

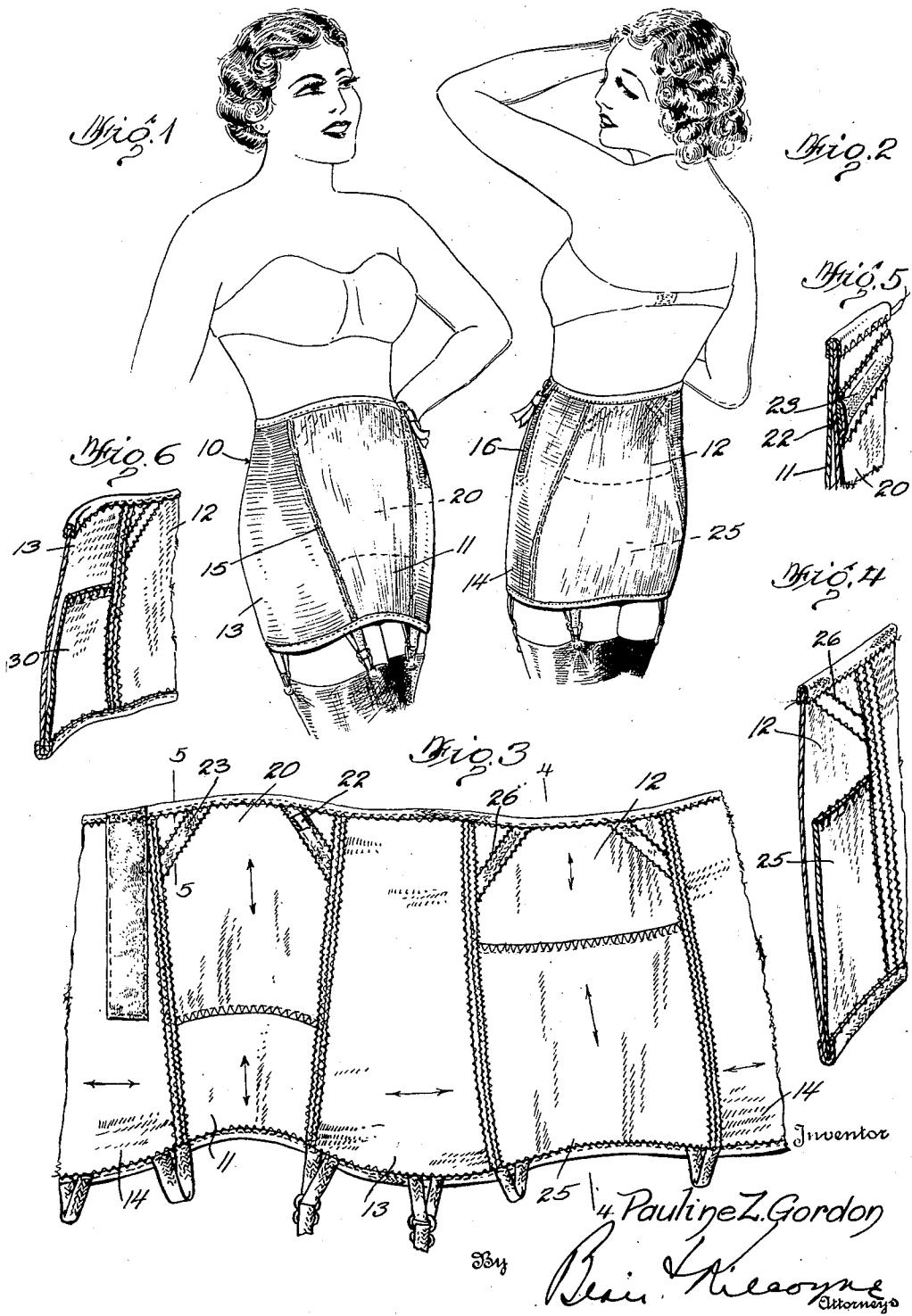
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FOUNDATION GARMENT

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## FOUNDATION GARMENT

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This invention relates to improvements in foundation garments such as girdles, corsets, all-in-ones, pantie girdles and the like.

Among the objects of the invention may be noted the provision of a foundation garment in the nature of a girdle, corset, all-in-one, pantie girdle and the like, which functions in improved manner to confine resiliently portions of the body on which it is worn; the provision of a resilient or elastic foundation garment which is so constructed and arranged as to effect additional confinement of the body where needed without in any way binding the body or being evidenced by unsightly lines showing through the outer garments; the provision of improved features of reinforcement for girdles and the like foundation garments which may be applied to the garment where needed in such manner as to effect additional confining action to that provided by the girdle itself; the provision of a foundation garment which is thoroughly efficient and dependable in its action and which can be worn with a maximum of ease and comfort.

Other objects will be in part obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out in connection with the following analysis of this invention wherein is illustrated an embodiment of the invention in detail.

In the drawing—

Fig. 1 is a front view of the girdle or like foundation garment of the present invention, having additional reinforcing or confining means applied to the abdomen-supporting panel of the girdle;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of a girdle which may be the garment illustrated in Fig. 1, as will be hereinafter explained, with the additional reinforcement or confining means being applied to the lower portion of the rear panel of the girdle;

Fig. 3 is an inner face view of a garment having both front and rear reinforcing means of the present invention applied thereto;

Fig. 4 is a section generally along lines 4—4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a section generally along lines 5—5 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a part view of a modified form of girdle in which the reinforcement is applied to a panel such as the side panel of the girdle, whereby to effect additional confining action on the hips or thighs.

Referring to the drawing, reference character 10 indicates generally a garment illustrative of the present invention, the girdle portion of which is constituted by the several panels 11, 12, 13 and 14 suitably joined along their adjacent side edges

by seams collectively indicated at 15, thus to provide a generally cylindrical garment structure. One of the panels such as the side panel 14 may be provided with a placket which may be closed by a fastener 16, preferably of the well known "zipper" type as illustrated.

In the garment illustrated, the front and rear panels 11, 12, respectively, are formed of elastic material commonly known as "one-way stretch" material, and are arranged to be stretchable in a direction longitudinally of the garment; that is to say, in an up-and-down direction. The side panels 13, 14 respectively, of the structure are formed either from some other material, or from the same type one-way stretch material but in the latter case the material is so arranged that the panels are stretchable horizontally, that is, circumferentially of the garment. Thus the garment as shown provides elastic confinement of the body portion to which it is applied, it being understood that the material of the panels, while stretchable in the directions as stated, nevertheless offers sufficient resistance to free stretching action as to effect confinement of the body where needed while at the same time permitting the wearer to have relatively free movement.

It will be understood that the arrangement of panels as illustrated as well as the materials making up the panels and the direction of stretch thereof as described, represent one construction of a garment of the present invention. Obviously the panel construction and the selection of materials from which they are made and the direction of stretch of the materials will depend on the particular type of foundation garment contemplated and on the use and/or figure for which intended. For example, different combinations utilizing the one-way stretch material as described may be employed, as in the case of a garment made of a one-way-stretch front panel and a non-elastic back panel, with one-way-stretch side panels; or the front and rear panels may be of one-way-stretch material as described and the side panels of two-way or all elastic materials.

While the girdle as described functions satisfactorily in some instances, it so happens that with certain types of female figures additional confinement of certain fleshy parts of the body is desirable or required for proper supporting action.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 3, wherein additional reinforcement is provided for the abdomen, such preferably takes the form of a supplemental reinforcing panel 20 arranged along the inner face of the main front panel 11. The reinforcing

panel 28 is constructed of the same type material as the panel 11 and arranged so that it is stretchable only in the same direction as the panel 11.

5 The reinforcing 28 is attached along one end edge at or near the top edge of the main panel 11, its top edge being in a preferred form, substantially coincident with the top edge of the panel 11 which forms the waist line of the garment and secured to the panel along this edge as by suitable stitching. The reinforcing panel may advantageously extend from side edge to side edge of the panel 11 and is secured to said side edges by stitching which may constitute the 10 stitching for the seams 15 as described, altho in some cases a narrower reinforcing panel may be employed. The lower edge of the panel 28 preferably terminates above the lower edge of the panel 11 and is unsecured, the depth of the reinforcing member being so selected that the reinforcing panel 28 will extend only over the fleshy part of the abdomen which requires the additional support provided by the reinforcing panel. The free or unsecured lower edge of the panel 15 permits the main panel 11 and the reinforcing panel 28 to act independently of each other in their confining action, so that the effect of the main panel and its reinforcing panel 28 is additive. Further, the free edge of the reinforcing panel 28 obviates any binding effect on the wearer as would occur if the edge were secured to the main panel member and at the same time obviates the possibility of puckering or riding of the main panel as might be evident through the outer 20 garments.

Where waist-line stays are employed, the reinforcing panel 28 may carry such waist-line stays 22 in suitable pockets formed by stitching the pieces of tape 23 along their edges to the inner 25 face of panel 28 as shown in Fig. 5.

Referring to Fig. 2, the reinforcement is there illustrated as associated with the lower portion of the panel 12 of the garment, thus to provide additional confinement for the related fleshy 30 parts of the body. The garment illustrated in Fig. 2 may be the same garment as shown in Fig. 1, to which reinforcement is provided for both the front and rear panels, or it may represent a garment to which the additional confining 35 action is associated only with the rear panel, the front panel being devoid of the additional confining action as provided by the panel 28 as described.

When associated with the rear panel, the additional confinement is generally required adjacent the lower zone of the girdle and accordingly the reinforcing panel member 25 as illustrated in Fig. 3 is secured at or near the lower edge of the main back panel 12 and may have its side edges 40 secured to the panel 12 along the side edges of the latter as by the seams 15. In this case the top edge of the panel 25 is unsecured. It will be understood that the reinforcing panel 25 is formed of the same type material as that of the main 45 back panel 12 and is stretchable only in the same direction as this back panel.

By this arrangement the panel 25 provides additional confining action for the lower rear fleshy portion of the body without the binding action 50 that would otherwise occur intermediate the length of the main panel 12 if the upper edge of the reinforcing panel 25 were secured thereto.

As the reinforcing panel 25 does not extend to the upper waist-line portion of the garment,

the waist-line stays when used may be secured to the main back panel 12, as illustrated, within pockets formed by the face of the panel and inclined tapes 26, as better indicated in Fig. 4.

Where the additional confinement is desired at the rear upper or waist zone of the garment, the reinforcing panel 25 can of course be arranged to extend downwardly from the upper edge of the rear panel 12.

Referring to Fig. 6 wherein is illustrated a 10 modification of the features above described, a reinforcing panel 30 is associated with one or both of the side panels, such as the side panel 13, whereby to provide the additional confining action about the fleshy part of the hips or thighs. 15 As in case of the rear panel 25, the hip reinforcing panel 30 is secured along the bottom edge of the side panel 13 and along the side seams thereof, its upper edge being free of securement. In the case of the reinforcing panel being applied to the side panels 13, 14, which are stretchable circumferentially of the garment, it will be understood that the material of the reinforcing panel 30 is so arranged that this panel stretches only in the same direction as the side panels. 20

As the present invention contemplates that the additional confining means provided by the panels 20, 25 and 30 will be applied where needed, it will be understood that the placement of the reinforcing panels is unlimited and depends on 25 the particular figure on which the girdle is worn. Accordingly, locations of the reinforcing member other than those illustrated are intended to be covered within the scope of the present invention, the generic idea being that the additional reinforcing member having an unsecured end edge will be applied where needed to garments generally of the foundation type, such as girdles, corsets, all-in-ones, pantie girdles and the like. 30

As many changes could be made in carrying 35 out the above constructions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense. 40

I claim:

1. A girdle constituted by a plurality of panels secured to each other along their adjacent side edges, at least one of said panels being formed from material stretchable in a vertical direction only and having associated therewith a reinforcing member of the same type material and equal in width to the panel to which it is secured, said member being stretchable only in the same 50 direction as the panel, one of the ends of the member being secured to the panel adjacent an end edge of the latter, the opposite end of the member being unsecured. 55

2. A girdle formed of front, rear and two side panels, the several panels being secured along their adjacent side edges, at least one of said panels being stretchable in a vertical direction only, a reinforcing member operatively related to said panel and shorter than the length thereof, said member being stretchable only in the direction that the panel with which it is related is stretchable, means for securing the member to the panel on three sides only, one end of the member being unsecured, the member extending entirely across the panel and having an end edge substantially coincident with the end edge of the panel with which it is associated. 60

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