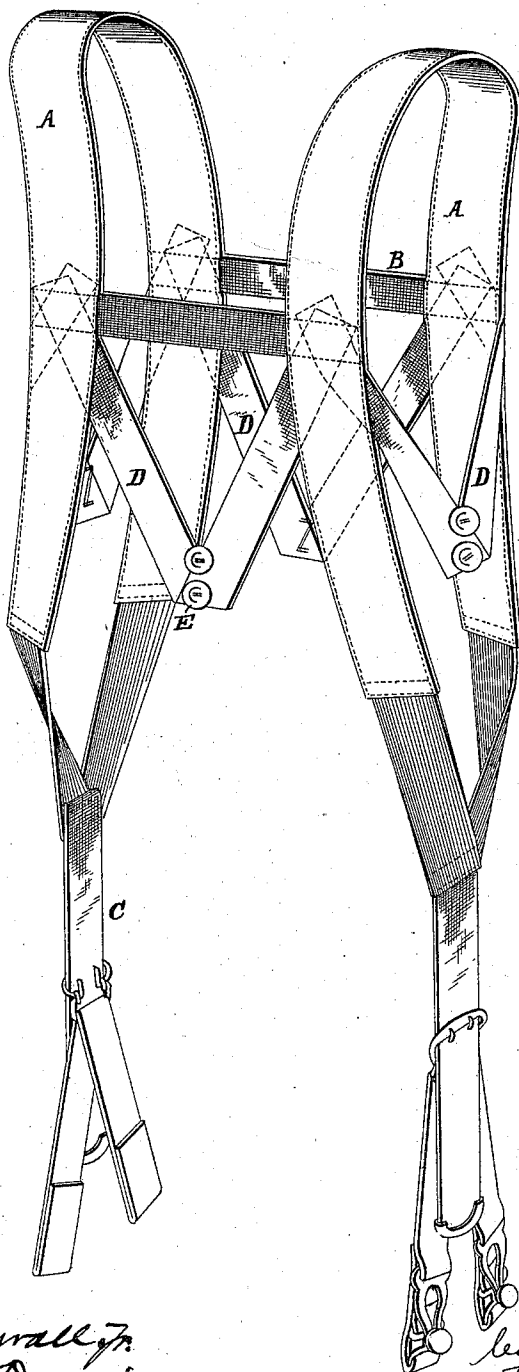


(No Model.)

F. KERN.  
GARMENT SUPPORTER.

No. 577,757.

Patented Feb. 23, 1897.



Attest.  
Edw. S. Dwyer  
Chas. W. Davis

Inventor:  
Frank Kern  
by Thelma B. Brock  
Atty.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK KERN, OF MATTOON, ILLINOIS.

## GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 577,757, dated February 23, 1897.

Application filed January 31, 1895. Renewed June 12, 1896. Serial No. 595,365. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK KERN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mattoon, in the county of Coles and State of Illinois, have  
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Underwaists; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it apper-  
10 tains to make and use the same, reference being had to the letters of reference marked on the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification.

The drawing represents a perspective view  
15 of an underwaist to which I have applied my improvements.

My improvements consist in the following construction and combination of the several parts which go to make a perfect-fitting  
20 underwaist, the details of which will first be fully described and the features of novelty contained therein then pointed out and claimed.

In the drawing, A represents the shoulder-  
25 straps. These curve inwardly, as clearly shown, along the body portion in the region of the chest and then outwardly again in the neighborhood of the waistband and below.

B represents transverse cross-tie straps or  
30 tapes which serve to keep the shoulder-straps A from being spread unduly apart.

C are the usual stocking-supporters depending from the shoulder-straps.

D are a series of V-shaped depending straps  
35 or tapes, the upper ends of which are secured to the shoulder-straps, and the lower ends or apices carry garment-attaching devices, such as buttons E or the like.

By so constructing this underwaist that the waistband can be dispensed with a very su-  
40 perior garment for the purposes intended is produced. A waistband of an underwaist if the least bit tight prevents the free movements of the body within the same. Each of these four suspensory points of my under-  
45 waist are free to swing laterally and independently from one another—a construction not possible where a waistband is present. A muscular freedom of movement to a marked  
50 degree thereby results, which in the case of children especially gives at the same time an increased life to the buttons of the waist. Moreover, each point of support for the skirt,  
55 dress, stockings, and drawers is carried directly from and upon the shoulders, owing to the peculiar conformation of the straps, and not indirectly, as is generally the case with underwaists for this purpose.

I claim—

An underwaist or garment-supporter pro-  
60 vided with shoulder-straps, a V-strap secured between the shoulder-straps above the waist terminating in front at the waist-line, a V-  
65 strap similarly secured and similarly terminating in rear, and a V-strap secured to the outside of each shoulder-strap above and ter-  
minating at the waist-line at each side, where-  
by the waistband is dispensed with and in-  
dependent lateral movement is given to each  
terminal.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature  
70 in the presence of two witnesses.

FRANK KERN.

Witnesses:

W. S. HOOPER,  
OLIVE STRICKLAND.