

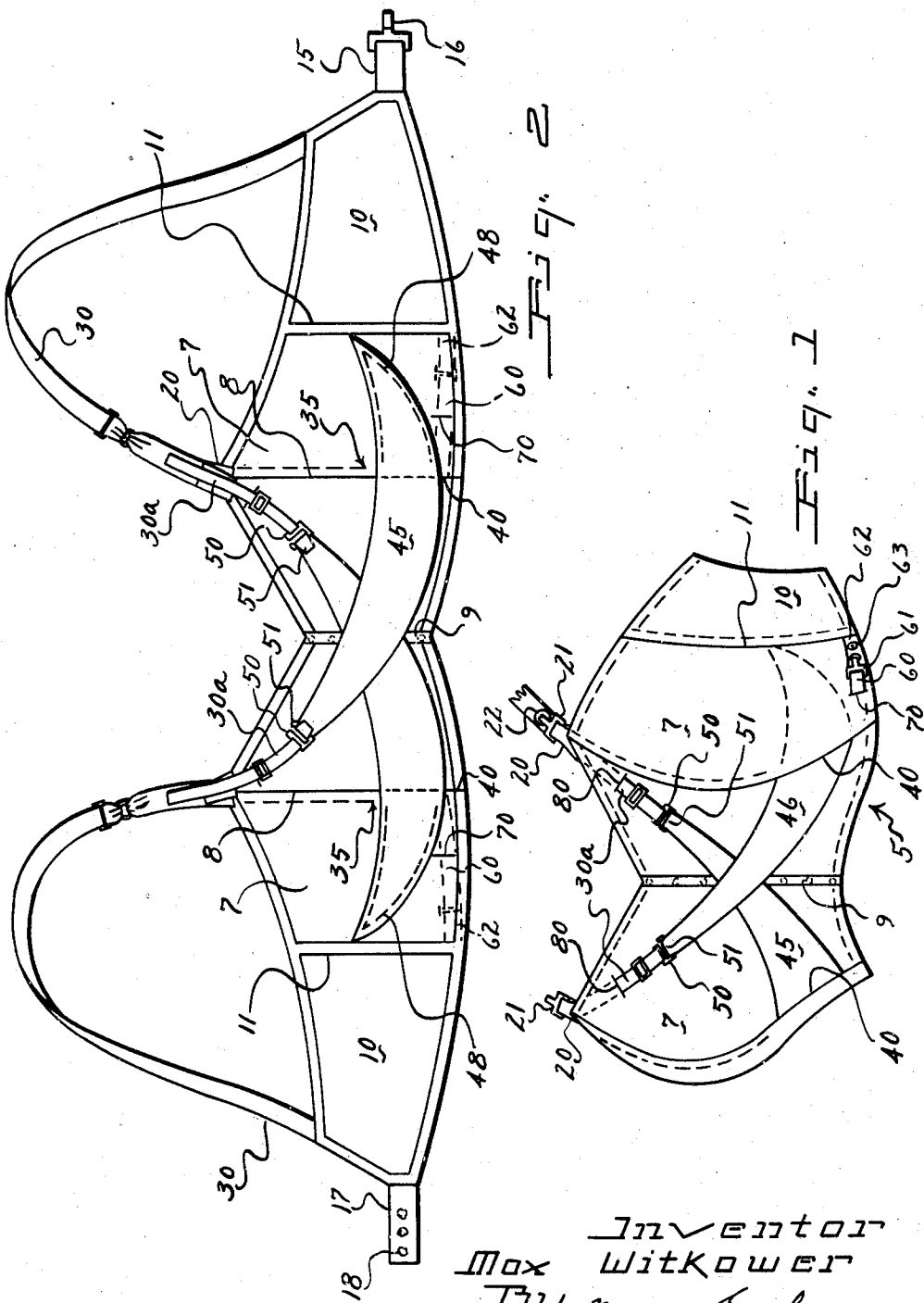
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BRASSIERE

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BRASSIÈRE

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My present invention has to do with improvements in brassière garments, having as an object the provision of a brassière incorporating novel breast-supporting elements designed to support the weight of the breasts directly from the shoulder straps and capable of being worn either inside or outside the body-encircling portion of the garment.

Another novel characteristic of my improved brassière is in its features of adjustability.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a brassière which is peculiarly well adapted to be worn by pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Other objects and advantages will appear hereinafter.

The invention will be herein described in its presently preferred form, but it is to be understood that, in its broader aspects as defined by the accompanying claims, it is not limited to this form.

For purposes of explaining the invention I show in the accompanying drawings and will now describe by reference to the drawings one of its practicable forms.

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a brassière embodying my invention; and

Fig. 2 is an inside view of the brassière in spread open position.

Referring now to the drawings, the numeral 5 generally denotes a body-encircling member having breast-covering portions 7, 7, each composed of two fabric strips attached together by a medial seam 8, the two strips being detachably secured together medially in the front of the garment by hooks and eyes 9. Portions 7 are formed to provide breast cups as best shown in Fig. 1.

Each of the strips 7 has a side extension 10 secured thereto by a seam 11, which passes under the arms and around the back of the wearer, one of the strips having secured at its end an elastic strap 15 carrying a hook member 16 and the other strip 10 having at its end an elastic strap 17 having eyes 18 to selectively receive the hook 16 in order to fasten the garment about the body of the wearer.

Each of the breast-covering portions is somewhat V-shaped, each having at its apex an anchor strip 20 provided with a hook 21 to selectively engage in eyes 22 carried by the front end portion of the respective shoulder straps 30. Each of the shoulder straps is so secured at its front end to one of the anchor strips 20 and is secured at its back end to the top edge portion of one of the extension strips 10. Each of the seams 8 in

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the respective breast-covering portion strips 7 terminates at the point 35 short of the bottom edge, the remainder of the seam being open to provide a slit 40 for the purpose to be described.

To the inside surface of each of the breast-covering strips 7 a crescent-shaped breast-supporting strip 45, 46 is secured as by stitching 48, the remainder of each breast-supporting strip being unsecured. The two strips 45, 46 are oppositely disposed, extending crosswise of each other across the medial portion of the garment and each being adjustably suspended at its top end from the respective shoulder straps 30 by means of a shoulder strap extension 30a which carries at its lower end a hook 50 engaging in an eye 51 carried by the end of the breast-supporting strip.

If it be desired to wear the breast-supporting strips on the exterior surface of the garment as shown in Fig. 1, the outer portion of each strip extends through one of the slits 40 and thence upwardly against the front surface of the garment as shown in Fig. 1. If it be desired to wear the breast-supporting strips inside the garment as shown in Fig. 2, they, of course, are not passed through the slits 40.

To prevent the bottom ends of the slits from flaring open and also to provide circumferential adjustability of the body-encircling member at its lower edge portion, I secure to each breast-covering strip at one side of the slit 40 an elastic band 60 carrying at its outer end a hook 61 and to the outer surface of each of the breast-covering strips 7 an anchor strip 62 is secured, the latter being provided with spaced eyes 63 to selectively receive the hook. Each band passes through the interior of the garment to the exterior thereof through a slit 70.

When the breast-supporting strips are desired to be worn exteriorly of the garment, each of the shoulder strap extensions 30a is passed through a slit 80 provided in each of the breast-covering portions. When the breast-supporting strips are worn inside the garment, the extension 30, of course, is merely disposed entirely within the garment as shown in Fig. 2.

From the foregoing it will be seen that by virtue of the construction and arrangement of the breast-supporting strips the support for the breasts may be adjusted to accommodate changing conditions of the figure and, for a nursing mother, the breasts may be exposed without disturbing the support, by simply unfastening the hooks which secure the front end of the shoulder straps to the anchor tabs 20. The crosswise dis-

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position of the breast-supporting strips tends to confine the breasts in a manner to urge them towards each other and the breasts are comfortably and effectively supported without any undue constriction of the body-encircling portion of the garment about the body.

I claim:

1. A brassière comprising a fabric body-encircling member having breast-covering portions each presenting a transversely disposed slit through the lower edge thereof, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of said member, a pair of breast-supporting strips each secured at its bottom end portion to a breast-covering portion at the side of said slit laterally outward of the middle of the garment, said breast-covering strips being disposed crosswise of each other in position to support the breasts of the user and projecting through said slits, and means for securing the top end of each breast-supporting strip to a shoulder strap.

2. A brassière comprising a fabric body-encircling member having breast-covering portions each presenting a transversely disposed slit through the lower edge thereof extending for a substantial distance, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of said member, a pair of elongated crescent-shaped breast-supporting strips each secured at its bottom end portion to a breast-covering portion at the side of said slit laterally outward of the middle of the garment, said breast-covering strips being disposed crosswise of each other in position to support the breasts of the user and each being adapted to extend through one of said slits, and means for securing the top end of each breast-supporting strip to a shoulder strap.

3. A brassière comprising a fabric body-encircling member having breast-covering portions each presenting a transversely disposed slit through the lower edge thereof, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of said member, a pair of elongated breast-supporting strips each secured at its bottom end portion at the side of said slit laterally outward of the middle of the garment to a breast-covering portion, said breast-covering

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strips being disposed crosswise of each other in position to support the breasts of the user and each being adapted to extend through one of said slits, means for securing the top end of each breast-supporting strip to a shoulder strap, and adjustable means for effecting longitudinal adjustment of the bottom edge portion of the body encircling member in the region of said slits whereby the portions of the breast covering portions on each side of the slits may be drawn into overlapping relation to each other.

4. In a nursing brassière, a fabric body encircling member having a pair of breast covering portions each having a slit extending through and upwardly from the lower edge thereof for a substantial distance, means detachably securing together the breast covering portions at the middle of the garment, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of said member, a pair of breast supporting strips each secured at its lower end portion to a breast covering portion at the side of said slit laterally outward of the middle of the garment, said strips being disposed crosswise of each other in position to support the breasts of the user and each being adapted to extend through one of said slits, means for securing the upper end of each strip to a shoulder strap, and adjustable means for effecting longitudinal adjustment of the bottom edge portion of the body encircling member in the region of said slits whereby the portions of the breast covering portions on each side of the slits may be drawn into overlapping relation to each other.

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