

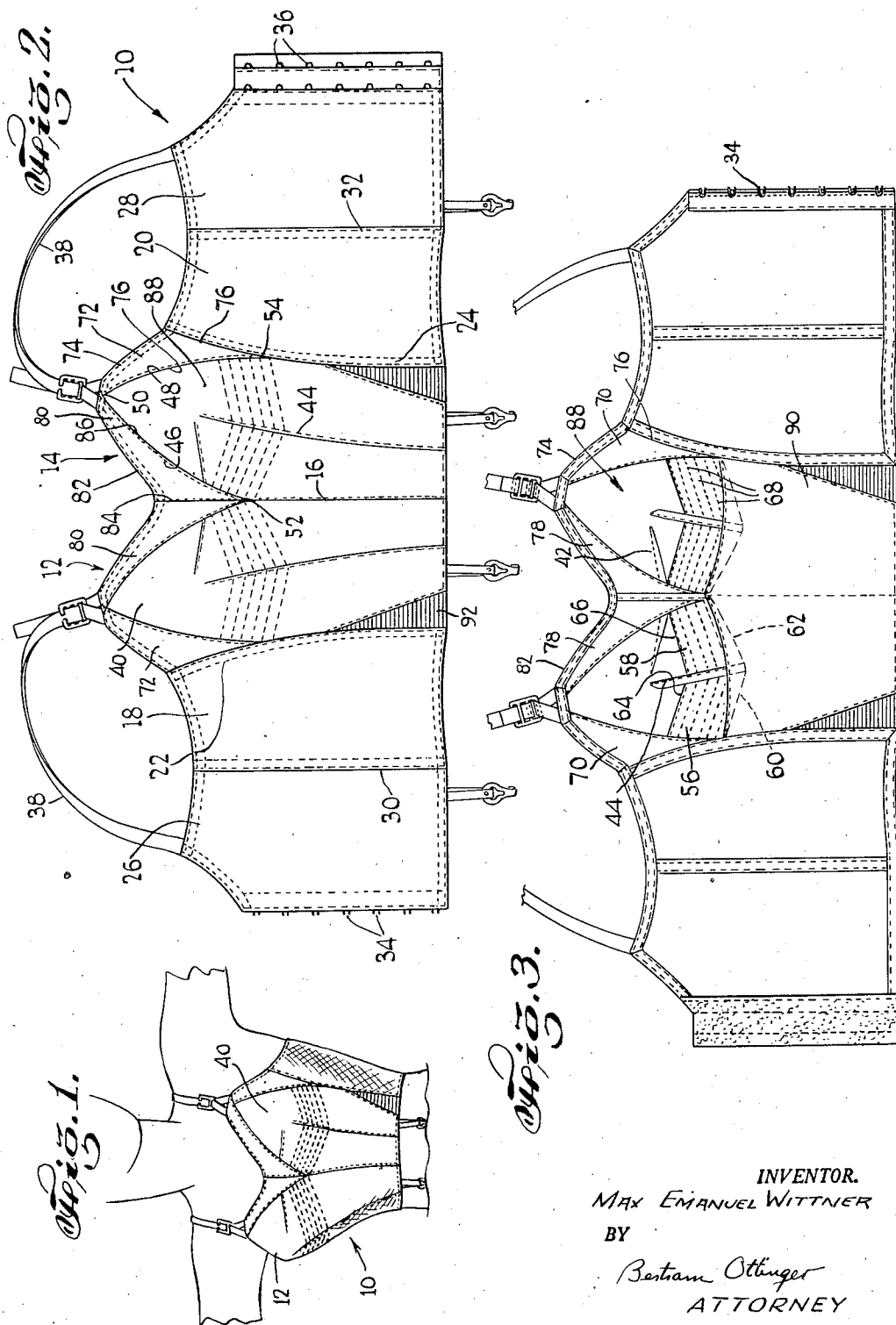
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BUST MOLDING AND UPLIFTING GARMENT

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BUST MOLDING AND UPLIFTING GARMENT

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1

This invention relates to bust molding and uplifting garments such as brassières and brassière tops of corsets. More particularly my invention pertains to garments of the character described which are adapted to be used by women whose breasts no longer have a youthful firmness.

It is an object of my invention to provide a garment of the character described which will artificially constrict the bases of the breasts, attractively shape the breasts, form a stylish area of separation between the breasts, and prevent the constricted bases of the breasts from slipping out of the garment.

It is another object of my invention to provide a garment of the character described capable of performing the foregoing functions efficiently, with a relatively few number of parts and with a simple construction which can be manufactured easily and at a low cost.

Other objects of my invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

My invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, arrangements of parts and combinations of elements which will be exemplified in the brassière hereinafter described, and the scope of which will be indicated in the appended claims.

In the drawings, in which is shown one of the various possible embodiments of my invention,

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a brassière constructed in accordance with my invention, the same being shown as it appears when worn, and

Figs. 2 and 3 are outer and inner views, respectively, of the brassière as it appears when spread out on a flat surface.

Referring in detail to the drawings, the numeral 10 generally designates a brassière whose construction embodies my invention. In essence said brassière comprises two bust covering portions 12, 14 which are secured to each other vertically at the center of the garment by stitching 16. Side panels 18, 20 are sewed at 22, 24 to the outer edges of the portion 12, 14; and rear panels 26, 28 are stitched at 30, 32 to the back edges of the side panels. The free ends of the rear panels carry rows of hooks 34 and eyes 36 which enable the brassière to be secured to a wearer. The usual shoulder straps 38 also are included.

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the brassière as thus far described is conventional, and it may be mentioned at this point that the brassière may be conventionally modified without in any wise altering the essential construction and operation of those parts thereof which constitute my invention. For example, the side and rear panels at each side of the portions 12, 14 may be joined to form one instead of two panels and the vertical dimension of the brassière may be shortened by removing some

2

or all of the fabric below the level of those areas of the bust covering portions which actively shape and constrain the breasts.

The present invention resides in the aforesaid areas of the bust covering portions and, accordingly, those portions will be described in detail. However, since said portions 12, 14 are mirror images of one another, the construction of one only will be outlined.

Each said portion comprises a bias-cut panel 40 which extends from the bottom to substantially the top of the bust covering portion. If desired, the part of said panel below the active breast shaping and constraining area may be replaced by a band in accordance with standard practice. The panel is formed with the usual properly shaped darts 42, 44 which impart the requisite dome-shaped formation thereto in the region overlying a breast.

The side edges 46, 48 of the panel converge to an apex 50, the convergence starting at points 52, 54 which mark the lower limit of an active breast shaping and constraining area. Two straight-cut fabric pieces 56, 58 are applied on the back of the panel 40, these pieces each extending from a converging side edge 46, 48 to the center dart 44. Said pieces slope upwardly at slight opposite angles from the center dart; and the lower edges 60, 62 of said pieces run downwardly at the same angles from the points 52, 54 to the center dart. The upper edges 64, 66 of said pieces are oriented in like manner and are located within an area covered by the base of a breast which the brassière is adapted to mold. The lower edges 60, 62 are disposed outside of this area. A plurality of lines of stitching 68, running parallel to the edges 60-66, secure the straight-cut fabric pieces to the bias-cut panel 40 and somewhat stiffen this region of the brassière.

Pursuant to a primary aspect of my invention, each of the converging side edges 46, 48 has secured to it, as by stitching, a relatively wide fabric band which is less supple than the material of the panel 40. Preferably this effect is secured by having the bands heavier than the panel and this may be achieved by using heavier material or multiple plies in the band, or both. As illustrated herein the bands are made of two plies. Thus, the outer side edge 48 has stitched to it an interior band 70 of a material heavier than that of the panel 40, and an exterior band 72, which is coextensive with the interior band 70, and consists of a material of about the same weight as that of the panel 40 but having a different finish for the sake of attractiveness. For example, the panel 40 is made of a fabric with a dull finish and the material of the band 72 has a shiny finish. Preferably the bands flare downwardly. The upper edges 74 of the bands 70, 72 define the

outer portion of the upper edge of the bust covering portion and the outer side edges 76 of said bands define the outer side edge of the bust covering portion above the point 54. For a reason which will be pointed out hereinafter, the bands are straight-cut, i. e. the warp or woof of the bands is approximately parallel to either the upper edges 74 or lower edges 76 of the bands.

The inner side edge 46 of the panel 40 has secured to it an interior band 78 and a coextensive exterior band 80 made of materials respectively similar to those of the bands 70, 72. The bands 78 and 80 likewise are wide and flare downwardly. The upper edges 82 of the bands 78, 80 define the inner portion of the upper edge of the bust covering portion and the outer side edges 84 of said bands define the inner side edge of the bust covering portion above the point 52. The lower edges 86 of the bands are secured as by stitching to the inner side edge 46. The bands 78, 80 likewise are straight-cut, i. e. the warp and the woof thereof are approximately parallel to the upper and lower edges 82, 82 of said bands.

The outer bands, 70, 72 and the inner bands 78, 80 may overlap above the apex 50 of the panel 40 and attention is directed to the fact that both sets of bands extend to the lower edges 60, 62 of the interior pieces 56, 58.

The upper edges 74, 82 of both sets of bands are located outside of the area covered by the base of a breast which the brassière is adapted to mold and the lower edges 72, 86 of the bands are located within said area.

The ends of the upper edges 82 of the inner bands 78, 80 are concave and terminate at right angles to the median line 16 of joinder between the bust covering portions so that the inner bands of both bust covering portions merge smoothly to form a continuously concavely curved top edge at the center of the brassière the result of whose presence will be indicated shortly hereinafter.

It now will be apparent that each bust covering portion includes a single-ply zone 88 of bias-cut material which has a dome-shaped configuration imparted thereto by the darts 42, 44; the boundaries of said zone being within the area covered by the base of a breast which the brassière is adapted to mold. This zone is the protuberant area of the bust covering portion and the flesh of a breast largely is forced into it by the stiffened zones at the interior pieces 56, 58 and by the less flexible zones constituting the heavy double-ply inner and outer bands. By making both sets of bands straight-cut this action is enhanced and, furthermore, since the pull of the shoulder straps is along the longitudinal axis of both sets of bands, these bands will be taut, thereby preventing any flesh of the breast from slipping out sidewise from beneath the confines of the brassière. Moreover, it will be seen that the two sets of bands and the two interior pieces bound the zone 88 in a quadrilateral fashion with an upper apex at its top and a lower apex at its bottom. The pull of the shoulder strap, accordingly, tends to bring together the side apices thereby to fashionably increase the separation between and protuberance of the breast.

In addition, the separation between the breasts is made more marked by extending the inner bands to the lower edges of the interior pieces. Also, extending both sets of bands down to the

lower edges of the interior pieces affords firm anchoring lines for the side edges of said pieces.

With respect to the continuously concavely curved top edge of the center of the brassière, I have found that its presence improves the separation between the shaped breasts. I believe this is due to the uniform tension obtained in and between the inner bands because of the unbroken concave curve.

The brassière may include other conventional adjuncts associated with the breast covering portions, as for example an interior cover 90 and elastic gores 92.

It will thus be seen that there is provided a brassière which achieves the several objects of the invention and is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As various possible embodiments might be made of the above invention and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein described or shown in the accompanying drawings is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A bust molding and uplifting garment constituting a pair of like bust covering portions and means to hold the same in position on a wearer, each said bust covering portion including a panel of bias-cut material comprising a dome-shaped zone the boundaries of which are within the area covered by the base of a breast which the bust covering portion is adapted to mold, the upper side edges of said panel converging upwardly from below said dome-shaped zone to substantially a point at the top of said dome-shaped zone, each said bust covering portion further comprising a pair of straight-cut bands one disposed alongside of and secured to each of the converging upper side edges of said panel, the lower end of each band being below said zone, each said band being widest at about the middle thereof and tapering toward both ends.

2. A bust molding and uplifting garment as set forth in claim 1 wherein the bands are double-ply and stiffer than the material of the dome-shaped zone whereby said bands will force the flesh of the breasts into said zone and prevent slippage out from beneath the same.

3. A bust molding and uplifting garment as set forth in claim 1 wherein stitching means is provided to stiffen the bias-cut panel beneath the dome-shaped zones, said means comprising a plurality of parallel rows of stitching running from one to the other of the upwardly converging upper side edges of each panel, said rows slanting upwardly from their centers whereby the bands and rows conjointly define a quadrilateral perimeter for said dome-shaped zone.

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