July 28, 1942. H. V. FOX 2,290,954

GARMENT

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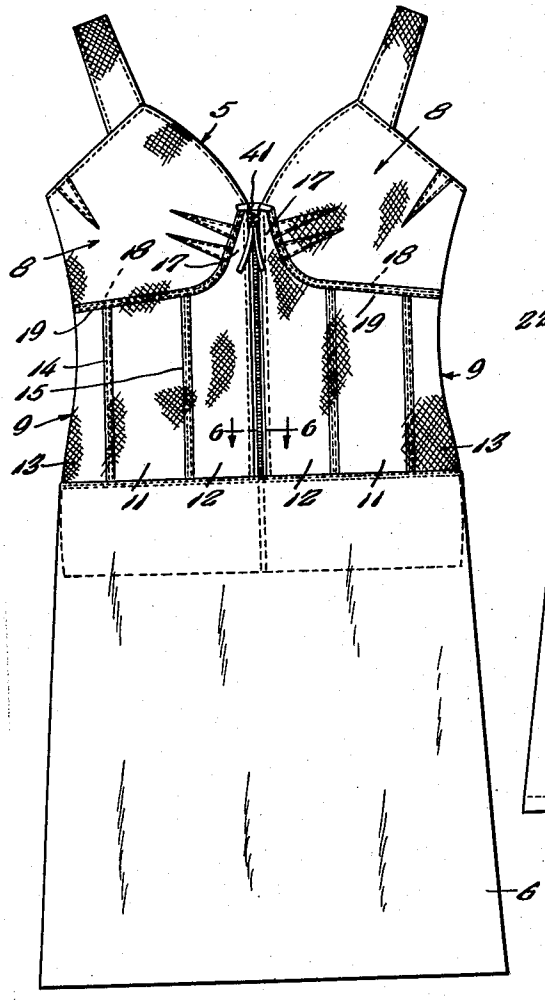


Fig. 1.

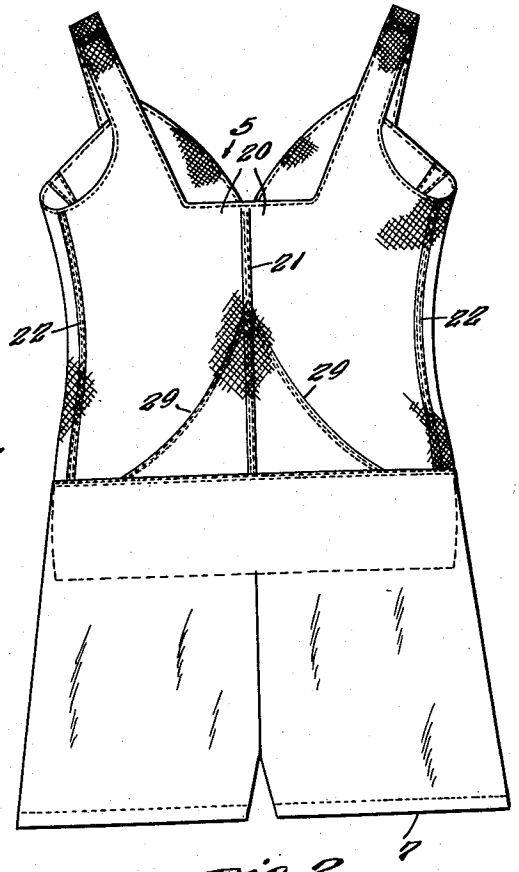


Fig. 2.

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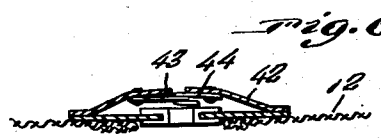


Fig. 6.

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Fig. 3.

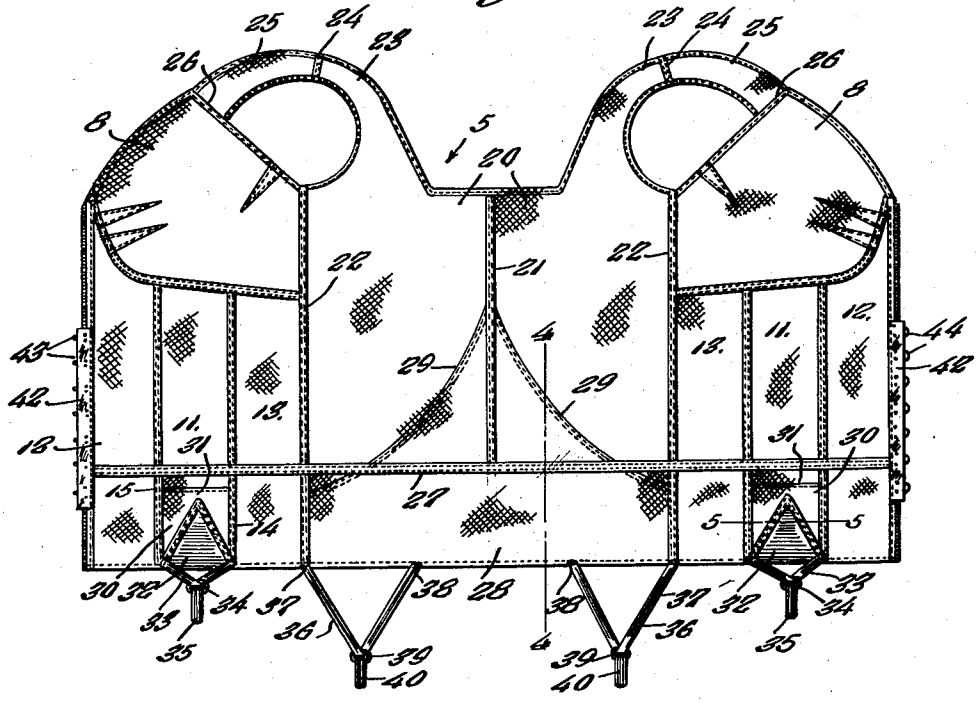


Fig. 5.

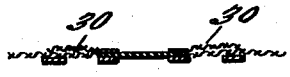
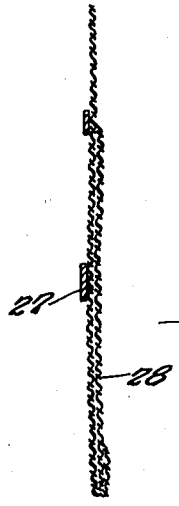


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,290,954

GARMENT

Hazel V. Fox, Washington, D. C.

Application May 10, 1941, Serial No. 392,961

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—71)

This invention relates to improvements in ladies' garments, and particularly to a garment combining in a single structure the functions of a brassiere, girdle, and slip and/or shorts.

An object of the present invention is to provide a garment of this character that will be light in weight and body conforming.

A further object of this invention is to provide a garment of this character, the several parts of which are preferably cut from an elastic net material with the cutting of each piece being in a direction against the bolt length or stretch of the material, to the end that when the several pieces or sections are sewed together in the making of the garment, such pieces will act in opposition to one another to prevent horizontal stretch, while at the same time permitting longitudinal stretch, to the end that the garment will maintain its proper shape at all times and consequently be body conforming and molding, without in any way inconveniencing the wearer or detracting from the comfortableness of the garment.

The invention together with its objects and advantages will be best understood from a study of the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a garment, according to the invention, the same being shown as combining in a single structure the functions of a brassiere, girdle, and slip.

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the garment, according to a modified form of the invention, and combining the functions of a brassiere, girdle and shorts.

Figure 3 is a front plan view of the upper section of the garment, according to the invention, the same being shown flattened out.

Figures 4 and 5 are detail sectional views taken substantially on the lines 4—4 and 5—5, respectively, of Figure 3.

Figure 6 is a detail sectional view taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the undergarment, in the contemplation of this invention, comprises a combination brassiere and girdle section indicated generally by the reference numeral 5, to which is stitched at a point, and in a manner hereinafter more fully set out, either, as suggested in Figure 1, a slip-skirt 6, or as suggested in Figure 2, shorts indicated by the reference numeral 7.

The referred to section 5 has a front portion consisting of suitably shaped brassiere portions 8—8 and girdle portions 9—9.

Each of the girdle portions 9 consists of an intermediate panel 11 and panels 12 and 13.

The panels 11, 12 and 13, at each side of the front opening of the garment, are formed from a single piece of material and are defined by reinforcing inelastic tapes 14 and 15 stitched to the material and extending vertically or longitudinally of the garment, or the panels may be made of separate pieces of material stitched together by the tapes so as to form a composite section.

The panels 12 and the upper edges thereof are shaped to extend between the brassiere portions 8—8, as at 17—17, and, together with the panels 11 and 13, are stitched to the brassiere portions 8—8 by stitching 18.

At the seams between the aforementioned panels and brassiere portions 8—8, there is secured by the aforementioned stitching 18 reinforcing tapes 19—19.

The tapes 19, like the tapes 14, are stitched in position at the inner side of the garment.

The back portion of the section 5 of the garment consists of two identical panels 20—20 stitched along the vertical seam 21, together, and respectively to the panels 13 and adjacent edges of the brassiere portions 8—8 at the vertical or longitudinal seams 22—22.

At the upper ends thereof the panels 20—20 are shaped to provide the rear portions 23, to the free ends of which are secured at the seams 24 the front portions 25 of shoulder straps, and which front portions 25 are secured to the brassiere portions 8—8 at the seams 26.

Extending transversely of the panels 11—11; 12—12; 13—13; and 20—20 and stitched thereto at the outer side of the garment is a continuous unbroken length of tape 27, and this tape is disposed in the region of the waist line but at a point so that when the garment is worn, the tape will be positioned a suitable distance below the region of the navel as and for a purpose hereinafter more fully stated.

Upon the inner sides of the panels 20—20 there is provided a lining member 28 that has a substantially rectangular lower portion that extends between the seams 22—22 below the tape 27 and terminating in vertical or straight edges secured by stitching forming the seams 22—22; and an upper substantially triangular portion that extends upwardly beyond the tape 27 to terminate at its apex on the seam 21 and substantially coextensive with the upper edges of the aforementioned panels 13—13.

The edges of the reinforcing piece 28 extending from the rectangular lower portion of said

piece to the apex of the substantially triangular upper portion of said piece are slightly curved to provide substantially concave edges secured to the panels 20—20 at opposite sides of the seam 21 through the medium of stitching 29—29.

Upon the inner sides of the panels 11 below the tape 27, and at a suitable point spaced downwardly from the tape 27, there are provided lining members 30, formed of the same material as the panels 11, and secured by stitching 31—31 and the seams 14, 15.

The lower ends of the panels 11 and the associated linings 30 are suitably cut away to accommodate inserts or sections 32—32 of elastic material.

Also, and as illustrated, hose supporter straps 33—33, of suitable length, are respectively secured at the respective opposite ends to the panels 11 at the lower edges of the panels and at opposite sides of the elastic inserts or sections 32—32.

Fitted to slides on the hose supporter straps 33—33 are loops 34—34 to which are connected suitable hose supporters 35—35.

Also, and as illustrated, hose supporter straps 36—36 are respectively secured at one end thereof at the lower edge of the garment section 5 in alignment with the seams 22—22, as at 37—37, and at the opposite ends thereof respectively secured to the lower edges of the panels 20 inwardly from the central vertical seam 22 as at 38—38.

Fitted to slide on the hose supporter straps 36—36 are loops 39—39 to which are connected suitable hose supporters 40—40.

For the full length thereof, the garment section 5 at the front is adapted to be closed by a separable or slide fastener assembly indicated generally by the reference numeral 41.

At the front of the garment the panels 12—12 have secured thereto by stitching relatively short lengths of tape 42—42.

The tapes 42—42 terminate at their lower ends short of the bottom edge of the garment section 5, and at their upper ends terminate short of the brassiere portions 8—8 of the garment.

On one of the tapes 42, there are secured, in a row, a plurality of hooks 43, while similarly secured on the other tape 42 are eyes 44 which cooperate with the hooks 43 in securing the garment closed at the front side thereof, and serve for preliminarily securing the garment closed at the front preparatory to closing the entire front with the slide fastener assembly 41.

An object of the invention is that the garment, embodying the features above described, be of light weight and body conforming.

To that end, the material from which the panels and linings, above specified, referred to and described, are formed of preferably elastic or stretchable net material which is usually characterized by threads extending at an angle to each other and is relatively more stretchable in one direction than it is in the other, the material being arranged, when forming the garment, to utilize the maximum stretch vertically of the garment. In using such material, provision has been made (by reason of the vertically taped inelastic seams) to prevent excessive vertical stretch of the panels, and horizontal stretch of the garment is limited to the normal stretch of the width of each individual panel.

Consequently, the garment will maintain its shape so as to, at all times, conform to the body to which it has been fitted.

Further the provision of the elastic inserts 32, and the specific location and arrangement of the hose supporters, as above described and illustrated, with respect to the panels 11—11, and 20—20, is such that the strain thereon will not only not disturb the fit of the garment or impose uncomfortable strain upon the wearer, but will assist materially in maintaining the garment body-conforming.

As previously stated the illustrated and described top section 5 of the garment is adapted to be used in conjunction with either a slip-skirt 6, as shown in Figure 1, or with a pair of ladies' shorts, 7, and as shown in Fig. 2.

In applying either the slip-skirt 6 or the shorts 7, to the upper section 5 of the garment, said slip-skirt 6 and/or shorts 7, as the case may be, is stitched to the aforementioned tape 27, with the result that the joining of the body section 5 and the skirt 6, or shorts 7, as the case may be, is at a point spaced downwardly a suitable distance from the waist line thus eliminating unsightly "bulging" at the waist line, especially at the front of the garment, and which generally characterizes combination undergarments of this general type.

It will also be noted, and as clearly shown in Figures 1 and 2, that the panels 13 curve inwardly at the waist, flare outwardly along the hips, and cup in below the hips, further enhancing the body-conforming qualities of the garment.

When the garment embodies a slip-skirt, such as shown at 6, it will be used, generally speaking, solely as an undergarment, and when the garment embodies, as for example, shorts, 7, as shown in Figure 2, it will combine the features of an undergarment and an outer garment, being preferably used in this form as an outer garment suitable for beach wear, or otherwise in accordance with the proprieties.

While I have herein illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of the invention, it will be obvious that changes may be made therein within the spirit and contemplation of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:

1. A garment of the class described comprising a brassiere portion and a girdle portion made throughout of stretchable cloth material and having a front opening provided with fastening means, said girdle portion extending downwardly from the brassiere portion and terminating below the hip line and including a front section at each side of the opening, inelastic vertical tapes separating each front section into a plurality of vertical panels of substantially equal width, and including an intermediate panel and a side panel at each side of the intermediate panel, the material of said side panels being arranged so that its maximum stretch is in a vertical direction, said tapes being connected at their upper ends to the brassiere portion, and said intermediate panels being respectively disposed directly below their corresponding bust portions and with the tapes at the sides of said intermediate panels extending in a vertical plane at each side of the center of the bust, a pair of back sections having shoulder straps connected to the upper edge of the brassiere portion, said back sections being connected along their vertical edges to adjacent edges of the front sections, garter straps attached to the lower edges of the back sections, and a garter strap for each of the front girdle sections, said last-named straps having ends at-

tached to the lower portion of the tapes at the opposite sides of the respective intermediate panels.

2. A garment of the class described comprising a brassiere portion and a girdle portion made throughout of stretchable cloth material and having a front opening provided with fastening means, said girdle portion extending downwardly from the brassiere portion and terminating below the hip line and including a front section at each side of the opening, inelastic vertical tapes separating each front section into a plurality of vertical panels of substantially equal width, and including an intermediate panel and a side panel at each side of the intermediate panel, the material of said side panels being arranged so that its maximum stretch is in a vertical direction, said tapes being connected at their upper ends to the brassiere portion, and said intermediate panels being respectively disposed directly below their corresponding bust portions and with the tapes at the sides of said intermediate panels extending in a vertical plane at each side of the center of the bust, a pair of back sections, shoulder straps formed of the material of the back sections connected to the upper edge of the brassiere portion, said back sections being connected along their vertical edges to adjacent edges of the front sections, garter straps attached to the lower edges of the back sections, a garter strap for each of the front girdle sections, said last-named straps having ends attached to the lower portion of the tapes at the opposite sides of the respective intermediate panels, and elastic inserts at the lower edges of said intermediate panels between the points of connection of said last-named garter straps.

HAZEL V. FOX.