

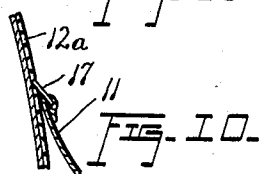
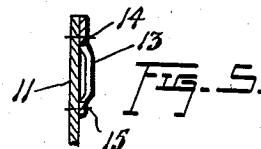
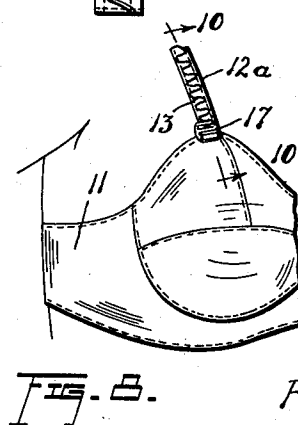
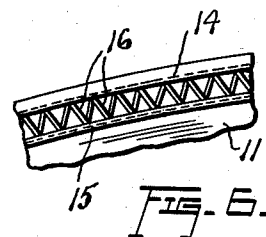
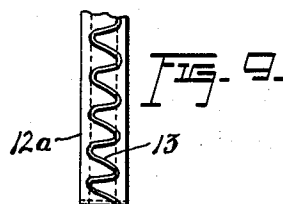
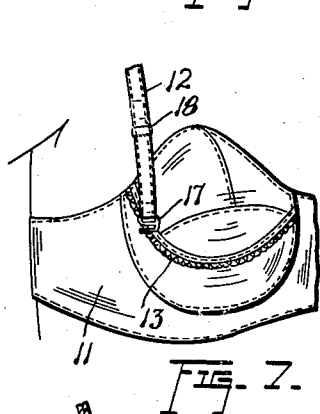
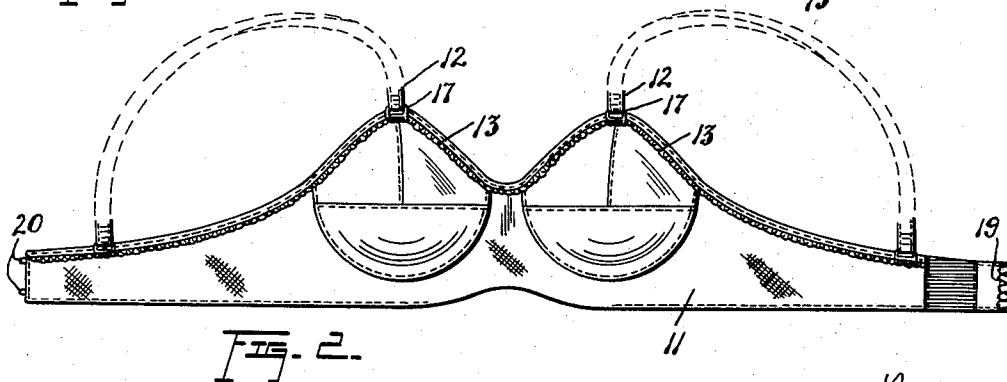
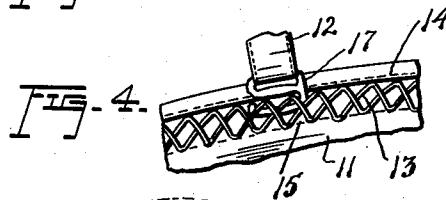
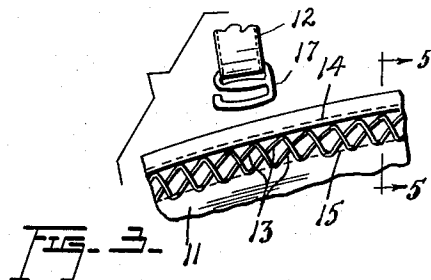
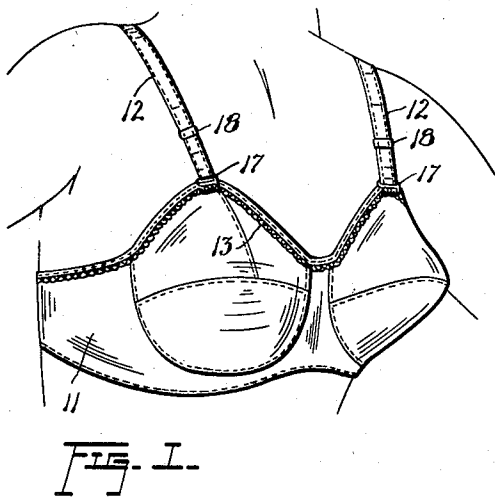
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2,882,907

SHOULDER STRAP-TYPE GARMENTS

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SHOULDER STRAP-TYPE GARMENTS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 128—492)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in shoulder strap-type garments, and the principal object of the invention is to facilitate a wide range of adjustment of the shoulder straps relative to each other and in relation to the body of such garments, so as to suit the comfort and appearance of the wearer.

In particular, the invention concerns itself with undergarments such as brassieres or slips wherein the position of the shoulder straps is critical from the standpoint that they should not be exposed when the brassiere or slip is worn under an outer dress having a low neck line or a wide neck opening. However, the invention is not restricted to brassieres and slips, but may be embodied in any type of an undergarment or outer garment where an adjustable shoulder strap arrangement is desirable.

One important feature of the invention resides in the provision of a row of loop-like fastener elements extending in a substantially peripheral direction on the garment, together with hook-like fastener members provided on the shoulder straps for separable, selective engagement with the loop-like elements, so that the transverse distance between the shoulder straps and the position thereof relative to the garment may be varied as desired.

Another important feature of the invention resides in the provision of the aforementioned loop-like elements in a row extending longitudinally on each shoulder strap while the hook-like members are provided at the upper edge of the garment body, whereby the effective length of the shoulder straps may be adjusted.

In both instances, the adjustments facilitated by the invention may be utilized at the front as well as at the back of the garment and the separable connection of the loop-like elements and hook-like members permits the shoulder straps to be completely detached from the garment, if so desired.

Some of the advantages of the invention reside in its simplicity of construction, in its convenient adjustability and in its adaptability for embodiment in shoulder strap-type garments of various types as aforesaid.

With the foregoing more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the construction of the invention will be understood from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein like characters of reference are employed to designate like parts and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a brassiere embodying the invention, in position on the body of a wearer;

Figure 2 is a developed plan view of the brassiere per se;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary detail on an enlarged scale showing the loop-like elements on the garment and the hook-like member on the shoulder strap, the hook-like member being separated from the loop-like elements;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary detail similar to that shown

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in Figure 3 but showing the hook-like member engaged with the loop-like elements;

Figure 5 is a sectional detail, taken substantially in the plane of the line 5—5 in Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary detail illustrating a slightly modified form of the loop-like elements;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary perspective view, similar to that shown in Figure 1 but illustrating the shoulder strap as being adjustably connected to a breast cup of the brassiere at a point spaced downwardly from its upper edge;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary perspective view showing the invention as used for adjusting the effective length of a shoulder strap;

Figure 9 is a fragmentary detail of the shoulder strap used in the arrangement of Figure 8; and

Figure 10 is a sectional detail, taken substantially in the plane of the line 10—10 in Figure 8.

Referring now to the accompanying drawing in detail, particularly to Figures 1—5 thereof, the invention for illustrative purposes is shown as being embodied in a brassiere including a body portion 11 and a pair of shoulder straps 12. As already noted, the invention concerns itself with a separable, adjustable connection of the shoulder straps to the body portion, and these connecting means involve the provision of a row of loop-like fastener elements 13 extending in a substantially peripheral direction along the upper edge of the body portion 11, both at the front and the back of the garment. As is best shown in Figure 3, the elements 13 may assume the form of a continuous lace or tape with widely spaced cords, such a lace being secured to the body portion 11 along both side edges thereof by the lines of stitching 14, 15. In a lace of this form, two zig-zagging cords are utilized in an overlapping or crossing manner as illustrated. Alternatively, as shown in Figure 6, the lace 16 may have only one cord arranged in a zig-zag manner to form the loop-like elements above referred to.

Coacting with the loop-like elements 13 is a hook-shaped fastener member 17 affixed in a conventional manner to each end of each of the two shoulder straps 12. This fastener member may be of the variety well known in the art. When the shoulder straps are to be connected to the body of the garment, the hook-shaped members 17 are simply engaged with the loop-shaped elements 13 at the particular points where the connection of the straps to the body of the garment is to be made.

It will be readily apparent from the foregoing that in this manner the transverse distance between the connected shoulder straps may be varied as desired, and a similar variation may be also effected in terms of the positional relationship of the straps to the garment body, so that in any event, the straps may be adjusted as required for proper comfort and appearance of the wearer.

As already noted, the adjustment is facilitated at both the front and the back of the garment and if the garment has an upper edge of a rising and falling configuration, as for example the brassiere shown herein, the attachment of the shoulder straps at different distances apart may also result in a variation of their effective length, depending on what particular points on the upper edge of the garment the straps are attached.

If the variation in the effective length of the straps as produced by the transverse adjustment thereof is not desired, the straps may be adjusted as to effective length by conventional buckles 18. In any event, it will be noted that a wide range of adjustment is provided by the invention, such as can satisfy any given condition.

Figure 7 illustrates a slightly modified arrangement of the invention wherein the row of loop-like elements 13 is provided in an arcuate form on the breast cup of the

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brassiere, so that the attachment of the shoulder strap can be effected at a point spaced downwardly from the upper edge of the garment. As will be observed, this arrangement also facilitates transverse adjustment of the straps, that is, to vary the distance between the straps, as well as a variation in the effective length of the straps resulting from the arcuate, rising and falling contour of the row of the elements 13 on the breast cups.

Figures 8-10 inclusive show another modified arrangement of the invention wherein the loop-like elements 13, instead of being provided on the body of the garment, are arranged in a row extending longitudinally on the shoulder straps 12a. The hook-like fastener members 17, instead of being provided on the shoulder straps, are mounted at the upper edge of the garment and, of course, are separably and selectively engageable with the elements 13 on the straps. In this manner the effective length of the shoulder straps may be varied as desired and the use of the conventional buckles such as are shown at 18 is unnecessary.

In all forms of the invention the separable connection of the hook-like members and loop-like elements permits the shoulder straps to be completely removed from the garment, if so desired. With reference to Figure 2, it will be observed that the broad teachings of the invention may be extended also to a separable connection of the ends of the body portion 11 at the back of the brassiere. These ends are usually connected together by metallic hooks and eyes which require careful stitching to the brassiere at predetermined, fixed points by special machinery. However, in accordance with the invention, a lace of loop-like elements 19, the same as or similar to the elements 13, is simply stitched in a vertical position by a conventional sewing machine to one end of the brassiere body, and the usual hooks 20 at the other end of the brassiere body may be simply engaged with the elements 19 to separably connect the ends of the body 11 together. By virtue of their flexibility, the elements 19 do not require precise positioning to facilitate proper engagement of the hooks 20 therewith and the fabrication of the garment is materially simplified. If preferred, two laces of the elements 19 may be used in vertically spaced, circumferentially extending position for selective engagement by the two hooks 20, whereby an adjustment of the effective circumference of the brassiere may be obtained.

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It is to be understood that the particular elements 13, 16, 19 and the particular members 17, 20 have been shown for illustrative purposes only, and that various other elements and members may be also utilized. As such, the loop-like elements may take the form of individual eyes of metal, plastic, or other material, affixed at predetermined points to the garment, and the hook-like members may take the form of simple hooks, buttons, or the like.

While in the foregoing there have been disclosed the preferred embodiment of the invention, various modifications may become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention relates. Accordingly, it is not desired to limit the invention to this disclosure and various modifications may be resorted to, such as may lie within the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed as new is:

In a shoulder strap-type garment, the combination of a garment body having a free upper edge, a shoulder strap, and means separably and adjustably connecting said strap to said body, said means comprising a tape extending longitudinally on the upper edge portion of the body so that the upper edge portion of the body underlies the full width of the tape, parallel lines of stitching extending through both longitudinal edges of said tape and securing the same to said body, said tape including a zig-zag element affording a longitudinally extending row of loops between said lines of stitching, and a hook-shaped connecting member provided on said shoulder strap, said hook-shaped member being separably and selectively connectable with said loops for adjusting the point of attachment of the shoulder strap to the body in a direction longitudinally of said tape, and the upper edge portion of the body underlying and secured to said tape by said lines of stitching serving to hold the tape flat against the body to resist accidental separation of said connecting member therefrom.

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