June 17, 1952 E. M. HARRINGTON 2,600,645

BRASSIERE

Filed April 8, 1950

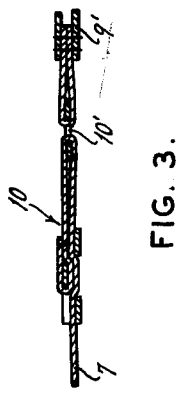


FIG. 3.

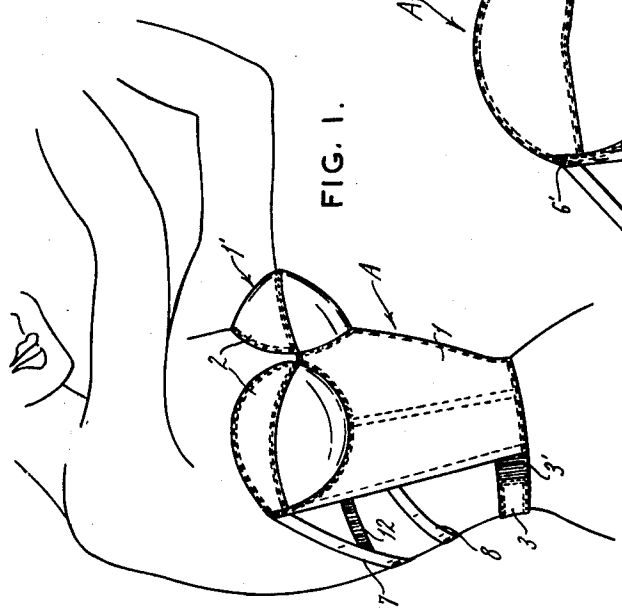


FIG. 1.

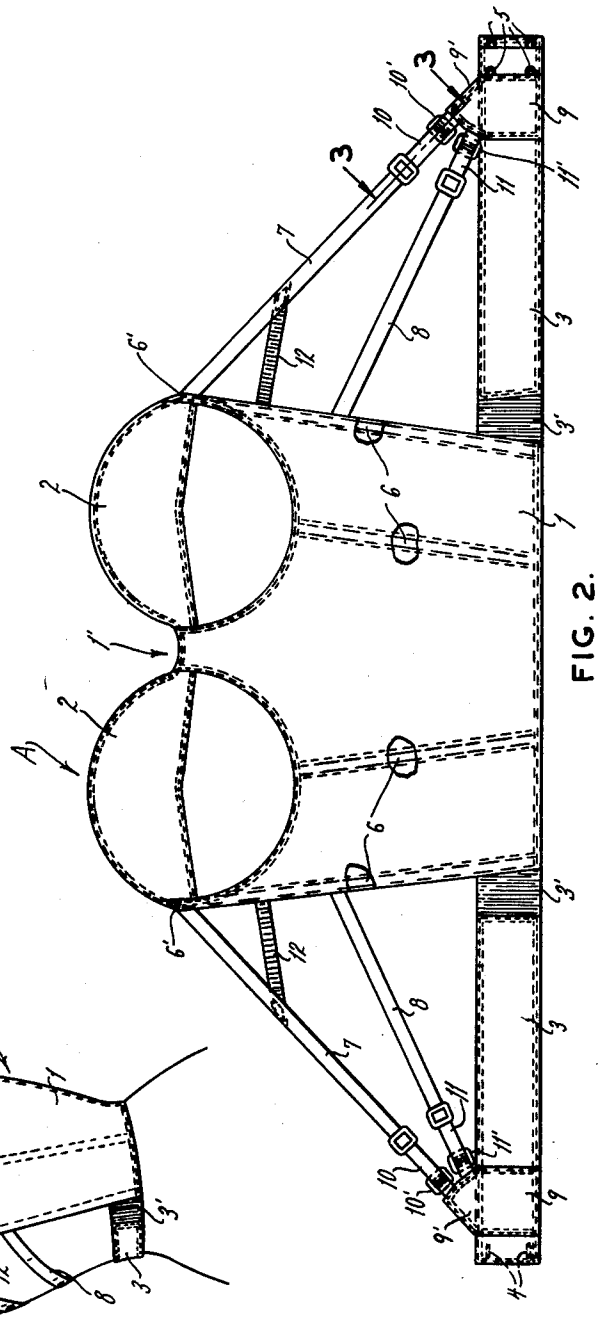


FIG. 2.

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Patented June 17, 1952

2,600,645

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,600,645

BRASSIÈRE

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Application April 8, 1950, Serial No. 154,809

3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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This invention relates generally to brassières and more specifically to brassières of the so-called strapless type which include no straps extended over the wearer's shoulders for supporting the brassières, the predominant object of the invention being to provide such a brassière which includes a lightly boned front panel that is secured about the body of a wearer and which is provided with means for maintaining the brassière in proper position on the body of a wearer thereof, said means being so arranged and concealed that a substantial portion of the back of a wearer of the brassière is exposed so as to permit of the wearing of deep-cut or backless garments.

Fig. 1 is a perspective of the improved brassière of this invention showing same as it appears when being worn.

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the improved brassière of this invention showing same in a spread-out position.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

In the drawing, wherein is shown for purposes of illustration, merely, one embodiment of the invention, A designates the improved brassière generally. The improved brassière includes a front panel 1 having a cup section 1' at the top thereof which provides a pair of cups 2, the lower portion of said front panel 1 being shown in the drawing as being disposed adjacent to the waist of a wearer of the brassière. At the lower end of the front panel 1 of the brassière a pair of straps 3 are provided which are adapted to embrace the body of a wearer of the brassière, these straps including elastic portions 3' and being provided with suitable fastening elements at their free ends, hooks and eyes, 4—5, for instance, through the instrumentality of which the straps 3 may be securely fastened about the body of a wearer of the brassière and thereby be maintained in position for use.

The front panel 1 of the brassière A preferably is provided with suitable reinforcing means 6 for imparting to said front panel sufficient stiffness to cause the brassière to perform its bust-supporting function. The front panel need only be lightly reinforced so that said front panel will not be so stiff that it will interfere with free movement of the wearer of the brassière, and the reinforcing means 6 may be in the form of boning, wires, plastic elements, or elements formed of other materials which may be found to be suitable for the purpose. By referring to the drawings it will be noted that the reinforcing elements at opposite sides of the front panel are of such length that they extend substantially to the upper edge of the cup section of the brassière, as indicated at 6', this arrangement being provided for a purpose which will presently become obvious.

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In order to maintain the upper cup section 1' of the brassière in proper position relative to the body of a wearer of the brassière a plurality of straps are provided which are attached at corresponding ends thereof to the front portion of the brassière and are attached at their opposite corresponding ends to the straps 3 at points which, when the brassière is being worn, will be at the back of the wearer of the brassière. In other words, a pair of straps 7 are provided which are secured by stitching, or otherwise, to the upper portion of the cup section 1' of the brassière at the opposite sides of said cup section, there being one of these straps 7 at each side of the brassière. Likewise, at each side of the brassière a strap 8 is provided which is secured at its forward end by stitching, or otherwise, to the front panel 1 at a point spaced downwardly from the cup section 1'.

The straps 3, which are attached to the lower portion of the front panel 1, have secured thereto by stitching, or otherwise, attaching elements 9 which by preference have flared portions 9'. The points of attachment of the attaching elements 9 to the straps 3 are so located that said attaching elements are disposed at the back of a wearer of the brassière, only the end portions of said straps 3 which are attached together to cause said straps to embrace the body of a wearer of the brassière being interposed between the pair of attaching elements 9 when the brassière is being worn. The straps 7 and 8 at each side of the brassière A are provided with adjustable portions 10 and 11, the rearward portions of these adjustable portions being suitably connected by means of elements 10' and 11' to the appropriate attaching elements 9. The adjustable sections 10 and 11 shown in the drawing are of the sliding type, well known to persons familiar with the art to which this invention relates, it being understood, however, that the invention is not limited to this particular type of adjustment as various other adjusting means may be employed for performing the function of increasing or reducing the effective length of the straps 7 and 8.

At each side of the brassière A a short strap 12 is provided which is secured by stitching, or otherwise, to a side portion of the front panel 1 of the brassière at the base of the cup section 1', said straps 12 being secured, respectively, at their rear ends by stitching, or otherwise, to the straps 7. The straps 12 preferably, though not necessarily, are formed of elastic material so that they may be self-adjusting as to length.

When the improved brassière of this invention is to be worn it is arranged in proper position on the body of the wearer and the straps 3 are brought around the body of the wearer and are secured together at the wearer's back, and

because the straps 7 and 8 at opposite sides of the brassière are secured at their rear ends to the straps 3, at the back of a wearer of the brassière, as has been previously explained herein, the action of causing the waist straps to embrace the body of the wearer will cause the straps 7 and 8 to be turned about opposite side portions of the wearer's body. Thus, a snubbing action is obtained in the case of each of the straps 7 and 8 at the point where said strap is turned about the wearer's body with the result that the effective anchor point of the rear portions of said straps 7 and 8 are not the points where they are attached to straps 3, but, instead, are the points where said straps are snubbed about the wearer's body. As a result of this situation, the rear anchor points of the straps 7 and 8 are raised considerably above the location of the straps 3 so that instead of having a decided downward pull, as would be the case if said straps were attached to the straps 3 and were not snubbed about the body of the wearer, the pull of said straps 7 and 8 is rearward to a very greatly increased degree. Thus, the rearward pull of the straps 7 and 8, plus the straps 12 very effectively hold the brassière in place relative to the body of the wearer thereof without excessive, undesired downward pull.

Because of the construction of the brassière of this invention and the arrangement of the supporting straps thereof a very considerable portion of the back of a wearer of the brassière may be exposed in a strapless manner substantially to the waist, if this should be desired, so as to permit of the wearing of deep-cut or backless garments. It is pointed out, however, that the straps 3 need not embrace the body of a wearer of the brassière at or near the wearer's waist, but, instead, the front panel 1 may be of such height that the straps 3 will be located a considerable distance above the wearer's waist when a brassière of the construction of this invention is not designed for use with deep-cut or backless garments.

I claim:

1. A brassière comprising a front panel having a cup section at the upper portion thereof which is provided with a pair of cups, strap means for aiding in securing said brassière in place for use, said strap means being extended from the lower side edges of said front panel and being adapted for disposition in an embracing brassière securing position, and a plurality of straps at each side of said brassière, corresponding forward end portions of the straps at one side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said one side at vertically spaced points and corresponding forward end portions of said straps at the opposide side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said opposite side at vertically spaced points, said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière being attached at corresponding rear end portions thereof to said strap means at points which are located at the back of said strap means when same is in the brassière securing position, said strap means and said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière serving as the means for securing the brassière in place for use and said strap means and said plurality of straps at opposite sides of the brassière being located entirely below the tops of the cups of the brassière.

2. A brassière comprising a front panel having a cup section at the upper portion thereof which is provided with a pair of cups, strap means for aiding in securing said brassière in place for use, said strap means being extended from the lower side edges of said front panel and being adapted for disposition in an embracing brassière securing position, a plurality of straps at each side of said brassière, corresponding forward end portions of the straps at one side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said one side at vertically spaced points and corresponding forward end portions of said straps at the opposite side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said opposite side at vertically spaced points, said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière being attached at corresponding rear end portions thereof to said strap means at points which are located at the back of said strap means when same is in the brassière securing position, said strap means and said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière serving as the means for securing the brassière in place for use and said strap means and said plurality of straps at opposite sides of the brassière being located entirely below the tops of the cups of the brassière, and a relatively short strap at each side of the brassière which is attached at one of its end portions to an upper front portion of the brassière and at its opposite end portion to one of said plurality of straps at the same side of the brassière.

3. A brassière comprising a front panel having a cup section at the upper portion thereof which is provided with a pair of cups, a strap means for aiding in securing said brassière in place for use, said strap means being extended from the lower side edges of said front panel and being adapted for disposition in an embracing brassière securing position, a plurality of straps at each side of said brassière, corresponding forward end portions of the straps at one side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said one side at vertically spaced points and corresponding forward end portions of said straps at the opposite side of the brassière being attached to the brassière at said opposite side at vertically spaced points, said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière being attached at corresponding rear end portions thereof to said strap means at points which are located at the back of said strap means when same is in the brassière securing position, said strap means and said plurality of straps at the opposite sides of the brassière serving as the means for securing the brassière in place for use and said strap means and said plurality of straps at opposite sides of the brassière being located entirely below the tops of the cups of the brassière, and a relatively short strap at each side of the brassière which is formed of elastic material and is attached at one of its end portions to an upper front portion of the brassière and at its opposite end portion to one of said plurality of straps at the same side of the brassière.

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