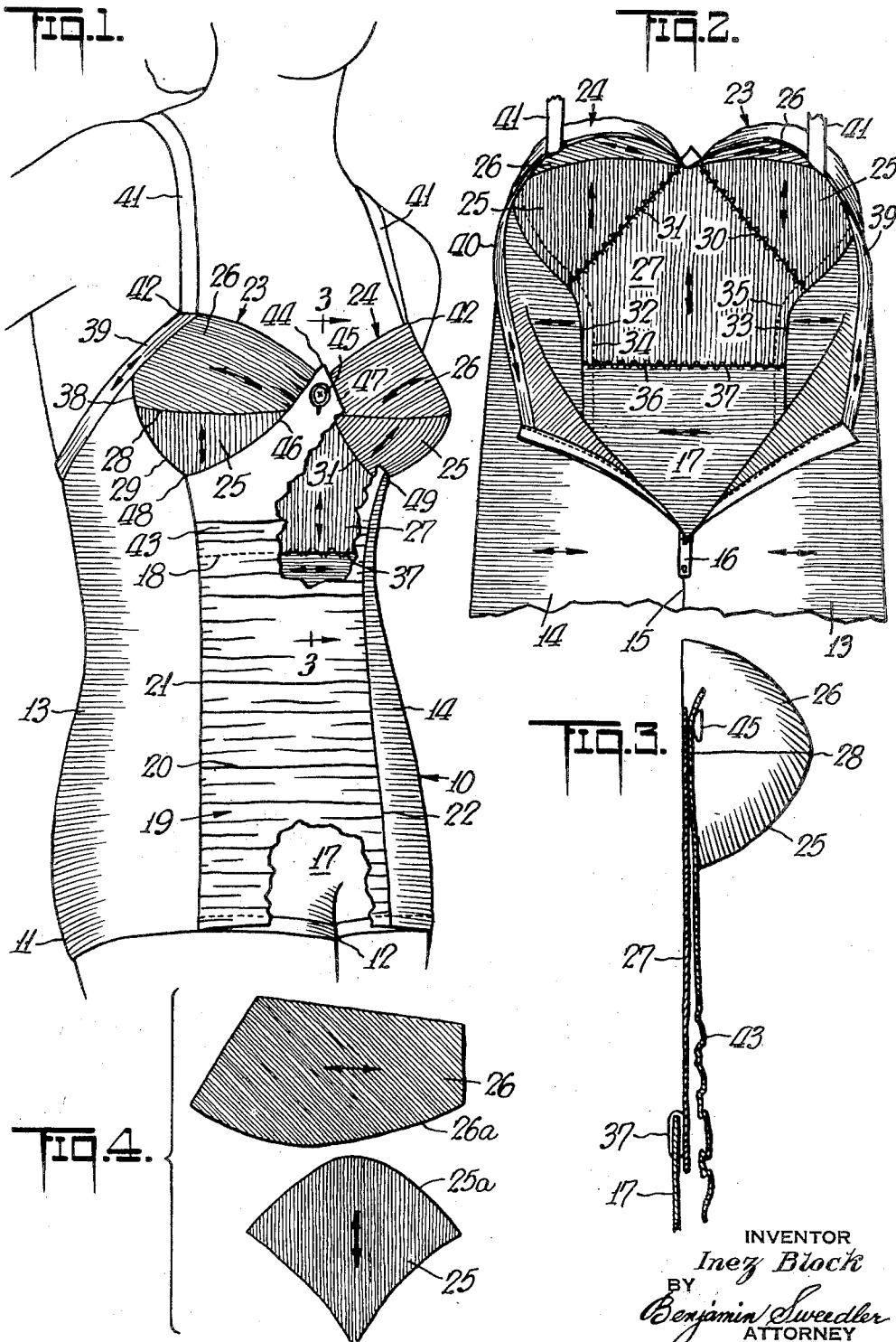


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BATHING SUIT

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BATHING SUIT

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This invention relates to ladies' and girls' bathing suits, and more particularly to such bathing suits of the tight-fitting type, usually made from woven material having rubber threads and adapted to stretch to fit the body snugly.

It is among the objects of this invention to provide ladies' and girls' bathing suits which will uplift, correct and properly support the bust, will do so while the wearer is swimming or bathing, as well as otherwise stretching the upper portion of the body and which notwithstanding movement of the arms and upper portion of the body of the wearer including stretching of the upper portion of the body, as takes place during swimming, will still cover and properly support the bust.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will be apparent from the following detailed description thereof.

In accordance with this invention the upper portion of the bathing suit, i. e., the portion above the waistline, is constructed to provide two spaced breast-receiving cups or pockets, at least the lower portions of these cups being made of one-way stretch fabric capable of stretching in a vertical direction. If desired, these cups may be made in their entirety of such one-way stretch fabric. A panel also made of a one-way stretch fabric stretchable in a vertical direction is positioned below these cups. This panel is joined to the cups by seams which permit relative movement between the cups and this panel. With this construction the upper portion of the bathing suit containing the breast-receiving cups can stretch in a vertical direction.

The breast-receiving cups uplift, correct and properly support the bust and continue to do so notwithstanding stretching of the body of the wearer while swimming or for other reasons. This is the case because the breast-receiving cups can stretch relative to the connecting panel and relative to the side portions of the suit to which they are attached.

In the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification and showing, for purposes of exemplification, a preferred form of this invention without limiting the claimed invention to such illustrative instance,

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the bathing suit embodying this invention, portions thereof being broken away to show the interior construction of the suit;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary back perspective view of the bathing suit of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a vertical section taken in a plane passing through line 3-3 on Figure 1; and

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Figure 4 is a plan view of the upper and lower panels of each breast-receiving cup in non-assembled condition.

In the drawing 10 indicates the body portion of a bathing suit provided with panty or leg portions 11 having a crotch 12. The lower portion of the suit may be of any well known construction. For example, it may comprise two panels 13 and 14 of one-way stretch material stretchable transversely secured together by a seam 15 at the base of the back of the suit. The upper portion of these two panels may be provided with a zipper 16 or other fastener. At the front of the suit panels 13 and 14 are sewn to an intermediate underlying panel 17 to which the crotch 12 is fastened and which extends from the bottom of the suit to waistline 18. A decorative overlying panel 19, which may be pleated as indicated at 20 transversely of its length extends the full length of the suit. Desirably, panel 19 is secured at its sides to the side panels 13 and 14. For example, the overlying panel 19 and the underlying panel 17 may be secured as by seams 21 and 22 to the side panels 13 and 14. The panels 17 and 19 like the panels 13 and 14, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, are made of one-way stretch material stretchable transversely. Hence, the suit fits the body snugly, i. e., is tight-fitting.

Two spaced breast-receiving pockets 23 and 24 are formed in the upper portion of the suit. As best shown in Figure 4, each of these pockets is constituted of a lower substantially diamond-shaped panel 25 of one-way stretch material stretchable in a vertical direction and an upper laterally elongated panel 26 which in the preferred embodiment of the invention is made of a one-way stretch material stretchable in a lateral direction as indicated by the arrows on these panels. The breast-receiving pockets 23 and 24 are secured to an intermediate connecting panel 27 of a one-way stretch material stretchable in a vertical direction. In the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawing, panel 27 bridges the space between the two-breast-receiving pockets 23, 24.

The panels 25, 26 of each breast-receiving pocket and the intermediate panel 27 are seamed to the side panels 13 and 14 and thus form the upper portion of the front of the suit. Panels 25 and 26 of each breast-receiving pocket are secured together by seam 28 along the sides 25^a and 26^a so that when the two panels are thus secured to each other they form a cup or pocket, as is evident from the drawing.

One lower inclined side of each of the panels

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25 is sewn to the side panels 13 and 14 to form seams 29. The other lower inclined sides of the panels 25 are sewn to the connecting panel 27 forming downwardly diverging seams 30, 31. These seams 30 and 31 are made with elastic thread or a zig zag or other stitch, so that the seams are elastic and permit relative movement of the breast-receiving pockets 23, 24 relative to the intermediate connecting panel 27. The sides 32 and 33 of the lower portion of the pentagonal panel 27 are secured by seams 34 and 35 to the side panels 13 and 14. The base 36 of the panel 27 is secured by seam 37 to the top of underlying panel 17.

Each of the upper panels 26 of the breast-receiving pockets 23, 24 is secured to one of the side panels 13 and 14 by a seam 38. Elastic tapes 39, 40 stretchable in a transverse direction, as indicated by the arrows thereon, may be secured to the side panels and one inclined side of the upper panels 26. These tapes are under tension so that the upper portion of the suit snugly engages the body beneath the armpits. Straps 41 are suitably fastened, as at 42, to the tops of the breast-receiving cups 23, 24.

Panel 19 is provided with a top portion 43 of substantially the same shape as panel 27 overlying this panel and having its apex 44 buttoned, as at 45, to the top of the bathing suit at a point at the front center neckline between the breast-receiving pockets 23 and 24. The inclined side edges 46 and 47 of portion 43 are loose, i. e., are not attached to the underlying panel 27. Further, portion 43 is dimensioned not to restrain vertical stretch of panel 27.

In the construction hereinabove described the breast-receiving pockets or cups 23 and 24 snugly receive the breasts of the wearer and uplift and support them. As these cups can move relative to the intermediate connecting panel 27 and they, as well as this connecting panel, can stretch in a vertical direction the cups 23 and 24 continue to uplift, cover and properly support the bust while the wearer is swimming, bathing, or otherwise stretching the body. The body in swimming elongates particularly from the waist to the point where the bust joins the midriff. In the suit of this invention panel 27 accommodates such elongation and does so without interference with the functions of the breast-receiving cups 23 and 24.

It will be noted the panel 19 is attached to the suit only by the side seams 21 and 22 and by button 45 at the front center neckline. Seams 21 and 22 terminate at points 48 and 49 leaving the edges 46 and 47 of portion 43 loose. These loose edges permit full utilization of the vertical stretch of panel 27 to accommodate elongation of the body in the midriff and bust portions thereof.

The construction of the bathing suit embodying this invention admirably lends itself to being made with breast-receiving cups in different sizes to accommodate different sizes of busts. Thus, by selecting the proper size, the wearer will obtain a close and proper fitting suit which will not only fit properly about the portion of the body below the waist but will also properly fit the bust portion of the body and accommo-

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date elongation of the body in the midriff and bust portions thereof.

Since certain changes may be made in the above described bathing suit and different embodiments of this invention could be made 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. For example, instead of the pentagonal panel 27, the breast-receiving cups 23 and 24 may abut and a panel disposed beneath these breast-receiving cups connecting them to or near the waistline portion of the suit, which panel is made of a one-way stretch material stretchable vertically. Instead of having each breast-receiving cup formed of panels 25 and 26, each cup may be composed of a single panel of one-way stretch material stretchable in a vertical direction. Panel 43 may be shaped otherwise than as shown, need not have its top buttoned as at 45, and, if desired, may be omitted entirely.

What is claimed is:

1. A tight-fitting bathing suit comprising a body portion formed of two side panels of one-way stretch material stretchable in a lateral direction, a front panel extending from the base of the bathing suit to the waistline and having its sides secured to said side panels, said front panel being of one-way stretch material stretchable in a transverse direction, the upper portion of said suit containing two breast-receiving pockets each formed of two panels, the lower panel of each pocket being formed of one-way stretch material stretchable in a vertical direction and the upper panel of each pocket of one-way stretch material stretchable in a lateral direction, an intermediate panel bridging the space between said breast-receiving pockets, having the upper portion thereof substantially triangular in shape and secured by stretchable and contractable seams to the sides of the said lower panels and having the base thereof secured to the top of said front panel, said intermediate panel being of one-way stretch material stretchable in a vertical direction, and a decorative panel of substantially the same width as the front panel extending from top to bottom of the bathing suit and overlying said front and intermediate panels.

2. A bathing suit as defined in claim 1, in which the decorative panel is made of one-way stretch material stretchable in a transverse direction and is secured to the suit only at the sides thereof and at its top at the front center neckline of the suit leaving said intermediate panel free to stretch in a vertical direction without restraint by said decorative panel.

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