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A. S. BECKER ET AL

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BRASSIERE

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Fig. 1.

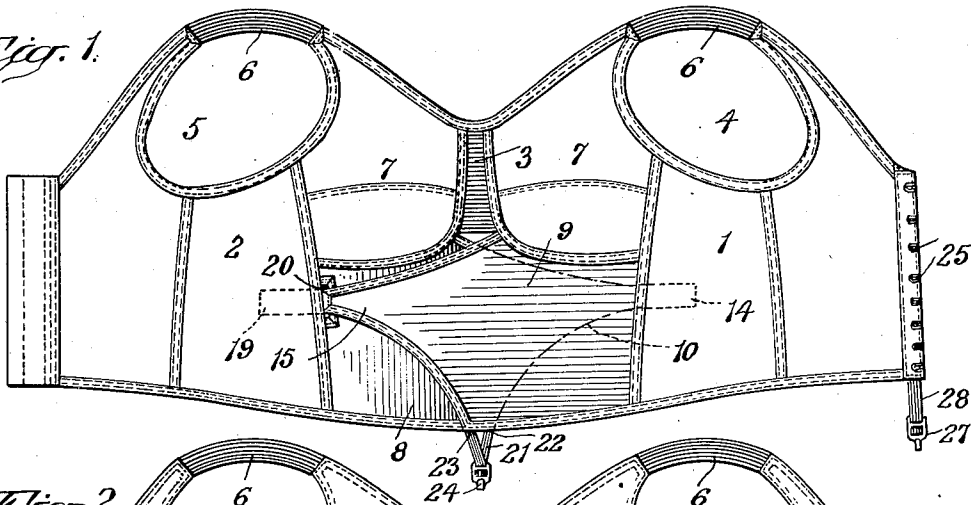


Fig. 2.

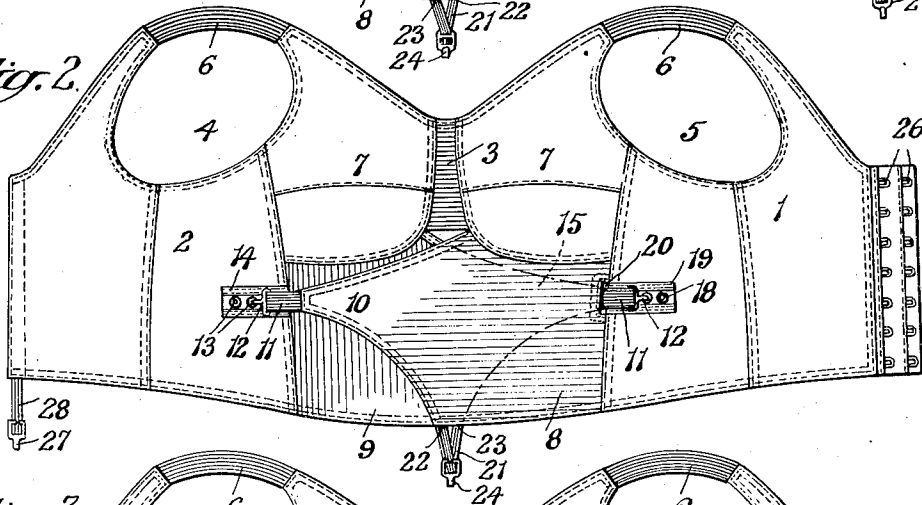
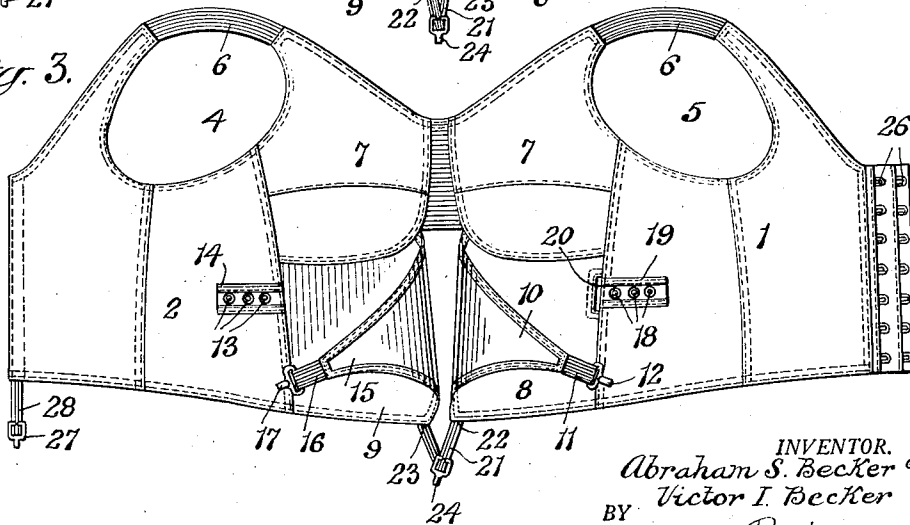


Fig. 3.



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BRASSIÈRE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates to brassières and has for its primary object the provision of a brassière in which effective support for the breasts and diaphragm is provided.

The invention contemplates the provision of a brassière having a diaphragm-overlying portion located below the breast-cups, said portion being composed of at least two overlapped flap-like portions extending in opposite directions and adjustable as to extent of overlap whereby said overlying portions may be drawn smoothly and with a selected degree of tautness or tension over the diaphragm. The invention further contemplates the provision of means at the lower end of the overlapped sections by which engagement with a lower garment, such as a girdle, is had whereby a downward pull on the overlapped diaphragm sections is attained, and particularly while the wearer of the garment is in a standing position.

An object of the invention, therefore, is to provide, in a garment of the character described, an adjustable diaphragm-covering portion wherein pressure is exerted in a direction transversely of the body and across the diaphragm as well as in a downward direction, and particularly when the wearer is in standing position, and in which a material decrease in downward pull on the diaphragm portion is had when the wearer is seated, whereby a release of a considerable degree of pressure on the diaphragm area is had when the wearer is seated.

These and other objects are attained by the invention, a more particular description of which will hereinafter appear and be pointed out in the claims appended hereto.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part hereof, in which Fig. 1 is a view of the inner face of a brassière constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the brassière; and Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the normally overlapped diaphragm-covering sections folded back to disclose construction.

The garment is primarily composed of the two main parts or sections 1 and 2, co-operating to form the body portion, said sections being connected together centrally by means of the elastic insert 3. The sections 1 and 2 are respectively provided with the arm openings 4 and 5 and shoulder straps 6, the latter being preferably, but not necessarily, of elastic webbing. Each of the sections 1 and 2 is provided with the breast pocket or cup 7, and located below the pocket or cup is a diaphragm-covering por-

tion, that formed on the section 1 being indicated at 8, while that formed on the section 2 is disclosed at 9. Section 3 is formed with a tapered end flap 10, normally overlying the section 9, said tapered end being provided with an elastic loop 11, carrying a hook fastener 12 or other equivalent fastening means. When the garment is in use, the hook 12 is adapted for selective engagement with any one of the several spaced eyelets 13 provided on a reinforcing strip 14 stitched to the face of the section 2 of the garment.

The diaphragm portion 9 is formed with a laterally extended tapered end or flap portion 15, similar to that shown at 10, said tapered end or flap 15 being provided with the elastic loop 16, carrying hook fastener 17, adapted for selective engagement with any one of the spaced eyelets 18, provided on the reinforcing strip 19 secured on section 1 of the garment, said reinforcing strip and eyelets carried thereby being located at a position on the outer face of the section 2 similar to the position of the strip 14 on the section 2.

When the garment is in its normal position, or in position of wear, the sections 3 and 9 and the tapered end portions 10 and 15 thereof are disposed in overlapping relation, as clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 2. When in this position, the hook fastener 12 is in engagement with a selected one of the eyelets 13, while the hook fastener 12, carried by the flap portion 10, engages a selected one of the eyelets 18. Since flap portion 10 underlies the flap portion 15, it is necessary, in order to enable the hook fastener 17 to reach the eyelets 18 on the outer face of the garment, to provide a slit 20 in the body of the garment, adjacent to the reinforcing strip 19. Thus, the hook fastener 17 and loop 16, when passed through the slit 20, will reach the eyelets 18 for engagement with any one of the same, as clearly seen in Fig. 2.

The portions 3 and 9 of the garment are provided at their lower ends with a loop member 21, preferably of elastic webbing, which has one end attached at 22 to the section 3, and its other end attached at 23 to the section 9, said loop carrying a hooked fastener member 24 adapted for attachment to the wearer's girdle or other lower garment.

In use, the garment is united about the wearer's body by interengagement of the conventional fastening elements 25 and 26, and the overlapping front flap sections 3 and 10 and 9 and 15 are adjusted to the proper tautness across the dia-

phragm of the wearer by engagement of the hooks 12 and 17 with the selected eyelets in the respective groups 13 and 18. The hook 24 on loop 21, as well as hook 27 on loop 28, are engaged with the girdle or other lower garment. By the disposition of the adjustable overlapped parts in the diaphragm area of the garment suitable tension will be imposed transversely of the wearer's body and across the diaphragm area to restrain outward bulge of these portions of the body. When the wearer is in an erect or standing position, downward pull or tension is exerted on the overlapped parts of the diaphragm section so that a vertical or downward tension is thus exerted, in addition to the transverse tension. Accordingly, the portion of the garment which overlies the diaphragm area is maintained flatwisely and bulge of this portion of the body is greatly restrained. It will be observed however, that when the wearer assumes a seated position, the downward pull on loop 21 is considerably relieved so that a portion of the pressure on the diaphragm area is reduced, and the diaphragm can expand, such expansion being then only resisted by the elastic sections 14 and 16. It will thus be apparent that the garment can readily adapt itself to different positions assumed by the wearer, acting to control diaphragm bulge when such bulge is most apparent, or when the wearer is erect or standing, at the same time allowing expansion for comfort when such expansion is desirable or necessary.

While we have described one embodiment of the invention, it is obvious that the same is not to be restricted thereto, but is broad enough to cover all structures coming within the scope of the annexed claims.

What we claim is:

1. In a garment of the character described, a body portion having parts disposed over the diaphragm of the wearer, said parts comprising a pair of overlapping flap portions having tapered ends extending in opposite directions, each of said tapered ends being provided with an ex-

pansible end portion carrying an attaching element, spaced means on the outer face of the body portion for securing said attaching elements in one of several selected positions to thereby govern the degree of overlap of the flap portions, the body portion being provided with a slit through which the expansible end portions on one of the flaps is extended to reach the means on the body portion to which it is adapted to be secured.

2. In a brassière, a body portion provided with two independent sections, each of which is provided with a breast-receiving pocket, said sections being elastically connected between the breast-receiving pockets, a diaphragm-covering section below the breast-receiving pockets and composed of two overlapped portions adjustable relatively to one another to regulate the extent of overlap, means connected to said overlapped portions to draw the same transversely of the body of the wearer and hold the same under elastic tension, and an elastic V-shaped loop member having leg portions each attached to one of the overlapped portions at the lower edge of the same, said loop member carrying a fastening element and being capable of having its leg portions moved toward or away from one another as the extent of overlap of the overlapped portions is adjusted.

3. In a brassière, a diaphragm-covering portion composed of two overlapped flaps, means at the end of each flap for adjustable attachment of said end to the body of the brassière and for maintaining the two flaps in a desired overlapping position, a single elastic loop member dependent from the lower ends of both flaps, said member having two ends, one of each of said ends being secured to one of the flaps, and means on said loop member for attachment to a lower garment to exert downward tensional pull on the two overlapped flaps particularly when the wearer is in an erect position, said attachment means being located substantially on the vertical center line of the garment.

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