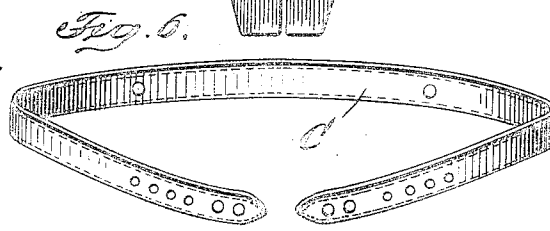
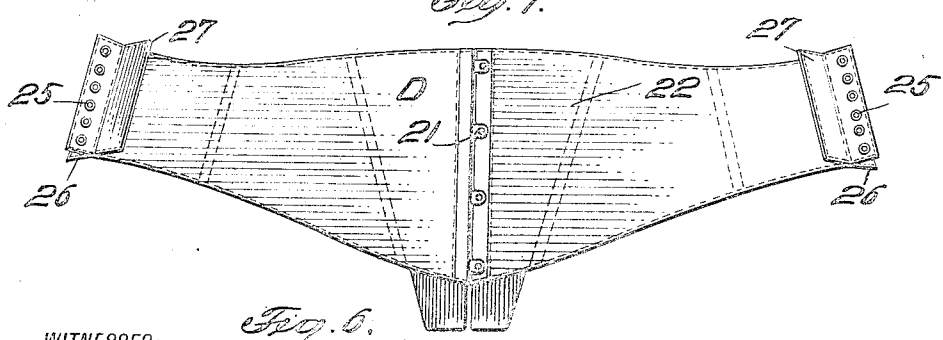
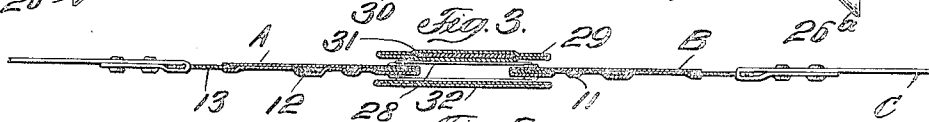
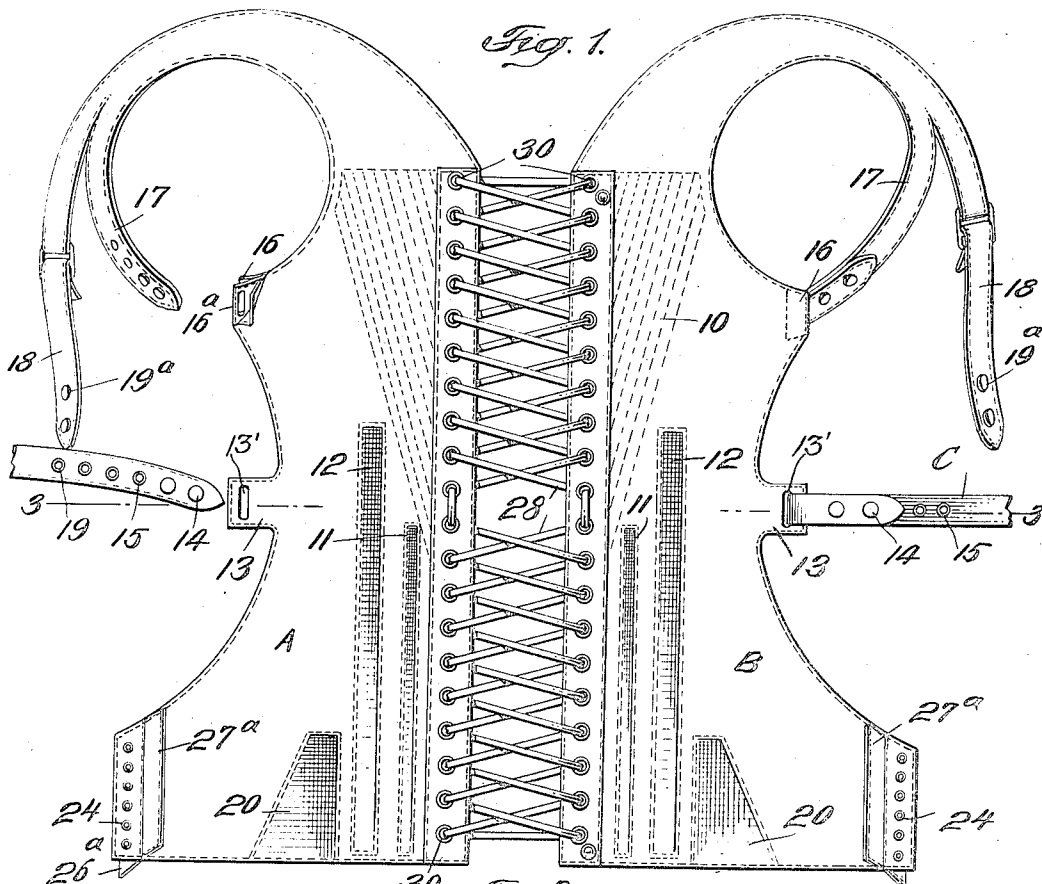


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 COMBINED SHOULDER BRACE AND COMPRESSOR.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 13, 1912.

1,137,541.

Patented Apr. 27, 1915.
 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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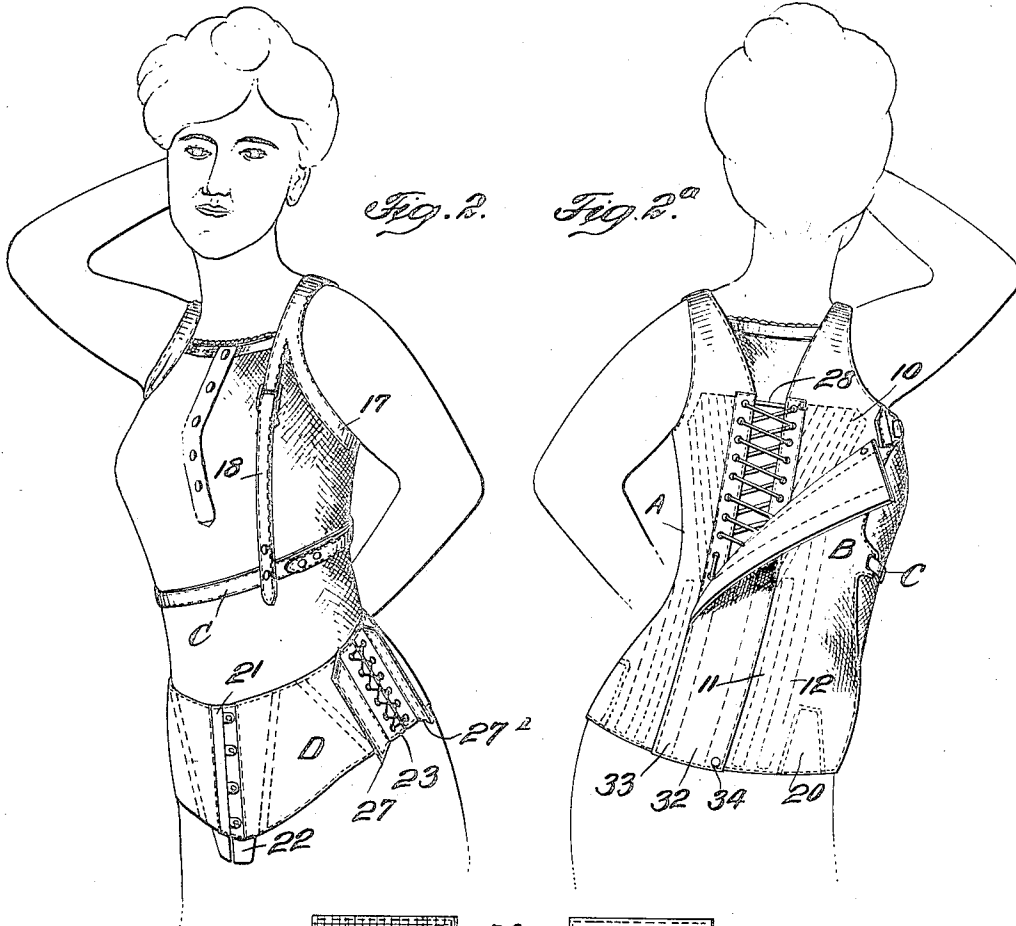


Fig. 5.

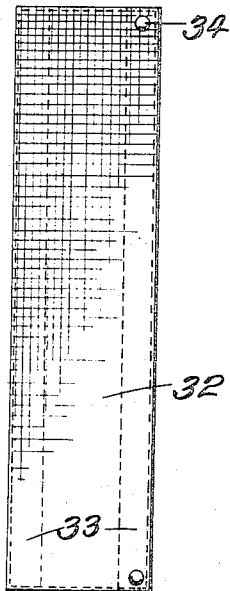
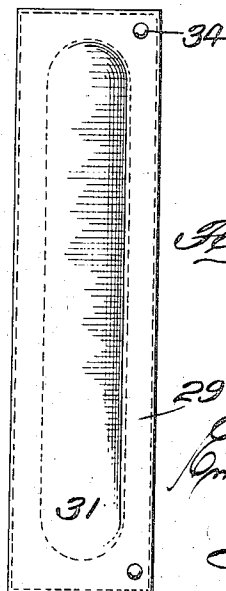


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EMIL SCHWEINBURG, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COMBINED SHOULDER-BRACE AND COMPRESSOR.

1,137,541.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 27, 1915.

Application filed March 13, 1912. Serial No. 633,437.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL SCHWEINBURG, a citizen of the Empire of Austria-Hungary, and a resident of New York, in the borough of Manhattan, county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Shoulder-Braces and Compressors, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an article of wearing apparel similar to corsets and the like, in that it is adapted to serve as a support for certain parts of the body, but free from the constricting and other objectionable features of such devices.

The object of my present invention is to provide a garment having more or less the character of a corset, which will efficiently and comfortably support the wearer's abdomen, back, and shoulders, which will reduce the hips and otherwis mold the figure in accordance with the prevailing fashion, but will give the respiratory organs and the waist perfect freedom so that the wearer will be enabled to breathe properly and to walk, ride or stoop with an easy and natural movement.

While my invention is particularly designed to be used by ladies instead of the customary corset, it may also be made of dimensions to adapt it for the use of adolescents, children, and even men.

In the preferred form of my invention, that portion which forms the abdominal support is readily detachable, so that abdominal portions of different sizes or character may be attached to the same device, to meet the requirements of various physical conditions.

Another advantage of my improved supporting device is its ready adjustability at various points so that it will be easy to make it conform to any changes which fashion may dictate from time to time.

Other features of my invention will appear from the detailed description following hereinafter.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a partial rear view of a supporting device or garment embodying my invention. Figs. 2 and 2^a show the garment in position on the wearer's body. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, with certain protectors added. Figs. 4 and 5 are face-views of these protectors, for

which nothing novel is claimed in this application. Fig. 6 shows the band or girdle employed at the waist line of my supporting device, and Fig. 7 is a separate front-view of the detachable abdominal support.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

In the particular construction shown, the improved supporting device consists of four separate or separable main parts, viz.: two similar back parts A, B, a waist band or girdle C, and an abdominal support D. Each of the back parts A, B, is here shown as made of one piece, properly shaped toward and under the arms, as well as in the waist line and from the arms to the hips, so as to give the respiratory organs perfect freedom. The back parts may be provided with pockets containing diagonal strips 10 of whalebone, horn, steel or any other suitable material. Two broader vertical steels 11, 12 are also indicated; these being contained in suitable pockets, to serve as additional back supports, but it will be understood that the arrangement of the steel or other stiffening strips may be varied, or such stiffeners may be omitted altogether, particularly in the styles intended for children. At the waist line, each of the parts A and B is provided with a lateral tab or extension 13 having slots 13', through which may be passed the ends of the waistband or girdle C. The waistband is adjustable in any suitable manner, for instance, by appropriate fasteners 14 and 15. At the side portion a tab 16 (preferably a double tab) is formed at a point corresponding to the arm pit, and a button, buckle, hook, or other separable fastener member 16^a is secured to the tab (between its two layers) to hold adjustably the free end of a shoulder strap 17 which has its other end attached to the upper edges of the back part A or B. Each back part also has another shoulder strap or suspender band 18, the free lower end of which is adapted to be connected adjustably and detachably with the girdle C, in any suitable manner, as by means of a detachable fastener member 19 on the girdle, and a series of mating members 19^a on the end of the strap 18.

The girdle C, which is a separate piece in the preferred embodiment of my invention, will be attached on both sides of the body by passing it through the slots 13' or other-

wise, and both ends of the girdle will be tightened at the same time (right and left) so as to assure the proper position of the garment or supporting device in the back.

5 The girdle is not intended however to be drawn tight enough to exert any objectionable pressure on the body. The suspender-like straps 18 being attached to the girdle C, will keep the shoulder part of the supporting device in its proper position, even
10 when the wearer bends forward or stoops, or performs any violent movement in the course of exercise or sport. In view of their suspender-like construction, these straps can be lengthened or shortened at will to conform to the figure of the wearer, thereby
15 avoiding the use of elastic.

By making the tabs 16 and 16^a double, and placing the buckles or other fasteners
20 between the layers of such double tabs, the fasteners are concealed from view and also prevented from touching and chafing or injuring other garments or pressing on the body, and are also (when made of metal)
25 protected against the corrosive action due to perspiration or heat of the body.

In the drawing, the abdominal support D consists of separate pieces attached to the hip portion of the garment, but I do not
30 restrict myself to this construction. The hip portion may be made with gores to receive rubber webbing or other elastic fabric, as indicated at 20. When the abdominal support is separable from the body of the garment (and I prefer to make it so), abdominal
35 supports of various styles or shapes may be connected with the same garment body as occasion may require. The two parts of the abdominal support will be closed in front with an ordinary steel and clasp arrangement 21, such as used for corsets, or
40 in any other suitable manner, as with hooks, or eyelets and lacing. The abdominal support may be made with pockets containing whalebone, horn, steel or other stiffeners, as indicated at 22, but such stiffeners may be
45 omitted altogether. The side edges of the two parts of the abdominal support D are attached to the body or back parts A, B, in any suitable manner, preferably by means
50 of elastic (rubber) laces 23 pressing through eyelets 24 in the back parts A, B and also through eyelets 25 on the support D. The eyelets 25 may be placed between two protecting
55 flaps 26, 27, so as to protect both the eyelets and the wearer's body. Protecting flaps 26^a, 27^a, shown in Figs. 1 and 2, may be used to protect the eyelets 24. The lacing 28 for connecting the two parts A, B at the
60 back is also preferably elastic (rubber laces) so that the garment will expand or yield in response to the movements of the body during physical exercise or otherwise. In order that the lacing may not inconvenience the wearer
65 or make marks on the body, a protector or

shield 29 of the kind shown in Fig. 4 is preferably attached to one of the back parts A or B at one side of the eyelets 30 which receive the lacing, said protector lying between the back parts A and B and the body
70 of the wearer and being of sufficient width to cover the lacing 28 and both rows of eyelets 30. This protector for which nothing novel is claimed may be made with a pocket containing a steel or other stiffener, as indicated at 31, so as to give support to the
75 back the full length of the lacing. A similar protector 32, (Fig. 5) stiffened by one or more steels 33, or the like, if desired, may be placed over the eyelets 30 and the lacing
80 28 on the outside, as shown in Fig. 3. The manner of connecting the protectors with one of the back parts A, B, or with both of them, may be varied, and the connection may be permanent or separable. In the particular
85 construction shown, separable fasteners 34 of the character of glove-fasteners are employed. The inner shield or protector 29 will guard against corrosion of the eyelets 30 by the warmth or perspiration of the
90 body, while the outer protector will cover and conceal the lacing 28, which will be found a great advantage, especially when light outer garments are worn.

In putting on my improved garment, it
95 is first adjusted over the shoulders, the waist band or girdle C is attached, and the abdominal support D properly adjusted. The wearer can then lace the garment correctly, and after tightening the laces, it can remain
100 laced for all times without being adjusted again.

The manifold advantages of my supporting garment will be readily understood. It does not exert any detrimental pressure on
105 any part of the body, yet answers all the requirements of a perfectly fitting article. It will give the figure the much-desired straight so-called Grecian line, by inclosing the abdominal parts toward the front, in
110 such a manner that it will properly support the abdomen without interfering with its natural movements, acting at the same time as a hip-reducer. More particularly, no pressure is exerted on the waist, and deep,
115 natural breathing is not impeded. The various parts of the body are given perfect freedom, so that the new garment may be worn with comfort under all sorts of conditions, even when violent exercise is to
120 be indulged in. The garment provides a perfect foundation for the proper fitting of the outer garments, according to the prevailing fashion, and changes in fashion are readily answered by the adjustability of the
125 various parts of the garment. I have mentioned above the advantage of having the abdominal support D separable from the other parts of the garment; this is of advantage not only as regards meeting the re- 130

quirements of changing fashions, but such requirements as may have their reason in the physical condition of the wearer, for instance, during the period of maternity.

5 My improved supporting device or garment therefore fulfils all requirements of hygiene, comfort, and fashion. It produces an erect carriage, gives the wearer health-
10 ful support combined with freedom of movement and in breathing, and enables outer garments to be fitted to the figure as demanded by the style or fashion which may prevail at the time.

15 It will, of course, be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the nature of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A corset substitute comprising two
20 half-back members adapted to cover the back of the wearer and provided with shoulder straps at their upper ends, with lateral extensions directly under the arms, with lateral hip flaps and with lateral tabs at
25 the waistline, means for connecting said half-back members along their rear edges, and a waistline strap extending across the front and connected with said waistline tabs, said shoulder straps being detachably
30 connected with said lateral extensions underneath the arms and forming arm scyes.

2. A corset substitute comprising two half-back members adapted to cover the back of the wearer and provided with shoulder
35 straps at their upper ends, with lateral extensions directly under the arms, with lateral hip flaps and with lateral tabs at the waistline, means for connecting said half-back members along their rear edges, and

a waistline strap extending across the front 40 and connected with said waistline tabs, said shoulder straps being divided longitudinally at their outer ends, parts thereof being detachably connected with said lateral extensions underneath the arms and form- 45 ing scyes and other parts extending downward in front and being detachably connected with said waist strap.

3. A garment adapted to serve as a substitute for corsets, comprising two con- 50 nected back parts adapted to extend from the wearer's shoulders to the hips and provided with tabs at the waist-line and under the arms, an adjustable girdle connected with the tabs at the waist-line, adjustable 55 shoulder-straps connected with the tabs under the arms, and an abdominal support extending forwardly from the lower portions of said back parts.

4. A garment adapted for use as a sub- 60 stitute for corsets, comprising a back member adapted to extend from the wearer's shoulders to the hips and provided with tabs at the waist-line and double tabs under the arms, an adjustable girdle connected 65 with the tabs at the waist-line, shoulder-straps connected with the tabs under the arms between the two layers of such tabs, and an abdominal support extending forwardly from the lower portion of the back 70 member.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EMIL SCHWEINBURG.

Witnesses:

JOHN MURTAGH,
L. M. DORMAN.