Oct. 28, 1958 G. C. FINN 2,857,600

WOMAN'S BATHING SUIT

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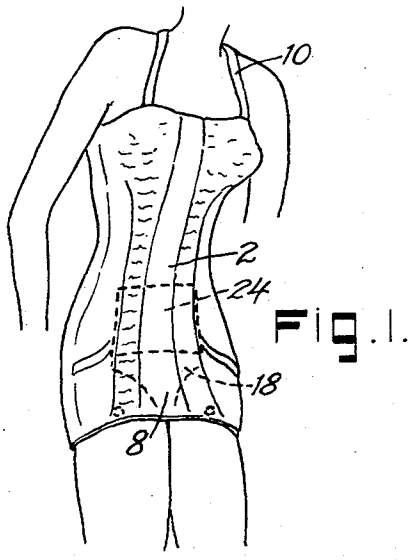


Fig. 1.

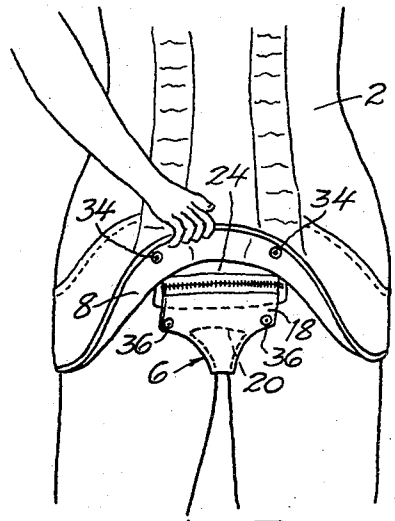


Fig. 2.

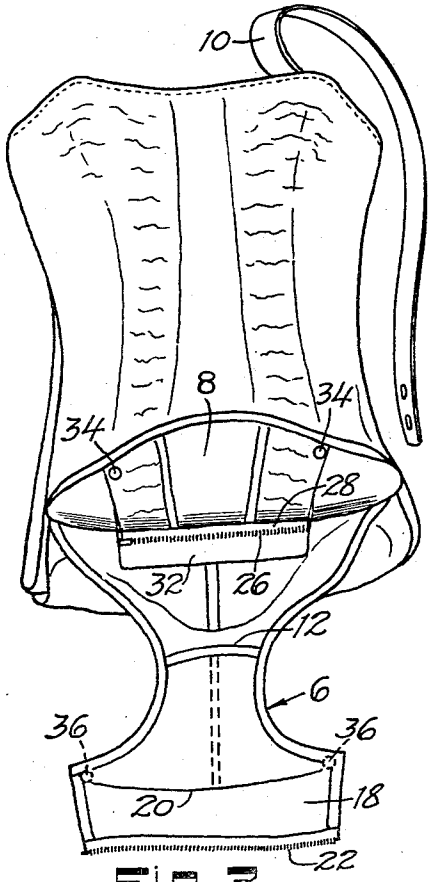


Fig. 3.

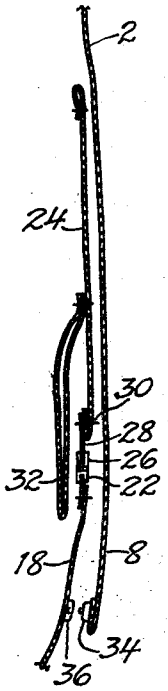


Fig. 5.

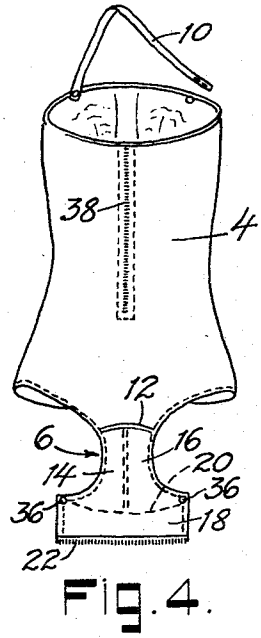


Fig. 4.

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WOMAN'S BATHING SUIT

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—67)

This invention relates to women's bathing suits and is directed particularly to constructions which are more readily put on, taken off, and unloosened than those of the prior art.

Practically all women's bathing suits, whether they have shoulder straps or not, are difficult to put on and take off. The wearer must in any event put her feet through the leg openings and draw the suit upward into place. Since most suits are tight fitting and may be made of elastic material, the very operation of putting the suit on is frequently difficult. Thereafter, in the event the wearer wishes to go to the toilet, the suit must be stripped off completely or at least lowered below the knees, and finally must be put back on again, with added difficulty and discomfort if the suit is wet and cold.

In accordance with the present invention these objecitons and difficulties of the prior art are overcome and constructions provided which render it much easier to put a bathing suit on or take it off and further permit release of the suit for toilet purposes without complete removal thereof.

These advantages are attained by providing the suit with a releasable crotch piece which, however, may be conventional in form and effectively concealed when the bathing suit is worn.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a new type of women's bathing suit which is more readily put on and taken off.

A further object of the invention is to provide a bathing suit with means permitting the wearer to use a toilet without removal of the suit.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a woman's bathing suit with a crotch piece which is releasably held in place and effectively concealed when the suit is worn.

These and other objects and features of the present invention will appear from the following description thereof wherein reference is made to the figures of the accompanying drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective illustrating a typical woman's bathing suit embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view of the construction of Fig. 1 showing the releasable crotch piece;

Fig. 3 is a front view of the bathing suit shown in Fig. 1 with the crotch piece open;

Fig. 4 is a rear view of the bathing suit of Fig. 1 with the crotch piece open; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view through a portion of the bathing suit of Fig. 1.

In that form of the invention chosen for purposes of illustration in the drawing, the bathing suit has a front portion 2 and a rear portion 4. Connected to the lower portions of the front and rear of the suit is a crotch piece 6 which when secured in place serves to provide the usual leg openings on opposite sides thereof.

The style of the suit may, of course, be varied greatly but the lower portion of the front 2 of the suit preferably has a skirt portion 8 which extends below the front

end of the crotch piece to conceal the same and present an attractive feminine appearance. The upper portion of the suit may be strapless or have a halter 10 or other shoulder styling as desired. The material of which the suit is made can, of course, be any of those heretofore used so that the present invention is adapted for use with substantially any type, style or make of woman's bathing suit without material change in the body or skirt portion thereof.

The crotch piece 6 of the present invention is connected in any conventional manner to the rear of the suit as by means of the stitching 12. Further, as shown, it may be formed of two lateral pieces 14 and 16 joined along a central seam to afford maximum comfort and flexibility with attendant strength. The forward end portion 18 of the crotch piece is enlarged and connected to the pieces 14 and 16 by stitching 20 or otherwise. The free edge of the portion 18 is provided with detachable fastening means 22 which are shown as consisting of slide fastener elements, but may consist of button holes, snaps, hooks or other suitable means.

Most women's bathing suits have a restraining or supporting band or girdle insert which extends across the lower portion of the front 2 of the suit as shown at 24 in Fig. 5. In accordance with the present invention fastening means such as complementary slide fastener elements 26, or buttons, snaps, eyes or the like are located on the inner side of the front portion of the suit or adjacent the lower edge of the band 24 to cooperate with the fastener elements 22 for releasably securing the crotch piece in place. If the tape 28 or other support for the fastening elements 26 on the front of the suit is stitched as shown at 30 to the band 24, its existence and location will be completely concealed. However, if desired, such stitching may serve to attach the skirt portion 8 to the front portion 2 of the body or may otherwise be concealed in the decoration and dress of the garment.

In order to afford comfort and protection for the wearer, a cover flap 32 is provided on the interior of the fastener elements and preferably is carried by the band 24 so as to extend downward over the slide fastener and beyond the upper or releasable edge of the portion 18 of the crotch piece. In this way a smooth protecting surface is interposed between the wearer's body and the connection of the crotch piece with the front of the suit. The cover flap 32 may be secured in place by the stitching 30 or by separate or additional stitching as desired. The entire inner surface of the crotch piece may, of course, be provided with the usual inner lining of jersey material or the like for comfort and protection against chafing or wear of the elastic or other fabric used in forming the piece.

The skirt portion 8 which extends across the front of the suit at the lower edge thereof, extends well below the releasable connecting means or slide fastener, but may be raised as shown in Fig. 2 in order to provide access thereto. However, the skirt portion and the forward end portion 18 of the crotch piece are preferably provided with releasable attaching means such as snap fasteners which serve to hold the skirt portion down and further afford an additional safety measure which prevents accidental release of the crotch piece in the event of failure of the slide fastener or if a button or snap should come off or become unfastened. For this purpose snaps or fasteners 34 are attached to the inner surface of the skirt portion 8 and complementary snaps or fasteners 36 are secured on the exterior of the forward end portion 18 of the crotch piece.

The construction thus provided is capable of being easily put on and taken off. It may be slipped on over the head like a dress or slip, particularly if the upper body portion is provided with a slide fastener or other

means such as that shown at 38. However, if preferred, the user may step into the suit in the conventional manner either before or after the crotch piece has been secured in place. Ordinarily, the crotch piece is released before the suit is put on. It is then brought forward between the legs and upward until the forward end portion is in position for attachment of the separable fastener elements 22 on the end portion 18 with the complementary fastener elements 22 adjacent the lower edge of the band 24 or the front of the suit. If a slide fastener is used a completely separable type of slide is used and it may simply be drawn across the wearer's abdomen, the wearer's body being protected by the inner cover flap 32. Thereafter the skirt portion 8 is lowered and the snaps 34 and 36, if employed, may be snapped together to present a neat, attractive and wholly conventional appearing suit.

In the event the user should wish to go to the toilet, it is only necessary to raise the skirt portion 8, disconnecting the snaps 34 and 36, if used, and to release the end portion 18 of the crotch piece from the band 24 or front of the suit by disengaging the separable connecting elements 22 and 24. The suit itself need not be removed or disarranged and, of course, the crotch piece can be readily restored in place without the discomfort heretofore encountered and even though the suit itself should be wet.

In a similar way, upon release of the crotch piece, the suit can be easily removed over the head or by stepping out of the suit in the usual manner.

The construction provided in accordance with the present invention is capable of application to bathing suits of existing design and requires only a very limited alteration in construction and manufacturing procedure. In fact, the crotch piece of the present invention may be produced and sold by itself for use in existing bathing suits as a replacement item to be applied by the wearers themselves.

While the construction shown in the drawings and described above is particularly simple and economical to produce and apply, it will be apparent that numerous changes in the form, construction and arrangement of the elements of the combination may be made. In view thereof, it should be understood that the embodiment chosen for this purpose is intended to be illustrative only and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A woman's bathing suit including a tubular body open at both upper and lower ends so as to permit the suit to be slipped on over the head of the wearer, said body including a front portion and a rear portion united to form a circumferential assembly defining an upper bust covering section and a lower torso covering section, the upper terminal edge of the bust covering section being adapted to extend across the chest and beneath the arms, a crotch member permanently secured at its rear end to the lower part of the torso covering section of the rear portion, complementary detachable securing means on the crotch member and front portion for releasably attaching the free forward end of the crotch member to the inner face of the front portion above the lower edge thereof in position to be concealed by the lower torso covering section of the front portion whereby said crotch member may constitute a crotch covering part defining leg openings, and auxiliary detachable securing means on the crotch member vertically spaced from the first mentioned securing means and on said lower torso covering section adjacent the lower edge of the front portion for releasably holding the torso covering section of the front portion in crotch concealing position.

2. A woman's bathing suit as defined in claim 1 wherein the crotch member has a relatively narrow crotch covering area and a relatively broad front terminal area presenting a transversely extending edge, along which edge the first mentioned detachable securing means are located.

3. A woman's bathing suit as defined in claim 1 wherein said crotch member is generally T-shaped in construction to provide a relatively narrow crotch covering area and a relatively broad transverse terminal area presenting a transversely extending edge along which the first mentioned detachable securing means are located, the outer corners of the broad terminal area of the crotch member having the auxiliary detachable securing means thereon at points spaced from the transversely extending edge of the crotch member.

4. A woman's bathing suit as defined in claim 1 wherein the front portion of the suit is provided with a transversely extending supporting band located on the interior of the front portion above the lower edge of the torso covering section and which carries the complementary detachable securing means of the front portion for engagement with the detachable securing means on the crotch member.

5. A woman's bathing suit including a tubular body open at both upper and lower ends so as to permit the suit to be slipped on over the head and comprising a front portion provided at its lower end with a skirt simulating part and a back portion united with the front portion so as to provide a circumferential assembly, a crotch piece extending downward from the back portion and having a relatively narrow crotch covering area and a wider free end with detachable connecting means thereon adjacent and generally parallel to said wider free end, the crotch piece being of sufficient length to be drawn forward and upward between a wearer's legs to a wearing position in which said wider free end is located behind the skirt simulating part and above the lower edge thereof, an elongated abdominal band extending transversely of the front portion and from adjacent the waistline downwardly, said band being secured along its ends to the front portion on the interior thereof and having a substantially straight lower edge which is at least as long as the edge of the wider free end of the crotch piece and located above the lower edge of the skirt simulating part, and complementary detachable connecting means carried by and located adjacent said lower edge of said supporting band for releasable engagement with the connecting means on the wider free end of the crotch piece to hold the crotch piece in said wearing position with the connecting means concealed by said skirt simulating part.

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