Feb. 17, 1959 P. J. MORANO 2,873,744

GIRDLES

Filed Dec. 6, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

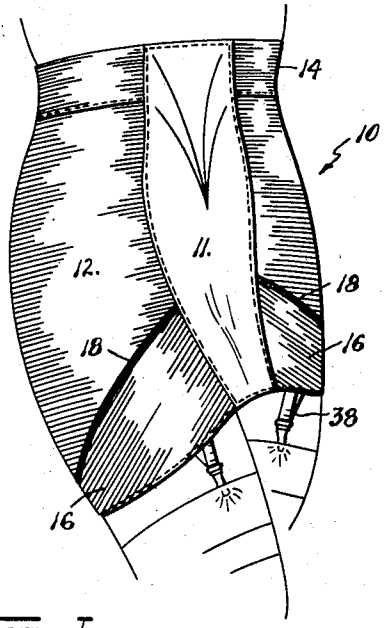
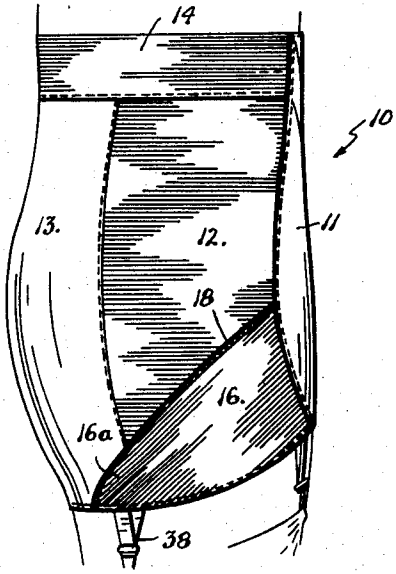


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



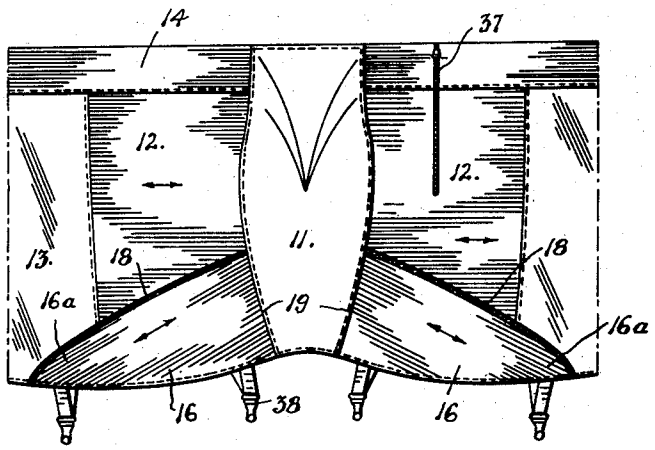


Fig. 3.

Inventor:
Patrick J. Morano

Feb. 17, 1959 P. J. MORANO 2,873,744

GIRDLES

Filed Dec. 6, 1955 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

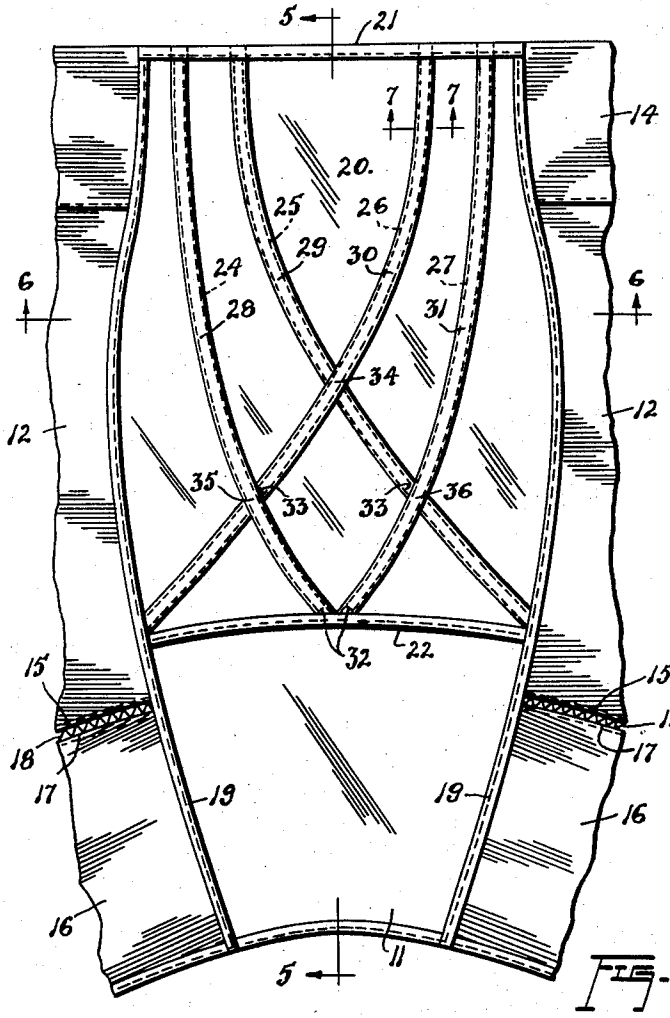


FIG. 4.

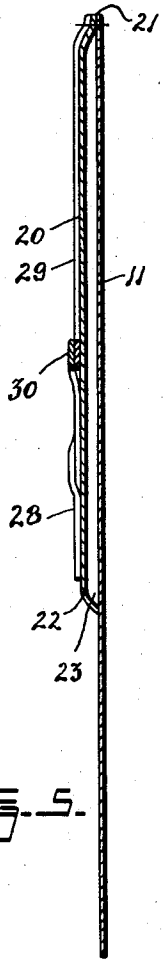


FIG. 5.

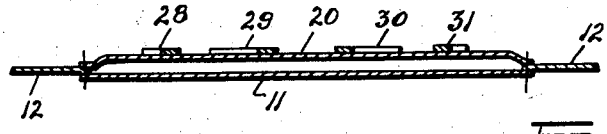


FIG. 6.

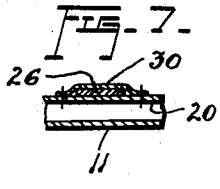


FIG. 7.

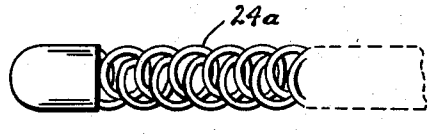


FIG. 8.

Inventor:
Patrick J. Morano

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2,873,744

GIRDLES

Patrick J. Morano, Newark, N. J., assignor to Even-Pul Foundations, Inc., New York, N. Y., a corporation of New York

Application December 6, 1955, Serial No. 551,414

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—554)

This invention relates to new and useful improvements and structural refinements in torso constricting and molding undergarments, and more specifically concerns itself with structural and functional features of girdles, corsets, corselets, and the like.

The principal object of the invention is to efficiently control and shape the contour of the front abdominal and hip regions of the wearer's body, this being achieved by an improved front panel construction coacting with improved elastic side panels which extend over the hips to impart a molding action thereto in an oblique direction laterally and downwardly from the front panel.

As such, an important feature of the invention, therefore, resides in the configuration and arrangement of the elastic side panels, while another important feature lies in the specific structure of the front panel itself, the latter embodying resilient elongated reinforcing elements or "bones" which are arcuate in a plane parallel to the front panel and cross one another at least at one point, whereby they are better adapted to control and mold the abdominal region than straight reinforcing elements in garments of conventional types.

With the foregoing more important objects and features in view and such other objects and features as may become apparent as this specification proceeds, the invention resides in the arrangement of parts and details of construction substantially as shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters of reference are used to designate like parts and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention in use;

Figure 2 is a side elevational view thereof;

Figure 3 is a plan view of the invention per se in a developed, flat form;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary inside elevational view, on an enlarged scale of the front portion of the garment;

Figure 5 is a sectional detail, taken substantially in the plane of the line 5—5 in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a sectional detail, taken substantially in the plane of the line 6—6 in Figure 4;

Figure 7 is a sectional detail, on an enlarged scale, taken substantially in the plane of the line 7—7 in Figure 4; and

Figure 8 is a fragmentary plan view of one of the reinforcing elements.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings in detail, the torso constricting and molding undergarment exemplified by a girdle is designated generally by the reference numeral **10**, it being understood, of course, that the invention is also equally adaptable to corsets, corselets, and the like. In any event, the garment **10** includes an abdomen encircling member having a vertically elongated front panel **11** and a pair of elastic side panels **12** which are secured to opposite side edges of the front panel and are yieldable circumferentially of the garment.

The front panel **11** is made of fabric on non-elastic material and, if desired, a back panel **13** of similar material may be interposed between the outer side or rear

edges of the side panels **12**, as shown. Moreover, a continuous elastic waist band **14** may be provided at the upper edges of the side panels **12** and back panel **13** flush with the upper edge of the front panel **11**, as illustrated.

It is to be noted that the side panels **12** have upwardly convergent lower edges **15** and that a pair of tapered substantially triangular elastic lower panels **16** are provided thereunder, the panels **16** having downwardly divergent upper edges **17** secured by open stitching **18** to the lower edges **15** of the side panels **12**, while the inner end edges **19** of the panels **16** are stitched to the opposite side edges of the front panel **11**.

The lower panels **16** thus extend laterally and downwardly in an oblique direction from the front panel **11** to the opposite sides of the garment and over the hips of the user, the tapered end portions **16***a* of the panels projecting rearwardly beyond the outer side edges of the side panels **12**, as is best shown in Figures 2 and 3 and have the apices thereof disposed at the lower edge of the garment. The elastic material of the panels **16** is yieldable in the oblique directions in which the panels extend as above stated, and since the panels pass over the hips and the thighs of the user, an efficient molding and shape controlling action of these regions will be obtained through the obliquely directed elasticity of the panel material.

With particular reference now to the accompanying Figures 4–8, it will be noted that an inner panel **20** of fabric or non-elastic material underlies the upper portion of the front panel **11**, being secured thereto at the upper edge **21** and at the side edges where the front panel is secured to the side panels **12**. The lower edge **22** of the inner panel **20** is spaced upwardly from the lower edge of the front panel and is detached therefrom as indicated at **23** in Figure 5.

A set of elongated, resilient reinforcing elements or "bones" **24**, **25**, **26**, **27** is carried by the inner panel **20** in elongated pockets **28**, **29**, **30**, **31** respectively, formed by stitching narrow strips of material to the inner face of the panel **20**, as is best shown in Figure 7.

As shown in Figure 8, the elements **24**, **25**, etc., are of the type made from closely pressed, flat loops or coils of wire **24***a*, well known in the art, the important feature being that such elements, unlike conventional "bones," are resiliently bendable in the plane of their thickness as well as in the plane of their width. Accordingly, when the elements **24**, **25**, etc., are installed in the pockets **28**, **29**, etc., they are arcuated substantially as shown in Figure 4 in the plane of their width, that is, in a plane parallel to the panels **11**, **20**. Of course, the pockets **28**, **29**, etc., are arcuate in the same manner so as to sustain the reinforcing elements therein in the desired arcuate position.

While the upper end portions of the elements **24**, **25**, etc., are substantially parallel with each other, their lower arcuate portions are directed from one side of the vertical center line of the garment toward the other so that they are crossed at least at one point. Specifically, the pocket **28** crosses the pocket **30**, the pocket **29** crosses the pocket **31** and the pockets **29**, **30** cross each other. The elements **24**, **27** in the pockets **28**, **31** extend almost the full length of those pockets down to the points indicated at **32**. However, the elements **25**, **26** in the pockets **29**, **30** extend only to the points **33** near the intersection of those pockets with the pockets **28**, **31**. Accordingly, while the pockets cross one another at three points, namely, **34**, **35**, **36**, the reinforcing elements are crossed at only one point, namely, **34**.

The laterally curved arrangement as well as the crossing of the various reinforcing elements and pockets facilitates efficient distribution of forces in the plane of the front panel of the garment, with the result that proper abdominal contour control is achieved without sacrifice of

comfort and undue bulkiness. Moreover, the directional arrangement of the reinforcing elements, as described, coacts with the oblique elasticity of the lower panels **16** in an efficient equalization of forces downwardly and to the sides of the body, that is, from the front region of the abdoment to the hips and thighs, so that the garment as a whole is capable of excellent torso molding and shaping qualities.

Since the elements **25, 26** in the pockets **29, 30** stop short of the pockets **24, 31**, respectively, unnecessary multiple crossing of the reinforcing elements is avoided, while the crossing of the pockets themselves at the points **35, 36** and continuation of the pockets **29, 30**, downwardly beyond these points serves to provide a satisfactory amount of reinforcement in those regions.

In accordance with conventional practice, the garment is provided with the usual slide fastener **37** and hose suspenders **38**, as shown.

While in the foregoing there has been shown and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, various modifications may become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention relates. Accordingly, it is not desired to limit the invention to this disclosure and various modifications may be resorted to, such as may lie within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a torso constricting and molding undergarment, an abdomen encircling member including a vertically elongated front panel, a pair of elastic side panels secured to opposite side edges of said front panel and yieldable circumferentially of the garment, said side panels having upwardly convergent lower edges, and a pair of tapered substantially triangular elastic lower panels having inner end edges secured to the opposite side edges of said front panel and downwardly divergent upper edges secured to the lower edges of the respective side panels, said lower panels extending obliquely from said front panel laterally and downwardly to opposite sides of the garment over the thighs of the user and being yieldable substantially in parallel to the directions in which they extend, tapered end portions of said lower panels being disposed at the sides of the garment and projecting rearwardly beyond the outer side edges of said side panels, the apices of said tapered end portions being disposed at the lower edge of opposite sides of the garment.

2. In a torso constricting and molding undergarment, the combination of superposed inner and outer front panels secured together at the top and side edges thereof, the lower edge of the inner panel being detached from and spaced upwardly from the lower edge of the outer panel, said outer panel being entirely free of reinforcing means, and reinforcing means provided on the surface of said inner panel adjacent the outer panel, said last mentioned reinforcing means comprising a first pair of elongated curved reinforcing elements extending downwardly in mutually convergent relation from points at the upper edge of the inner panel adjacent the side edges thereof to a common point of convergence disposed centrally at the lower edge of the inner panel, and a second pair of elongated curved reinforcing elements extending downwardly in mutually crossing relation from points at the upper edge of the inner panel spaced inwardly from the upper ends of the first reinforcing elements to points at the lower edge of the inner panel at the respective opposite side edges of the latter, said second pair of reinforcing elements being mutually crossed substantially at the center of the inner panel and crossing the respective opposite reinforcing elements in the first pair at opposite sides of and below their own point of crossing.

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