Aug. 8, 1944. C. H. VAN ALLAN 2,355,575

GIRDLE AND CORSET STAY

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Fig. 1.

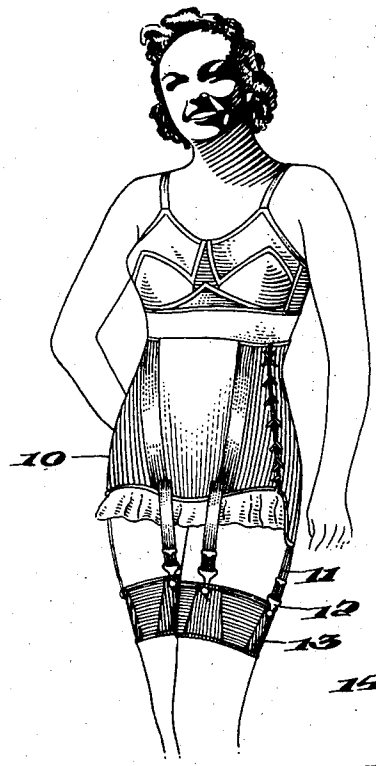


Fig. 2.

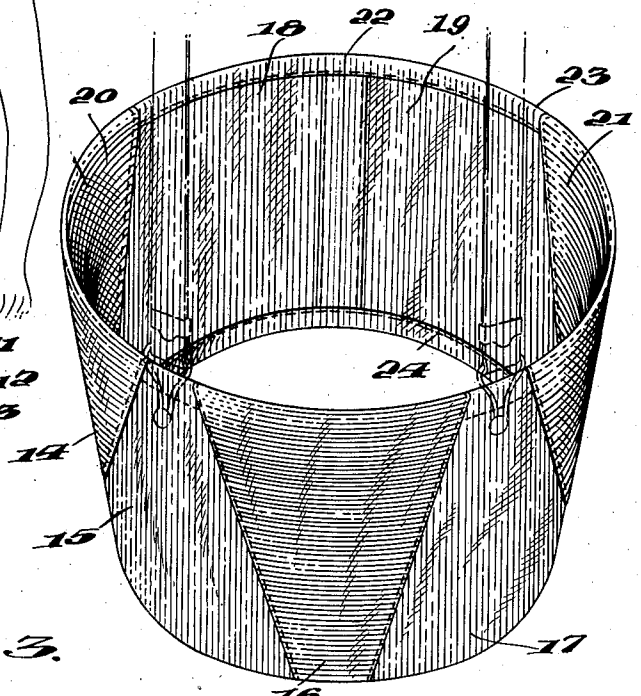


Fig. 3.

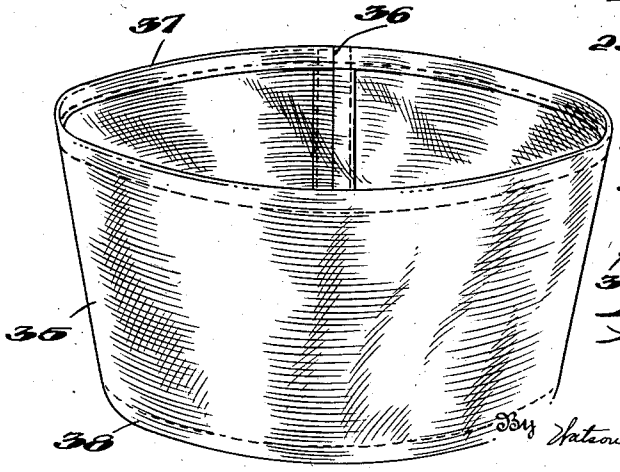


Fig. 2a.



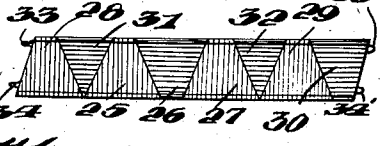


Fig. 2b.

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Fig. 4.

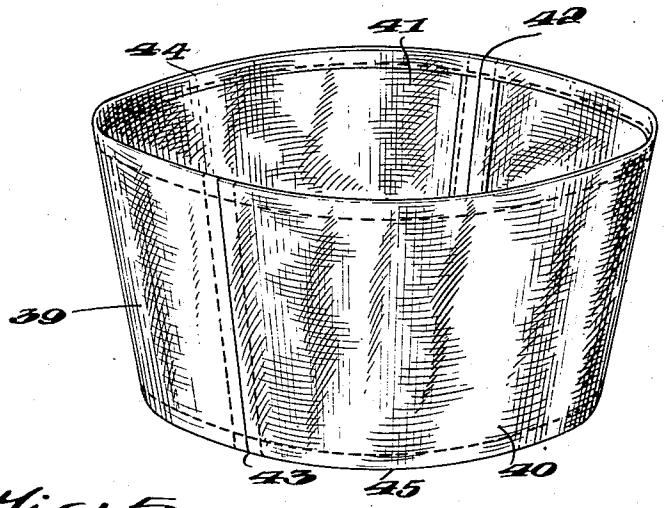


Fig. 5.

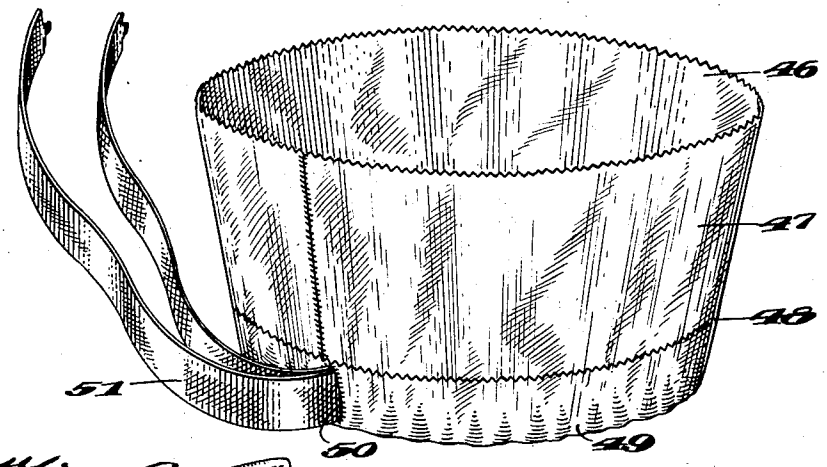
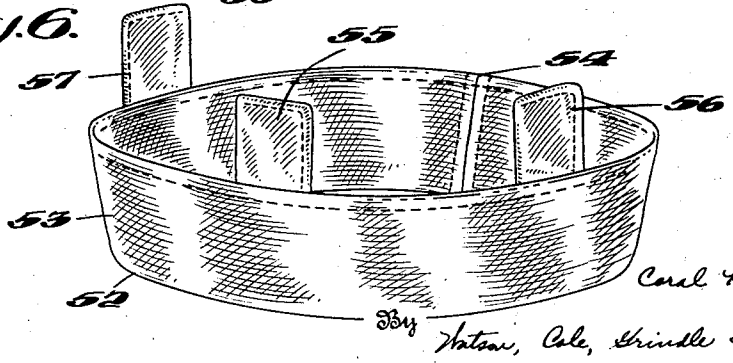


Fig. 6.



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GIRDLE AND CORSET STAY

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Application September 19, 1942, Serial No. 458,987

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—313)

This invention relates to improvements in wearing apparel and particularly to means to maintain a corset, girdle, surgical belt, abdominal belt, or the like in a desired position upon the wearer's body.

It is customary, when wearing a girdle, corset, abdominal belt or the like to attach the ends of garter straps depending from the girdle to the tops of stockings. By so attaching the girdle to the stockings the girdle is prevented from sliding upwardly, the stockings serving as an anchoring means for the girdle. When stockings are not worn, however, either because of the current style or because of a shortage of hosiery, the necessity for the provision of some means of maintaining the girdle in position becomes apparent.

Heretofore various attachments for corsets or the like, for the purpose of retaining the corset in position, have been proposed but, for one reason or another, have not met with popular favor.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved anchoring means by which a girdle or the like is prevented from sliding upwardly when stockings are not worn and which is of such character that it is acceptable to an exacting wearer, from all points of view. The improved girdle "stay-down" will fit closely the thigh of the wearer and will not slide upwardly when the garter straps of the girdle are secured to the "stay-down" even though a substantial pull may be exerted by such straps, and will remain comfortable to the wearer at all times.

The girdle "stay-down" which comprises the subject matter of the invention fits smoothly the thigh of the wearer at all times and will not show through the outer garments.

Other advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the "stay-down" as applied to the body of the wearer;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of this invention;

Figure 2*a* is a diagrammatic view of the composite strip from which is formed the endless band shown in Figure 2;

Figure 2*b* is a diagrammatic view of the composite strip from which is formed a modification of the endless band shown in Figure 2;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a modified form of the invention;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another modified form of the invention;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a still further modification of this invention;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of another modified form of this invention.

The girdle **10** illustrated in Figure 1 is of conventional type, having attached thereto a plurality of depending straps **11**. These straps are adjustable and carry fasteners **12** at their lower ends. In order to prevent the girdle riding upwardly when stockings are not worn, the fasteners **12** are detachably secured to the girdle "stay-down" **13** in a manner similar to that used when stockings are worn.

In Figure 2 of the drawings the girdle "stay-down" **14** is in the form of an endless band formed of front parts **15, 16, 17**; back parts **18, 19**; and a pair of side parts **20, 21**. The front parts **15, 17** and rear parts **18, 19** consist of sections, each of which preferably has the shape of a trapezoid and is fabricated of a web of fabric incapable of stretching in a vertical direction but preferably stretchable in a horizontal direction. The front part **16** having the configuration of a trapezoid and the side parts **20, 21** which are preferably triangular in shape, are formed of elastic material having in the preferred form a two-way stretch but which may be of the same material as parts **15, 17, 18, 19**, the material being so disposed that the direction of stretch is at right angles to the direction of stretch of parts **15, 17, 18, 19**. The rear parts **18, 19** are joined securely together along seam **22** thereby completing the endless band. Narrow hems **23, 24** may be formed on the upper and lower edges of the band to increase the resistance to wear.

Figure 2*a* is a diagrammatic view of the composite strip from which is formed the band shown in Figure 2 and shows the general form of all parts and their relative arrangement in the strip. In this figure the parts have been indicated by using the same numerical characters as used on the corresponding parts in Figure 2.

In the diagrammatic view of the composite strip shown in Figure 2*b* there is illustrated a modification of the strip disclosed in Figure 2*a*. When the ends of the strip shown in Figure 2*b* are joined, three parts **25, 26, 27** will form the front portion of the "stay-down"; three parts **28, 29, 30** will form the back portion; and two parts **31, 32** will form the side portions of the "stay-down." On each terminal piece **28, 30**, cooperating separable fasteners such as eye-hooks **33, 33'** and **34, 34'** are mounted, these fasteners being adapted to secure the ends of the strips together thereby forming an endless band about

the thigh. Each part **25, 27, 28, 29** comprises a section having the shape of a trapezoid cut from fabric which is incapable of stretching appreciably in a vertical direction, but which preferably may stretch horizontally. Trapezoidal sections **26, 30** and sections **31, 32**, each of which may be either in the form of an inverted triangle or trapezoid, are formed preferably of elastic material capable of a two-way stretch but may be formed of the same material as sections **25, 27, 28, 29** cut so that the principal direction of stretch is at right angles to that of the other sections. Making certain sections capable of elongating in a vertical direction up and down the wearer's body and other sections capable of circumferential expansion prevents the "stay-down" from slipping and sliding laterally over the wearer's body.

The arrangement of the various parts shown in Figures 2*a* and 2*b* provide for a distribution of elasticity which will prevent the "stay-down" from sliding upwardly or laterally upon the wearer's body under the tension of straps **11** when fasteners **12** are secured to the firm parts **25, 27** or **28, 29** of the "stay-down." In addition to the cooperation between the elastic and inelastic parts of Figures 2*a* and 2*b* which produces an even distribution of elasticity, the various parts are cut and assembled so that the "stay-down" conforms to the normal taper of the thigh even before the attachment is placed on the thigh.

To assist in maintaining the "stay-down" in position, the band is made of such width as to distribute the radial pressure upon the thigh over a relatively wide area. Thus, by providing for an even distribution of elasticity, having the band conform to the normal taper of the thigh, and making the band of sufficient width, the "stay-down" is not only held firmly in position but is at all times comfortable to the wearer.

The girdle "stay-downs" just described and shown in Figures 2 and 2*b* are especially designed for stout figures since, in the case of such a figure, there is normally a greater pull exerted by the garter straps upon the hold-down means. This form of the invention, however, may be used for all types of figures. It will be found particularly helpful to those who are very active since the "stay-down" is designed to accommodate itself to the tension resulting from the movement of the body when the wearer bends or stretches.

In Figure 3 there is illustrated another embodiment of the invention. Here the circular band **35** is formed from a relatively wide piece of fabric, preferably of material which is vertically and circumferentially extensible and contractible and so cut that, when the ends of said piece of fabric are joined to form a seam **36**, the circular band **35** conforms to the normal taper of the thigh. The upper and lower edge of the band **35** may be further strengthened by folding narrow hems **37, 38** thereon. It will be noted that the band is of sufficient width to provide ample room for the strap fastener **12** to be secured to the upper edge of the "stay-down" in the manner similar to that shown in Figure 1. Moreover the band is of such width and form as to evenly distribute the pressure on the thigh over a wide area thereby increasing the comfort to the wearer and preventing the "stay-down" from sliding upwardly on the thigh. The modification just described and shown in Figure 3 will be found most satisfactory for general use where a medium weight girdle is worn.

In the further modified form of the invention shown in Figure 4 the "stay-down" **39** is formed of two pieces of knitted fabric **40, 41** so cut that each has the shape of a trapezoid with the shorter horizontal side as the base. Thus, when the ends of the pieces **40, 41** are joined to form seams **42, 43**, the band **39** will conform to the normal taper of the thigh. Narrow hems **44, 45** are formed on the upper and lower edges of the band respectively to increase resistance to wear. The form just described and shown in Figure 4 is designed for a general use where a medium weight girdle is used.

In Figure 5 a further modification of the present invention is shown. In this form the "stay-down" **46** is fabricated of a relatively wide band of fabric **47** such as that commonly used in the manufacture of hosiery, the lower margin of said band **47** being turned upwardly and its edge being stitched as at **48** to define a narrow circular passage having an opening **50**. This passage defining portion **49** with its opening **50** serves as retaining means for a drawstring **51**. After the wearer has placed the "stay-down" **46** in position, the ends of the strap **51** are drawn until the lower edge of the "stay-down" **46** is held firmly in position. The ends of the drawstring **51** are then tied securely. In this manner additional security against the girdle sliding upwardly is obtained.

In the modified form of the invention shown in Figure 6 of the drawings, the "stay-down" indicated generally at **52** is formed from a relatively narrow strip of fabric **53** which is preferably but not necessarily of inelastic material. The ends of the piece **53** are securely joined along seam **54**. As indicated in the drawings the strip **53** is cut so as to give the "stay-down" **52** a slight taper causing it to conform to the shape of the thigh. Attached to the upper edge of the band at its front and side, are three tabs **55, 56**, and **57**, respectively, tabs **55** and **56** being positioned on that side of the band which is to be to the front when the band is worn, and tab **57** being to the side at such time. All three tabs **55, 56, 57** are arranged so as to cooperate with the depending straps of the girdle. It is understood that the tabs may be placed in any position necessary to facilitate the attaching of the girdle strap to the "stay-down." The modified form just described and shown in Figure 6 will be found particularly useful for slender figures where normally light girdles or the like are worn.

It should be understood that any of the embodiments of this invention could be made in various sizes and adapted to be positioned on the thigh by using eye-hooks, snap fasteners or any other type of separable fastener. Those who find it inconvenient to slide the "stay-down" over the leg might prefer simply to hook the "stay-down" about the thigh.

As has been pointed out previously the "stay-downs" are preferably though not necessarily made of elastic material. Such material as nylon, rayon, silk, cotton and knitted fabric as well as elastic fabric employing rubber or the like may be successfully used. Regardless of what material is used, however, it must be understood that the band has a limited circumferential expansion. Thus, after the band has been positioned on the thigh, there is no additional circumferential expansion and the band is for the most part inextensible.

The embodiments of the invention shown in the drawings and described in the specification

embody the generic features of the invention and are set forth only by way of example.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A new article of wearing apparel to be used in combination with a corset, girdle, abdominal belt or the like to prevent the girdle or the like sliding upwardly when stockings are not used as an anchoring means, comprising a resilient thigh-encircling band shaped to conform to the normal taper of the thigh and formed of front, side and rear portions; the said front portion formed of several trapezoidal sections, each side formed of a triangular shaped section and the rear portion formed of at least one trapezoidal section, wherein a front trapezoidal section and the triangular sections are capable of stretching in a vertical and circumferential direction and the remaining sections are incapable of stretching in a vertical direction.

2. A new article of wearing apparel to be used in combination with a corset, girdle, abdominal belt or the like to prevent the girdle or the like sliding upwardly when stockings are not used as an anchoring means, comprising a thigh-encircling band shaped to conform to the normal taper of the thigh and formed of a plurality of vertically extensible and inextensible sections, said sections so arranged that between each vertically extensible section there is a section which is incapable of stretch in a vertical direction.

3. A new article of wearing apparel to be used in combination with a corset, girdle, abdominal belt or the like to prevent the girdle or the like sliding upwardly when stockings are not used as an anchoring means, comprising a thigh-encircling band formed of a plurality of sections of fabric having elastic properties, said elastic sections so arranged that alternate sections are capable of stretch in a direction at right angles to the principal direction of stretch of the remaining sections, thereby decreasing the tendency of the band to shift laterally and vertically upon the thigh of the wearer.

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