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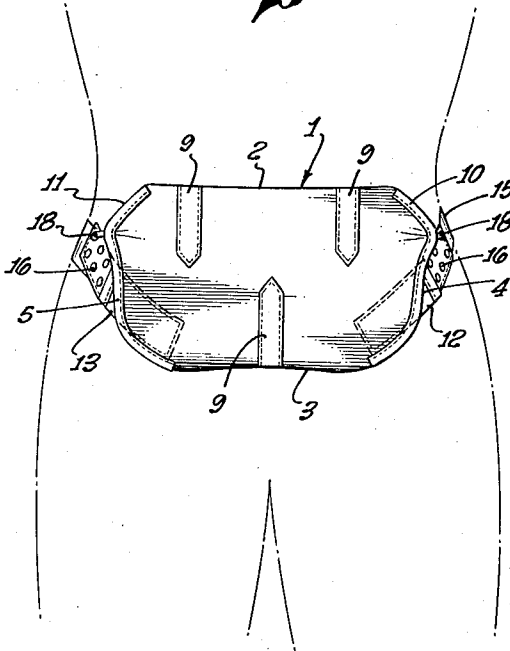
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ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS

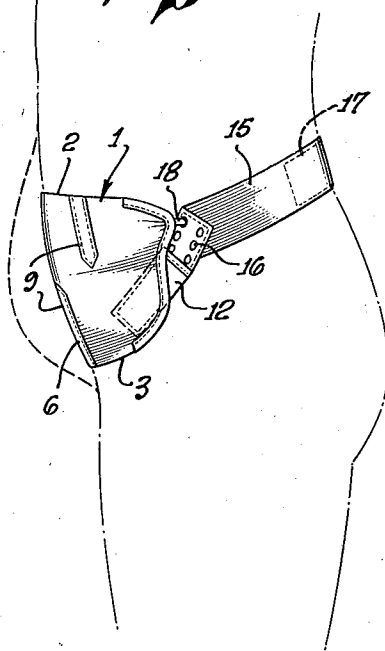
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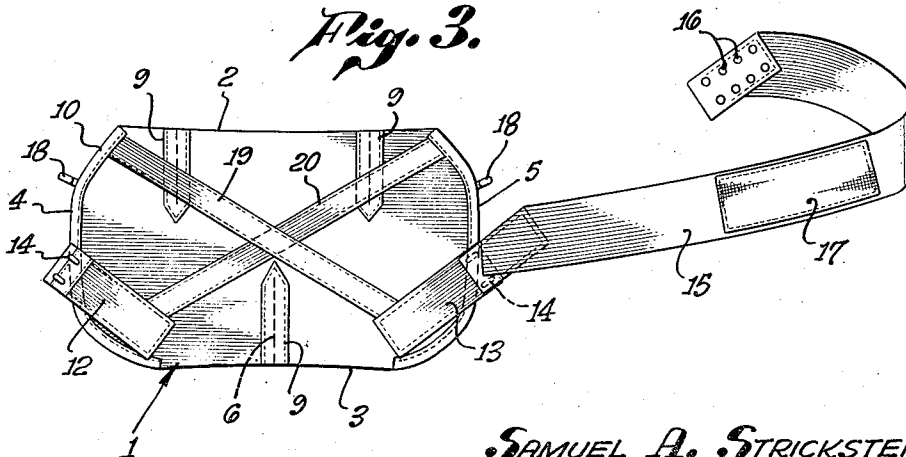
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



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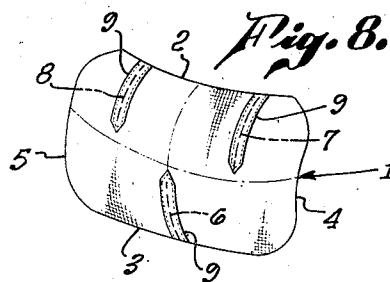
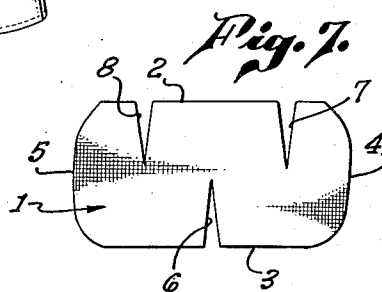
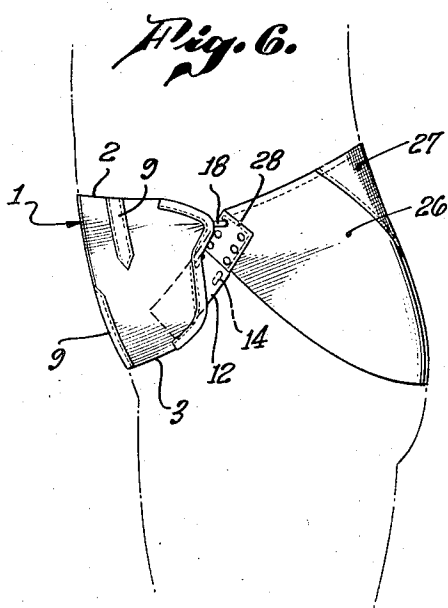
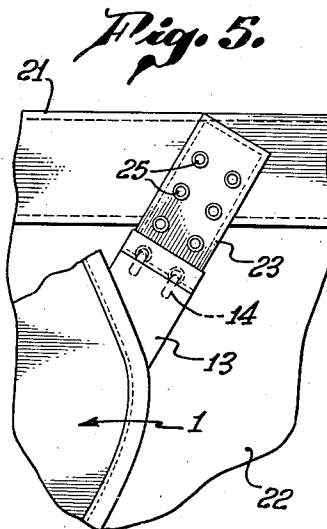
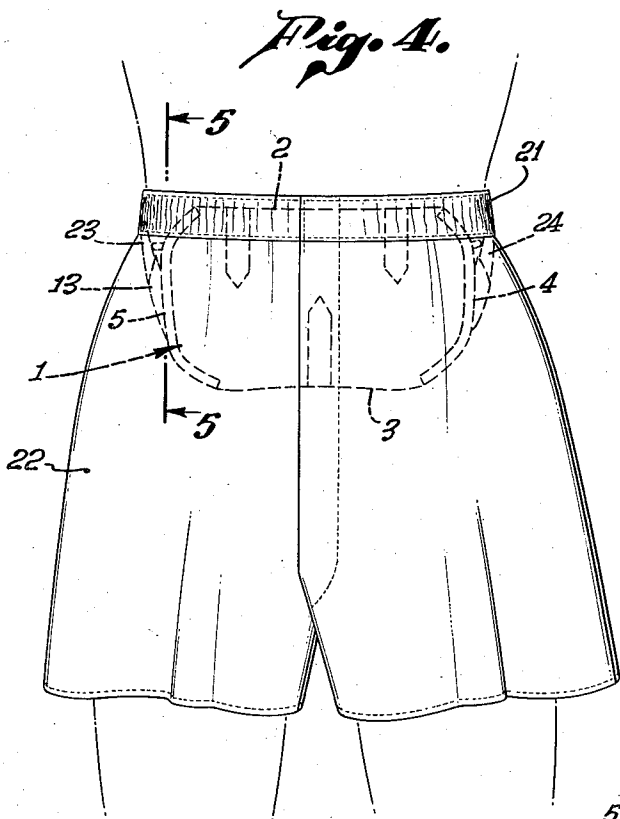
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ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS

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## ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 128—540)

The present invention relates to an abdominal supporter or brace which is constructed and arranged to lift and carry a sagging abdomen.

An object of the invention is to provide an abdominal supporter which is comfortable to wear, form-fitting, easily adjusted to give maximum abdominal support, and readily adaptable for use by both men and women.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an abdominal supporter which is smooth-surfaced and not visible under the clothing.

A further object is the provision of an abdominal supporter which is inexpensive in cost of manufacture, efficient in use, and generally superior to abdominal supporters now known to the inventor.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of one form of abdominal supporter shown on a wearer,

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the abdominal supporter shown in Figure 1 and positioned upon a wearer,

Figure 3 is an elevation of a modified form of abdominal supporter,

Figure 4 is a slightly modified form of abdominal supporter shown worn under a pair of shorts.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view looking in the direction of the arrows 5—5 of Figure 4,

Figure 6 is a side elevation of a modified form of abdominal supporter,

Figure 7 is a plan view of the abdominal supporter showing darts which are cut into the material during the manufacture of said supporter, and,

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the abdominal supporter after the darts of Figure 7 have been sewed together and fabric strips placed over the sewed areas.

Referring now with particularity to the drawings and specifically to Figures 7 and 8, I provide a substantially rectangular member 1, formed from elastic stretch material woven of cotton threads interwoven with elastic stretch rubber. Preferably, I utilize elastic stretch material which has an 80 to 90% stretch and which is sturdy. I have found in actual practice that 6" width elastic stretch material, which weighs substantially 19.28 pounds per hundred yards, is satisfactory. While the material may stretch lengthwise, transversely, or both ways simultaneously, I preferably utilize material that stretches lengthwise only.

The top and bottom edges 2 and 3, respectively, of the member 1 are substantially parallel when the elastic is not stretched, and the length of the blank will depend upon the girth of the individual wearing the abdominal supporter. To enhance the appearance of the supporter, the ends 4 and 5 may be rounded at the corners. Substantially intermediate the length of the blank and inward from the bottom edge 3 is a triangular cut-out 6. Substantially intermediate the transverse center of said blank and the edges 4 and 5 are two more triangular cut-outs which extend inwardly from the top edge 2, as shown at 7 and 8. These cut-outs are seamed together to provide darts, and provides a form fit supporter,

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as shown in perspective in Figure 8. In other words, the blank is concavo-convex and readily fits over the abdomen. I cover the darts with fabric strips, such as shown at 9. If desired, I may bind the edges 4 and 5, as shown in Figures 1 to 6, inclusive, at 10 and 11. To complete the abdominal supporter of the form shown in Figures 1, 2 and 4, I secure to the member 1, at the sides 4 and 5 thereof, elongated tabs 12 and 13, each provided with spaced hooks 14. A body strap 15 has its ends provided with spaced rows of eyelets 16 for receiving the hooks 14 to permit adjustment of the supporter on the body. The strap 15 may be formed of elastic material and provided intermediate its length with a non-stretch portion 17. It will be observed that the tabs 12 and 13 extend diagonally downwardly adjacent the edges 4 and 5 and that there is provided along said edges and above said tabs, hooks 18. The hooks 18 may engage certain of the eyelets in the body strap 15, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

That form of the invention shown in Figure 3 differs from the form shown in Figures 1 and 2 in that one face of the supporter is provided with diagonal elastic bands 19 and 20, and which elastic bands are sewed or otherwise secured to the supporter. These elastic bands extend from one top edge to the bottom edge of the member 1 and cross substantially at the center of the member.

In Figures 4 and 5, I have provided an elastic belt 21 for the shorts 22, which elastic belt 21 is provided with downwardly extending tabs at 23 and 24, which tabs are provided with eyelets 25. The hooks 14 are received in the eyelets for the purpose of adjustably securing the supporter to the body.

In Figure 6, I have provided a supporter of the form shown in Figures 1 and 2, which is adapted to be secured to member 26. This form of the invention is particularly adaptable for use by women, in that the member 26 has an extended area and takes the place of the belt 15. Member 26 is formed of elastic material and extends over the buttocks and around the waist of the wearer, being provided with a non-stretch area 27 and with a pair of tabs, one of which is shown at 28. The tabs are provided with eyelets for receiving the hooks 14 and 18 of the abdominal supporter.

The operation, uses and advantages of the invention are as follows:

Each abdominal supporter is provided with tabs, such as 12 and 13, extending at an angle from the sides of the lower half of the member 1, with the result that when said tabs are engaged with the belt or strap 15 and the strap encircles the body at the small of the back of the wearer, as shown in Figure 2, the supporter is pulled upwardly so as to lift the abdomen. In Figure 2, a sagging abdominal wall is indicated by dotted lines. As shown in Figure 2, this sagging abdominal wall is not only lifted upwardly but pulled inwardly to give proper support. The hooks 18 pull the top of the supporter inwardly when said hooks are received in one of the eyelets 16. As previously set forth, it is preferable to form the supporter from an elastic material which stretches lengthwise or horizontally and not vertically, for the reason that the horizontal stretch gives comfort to the wearer and assures that the abdomen is both carried and lifted. If there was a lateral stretch to the supporter, a heavy person might cause the supporter to give in two directions, and thereby not properly support the abdomen. The darts function to make the supporter form-fitting and the crossed elastic bands 19 and 20, where used, aid in restricting horizontal stretch of the supporter. The non-stretch portion 17 of the belt or strap 15 assures stretch in the supporter per se.

That form of the invention depicted in Figures 4 and 5

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contemplates the use of shorts in which there is an elastic encircling band at the waist portion. The elastic band may be directly sewed to the shorts, or be separate therefrom. The elastic band incorporates a non-stretch portion adjacent the small of the back. The tabs 23 bearing eyelets are secured to the elastic band and may be detached from the supporter proper when it is desirable to wash the shorts.

That form of the invention shown in Figure 6, as previously stated, is desirable for women, as it lends support over the hips as well as supporting the abdominal wall. An abdominal support of the character of the present invention effectively relieves strain on the diaphragm and weakened abdominal muscles. Ordinarily, a device of the character of the invention does not require any breaking-in period, as the device is comfortable to begin with and the inward and upward lift of the supporter is easily regulated by the adjustment permitted with the elastic strap or belt 15.

I claim:

An abdominal supporter including a substantially rectangular member of concavo-convex form and of elastic stretch material, the elastic stretching to a greater extent

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horizontally than vertically, a pair of non-elastic tabs secured to said rectangular shaped member adjacent the bottom edge thereof and extending upwardly and outwardly from the side edges thereof, hooks secured to the outer ends of said tabs and hooks secured to the side edges of said rectangular member and spaced above the said tabs, a body encircling strap of elastic material provided at its ends with rows of eyelets for detachable engagement with the hooks on said tabs and with the hooks positioned above said tabs on said rectangular member, the said strap having a non-stretch area positioned normally at the small of the back of the wearer of said strap.

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