

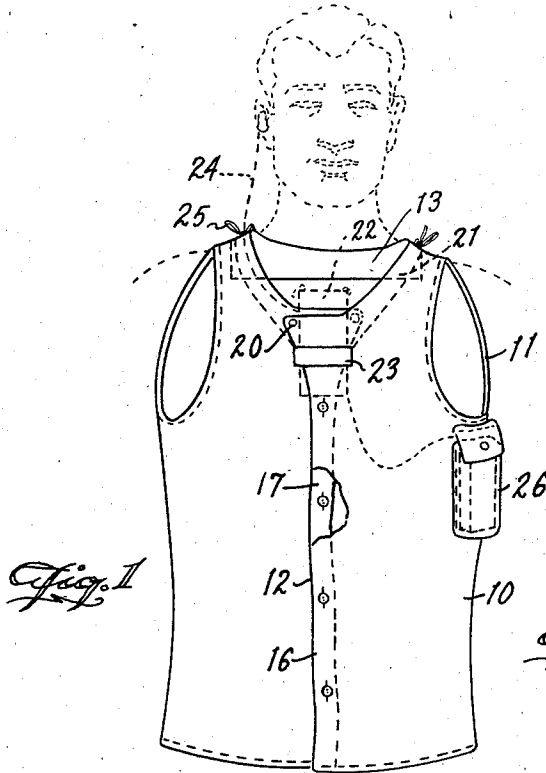
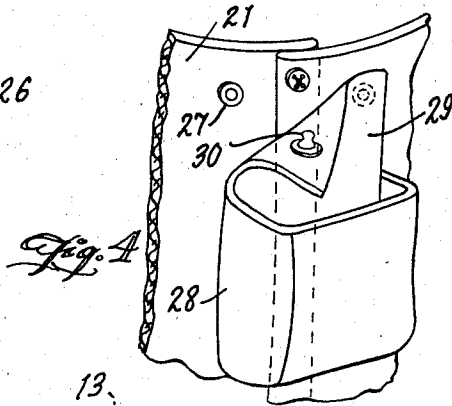
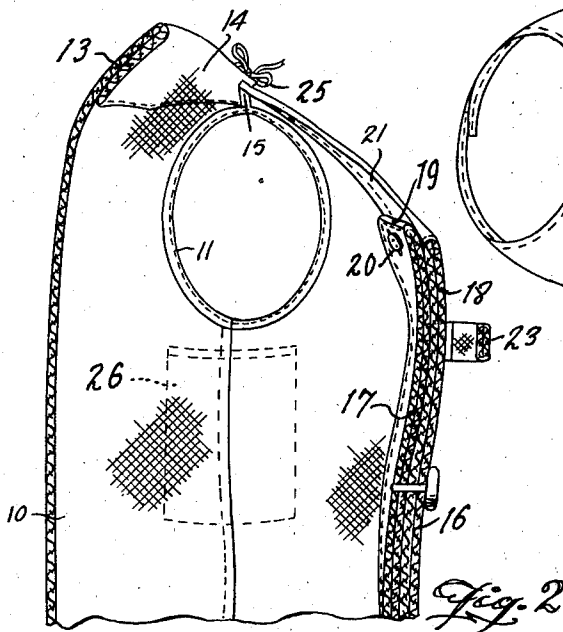
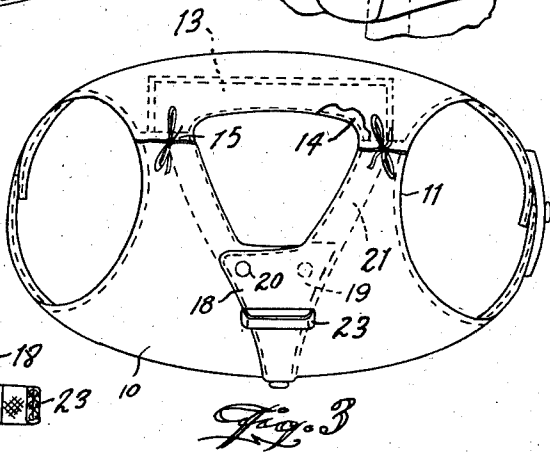
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I. PIERCE

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UNDERGARMENT

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Irving Pierce
INVENTOR.

BY *Ahley & Ahley*

ATTORNEYS

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UNDERGARMENT

Irving Pierce, Dallas, Tex.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—113)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in undergarments.

It is customary to wear hearing-aid devices beneath the outer clothing. Such appliances include an acoustic device which is usually positioned in the center of the chest of the wearer. Heretofore the practice has been to support the device on a harness employing shoulder straps and body band, usually including elastic portions. Such a harness is uncomfortable, confines the body and induces higher body temperatures, as well as becoming soiled from perspiration and wear. These harnesses are not readily cleansed and are comparatively expensive.

One object of the invention is to provide an improved undergarment, such as an undershirt, which while adequately supporting the acoustical device, will be cool and comfortable, as well as comparatively inexpensive and at the same time giving freedom of body movement and being readily washed.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved undergarment of the character described which, in its main portions, will be like an ordinary undershirt or unionsuit, but which, is provided with certain reinforcements and additions for adequately and comfortably supporting the acoustical appliance.

A construction designed to carry out the invention will be hereinafter described together with other features of the invention.

The invention will be more readily understood from a reading of the following specification and by reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein an example of the invention is shown, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an undergarment constructed in accordance with the invention, a portion of the figure of the wearer and an acoustical appliance, being indicated in dotted lines,

Fig. 2 is a vertical, sectional view of the garment,

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the garment, and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a portion of a modified form of the invention.

In the drawings, the numeral 10 designates generally, an undershirt which in some respects follows the usual construction. This undershirt may be a separate garment or it may be a part of a unionsuit and it may be made with or without sleeves. I have illustrated a sleeveless type of undershirt. The shirt has the ordinary arm holes 11 and overlapping open front 12.

The back or rear side of the neck is reinforced with a yoke 13 sewed to the underside of the

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neck portion. This yoke has extensions 14 on each side which extend to the shoulder seams 15 and is shaped along its upper portion to conform to the contour of the neck of the shirt. The yoke is amplified to provide a broad reinforcement extending across the back of the garment, the bottom edge being straight. This reinforcing yoke is important, as will be hereinafter pointed out.

The open front 12 of the shirt has the usual front button fold 16 which overlies the under bottom fold 17. At the upper end of the front bottom fold, the cloth is extended laterally to form a generally triangular flap 18, which overlies a similar flap 19, extending from the under fold in the opposite direction. Each flap has a button 20 or other fastening which engages the other flap, whereby the ends of the flaps are supported and held in position. It will be noted that each flap is formed of two layers of the cloth and the upper edge or neck portion of the under flap extends above the similar portion of the front flap.

The under layer of cloth of each flap is extended along each side of the neck to the adjacent shoulder seam 15 to form neck strips 21. Since the back yoke and the strips are united at the shoulder seams, a continuous neck band or reinforcement, including the flaps 17 and 18, the strips 21 and the yoke 13, is thus formed. This is an important feature because the acoustical appliance 22 which is carried by the neck band is relatively heavy and without this reinforced support, the front of the shirt would sag and become uncomfortable to the wearer. The neck band evenly distributes the weight or load.

The appliance 22 is commonly made with a hook on its rear side and this hook is engaged over the upper edge of the front flap 18, the under flap 19 not only separates the hook from the wearer's body, but by extending upwardly beyond the front flap, holds the top of the hook out of contact with the body. To hold the appliance 22 in place, a transverse loop 23, has its ends sewed to the front flap 18.

These appliances have an electric current conducting cord 24 to which the ear phone is attached and which extends out through the collar of the wearer. To hold this cord in place, a tape 25 is sewed on each shoulder seam and one of these tapes may be tied around the cord. Some of the appliances require a battery and a pocket 26 is provided under one of the arm holes 11, for this purpose.

In Fig. 4 I have shown a modified form of the invention. Instead of the flaps 18 and 19, the

ends of the neck strips 21 may be continued to the edges of the button folds 16 and 17. On each side of the folds, resilient fastener sockets 27 are secured. A pocket 28 having an upwardly extending back tab 29 is detachably secured to the sockets 27 by resilient fastener studs 30. The appliance 22 is inserted in this pocket and may be detached when desired.

Tests have shown that the undergarment herein set forth may be worn with the ease and comfort of an ordinary undershirt. The binding fit and heaviness of the usual harness is entirely eliminated. Owing to the continuous reinforced neck band, there is no appreciable downward pull at the front and the loop 23 or the pocket 28, keep the appliance from swinging from side to side. The garment may be washed at any time and is therefore sanitary.

The foregoing description of the invention is explanatory thereof and various changes in the size, shape and materials, as well as in the details of the illustrated construction may be made, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An acoustical-appliance undergarment including, an undershirt having an overlapping open front, overlapping laterally-extending flaps at the top of the open front of the shirt, fastening means for each of said flaps, and means for supporting an acoustical appliance at the flaps, the underlying flap extending above the overlying flap for receiving an acoustical-appliance support therebetween.

2. An acoustical-appliance undergarment, including, an undershirt having an overlapping open front, overlapping flaps at the top of the open front of the shirt extending laterally from each side of the open front, fastening means for each of said flaps, a reinforcing neck member connected with the flaps, and means for supporting an acoustical appliance at the flaps.

3. An acoustical-appliance undergarment including, an undershirt having an overlapping

open front, overlapping flaps at the top of the open front of said shirt extending laterally from each side of the open front, fastening means for each of said flaps, and a reinforcing neck member connected with said flaps, the underlying flap extending above the overlying flap for receiving an acoustical-appliance support therebetween and for carrying said support on the front flap.

4. An acoustical-appliance undergarment including, an undershirt having an overlapping open front, overlapping flaps at the top of the open front of the shirt extending laterally from each side of the open front, fastening means for each of said flaps, means for supporting an acoustical appliance at the flaps, and means for removably tying an electrical cord on the upper side of the shoulder of the undershirt.

5. An acoustical-appliance undergarment including, an undershirt having overlapping open front edges, overlapping flaps at the top of the open front of said shirt extending laterally from the front edges, fastening means at the end of each flap, a neck member including an amplified yoke secured across the back of the neck portion of the shirt and narrow side member contiguous to the neck of the shirt extending from the flaps to the yoke, and means for supporting an acoustical appliance at the flaps.

IRVING PIERCE.

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