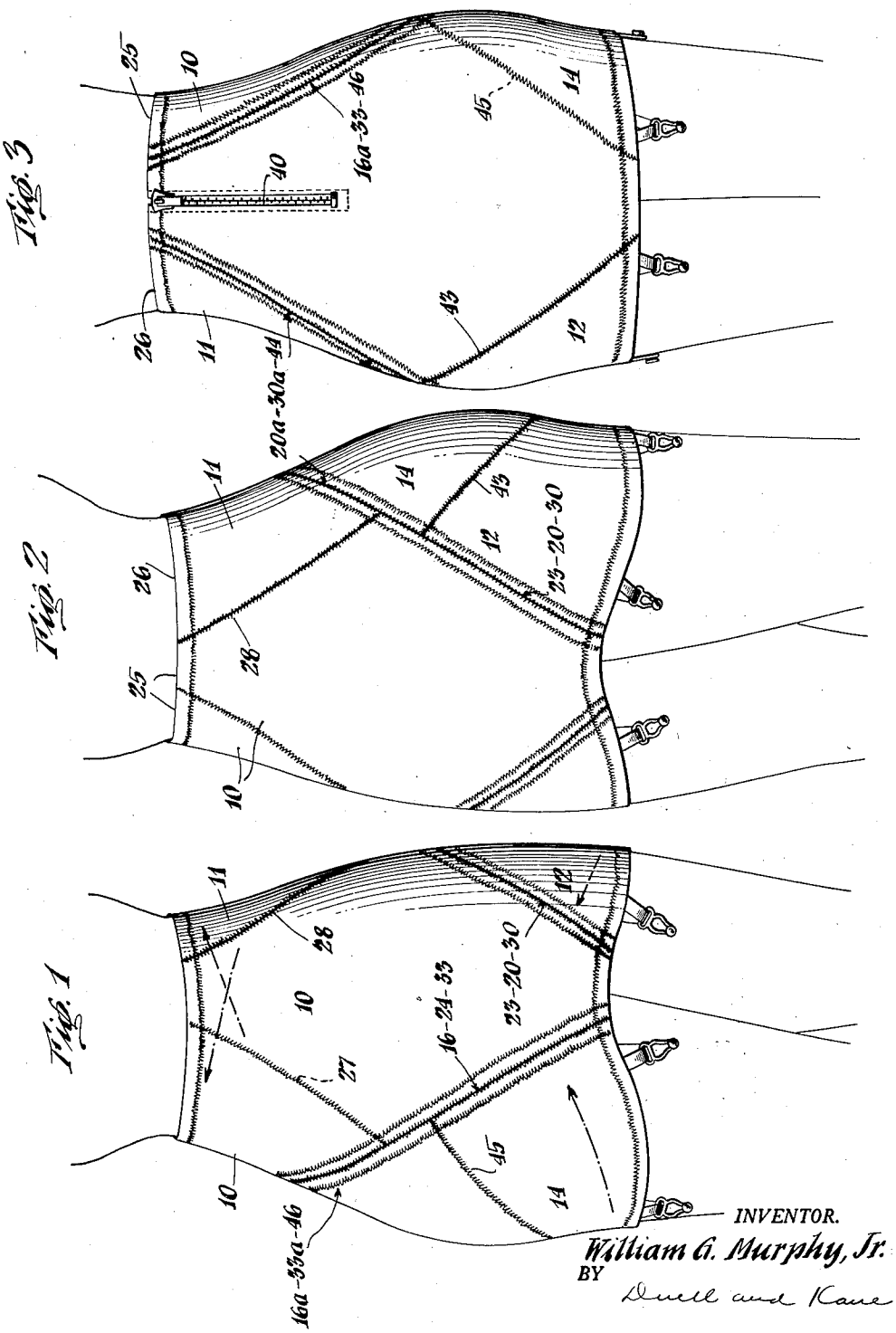
Jan. 22, 1952 W. G. MURPHY, JR 2,583,226

UNDERGARMENT

Filed June 4, 1948 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1



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UNDERGARMENT

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Fig. 4

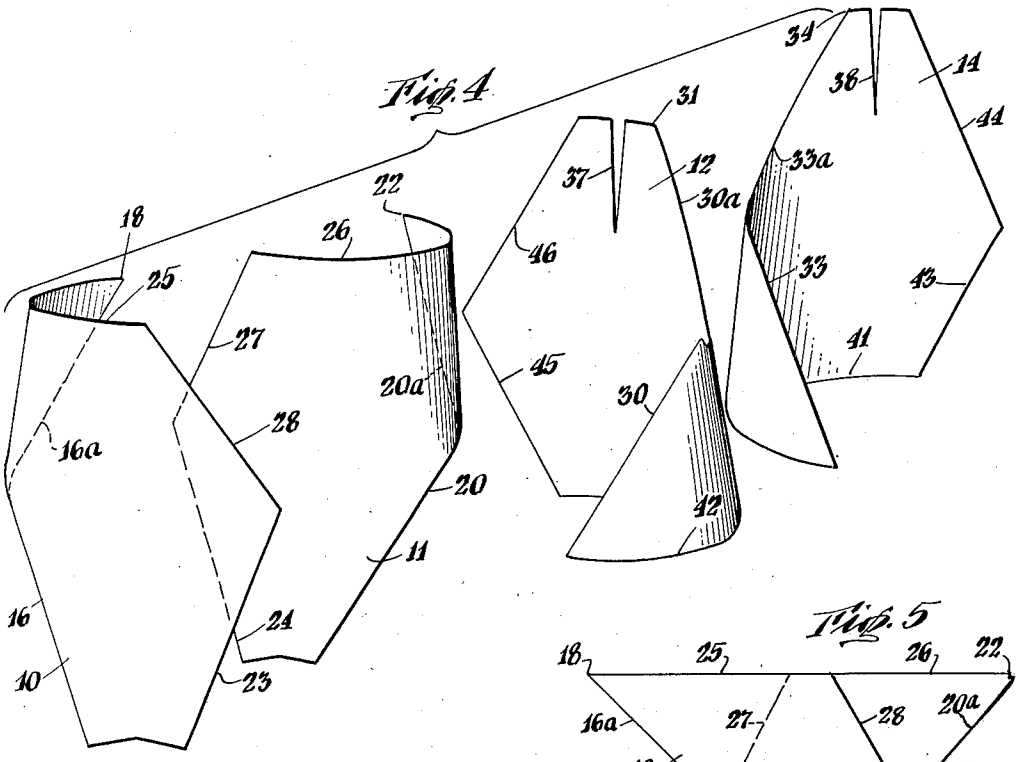
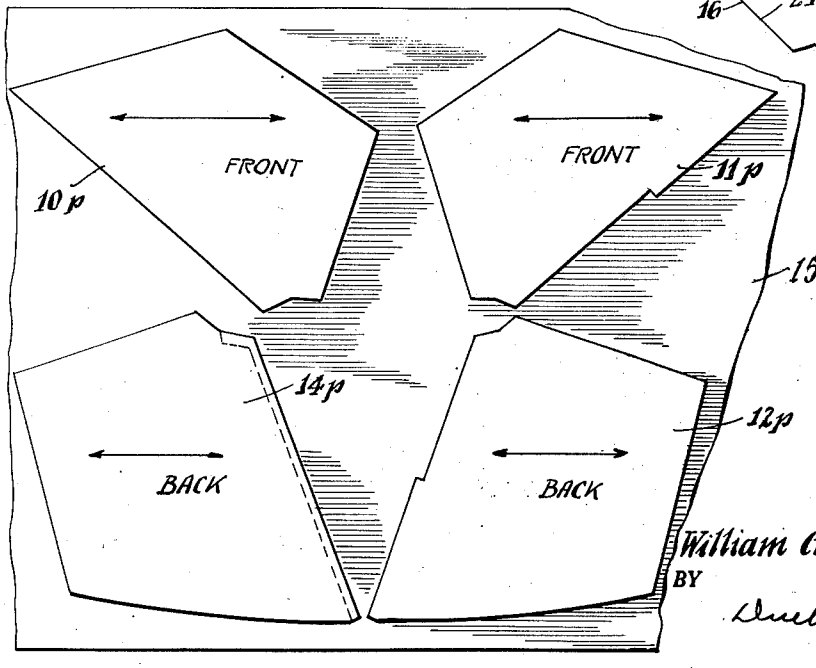


Fig. 5

Fig. 6



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UNDERGARMENT

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Application June 4, 1948, Serial No. 31,075

1 Claim. (Cl. 2—37)

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This invention relates to improvements in girdles and like feminine undergarments, and in particular to a garment which gives firm support and smooths the figure at the abdomen, hips, and other body portions underlying the garment, while providing maximum comfort and freedom of body movement.

A garment constructed pursuant to the invention produces a flattening or smoothing of the figure by a lifting and supporting of the flesh over wide elastic areas whose lines of action angularly intersect at the front and rear of the garment.

Contemporary girdles attempt to attain the advantages inherent in the instant invention by the use of stiffeners or "bones," or by variously arranged reinforcing panels and inserts. The support given to the body parts by such garments depends largely upon localized pressures exerted by the reinforcements. The action of these reinforcements is frequently in conflict with muscular movement and the dimensional changes of the body when the wearer is walking or sitting, with resultant discomfort to the wearer.

My garment is constructed from panels of stretchable material so arranged and secured one to the other as to provide balanced, distributed, elastic areas which produce a smooth distribution of the flesh rather than a direct pressure thereon. These support areas intersect; for example, there is a zone or area of elastic action which extends from each going diagonally upwardly across the diaphragm and the opposite hip to a point of "anchorage" at approximately the center of the rear waistline. In one form of the garment, there is another zone of action which extends from above each buttock downwardly across the opposite hip to a terminus at substantially the center of the lower front edge of the garment. These supporting actions are balanced, because the respective panels of the garment are symmetrical and the resulting smoothing and distributing effect is substantially the same at each side of the garment. The angularly intersecting, yieldable support areas do not unnaturally interfere with body movement, and the garment is comfortable as well as physiologically beneficial.

Another beneficial advantage in garments constructed according to the present invention is that one manufactured to a certain waist size will accommodate a wider range of hip and waist sizes without alteration, and without developing local areas of looseness or tightness, than contemporary garments. This is attributed in large measure to the crosswise supporting action and the self-adjustment of the upper and lower thigh portions of the garment provided by the arrangement and securement of the panels comprising the garment.

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A typical garment embodying the present invention is formed basically from two generally triangular elements which are arranged in opposed apex relationship so that the base of one such element defines the lower marginal edge of the garment and the base of the other defines the upper marginal edge—for example, the waistline—thereof. In the embodiment of the invention hereinafter described, each triangular element is formed from two overlapping panels; but one of the elements may comprise a single triangular piece of material, elastic or non-elastic, as desired. The element or elements which are formed from overlapping panels are made of elastic material which may be of several commercial types; for example, elastic materials with rubber in the warp and fill; material with the rubber only in the warp (known in the trade as "Leno"); and net materials which stretch in any direction or in only one direction.

It is therefore an object of the invention to provide an improved garment which will give proper figure support without unduly limiting body movement.

It is another object to provide a foundation garment such as a girdle or corselette, which affords a balanced and substantialy uniform smoothing and distribution of the flesh beneath the garment, rather than localized pressure and confinement.

Still another object is that of providing a garment such as a girdle which will satisfactorily fit a relatively wide range of waist and hip sizes, thus requiring a minimum of alteration when the garment is being fitted to the wearer.

Other features and advantages will hereinafter be described.

Reference is had to the accompanying sheets of drawings illustrating one practical embodiment of the invention and in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective of the girdle, as worn, looking toward the right hip of the wearer;

Fig. 2 is a similar perspective view, looking toward the left hip of the wearer;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevational view;

Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective of the several segments or panels which comprise the girdle;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of two panels assembled to provide the front panel of the girdle; and

Fig. 6 is a composite view showing the patterns for the panels laid out on cloth for cutting.

Referring initially to Fig. 4, a typical garment embodying the present invention comprises four panels, respectively an outer front panel **10**, an under-front panel **11**, an under rear panel **12** and an outer rear panel **14**. The panels are preferably all of identical material, and may have substantially equal stretch in both the warp and weft directions, or stretch only in one direction.

Depending upon the type of material, the patterns for the several panels, which have been designated similarly, but with the exponent "*p*," are laid on the fabric **15**, see Fig. 6, so that what is known as the "straight of the stretch" of the fabric is parallel to the arrows shown on the respective pattern sections.

When the garment is worn, the straight of the stretch will therefore be angularly upwardly, as indicated by the broken arrows in Fig. 1. The arrangement of Fig. 6 is typical of a stretchable material which is known in the trade as "Leno," and as well understood by those skilled in the art, materials which have other stretch characteristics will require a slight modification in the placing of the patterns so as to derive a suitable angular relationship of the direction of stretch.

The pairs of front and rear panels are arranged in overlapping relationship, producing a substantially triangular front and rear assembly. Fig. 5 represents such a front assembly. As appears from Fig. 6, the pairs of front and rear panels are symmetrical; and it is therefore immaterial whether the front assembly is arranged with its apex pointing downwardly—in which event the rear triangular assembly will be apex up—or in respectively inverted position. Considering, then, that Fig. 4 represents but one possible arrangement or assembly of the respective panels, it will be noted that the top front panel **10** has a continuous side edge of which the portion **16** will substantially overlie and follow the groin of the wearer—the groin being considered in this instance as the fold or depression demarking between the lower part of the abdomen and the thigh—and the portion **16***a* will continue across the hip and about the waist to a point **18** at approximately the center of the rear waistline. Similarly the panel **11** has a side edge of which the part **20** extends from a point at the lower groin and the part **20***a* continues across the hip to a point **22** at the center of the rear waistline. As shown in Fig. 5, the respective panels are overlapped and secured so that the edge **23** of panel **10** overlies and is secured to the edge portion **20** of panel **11**, and the edge **24** of the panel **11** underlies and is secured to the edge portion **16** of the panel **10**. The upper edges **25**, **26** respectively of panels **10** and **11** overlap at the front of the garment, and collectively define the waistline of the garment except for a short gap at the rear of the garment which is completed by the rear panels as later described.

The edge **27** of panel **11** is stitched to the overlying portion of panel **10**, and the edge **28** of panel **10** is stitched to the underlying portion of panel **11**, as appears in Fig. 5.

In similar fashion, the panels **12** and **14** are assembled to form the composite substantially triangular rear portion of the garment. An edge portion **30**, of panel **12**, will align with the side edge portions **23**, **20**, of panels **10** and **11**, and will extend along the groin therewith; the continuation **30***a* of said side edge extends to a point **31** which is coincident with the point **22** of panel

11. The respective edges **20***a* and **30***a* are in registry.

The edge portion **33** of panel **14** will align with the edge portions **16** and **24** of panels **10** and **11**; the continuation **33***a* of panel **14** extends to a point **34** which is coincident with the point **18** of panel **10**. It will be seen that the respective panel portions between the points **31** and **34** overlap, and complete the waistline. The rear assembly has a double thickness, diamond shaped area corresponding to that formed by the overlapping panels at the front of the garment (compare Figs. 2 and 3). The notches **37**, **38** provide for the slide fastener or other closure **40**, it being understood that said closure may be variously located without deviation from the inventive concept of the garment.

The respective bottom edges **41**, **42** constitute the lower edge of the garment, and extend about the thighs of the wearer.

In completing the garment, the pairs of front and rear panels are stitched together along their free edges as follows: The edge portion **30** of the panel **12** is secured to the edge **23** of panel **10** and the edge **20** of panel **11**. The edge **43** of panel **14**, which had previously been secured to the panel **12**, is fastened at its upper corner to the edge portions **23** of panel **10** and **20** of panel **11**. The edge **44** of panel **14** is stitched to the edge **20***a* of panel **11** and **30***a* of panel **12**, and also is secured to the upper ends of edge portions **23** and **20**.

The edge **45** of panel **12** is stitched to panel **14**; edge **33** of panel **14** is stitched to the aligned edge portions **16**, **24** of panels **10** and **11**. Edge portions **33***a* and **46** of panels **14** and **12** attach to the edge portion **16***a* of panel **10**.

It will be noted by comparison of Figs. 1 and 2 that whereas there are continuous seam lines along the groins and across the hips to the upper back waistline, the seam lines from the buttocks to the navel are interrupted. The seam lines **43** and **45** are purposely at a lesser angle with respect to the horizontal than are seam lines **28** and **27**, to provide the most advantageous line of support for the buttocks. Another advantage of the offset or interrupted seam is to eliminate the concentration of the ends of the several panels, thus to prevent a multiple fabric area which would produce an unsightly protrusion at the hip of the wearer when worn.

It will be noted also that at the upper and lower portions of the thighs there is but a single, substantially triangular thickness of material; the double thickness is restricted to the diamond shaped control areas at the front and rear of the garment.

Examination of Figs. 1, 2 and 3 discloses clearly that the panel arrangement pursuant to the invention provides intersecting areas of support at the front and rear, and at each side of the garment. There is an upwardly directed lifting action extending from each groin, across the diaphragm, and thence about the opposite hip to an "anchor point" at the rear center waistline, and corresponding angular lines of support extending across the buttocks and angularly downwardly to an "anchor point" at the central portion of the front hemline. These last-named lines of support commence at the respective seam lines **20***a*—**30***a*—**44** and **16***a*—**33**—**46**, and pass downwardly across each other and about the respectively opposite hips.

Comfort to the wearer while walking, sitting, or bending, is assured by the absence of "bones" or

stiffeners, and the mutually opposed, triangular single thickness areas at the sides of the garment. It is apparent from the drawing that the base of each upper single-thickness triangle comprises a large portion of the waistline; and correspondingly, the base of each lower single-thickness triangle comprehends the full width of the thigh of the wearer. As the waistline increases while sitting, or the girth of the thigh increases while walking or stooping, the appropriate single-thickness areas freely yield, while the double-thickness panels continue to effect their intended smoothing and supporting action.

Although the invention has been described by making a full detailed reference to the certain presently preferred embodiments, such detail of description is to be understood in an instructive rather than a limiting sense, many changes being possible within the scope of the claim hereto appended.

I claim:

A girdle having a waist encircling upper edge and a thigh and buttocks encirling lower edge and front and rear sections, each of the front and rear sections comprising a pair of panels of material extendible in at least one direction, a double layer front central area formed by an overlap of the pair of panels of the front section, means securing the overlapped front panels together, a triangular single layer portion of each of the front panels adjacent the upper edge thereof, each of the triangular portions extending rearwardly of said girdle in a single layer from the double layer front central area on opposite sides of and adjacent to said waist encircling upper edge, an edge of each of said triangular single layer portions being adjacent to said body encircling upper edge, a double layer rear central area formed by an overlap of the panels of the rear section, means securing the overlapped rear panels together, a triangular single layer portion on each of the rear panels adjacent the lower edge thereof, each of the rear panel triangular portions extending forwardly of the girdle in a single layer from the double layer rear central area adjacent to said lower edge whereby the double layer front central area is positionable over the lower abdomen of the wearer and the double layer rear central area is positionable over the buttocks of the wearer, the single layer portions of the front panels are positionable around the waist of the wearer and the single layer portions of the rear panel are positionable over the outside of the upper thigh of the wearer.

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