

Dec. 25, 1951

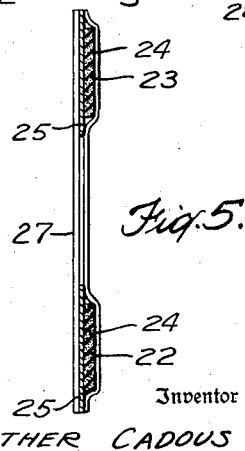
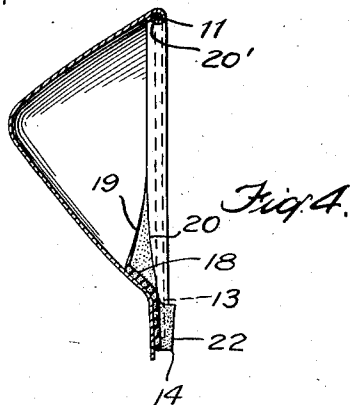
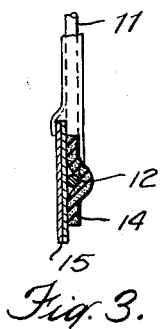
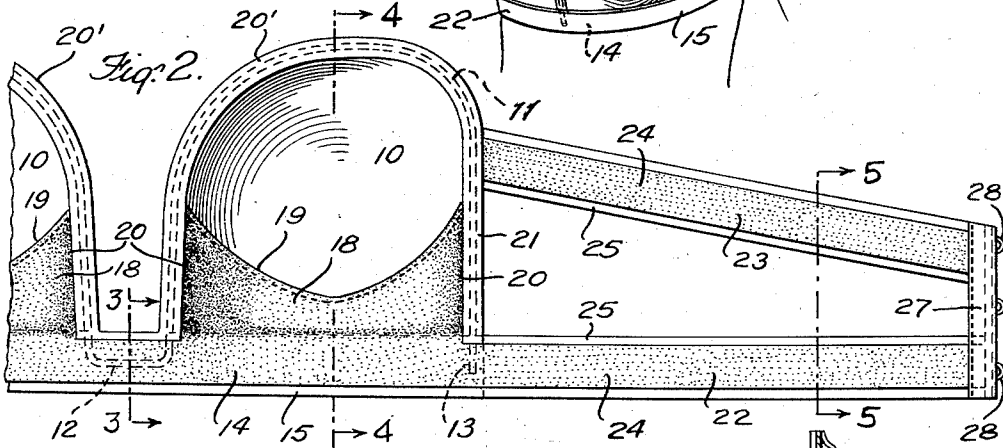
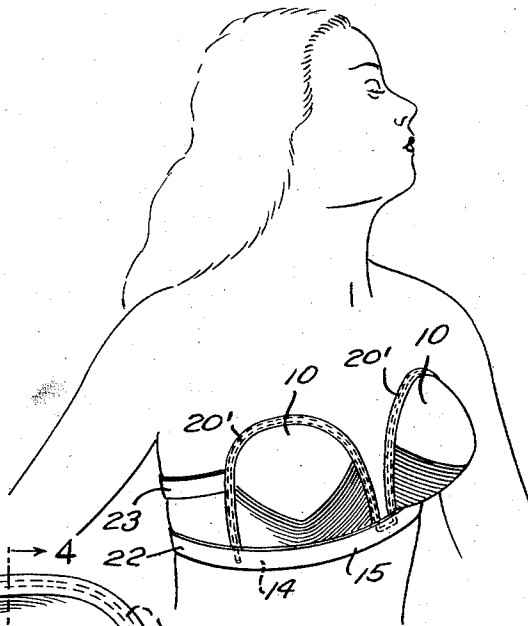
E. CADOUS
STRAPLESS BRASSIERE

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3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.



Inventor
ESTHER CADOUS

W. J. Leek
Attorney

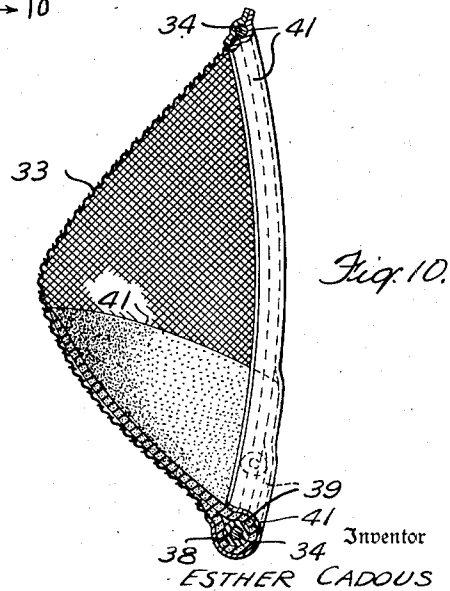
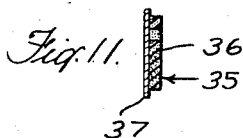
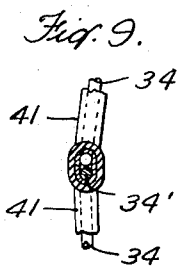
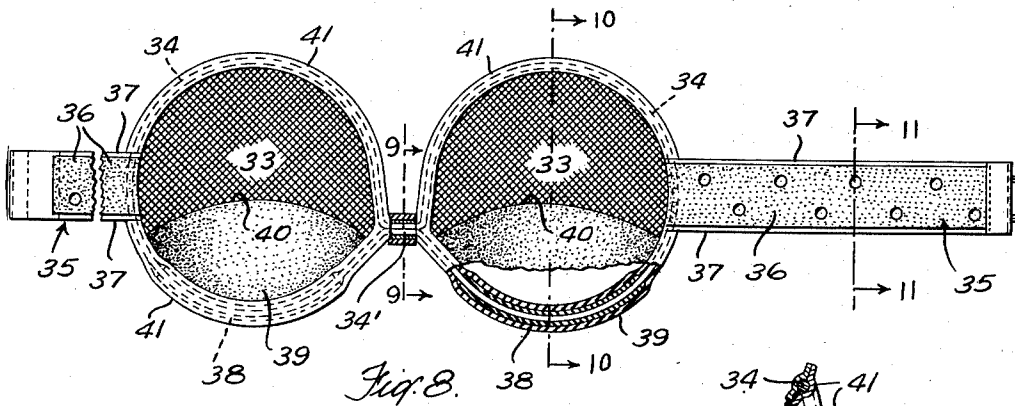
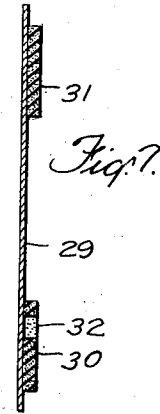
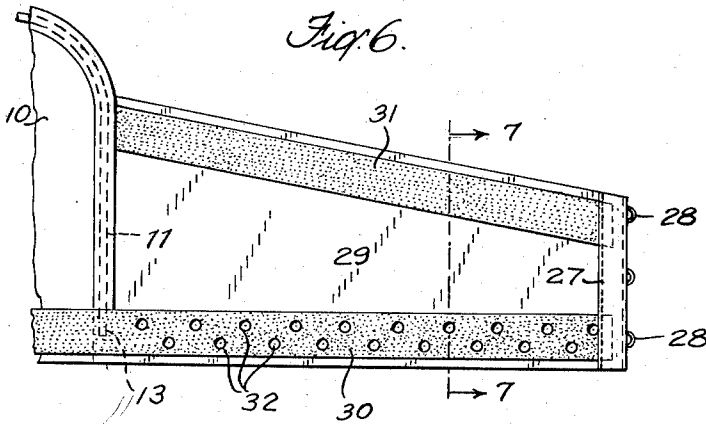
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E. CADOUS
STRAPLESS BRASSIERE

2,579,545

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Inventor
ESTHER CADOUS

Offack
Attorney

Dec. 25, 1951

E. CADOUS

2,579,545

STRAPLESS BRASSIERE

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Fig. 12.

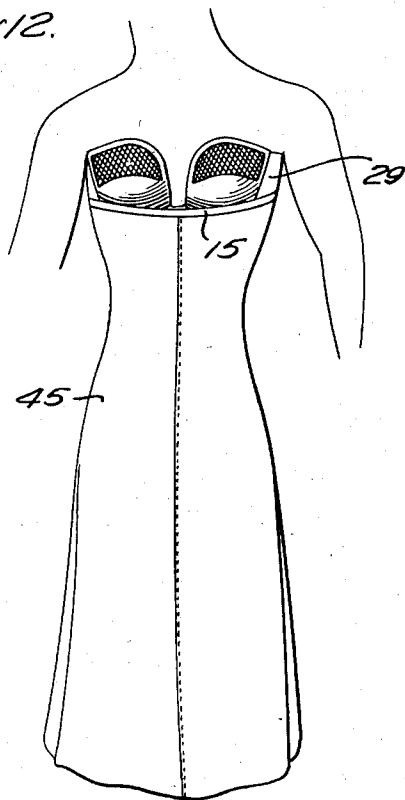


Fig. 13.

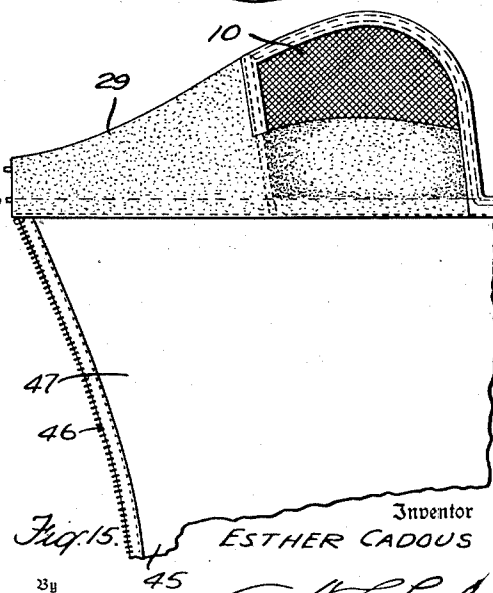
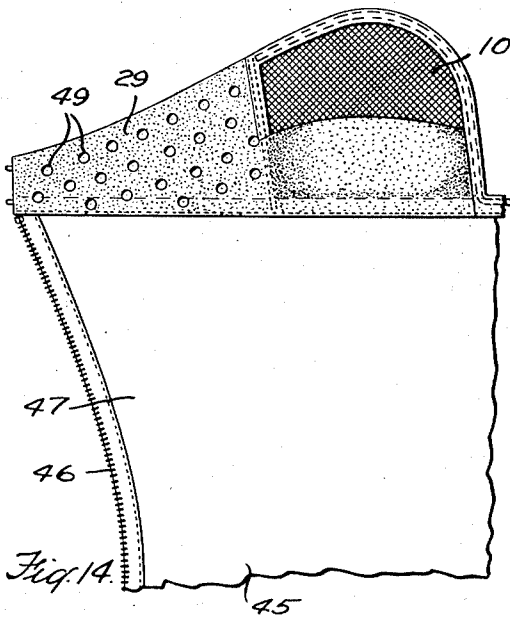
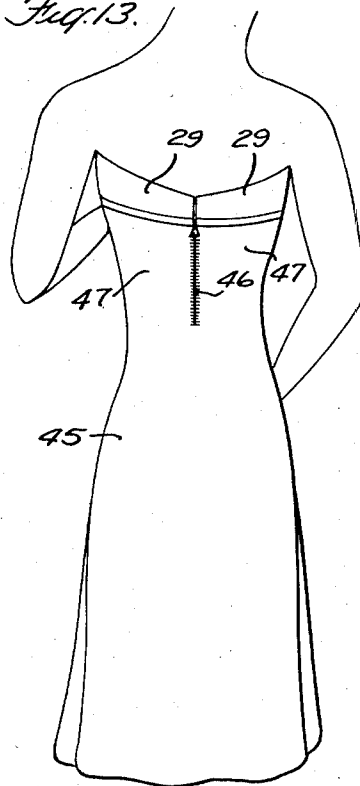


Fig. 14.

Fig. 15.

Inventor
ESTHER CADOUS

[Signature]
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,579,545

STRAPLESS BRASSIÈRE

Esther Cadous, New York, N. Y.

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2-42)

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This invention relates to strapless brassières and has for an object to provide a brassière having novel and improved means for supporting the same on the body of the wearer.

Another object is to provide a strapless brassière having novel and improved means for gripping the body for holding the brassière and the busts in place.

Another object is to provide a brassière having a gripping surface which is soft and resilient, which is pervious to air, and which does not damage or irritate the skin.

Various other objects and advantages will be apparent as the nature of the invention is more fully disclosed.

In accordance with this invention the gripping area comprises a strip of non-woven soft resilient stretchable and pervious material such for example as sponge rubber which is backed by a strengthening material which is also pervious and stretchable and may be made of one-way stretch material, such as woven lastex or the like. The backing material imparts mechanical strength to the sponge rubber which in itself has but little mechanical strength. Strips of this material are used for the back panels which extend from the sides of the brassière around the back of the wearer and are arranged to be secured under tension so as to provide the necessary gripping contact with the skin.

The material may also extend across the front of the brassière for supporting the stiffening wires or the like and for forming a cushion to prevent the wires from contacting the skin.

In one embodiment of the invention the lower part of the cups are also formed of sponge rubber which is so disposed as to exert a firm but soft support on the busts and to prevent the same from slipping out of place in the cups during use.

The brassière may constitute a separate garment or may constitute the upper part of a garment such as a slip, bathing suit, gown or the like, in which case the sponge rubber contacting surfaces supply the necessary support for the entire garment.

In the above construction the pores of the sponge rubber and the permeable woven backing provide ventilation which is essential to the comfort of the wearer and the surface pores of the sponge rubber provide a soft roughened gripping surface which will not slip on the skin although it is soft and comfortable.

Both the gripping action and the ventilation may be increased if desired by forming holes in

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the sponge rubber. These holes may extend all or a part of the way through the sponge rubber, but not through the backing material and are spaced over the surface of the sponge rubber as desired.

The invention will be better understood by referring to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which certain specific embodiments thereof are set forth for purposes of illustration.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a brassière embodying the present invention showing the same in position on a wearer;

Fig. 2 is an inside front elevation of a portion of the brassière on a larger scale;

Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are sections taken on the lines 3-3, 4-4, and 5-5 respectively of Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is an inside elevation showing a modified form of back panel;

Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7-7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is an inside elevation of a brassière illustrating a further embodiment of the invention; Figs. 9, 10 and 11 are sections taken on the lines 9-9, 10-10 and 11-11 of Fig. 8;

Fig. 12 is a front elevation of a slip showing the same in position on the wearer;

Fig. 13 is a rear elevation of the slip of Fig. 12;

Fig. 14 is an inside elevation of one type of back strap used with the slip of Figs. 12 and 13; and

Fig. 15 is an inside elevation of a back strap similar to Fig. 14, but showing a further embodiment of the invention.

Referring to Figs. 1 to 5 the brassière is shown as comprising a pair of bust pockets or cups 10 which are formed of any suitable light weight material and are supported by a stiff wire or the like 11 which extends around the upper edges of both bust pockets 10 and is formed with a horizontal portion 12 between the two pockets. The ends 13 of the wire 11 and the horizontal portion 12 are attached to a front strip 14 which is of pervious cushioning material, such as sponge rubber, and is backed by a layer of pervious fabric 15 to which it is secured by suitable means, such as cement. The fabric 15 is preferably non-stretchable although in some instances a stretchable material, such as woven lastex, may be used.

A panel 18 of sponge rubber or similar material is disposed in the lower portion of each breast pocket and extends upwardly from the front strip 14 to a point below the center of the pocket.

In the form shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the panel 18 is formed with a curved upper edge 19 and with side edges 20 which are secured to the fabric of the breast pocket 10 adjacent the wires 11. The wires 11 are covered by a suitable fabric covering 20.

A back panel is attached to a vertical section 21 of the wire 11 at the outer side of each breast pocket. In the embodiments shown in Figs. 1 to 5 each back panel comprises a lower strip 22 and an upper strip 23, each of which is formed with an inner surface 24 of sponge rubber and with an outer backing of woven one-way stretch material 25. The outer ends of the back strips 22 and 23 are attached to a stay 27 and are provided with fastening means shown as eyes 28. It is to be understood that the cooperating back panel is of similar form and will be provided with hooks to register with the eyes 28.

The sponge rubber strips are secured to the backing material by suitable adhesive means, such as cement. Since both the sponge rubber and the woven backing material are pervious to air the construction provides ventilation which maintains the body cool and eliminates discomfort to the wearer which might otherwise be caused by perspiration. The sponge rubber is characterized by a surface formed of a multiplicity of fine cells which have the property of gripping the skin without discomfort. It is to be understood of course that the sponge rubber may be natural or artificial and that the sponge rubber layer may be separately formed and cemented to the backing material or may be cast thereon, or strips of sponge rubber may be woven therein, as desired. In any event a discontinuous surface of rubber is disposed to contact and grip the skin. The backing material for the back strap is preferably of woven elastic material which is capable of stretching in only one direction and which has the property of exerting a substantial pull when stretched. The back panels are made of a size such that they will be stretched somewhat and secured under tension around the back of the wearer, thereby holding the gripping surfaces in firm contact with the skin.

The panels 18, as indicated more clearly in Fig. 4, form an extra support for the lower portions of the busts and prevent the same from slipping out of place in the bust pockets. They also increase the area of support which results in increased comfort to the wearer.

In the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7 the brassière is similar to that above described except that the back panel is formed by a wide strip 29 of woven stretchable fabric to which both a lower strip 30 and an upper strip 31 of sponge rubber are secured and the sponge rubber in the lower strip 30 is provided with a plurality of holes 32 which are disposed over the surface thereof. These holes, as pointed out above, provide additional air space and also form cups which increase the grip on the skin of the wearer, particularly after the strip has been stretched and then retracted somewhat on the body. It is to be understood that similar holes may be provided in the upper back strip 31 if desired. These holes preferably extend entirely through the sponge rubber, but not through the backing strip, although they may constitute depressions in the surface of the sponge rubber which do not extend entirely therethrough. It is not necessary for the holes to extend through the backing strip inasmuch as this strip is woven and highly pervious to air in any event. Of course both upper

and lower strips of the forms of Figs. 1 to 7 may be perforated or unperforated as desired.

Figs. 8 to 11 illustrate the invention as applied to a slightly different type of brassière comprising bust pockets 33 of open mesh material secured to a substantially circular wire 34 which extends around the periphery thereof. The bust pockets are joined by a wire portion 34' to form a comparatively rigid unit. In this embodiment a single back strap 35 is attached to the outer portion of each of the bust pockets and comprises an inner layer of sponge rubber 36 with an outer layer 37 of woven stretchable backing material of the type above indicated.

In order to increase the comfort to the wearer a soft tube 38 of suitable material, such as rubber, is placed over the wires 34 at the lower portion of the bust pockets and a panel 39 of the sponge rubber material above described is secured around the wires 34 and over the tube 38 at the lower portion of the bust pocket and is provided with a curved upper edge 40 which is stitched or otherwise secured to the fabric of the bust pockets. The wire 34 is of course covered by a suitable fabric covering 41.

Figs. 12, 13 and 14 show a brassière of the type of Figs. 1 to 7 as applied to the upper part of a slip and as forming a support for the slip. The brassière section is given reference numerals similar to those of Figs. 1 to 7. The upper portion 45 of the slip is attached to the front strip 15 and to the back panels 29 of the brassière. The upper portion of the back of the slip is shown as divided and as secured by a zipper 46. When the zipper 46 is opened the back panels 47 of the slip may be opened with the back panels 29. When the zipper is closed and the back panels 29 are secured together under tension, as indicated in Fig. 13, the gripping surfaces of the sponge rubber serve both to support the slip and the bust pockets.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 14 the sponge rubber layer of the back panels is provided with a plurality of holes 49 similar to the construction shown in Fig. 6. In the embodiment of Fig. 15 the holes are omitted. It is to be understood that the particular construction selected depends upon the desired characteristics of the garment.

Garments of the above type are readily washable. Other stretchable material having open pores and a gripping surface may be used in place of the sponge rubber, for example a porous material with stretchable rubber threads or bands woven or knitted therein and having discontinuous exposed portions forming gripping surfaces. In some instances the sponge rubber may be backed by an impervious stretchable sheet material such as sheet rubber, the ventilation being provided by the pores of the sponge rubber. The backing material may be any knitted or woven stretchable material, preferably containing rubber threads.

What is claimed is:

1. A brassière comprising a pair of breast pockets of thin fabric having bottom and top edges, a strengthening member having outer ends and extending across the bottom edges of said breast pockets joined thereto, stiffening members extending upwardly from said strengthening member to support upper edges of the fabric breast pockets, and back straps secured to the outer ends of said strengthening member to extend around the back of the wearer, said strengthening member being adapted to receive the entire pull of said back straps, said back straps com-

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prising a layer of pervious elastic material to exert a pull for securing the brassière, and a layer of sponge rubber adhesively secured to said first layer on the inside of the back straps to cushion the pull of the first layer and to contact and grip the body of the wearer to prevent slippage of the back straps.

2. A brassière as set forth in claim 1, in which said sponge rubber is formed with a plurality of holes disposed over the surface thereof and extending uninterruptedly therethrough.

3. A brassière, as set forth in claim 1, in which said breast pockets are formed of thin fabric and inserts of sponge rubber disposed in the lower part of the breast pockets on the inside of said fabric to contact and support the lower portion of the breasts.

4. In a brassière, as set forth in claim 1, a stiffening wire extending around at least the lower

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portion of each of said breast pockets; a flexible tube disposed over said wire and a panel of sponge rubber disposed over said wire and tube on the inside of the said garment to contact the body of the wearer.

5. A brassière, as set forth in claim 1, in which said first layer comprises a woven elastic fabric.
ESTHER CADOUS.

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