

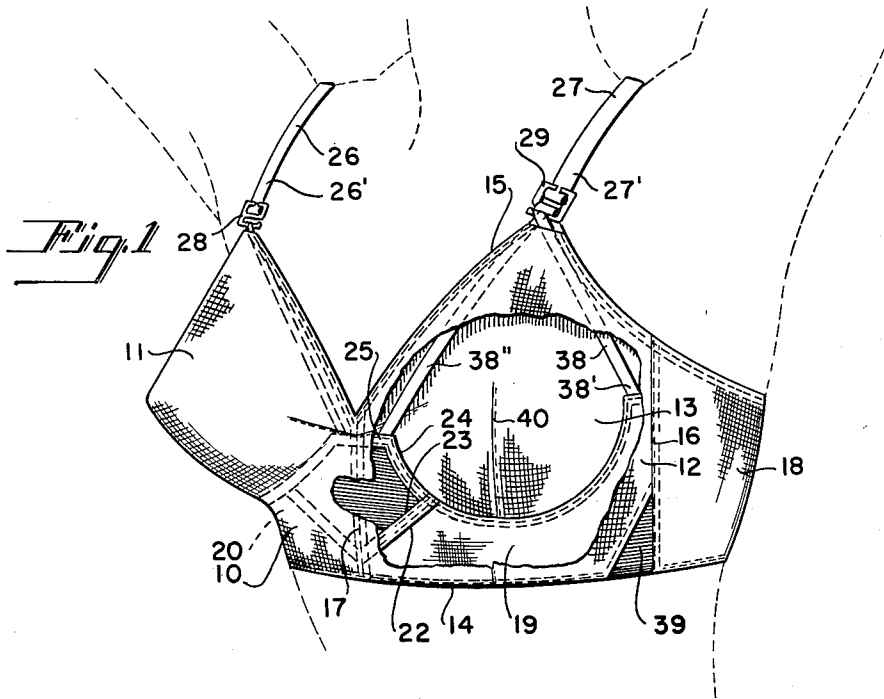
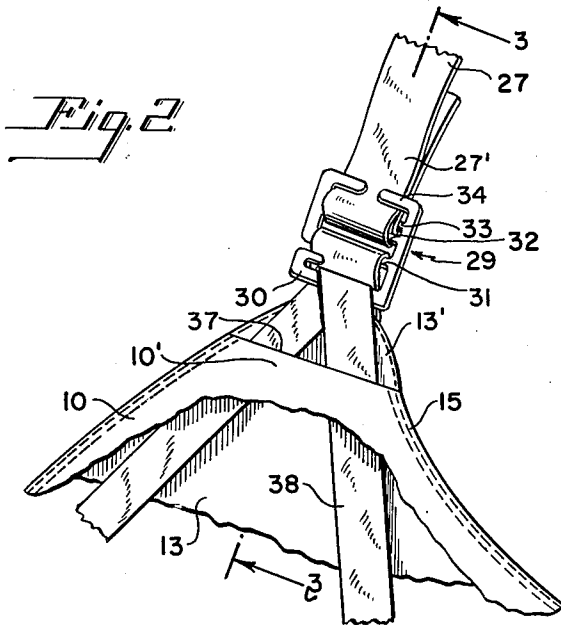
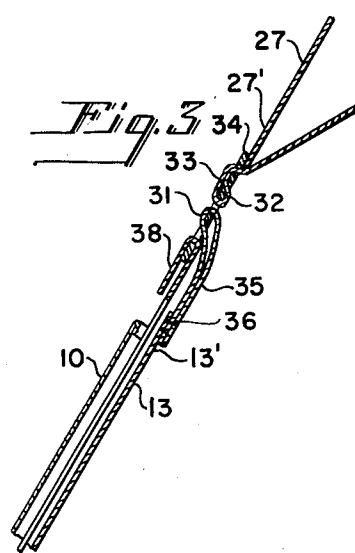
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S. KAUFMAN

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BRASSIERE

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INVENTOR.

Sarah Kaufman
BY *St. Lee Nelson*

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BRASSIÈRE

Sarah Kaufman, New York, N. Y.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—42)

1

This invention relates to brassières and more particularly, to brassières of the type having a sling member located below the breast-receiving cups or pockets for aiding the support and separation of the breasts.

Brassières of the type having breast supporting sling members are known in the prior art as disclosed in the patents to Hunau, No. 2,367,353, Rose No. 1,886,742, and Moran No. 2,044,623.

The present invention is directed to an improved form of brassière of this type, the improvement residing in the novel manner of mounting and supporting the sling member relative to the breast-receiving cups or pockets.

More particularly, the two sections of the sling member are connected by means of an elastic member of special form whereby the sling sections are yieldingly movable in a lateral direction toward and away from each other so as to conform to the particular extent of separation of the breasts of the individual wearers.

Another novel feature of the present invention resides in the novel manner of suspending the sling member so that the sections thereof are yieldably movable in a vertical direction. This enables the height of the multisection sling member to be automatically adjusted in accordance with the requirements of different wearers who may have various types of breasts of either high, low or average type.

Still another important feature of the present invention resides in the provision of an outer fabric reinforcement for the sling sections, to which reinforcement stresses are imposed from both the cups and said sling section.

One of the advantages flowing from this manner of stress distribution is that both the cups and the sling section may be formed of sheer transparent material so as to provide for novel decorative effects without the sacrifice of strength, coolness and durability of the structure.

Other advantageous features of the present invention are inherent in the structure as claimed and disclosed and will become apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the brassière shown in position on a torso indicated in dashed lines, parts of the outer fabric reinforcement layer of the left-hand breast pocket being broken away to show the interior construction;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged detailed perspective view showing the manner of securing the supporting bands of the sling sections to the buckles attached to the forward ends of the shoulder straps; and

2

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Referring first to Fig. 1, the brassière comprises an outer reinforcement fabric layer 10 formed with a pair of breast-receiving cups or pockets 11, 12. An inner fabric layer 13 of fabric material which is also formed with a pair of breast-receiving pockets corresponding to pockets 11, 12 is in superimposed relation to and behind the outer layer 10, the outer and inner layers 13 being of substantially identical shape and secured together by suitable stitching along their lower edges 14, upper edges 15 and outer lateral edges 16.

The upper edges 15 may be provided with decorative lace or binding tape and the outer lateral edges 16 may be provided with a conventional vertical reinforcing stay if desired. The layers 10, 13 may each be formed of two segments, one for the left side and one for the right side, joined together by a vertical line of stitching 17 at the center of the brassière. Suitable portions 18 for encircling the side and back of the torso are secured to the sections 10, 13 at their outer lateral edges 16. The side and back encircling portions 18 being of any suitable construction, the details of which form no part of the present invention.

A portion of the breast-receiving pocket 12 of the outer layer 10 is broken away in Fig. 1 so as to show therebeneath the left-hand sling section 19, there being a similar sling section 20 at the right-hand portion of the brassière. Each of the sling sections 19, 20 is provided with an upper arcuate marginal edge as at 21 and an inner lateral edge 22 which is inclined upwardly and outwardly.

The two adjacent inner lateral edges 22 of the sling sections 19, 20 are connected by an elastic member 21 in the form of a sheet of elastic fabric or other material. Elastic member 21 is provided with upwardly-outwardly inclined edges 23 secured to the inner lateral edges 22 of the sling sections 19, 20 and with upwardly-inwardly inclined edges 24, the latter preferably being bordered by elastic tape. A horizontal edge 25 extends between the upper ends of the upwardly-inwardly inclined edges 24.

A pair of shoulder straps 26, 27 are secured at their rear ends (not shown) to the back encircling portions 18 in any suitable manner. The forward ends 26', 27' of the shoulder straps 26, 27 are provided with buckles 28, 29 attached thereto in the following manner. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, each of the buckles 28, 29 is provided with five horizontally extending members 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 forming slots or openings

therebetween. The forward end 27' of the shoulder strap 27 extends forwardly between members 34, 33 and is looped around member 32, thereby maintaining the buckle 29 attached to the forward end 27' of the shoulder strap 27. The upper vertex portions 13' of the inner layer 13 are each securely attached to a respective one of the buckles 28, 29 by means of straps 35 looped around the member 31 and secured to the vertex portions 13' by means of stitching at 36.

Referring now to Fig. 2, it will be seen that the upper vertex portions 10' of the outer layer 10 are cut away as at 37 so as to provide a slot or opening through which the supporting bands 38 may project outwardly and upwardly from between the outer layer 10 and the inner layer 13. Each of the supporting bands 38 is provided with a first end 38' secured to an outer portion of a respective one of the sling sections 19, 20 and a second end 38'' secured to the junction of the horizontal edge 25 and an upwardly-inwardly inclined edge 24 of the elastic member 21. The intermediate portion of each of the supporting bands 38 extends slidably through the slot formed by the horizontal members 30, 31 of each of the buckles 28, 29. That is, the intermediate portion of each of the supporting bands 38 is looped around the horizontal member 30 and is slidable thereover so as to provide for relative raising and lowering of the ends 38' and 38''.

Suitable elastic gussets as at 39 may be located between the outer lateral edges 18 and the side and back encircling portions 12 at the lower edges thereof. Darts or seams 40 may be provided on the breast pockets of the layers 10, 13 so as to impart a cup shape to the pockets.

When the brassiere is in position on the torso of the wearer, as shown in Fig. 1, the shoulder straps 26, 27 will tend to pull upwardly on the supporting bands 33, the ends 33'' of the latter in turn exerting tension on the elastic member 21 to which is connected the sling sections 19, 20. Since the edges 24 of elastic member 21 are yieldable and the elastic member 21 is resilient so as to be stretchable in a vertical direction, it will be seen that the inner lateral edges 22 of the sling sections 19, 20 are yieldably movable in a vertical direction with respect to the lower ends 38'' of the supporting bands 38. Furthermore, since the elastic member 21 is also resilient or stretchable in a horizontal direction, it will be seen that the sling sections 19, 20 are yieldably movable in a lateral direction toward and away from each other.

Although the upwardly-outwardly inclined edges 23 and the upper horizontal edge 25 of the elastic member 21 are comparatively rigid and non-elastic, the upward-inward inclination of the edges 24 and their elastic nature enable the elastic member 21 to be stretched both laterally-outwardly in opposite directions and also vertically-downwardly with respect to the lower ends 38'' of the supporting bands 38.

It will be noted that a portion of the load of supporting and separating the breasts, and hence the stress induced thereby, is taken up by both the outer layer 10 and inner layer 13 and also the sling sections 19, 20. Since only a portion of the load is assumed by the outer layer 10, the stresses induced therein are relatively small and hence the outer layer 10 may be formed of an extremely sheer transparent material without sacrificing the strength and durability of the brassiere structure as a whole. The same may be said for the inner fabric layer 13, which may also be formed of a

sheer flexible material if so desired. This ability to form either or both of the layers 10, 13 of various types of material, irrespective of the comparative weakness and lack of durability of the material, is highly advantageous in that it enables many decorative effects to be obtained without loss of strength or durability of the brassiere structure. For instance, the outer layer 10 may be made of sheer material that is almost transparent and a design formed on either the sling sections 19, 20 or the inner layer 13, or both, then being visible through the outer layer 10 with a pleasing diffused appearance.

It is to be understood that the specific embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing and described in the specification is intended to be merely illustrative of one of many forms which the invention may take in practice and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention, the latter being delineated in the appended claim.

What I claim is:

A brassiere comprising an inner fabric layer having a pair of breast-receiving pockets, an outer fabric layer having a pair of breast-receiving pockets lying in superimposed relation to the pockets of said inner layer, said layers being secured to each other along their respective top, bottom and outer vertical lateral edges, a pair of sling sections each positioned in the lower portion of the breast pockets between said fabric layers, each of said sling sections having an outer vertical lateral edge secured to said outer vertical lateral edges of said inner and outer layers, a bottom edge secured to said bottom edges of said layers and having an outwardly obliquely disposed inner edge, elastic fabric means connecting the outwardly obliquely disposed inner edges of both of said sling sections, body encircling fabric portions extending outwardly and rearwardly from said outer lateral edges, a pair of shoulder straps having rear ends secured to said body encircling portions, supporting bands secured to said sling sections and extending upwardly therefrom between said layers, said elastic fabric means being five sided and having a V-shaped bottom, each edge of which is secured to an outwardly obliquely disposed inner edge of a respective sling section, and further having upwardly and inwardly curved edges contiguous with the edges of the V-shaped bottom, and a horizontal edge extending between the upper ends of the said inwardly curved edges, said upwardly and inwardly curved edges having elastic tape therealong, said horizontal edge being secured to the inner ends of said supporting bands whereby said sling sections are yieldably movable in a lateral direction toward and away from each other as well as in a vertical direction, and buckle means for adjustably securing the uppermost portions of said supporting bands to the forward ends of said shoulder straps.

SARAH KAUFMAN.

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