

Dec. 27, 1949

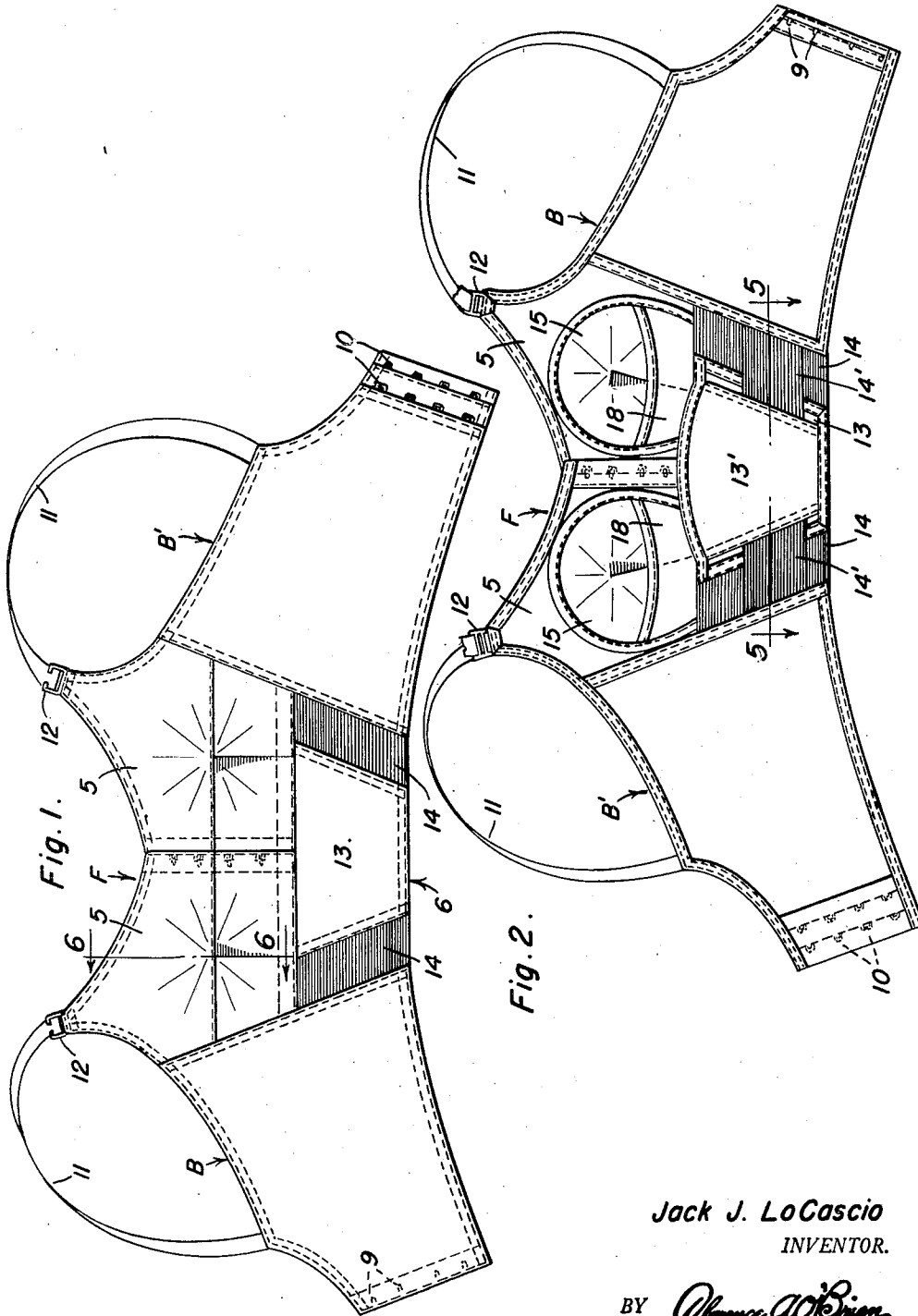
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2,492,303

BRASSIERE

Filed Oct. 17, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

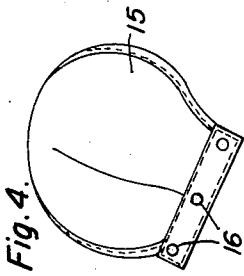


Fig. 4.

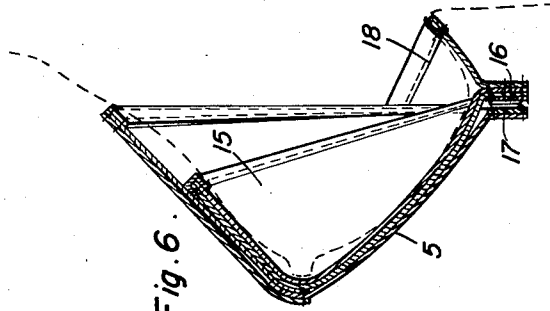


Fig. 6.

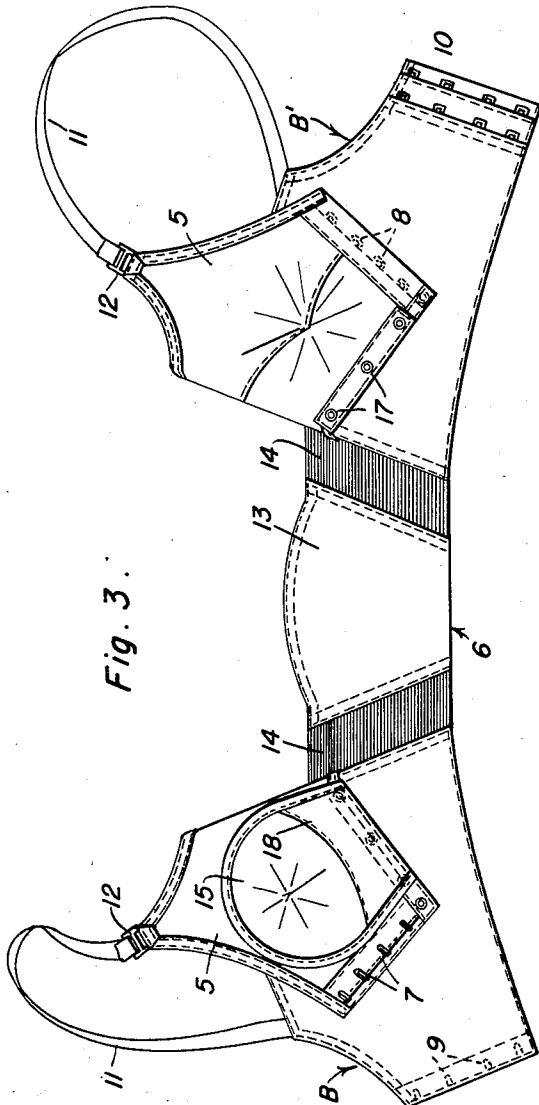


Fig. 3.

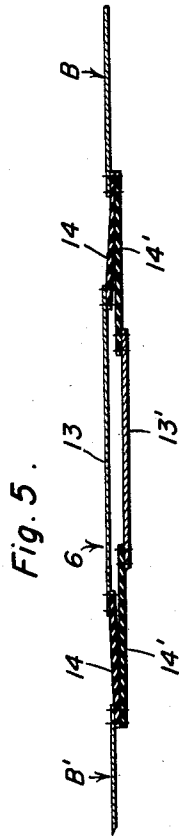


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BRASSIÈRE

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Application October 17, 1947, Serial No. 780,517

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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It has heretofore been proposed to construct a brassière with breast pockets which may be readily opened so that the breasts may be exposed for nursing purposes without unfastening and removing the brassière. However, with prior constructions, the breasts are confined and subjected to pressure at the bottoms and inner sides thereof even when the breast pockets are opened, thereby allowing insufficient freedom, restricting exposure of the breasts, and causing discomfort to the wearer. I overcome this objection by providing a brassière in which the breast pockets are entirely free at the top and bottom and are detachably secured together along the front medial portion of the brassière, said breast pockets forming the sole connection between the upper portions of the side band members of the brassière, whereby the breasts are fully exposed and subjected to no restriction or pressure when the breast pockets are disconnected and turned back.

I also permanently connect the lower portions of the side band members by means of a horizontally yieldable lower front or under-breast band member which gives the firm control and support, while nursing, which is so desirable in the post-natal period. This function is enhanced by the provision of a horizontally yieldable belt on the inside of the under-breast band member. The breast pockets are free of connection with and slightly overlap the upper edge portion of the under-breast band member.

I further provide each breast pocket with a detachable inner breast-supporting shield, which may be readily removed and laundered and which has a bottom supporting pocket in which the breast may comfortably rest.

The exact nature of the present invention, as well as other objects and features thereof, will become apparent from the following description when considered in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a brassière laid out flat and constructed in accordance with the present invention, the breast pockets being secured together;

Figure 2 is a rear elevation thereof;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 1, with the breast pockets disconnected and turned back, and with one of the breast supporting shields removed;

Figure 4 is a front perspective view of one of the breast supporting shields;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal section taken on line 5—5 of Figure 2; and

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Figure 6 is an enlarged vertical section taken on line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the present brassière includes a body composed of a front F and side band members B and B'. The front F is composed of two breast pockets 5 and a lower front or under-breast band member 6. The breast pockets 5 are secured at their outer side edges by means of stitching to the upper portions of the front edges of the respective band members B and B'. The breast pockets 5 are entirely free of connection with the under-breast band member 6, and one breast pocket is provided along its inner side edge with hooks 7, while the other breast pocket 5 is provided along its inner side edge with a series of eyes 8, so that the breast pockets may be fastened together along the medial front line of the brassière. Each breast pocket is formed of fabric to conform to the shape of the breast in a generally well known manner.

The side band members B and B' are in the form of fabric panels, one being provided along its free end with a series of hooks 9, and the other being provided along its free end with a plurality of series of eyes 10 for fastening the brassière at the back of the wearer and adjusting it to fit the body.

The brassière is provided with shoulder straps 11, one end of each strap being secured to the respective band members B and B', and the other end thereof being adjustably engaged with a buckle 12 attached to an upward extension of the adjacent breast pocket 5 in a conventional manner. The breast pockets 5 slightly overlap the upper edge portion of the under-breast band member 6, and it will be seen from an inspection of Figure 3, that when the breast pockets 5 are disconnected and turned back, the breasts will be fully exposed and subjected to no restriction or pressure. At the same time, the brassière is effectively maintained in proper position about the body of the wearer by reason of the permanent connection which the under-breast band member 6 provides between the side band members B and B'.

The under-breast band member 6 is horizontally yieldable and is preferably composed of a relatively wide trapezoidal intermediate inelastic fabric section 13 having downwardly converging side edges, and downwardly converging narrower end sections 14 of elastic material which are horizontally yieldable. Thus, the under-breast band member 6 gives the firm support and control, while nursing, which is so desirable in the post-natal period. In order to enhance

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this function, I provide the under-breast band member 6 with a horizontally yieldable belt on the inside thereof. This belt is constructed somewhat similar to the band member 6 and includes the inelastic trapezoidal intermediate section 13' and the horizontally yieldable elastic end sections 14'. The belt connects the lower portions of the side band members B and B', but the elastic sections 14' are wider than the elastic sections 14 and the inelastic section 13' is narrower than the section 13, while the upper and lower edges of said inelastic section 13' are stitched to the upper and lower edges of the inelastic section 13 of the band member 6.

Each breast pocket 5 is provided with a detachable inner breast supporting shield 15 made of soft yieldable fabric to conform to the shape of the breast, but composed of a plurality of thicknesses of material or otherwise given sufficient stiffness to retain its proper shape and remain correctly positioned within the breast pocket although attached to the latter only at the bottom. For attachment of each breast supporting shield to the associated breast pocket, said shield and breast pocket are provided along their lower edges with the respective members 16 and 17 of a series of separable or snap fasteners. Across the bottom, each breast supporting shield has an inwardly and upwardly directed extension 18 to provide the shield at the bottom with a supporting pocket in which the breast may comfortably rest as illustrated by dotted lines in Figure 6. It will be apparent that the breast supporting shields may be easily and quickly applied and just as easily removed for laundering purposes, when desired.

When it is desired to open the brassière for nursing purposes, the hooks 7 are simply disengaged from the eyes 8, whereupon the breast pockets 5 may be completely turned back so as to fully expose the breasts and leave them entirely free of pressure or restriction. At the same time, the major portion of the brassière remains in position on the wearer so as to afford the desired firm control and support while nursing. Due to the construction of the under-breast band member and its inner belt, an even pull is exerted circumferentially of the wearer's body beneath the breasts to provide such control and support without causing discomfort.

From the foregoing description, it is believed that the construction and advantages of the

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present invention will be readily understood and appreciated. While I have shown and described the invention in the form of what is commonly known as a brassière, it will be understood that it may be embodied in other forms of wearing apparel such as slips and various kinds of combination foundation garments. Other modifications and changes in detail of construction are contemplated, such as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A brassière comprising side band members having means to detachably connect their outer ends at the back of the wearer, an under-breast band member permanently connecting the lower portions of said side band members, separate breast pockets adapted to form the sole connection between the upper portions of said side band members, said breast pockets being permanently connected to the upper portions of the side band members and free of connection with the under-breast band member, and means for separably connecting the inner edges of the breast pockets together along the front medial portion of the brassière whereby said breast pockets may be completely turned back to facilitate nursing.

2. The construction defined in claim 1, in combination with a breast supporting shield on the inside of each breast pocket having a bottom pocket in which the breast may rest, and means removably attaching the breast supporting shields to the breast pockets.

3. A brassière according to claim 1, wherein said under-breast bandmember is horizontally yieldable and at least partially elastic, and a horizontally yieldable and at least partially elastic control belt at the inner side of said under-breast band member and connecting the lower portions of the side band members.

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