossed, elongated control panels connected to and overlying said rear section, each of said control panels extending substantially from a top corner area of said rear section to an opposite bottom corner area thereof, and said control panels crossing each other along a center line of the rear section so as to form a doubly reinforced area along the center line of said rear section.

2. A girdle having a body portion comprising an elastic rear section which is capable of horizontal stretch and a pair of arcuate, crossed panels connected to and extending across said rear section, each of said panels respectively extending from opposite upper sides of said rear section and across the garment body to respectively opposite lower sides thereof, each of said panels being of substantially one way stretch elastic material, the direction which is 30° from the horizontal direction of stretch of said rear section and in opposite directions in respect to each other, said control panels crossing each other along a center line of said rear section so as to provide a doubly reinforced control panel area at said center line.

3. A girdle according to claim 2 and wherein each of said control panels has a wider bottom end relative to its top end, said wider end being adapted to support the buttock areas of a wearer, said top end being adapted to support the glutius maximus areas of a wearer.

4. A girdle according to claim 3 and wherein said wider areas have a substantially straight inside edge and an arcuate outer edge.

5. A girdle having a body portion comprising a rear section of elastic material and which is capable of horizontal stretch and a pair of crossed, elongated, control panels connected to and overlying said rear section each of said control panels having a narrower top portion relative to its bottom portion and extending substantially from a top corner area of said rear section to an opposite bottom corner thereof, and said control panels crossing each other at their upper portions along a central line of the rear section so as to form a doubly reinforced control panel area overlying and connected to said rear section.

6. A girdle according to claim 5 and wherein each of said control panels is of substantially one-way stretch elastic material the direction of which is at an angle to the horizontal direction of stretch of said rear section and in opposite directions in respect to each other.

7. A girdle according to claim 6 and wherein each of said control panels are sewn along their entire edges to said rear section.

8. A girdle having a body portion comprising an elastic rear section which is capable of horizontal stretch and a pair of elongated control panels connected at their upper ends to respectively opposite upper sides of said rear section and extending across the rear section to respectively opposite lower sides thereof, each of said panels being of stretchable material and crossing each other adjacent their upper ends and being sewn to each other along their crossing edges so as to provide a doubly reinforced control panel area where they cross each other.

9. A girdle comprising a rear section of elastic material and which is stretchable in a horizontal direction, and a pair of control panels secured to and overlying said rear section, said

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control panels being of predominantly one way stretch material and the direction of stretch thereof being diagonally of the rear section and at an angle to the horizontal direction of stretch thereof, each control panel being set so that its direction of stretch is approximately 30° from horizontal, the control panels being elongated and crossed so as to extend in mutually opposite directions, the crossing of said panels being adjacent their upper portions.

JOSEPH B. CONNORS.

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