April 22, 1941. M. SCHIFFER 2,239,056

STRAPLESS BRASSIÈRE

Filed March 4, 1939 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

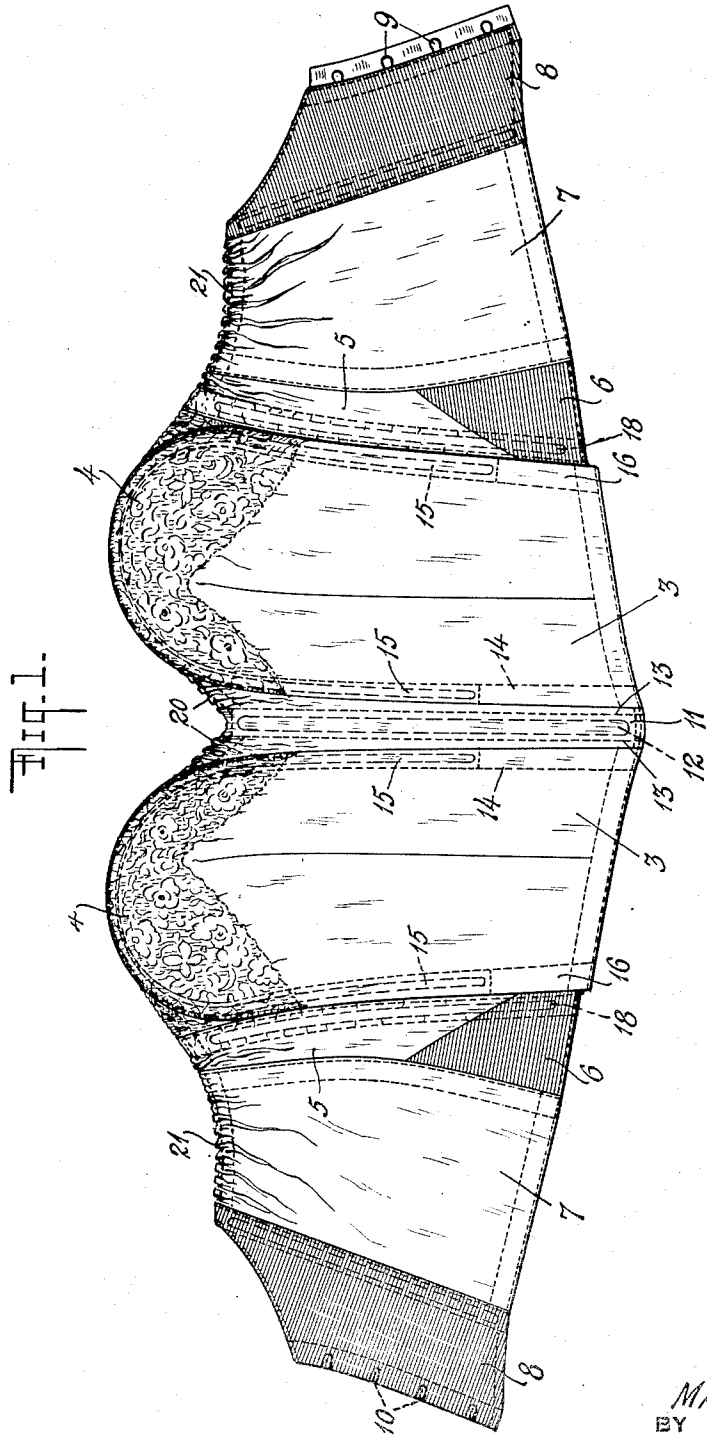


Fig. 1.

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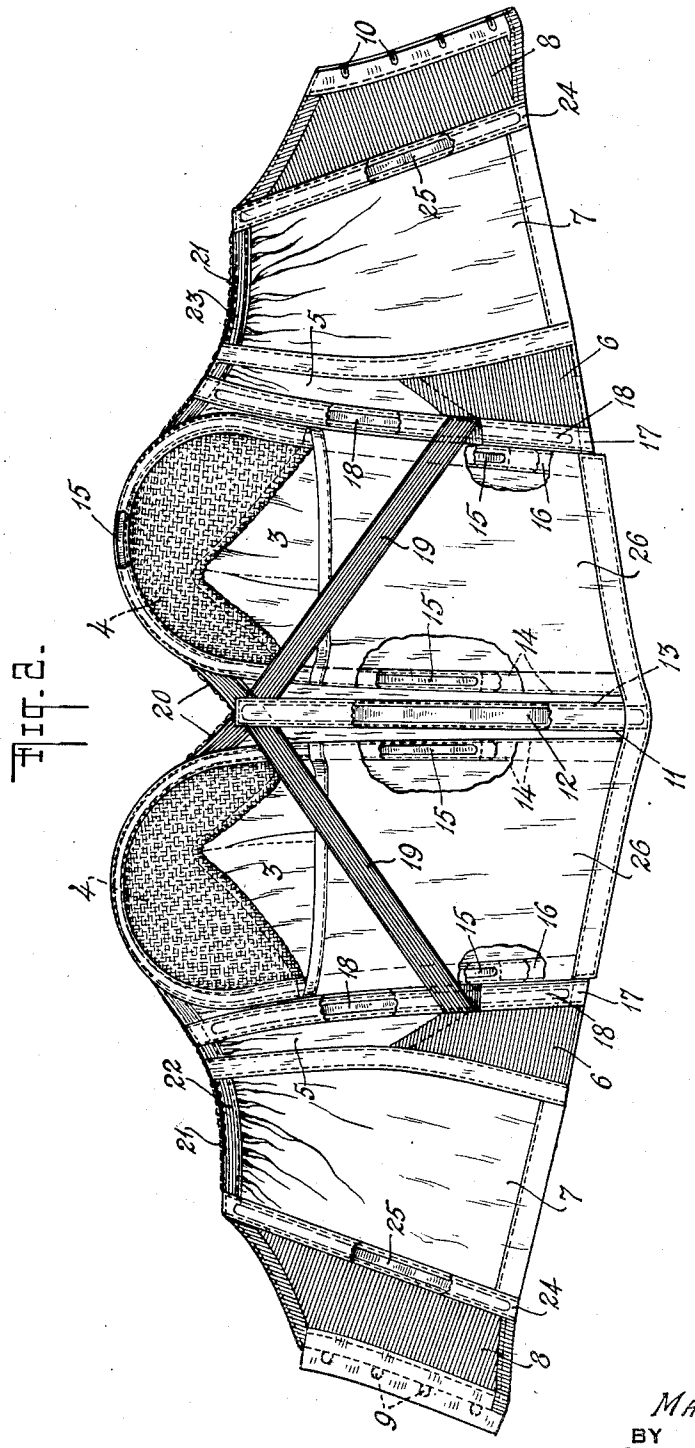


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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STRAPLESS BRASSIÈRE

Mary Schiffer, New York, N. Y.

Application March 4, 1939, Serial No. 259,857

5 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

The invention relates to women's undergarments of the brassière type, whether constituted of the construction known as a "bandeau" or one embodying a "corselet," i. e. a garment of relatively narrow form, adapted when worn to encircle the body of the wearer in the region of the busts and the region of the body immediately underlying the busts.

More particularly, the invention relates to a brassière so constructed as to be capable of not only molding the busts so as to accentuate the contours thereof in a manner dictated by present trends of fashion but which is also capable of so supporting the busts as to result in the spreading of the busts in addition to supporting them in an uplifted condition. These objects of my novel construction are attained without the use of straps for supporting the garment from the shoulders of the wearer. My novel garment embodies certain features of construction which produce other advantages including, besides the accentuation of the line of demarcation between the busts; a distribution of the pull constituting the lifting force acted upon the molded busts; the correction of any inequality in the physical bust contour, size or disposition; the confinement of the spreading of the busts to just the degree necessary to present the desired bosom outline; and the effecting of the proper centralization of the busts while supporting them in a proper uplifted condition by breast supports serving to simultaneously lift and spread them.

A specific feature of my novel construction of brassière resides in the formation of the bust pockets with a pair of spirally extending bones or stays secured along the central median line of the garment and extending over the bust section and downwardly on the opposite sides of the bust sections, whereby the boning is effective to keep the bones in a position to yield a substantially natural bust line.

Another feature of my novel construction is the provision of a substantially flat strip of boning along substantially the center line of the garment to effect a separation of the busts and to accentuate the line of demarcation between the busts.

Still another feature consists in the provision of a pair of elastic strips running diagonally across the bottom of the bust sections and terminating at the bust center line, which likewise effect a separation of the busts and keep the garment in position upon the body.

For the purpose of having the garment completely follow the curves of the body in all positions of the garment thereon, I provide elastic shirring at the upper bust center line and also along the upper edge of the garment at each side of the bust sections. The latter shirring is effective also to support the garment in a substantially flat condition against the body and eliminate the propensity of the flesh from hanging over the edges of the garment.

All of the above enumerated features combine their individual effects in such manner as to produce a combination garment of special utility and service yielding results not heretofore secured by prior art structures. Each of the features of my novel garment cooperates with each other feature to provide the advantages of the general unitary garment to effect the results hereinabove enumerated.

In the accompanying drawings, in which I have illustrated a particular embodiment of my invention, Fig. 1 is a front view of a garment constructed in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the brassière is constructed in the form of a relatively narrow garment adapted, when worn, to encircle the body of the wearer in the region of the busts and immediately under the busts. In the illustrated form, the brassière comprises an outer section **3** of relatively soft fabric or other equally pliable material capable of easily conforming itself to the form of the busts. The section **3** is cut in accordance with a selected pattern of predetermined form and in the illustrated example is surmounted by a pair of sections **4**, **4** which may be desirably made of a net material to constitute the upper portions of the bust sections. Secured to the section **3** by means of intermediate sections **5**, **5** and elastic inserts **6**, **6** at the bottom of the garment, are sections **7**, **7** which are adapted to overlie the back of the wearer, to the vertical edges to which are secured preferably elastic sections **8**, **8** provided along their longitudinal edges with series of cooperating fastener structures **9** and **10**.

Each of the aforementioned sections are joined to the adjacent sections by a plurality of lines of stitching which will be described in greater detail hereinafter with respect to those which form pockets to receive strips of boning.

Extending substantially throughout the center portion of the garment, is a pocket **11** formed by an overlying strip of fabric material within which pocket is positioned an elongated strip of boning **12**. Such strip of boning is secured within the pocket by lines of stitching **13**, **13** joining the

piece of fabric to the section 3. At each side of the central pocket, as thus formed, there are formed two additional pockets by lines of stitching 14, 14 within which, extending to a slight extent below the horizontal center line of the garment, are positioned a pair of spiral strips of soft, flexible boning 15, 15 which extend upwardly adjacent the central boning 12, the boning extending in an arc along the upper edges of the bust sections and then downwardly at the opposite sides of the bust sections through pockets 16, 16 at the extremities of the section 3, the boning preferably extending to a point removed from the bottom edge of the garment. It will be understood, of course, that while I have shown the flexible boning 15 as starting from, and extending to, points removed from the bottom edge of the composite garment, they may extend substantially throughout the width of the garment, so as to begin and terminate at substantially the bottom edge of the section 3.

The disposition of the flexible boning 15 within the pockets 14 and 16 and the intermediate portion of such pockets extending throughout the upper periphery of the bust sections, is clearly illustrated by broken-away sections in Fig. 2.

Extending throughout the width of the garment, at each side of the section 3, is a pair of pockets 17, 17 within which are secured boning 18, 18.

Secured to, and extending from, a point somewhat below the center of the pocket 17, is a pair of elastic strips 19, 19 running diagonally across the interior face of the garment, crossing each other approximately at the upper extremity of the pocket 11 housing the boning 12, and extending in opposite directions from said upper extremity, to the edges of the bust sections to which the elastic strips are joined so as to extend substantially tangentially of the peripheral edges of the bust sections defined by the pockets containing the flexible boning 15. These strips of elastic, by reason of their particular disposition upon the surface of the garment and the securement thereof to cause the spreading of the busts so as to accentuate the line of demarcation between them, while at the same time they brace the bust sections to effect a proper centralization of the busts and mold them to a substantially natural formation.

In order to secure a proper curving and disposition of the garment upon the body in all positions of the garment, I provide the shirring 20 at the central portion of the garment along the edges of the elastic strips extending upwardly from their point of juncture at the upper extremity of the center boning 12, and similar shirring 21, 21 along the upper edges of the sections 7. Such latter shirring, as at 21, may be used in conjunction with underlying strips of elastic 22, 23, the structure thus produced being effective to support the edges of the garment flat against the body and eliminate the creeping of flesh over the edges so as to hang over the garment.

Along the outer edges of the sections 7 and constituting the line of juncture of such sections with the elastic sections 8, I provide pockets 24 within which are secured strips of boning 25 which are effective to taper fleshy formations and allow the provision of a low-cut back on the garment, for instance by the tapering of the elastic sections 8 to their outer edges.

The particular embodiment of my novel garment illustrated in the drawings is shown with a pair of lining strips 26 overlying the back of the section 3, but the provision of these lining strips, as are the particular disposition, contouration and correlation of the various elastic inserts is to be regarded as illustrative and not limiting. The novel features of my construction of garment have been particularly pointed out hereinabove and it is to be understood that changes in the configuration and disposition of the several parts may be made without departing from my invention.

I claim:

1. A strapless brassière adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising an outer section of pliable fabric material, and including a pair of bust sections having curved outer edges, fastening means for securing the same in place, a pocket disposed substantially centrally, and vertically, of the garment, a strip of boning secured within said pocket extending substantially throughout the center portion of said garment, a pair of strips of soft, flexible, boning running substantially along the edges of said central boning and curving throughout the upper edges of the bust sections constituting a part of said outer section of pliable material and straight downwardly at the outer edges of said bust sections, and a pair of elastic strips extending from the outer edges of said bust sections remote from said centrally disposed pocket to the upper extremity of said central boning, crossing and secured at such upper extremity, and extending substantially tangentially to the curved outer edges of the bust sections.

2. A strapless brassière adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising an outer section of pliable fabric material, and including a pair of bust sections having curved outer edges, fastening means for securing the same in place, a pocket disposed substantially centrally, and vertically, of the garment, a strip of boning secured within said pocket extending substantially throughout the center portion of said garment, a pair of strips of soft, flexible, boning running substantially along the edges of said central boning and curving throughout the upper edges of the bust sections constituting a part of said outer section of pliable material and downwardly at the outer edges of said bust sections, and a pair of elastic strips extending from the outer edges of said bust sections to the upper extremity of said central boning, crossing at such upper extremity, and extending substantially tangentially to the curved outer edges of the bust sections, elastic shirring at the portion of the garment intermediate the upper curved edges of the bust sections, and elastic shirring at the two upper edge portions of the garment at each side of the bust sections.

3. A strapless brassière adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising an outer section of pliable fabric material, and including a pair of bust sections having curved outer edges, fastening means for securing the same in place, a pocket disposed substantially centrally, and vertically, of the garment, a strip of boning secured within said pocket extending substantially throughout the center portion of said garment, a pair of strips of soft, flexible, boning running substantially along the edges of said central boning and curving throughout the upper edges of the bust sections constituting a part of said outer section of pliable material and downwardly at the outer edges of said bust sections, and a pair of elastic strips

extending from the outer edges of said bust sections to the upper extremity of said central boning, crossing at such upper extremity, and extending substantially tangentially to the curved outer edges of the bust sections, elastic shirring at the portion of the garment intermediate the upper curved edges of the bust sections, and elastic shirring at the two upper edge portions of the garment at each side of the bust sections, and a pair of strips of boning extending from the extremities of the latter elastic shirring to the lower edge of the garment.

4. A strapless brassière adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising an outer section of pliable fabric material, and including a pair of bust sections having curved outer edges, fastening means for securing the same in place, a pair of strips of soft, flexible, boning running substantially along the central part of the garment and curving throughout the upper edges of the bust sections constituting a part of said outer section of pliable material and downwardly at the outer edges of said bust sections, and a pair of elastic strips extending from the outer edges of said bust sections to the upper extremity of said central part of the garment, crossing at such upper extremity, and extending substantially tangentially to the curved outer edges of the bust sections, elastic shirring at the portion of the garment intermediate the upper curved edges of the bust sections, and elastic shirring at the two upper edge portions of the garment at each side of the bust sections.

5. A strapless brassière adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising an outer section of pliable fabric material, and including a pair of bust sections having curved outer edges, fastenng means for securing the same in place, a pair of strips of soft, flexible, boning running substantially along the central part of the garment and curving throughout the upper edges of the bust sections constituting a part of said outer section of pliable material and downwardly at the outer edges of said bust sections, and a pair of elastic strips extending from the outer edges of said bust sections to the upper extremity of said central part of the garment, crossing at such upper extremity, and extending substantially tangentially to the curved outer edges of the bust sections, elastic shirring at the portion of the garment intermediate the upper curved edges of the bust sections, and elastic shirring at the two upper edge portions of the garment at each side of the bust sections, and a pair of strips of boning extending from the extremities of the latter elastic shirring to the lower edge of the garment.

MARY SCHIFFER.