Dec. 21, 1948. J. V. HOLLAR 2,456,872

BRASSIERE

Filed May 24, 1945

Fig. 1.

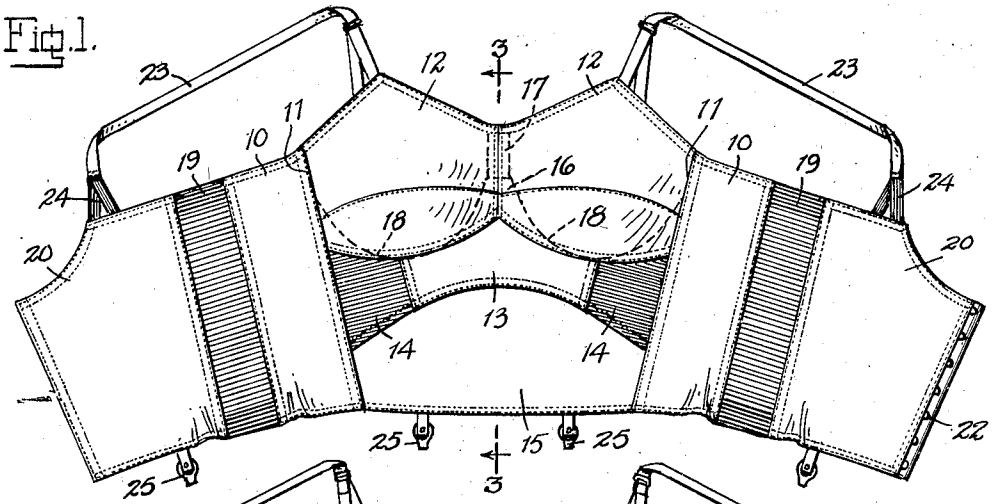


Fig. 2.

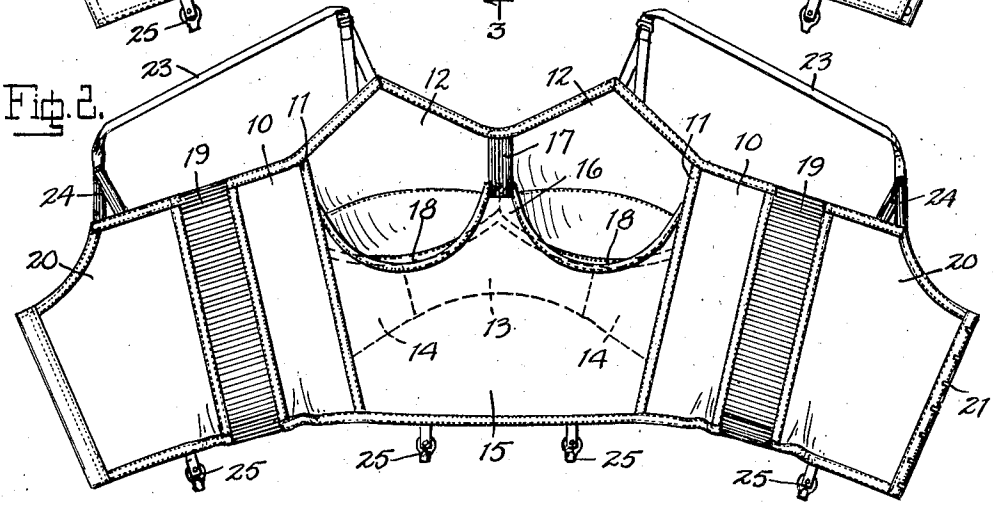


Fig. 3.

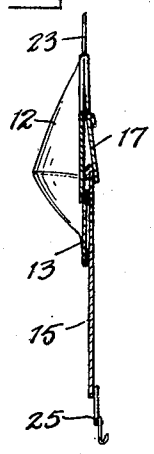


Fig. 4.

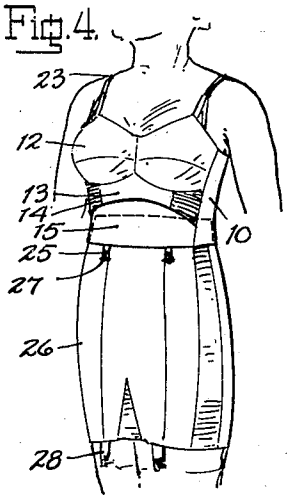


Fig. 5.

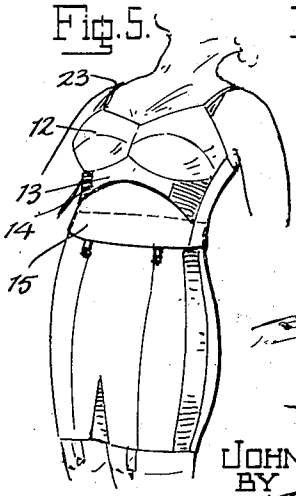
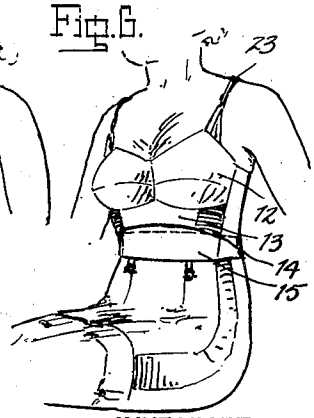


Fig. 6.



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BRASSIÈRE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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The present invention relates to a brassière, particularly of the type adapted to be detachably anchored to the upper marginal portion of a girdle, to thus provide a combination brassière and girdle structure. This type of brassière, as heretofore constructed, usually comprises a body encircling band having a front section consisting of bust pockets, and a panel secured at its upper edge to the lower edges of the bust pockets and provided with means at its lower edge to detachably anchor it to the girdle. While this type of garment is reasonably comfortable in a standing posture of the wearer, it has the disadvantage that, upon assuming other postures, such as backward, forward and sidewise bending, stooping, and sitting, it causes excessive strains upon the body, because of its inability to satisfactorily adjust itself to the changing length and contour of the body.

It is an object of the invention to provide a brassière in which the front section has inherent extension and contraction movement to compensate for changes in the body length and contour, and to this end it is proposed to provide a front section comprising upper and lower overlapping and relatively movable parts, and elastic suspension means connecting the lower part to the upper part for the purpose of permitting relative extension and contraction movement between them.

It is further proposed, according to the invention, to provide a brassière wherein the upper bust pocket part will remain in a substantially fixed relation to the shoulder line, while permitting the lower part of the brassière connected to the girdle to automatically adjust itself to the body length as the body curves forward, or backward, or sidewise, the elastic suspension means between the upper and lower parts of the brassière maintaining these relatively movable portions in smooth fitting relation and exerting a force thereon to return them to their normal relation upon assuming a standing posture. In this connection, it is pointed out that the distance between the busts and the supporting points of the shoulders upon which the shoulder straps are engaged is a substantially fixed distance, so that variations in the curve and length of the body, resulting from the assuming of different postures, do not take place along this bust to shoulder distance, but do occur to a great degree below the bust line.

With the above and other objects in view, an embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings, and this embodiment will

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be hereinafter more fully described with reference thereto, and the invention will be finally pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a brassière, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, disposed in flattened relation.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation thereof, also disposed in flattened relation.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view, taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view, showing the brassière as worn in connection with a girdle, the wearer being shown in a standing posture.

Fig. 5 is a similar view, showing the wearer in a bending backward posture.

Fig. 6 is a similar view showing the wearer in a sitting posture.

Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the brassière, according to the illustrated exemplary embodiment of the invention, comprises a front section secured between a pair of forward side sections 10—10 along stitching lines 11—11, and comprising an upper bust pocket part consisting of a pair of bust pockets 12—12 and a transverse band consisting of a central portion 13, formed of non-elastic fabric, and end portions 14—14, formed of laterally stretchable elastic fabric, the upper edge of this band being shaped to conform to the lower edges of the bust pockets and stitched thereto, and the lower edge being arched upwardly and having its ends secured along the stitching lines 11—11 at points substantially at or slightly below the waistline of the wearer, this point being upwardly spaced from the lower edge of the brassière. The front section also comprises a lower panel part 15, secured at its side edges along the stitching lines 11—11, and having its lower edge forming the lower edge of the front of the brassière, its upper portion extending beneath the band portion of the upper bust pocket part of the brassière and having a central upwardly extending portion 16, adapted to lie between the busts of the wearer, and connected to the upper edge of the bust pockets 12—12 by a vertically disposed elastic suspension tape 17. The upper edge of the band part 15 at each side of the upwardly extending central portion 16 is arched downwardly, as at 18—18, to substantially conform to the lower lines of the busts, and preferably being curved about a shorter radius than the radius of the

curvature of the lower edges of the bust pockets 12.

Laterally stretchable elastic rearward side sections 19—19 are secured between the rearward edges of the forward side sections 10—10 and the forward vertical edges of the two back sections 20—20, these back sections being preferably formed of non-elastic fabric and adapted to be secured together along the rearward center line of the garment by hook fasteners 21, provided along the rearward edge of one of the back sections, and eye fasteners 22, secured along the rearward edge of the other back section.

Shoulder straps 23—23 are connected between the bust pockets 12—12 and the back sections 20—20, their rearward ends being connected to the upper edges of the back sections by means of short elastic tape connections 24. While these short elastic tape connections are provided for the purpose of compensating for the downward pull of the back portion of the brassière in assuming sitting or forward bending postures, the shoulder straps are themselves non-elastic, and provide a substantially non-stretching support between the shoulders of the wearer and the bust pocket formations of the brassière, it being intended that the suspension support of the shoulder straps will be sufficient to maintain the forward upper bust pocket portion of the brassière at a substantially constant distance from the supporting shoulders of the wearer, thus enabling a separation or extension pull between the lower panel part 15 of the brassière and the upper bust pocket part to stretch the suspension tape 17 and thus allow relative extension movement between these parts of the garment.

At the lower edge of the brassière, at suitably spaced points, there are provided anchoring hooks 25 for detachably securing the lower edge of the brassière to a girdle 26, the girdle requiring for this purpose suitable loops 27 for engagement by the hooks 25, and being provided at its lower edge with suitably arranged hose supporters 28. It is pointed out that the upper edge of the girdle is substantially at or slightly above the waistline of the wearer, and in the anchored position of the brassière, as shown in Figs. 4 to 6, the lower marginal portion of the brassière overlaps the upper marginal portion of the girdle.

In the normal standing posture of the wearer, the relatively movable parts of the front section of the brassière are substantially in the positions illustrated in Fig. 4, the position of the upper bust pocket part being substantially fixed with respect to the bust through the non-stretchable support provided from the shoulders by the shoulder straps 23. The lower panel part 15, which is anchored to the upper marginal portion of the girdle 26, is normally supported from the upper edge of the upper bust pocket part by the elastic suspension tape 17. The suspension tape is therefore normally under slight tension, and maintains the upper edge of the panel part substantially taut, with a consequent maintenance of the smooth fitting relation of the upper marginal portion of the panel part underlying the band of the bust pocket part. At the same time, the exposed portion of the panel part 15 is drawn into smooth confining relation to the diaphragm of the wearer through the cooperation of the anchoring hooks 25 and the suspension tape, and provides a smooth body moulding band completely encircling the body in the region of the diaphragm and waistline and prevents flesh bulges above the upper edge of the girdle. The laterally elastic inserts 14 serve

to draw the lower edge of the bust pocket part into snug conforming relation with the panel part 15 while at the same time permitting this edge to yield.

In assuming a backward bending posture, as shown in Fig. 5, the upper bust pocket part maintains a substantially fixed relation with respect to the bust and shoulders, while the lengthening of the forward vertical central body line of the abdomen and diaphragm of the wearer causes the upper bust pocket part and the lower panel part of the brassière to be extended with respect to each other, the elastic suspension tape 17 stretching to permit this relative extension movement. In resuming a standing posture the tension of the tape will maintain a smooth fitting relation of the panel part, so that the overlying band at the lower portion of the bust pocket part will slide smoothly thereon without causing bulges or wrinkles within the garment and without injurious pressure and crowding of the parts of the body.

In assuming a sitting or forward bending posture, as shown in Fig. 6, the upper bust pocket part of the brassière will move relatively downward over the panel part, and as the lower edge of the bust pocket part is arched above the waistline it will not tend to jam and prevent its free downward movement to the desired limit.

The elastic suspension tape also permits relative raising movement of one side of the bust pocket part of the brassière independently of the other, and such movement as may occur when the arm and shoulder of one side of the wearer is raised, while the other arm and shoulder remains lowered. The flexibility of the general structure of the brassière, by arrangement of the elastic tape centrally of the upper bust pocket part, allows the bust pocket part at one side to shift upwardly and downwardly while the other side remains substantially unaffected. The restoring action of the tape causes the brassière to resume its normal position upon lowering the arm and shoulder at one side without any impedance from bulges or wrinkles in the garment, as the tension of the suspension tape prevents the formation of such bulges or wrinkles.

I have illustrated and described a preferred and satisfactory embodiment of the invention, but it will be understood that changes may be made therein, within the spirit and scope thereof, as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A brassière comprising a body encircling band adapted to be detachably connected at its lower edge to a girdle having its upper marginal portion underlying said brassière, said body encircling band comprising a back section, side sections, and a front section, said front section comprising an upper bust pocket part, including a pair of bust pocket portions and a transverse band portion secured to the lower edges of said bust pocket portions having laterally yieldable insert means, and having its lower edge arched upwardly and secured at each end to the forward edges of said side sections in upwardly spaced relation to the lower edges of said side sections, a lower panel part secured at its side edges to the forward edges of said side sections having its upper portion overlapped by the band portion of said bust pocket part and having a central upwardly extending portion adapted to lie between the busts of the wearer and being relatively movable vertically

with respect to said band portion, and having its lower edge in substantially lateral line with the lower edges of said side sections, shoulder straps connected between said bust pocket portions and said back section adapted to support the upper edges of said bust pocket portions in substantially fixed relation to the portion of the wearer's body engaged thereby, and a vertically elastic suspension member secured at its upper end to said relatively fixed upper edge of said bust pocket portions and secured at its lower end to the central upwardly extending portion of said lower panel part to yieldably support the latter.

2. A brassière comprising a body encircling band adapted to be detachably connected at its lower edge to a girdle having its upper marginal portion underlying said brassière, said body encircling band comprising a back section, side sections, and a front section, said front section comprising an upper bust pocket part, including a pair of bust pocket portions and a transverse band portion having vertically spaced transversely disposed upper and lower edges, said upper edge being secured to the lower edges of said bust pocket portion and said lower edge being free of attachment between its ends and secured at each end to the forward edges of said side sections in upwardly spaced relation to the lower edges of said side sections, a lower panel part secured at its side edges to the forward edges of said side sections having its upper portion overlapped by the band portion of said bust pocket part and relatively movable vertically with respect thereto, and having its lower edge in substantially lateral line with the lower edges of said side sections, shoulder straps connected between said bust pocket portions and said back section adapted to support the upper edge of said bust pocket portions in substantially fixed relation to the portion of the wearer's body engaged thereby, and vertically elastic suspension means extended upwardly substantially from the central portion of the upper edge of said lower panel part and secured at its upper end substantially centrally to said relatively fixed upper edge of said bust pocket portions to yieldably support said lower panel part.

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