April 24, 1951 W. I. HATCH ET AL 2,550,246

CORSET STAY SHIELD

Filed June 27, 1949




FIG. 2

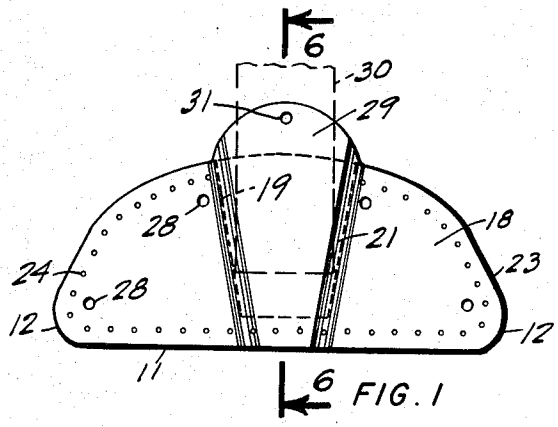



FIG. 1

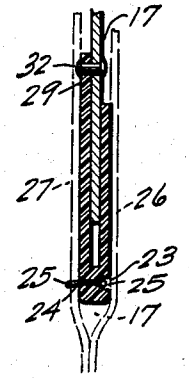



FIG. 6

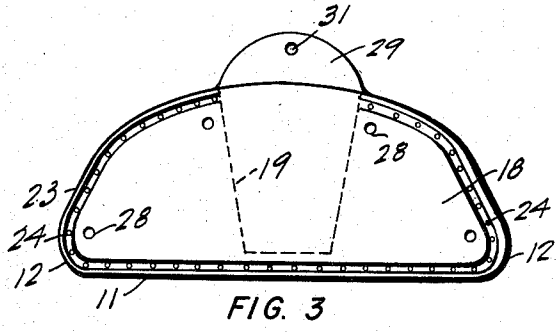



FIG. 3

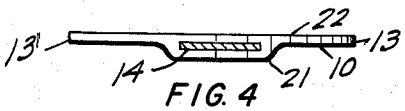



FIG. 4

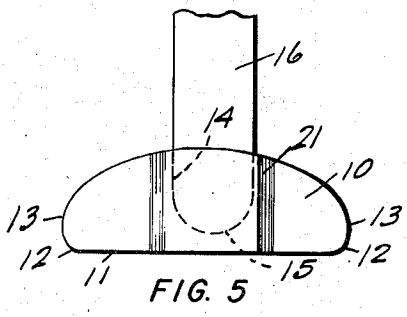



FIG. 5

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## CORSET STAY SHIELD

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—257)

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This invention relates to improvements in corsets and girdles in which stays are used to retain vertical contours and provides a shield which may be used on either or both ends of each stay to prevent the terminal ends of the stay from cutting through the material and thus decreasing the life of the garment and possibly causing chafing or actual injury to the wearer.

As is well known, corset stays are formed of strip spring steel, flat wound spring wire, and in some corsets, especially some of the older types, whale bone. These stays are formed of very thin material which will, particularly at the terminal ends, cut through the material in a relatively short time. The ends of the stay then chafe or cut into the skin of the wearer, causing in some cases painful lacerations, and when this occurs it is usually necessary to discard the garment.

This invention provides a shield or shoe which fits over the terminal end of the stay and transfers the thrust over a relatively great length along the seam, in addition to being sewed or otherwise fastened to the body fabric, for which reason the stay will remain in place so long as the garment is otherwise fit for wear. There can be no chafing or lacerations as it is impossible for the stay to cut through the material because it is firmly held and protected by the shield with the shield being doubly secured against movement, by its seating at the seamed edge, and by being secured to the body fabric.

The objects and advantages of the invention are as follows:

First, to provide a shield for the terminal end of a corset stay, with a straight base having a width at least three times that of the stay to prevent the stay from cutting through the material of the corset.

Second, to provide a shield as outlined which is formed of relatively thin material to avoid bulging at the terminals of the stays.

Third, to provide a shield as outlined with a relatively thin body material with a pocket formed outwardly on the front face thereof for receiving the terminal end of the stay.

Fourth, to provide a shield as outlined with a pocket which is convergent toward the bottom so as to accept stays of different widths and permit relative rocking movement between the stay and the shield to conform to body movements.

Fifth, to provide a shield as outlined with means for securing the shield to the outer fabric of the corset.

Sixth, to provide the shield with a straight base with rounded corners to eliminate any possibility

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of wearing or cutting through the lower end of the corset and lower edge seam.

Seventh, to provide a shield as outlined which is of the simplest possible construction, easy to manufacture, and formed in one part of a relatively rigid slightly resilient material.

In describing the invention reference will be had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the invention.

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of a modification of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a section taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

In its simplest form, the invention as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 consists of a relatively flat section 10 of material such as a moderately rigid plastic, and having a straight lower edge 11. Other than the base 11, all other parts of the shield are rounded, particularly the portion 12 at the juncture of the base 11 with the sides 13 so as to eliminate any possibility of cutting through the material of the corset.

A pocket 14 is formed downwardly from the upper end to receive the terminal end 15 of a stay 16, the walls of the pocket being formed as thin as possible, in the neighborhood of 0.015 inch to prevent bulging.

With this type, the stay is forced into the pocket, the stay is then inserted at the lower end of the corset tunnel 17 (Fig. 6), and if another shield is desired at the upper end it is applied after the stay has been inserted through to the top of the tunnel.

This simplest type depends on the length of the base 11 to distribute the thrust of the stay through several times the normal width of the stay.

The preferred form of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 1 to 3 and 6, and consists of a relatively thin sheet or relatively rigid material 18 such as plastic, though other materials including metals may be used.

This form is formed similarly to that illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, having the rounded corners 12 and relatively straight base 11, however, the pocket 19 converges between the sides toward the lower end so as to receive stays 20 of different widths, so that one type of shield will be suitable for all widths of stays, and this pocket, like the pocket in Figs. 4 and 5 is formed outwardly as indicated at 21 to keep the inside surface smooth and plane as indicated in Figs. 2 and 4 at 22, with the exception of the sewing

groove 23 which is formed adjacent the peripheral edge of the body 18, providing a full thickness base about the groove for maximum support.

This shield is provided with a series of sewing apertures 24 which are formed centrally of the groove so that the stitches 25 will lie within the groove on the inside of the shield protected against the wearing action of the inside fabric 26 through movements of the body of the wearer, the shield being sewn to the outside fabric 27.

In addition, a plurality of rivet holes 28 are provided for attaching the shield by riveting instead of sewing when the shield is applied during manufacture. Obviously, with the sewn type, anyone can attach the shields to existing corsets and the like, while riveting would be more suitable for manufacturing the shields directly in the corset.

An ear 29 is formed upwardly from the outside wall of the pocket to permit the shield to be riveted to the stay 30, and this ear is provided with an aperture 31 for the rivet 32.

Thus the lower end of a tunnel can be opened, the shield inserted in position and sewed in position, the lower end of the tunnel sewed closed, making it possible to eliminate the tearing through with consequent chafing and lacerations, and cause the corset to wear many times longer.

We claim:

1. A corset stay shield comprising a back member having an upper end and a lower end and formed of thin relatively rigid material and having a forwardly offset portion having a pocket formed therein and extending from the upper end to the lower end of the back member and open at the upper end with the sides converging downwardly for reception of the end of a stay, with the lower end of the pocket having a width equal to the narrowest stay to be used in the shield, and being capable, in view of the converging sides, of receiving stays of greater widths and to permit relative rocking movement of the stay in the pocket to conform to body movements; said back member having a straight lower edge at right angles to the vertical axis of the pocket and having a length at least three times the maximum width of the pocket to provide an extended support at the lower edge seam of a corset.



2. A structure as defined in claim 1; said lower edge having rounded ends continuing through curvilinear side walls to the top sides of the pocket; and said back member having a groove formed in the back surface in slightly spaced relation to the circumferential edge of the back member and having a multiplicity of needle holes formed through the back member within the confines of said groove for sewing the back member to the outside fabric of a corset with the side walls of the groove having a height greater than the thickness of, and therefore protecting the stitches used for sewing the back member to the outside fabric of the corset against abrasion and wear from the inside fabric of the corset.

3. A corset stay shield comprising, a body member having an upper end and a lower end and formed of a relatively rigid material, and having a pocket formed in the upper end and extending to the lower end and having downwardly converging side walls, with the pocket being capable of receiving selectively the ends of corset stays of different widths, and having a width at the bottom equal to the narrowest stay to be used in the shield, and with the converging side walls permitting relative rocking movement of the stay in the pocket to conform to body movements, and said lower end being straight and formed at right angles to the vertical axis of the pocket to provide a support for the shield at the seam of a corset.

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