March 1, 1955 D. A. GOURDON 2,702,903

GARMENT

Filed Dec. 5, 1951 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

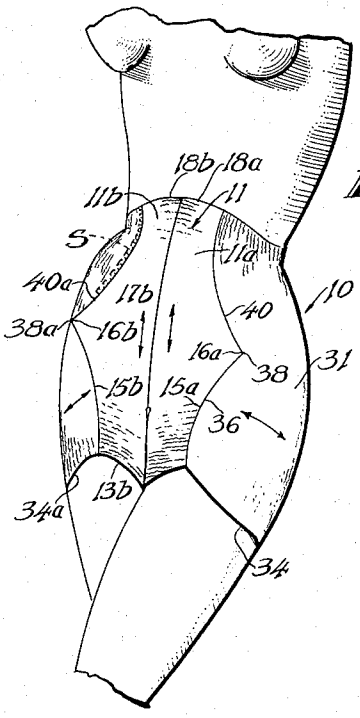


Fig. 2.

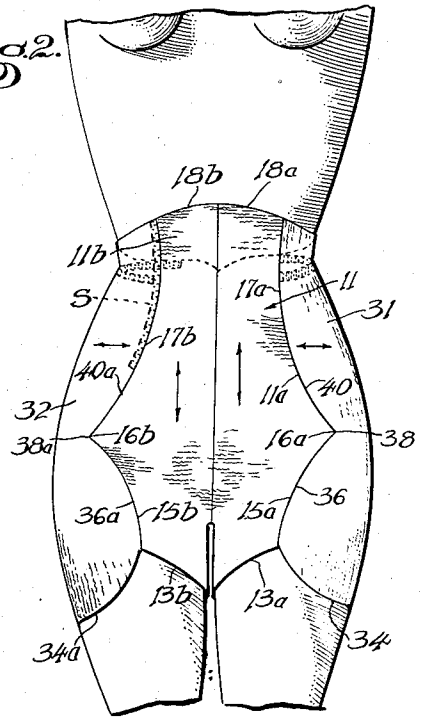


Fig. 3.

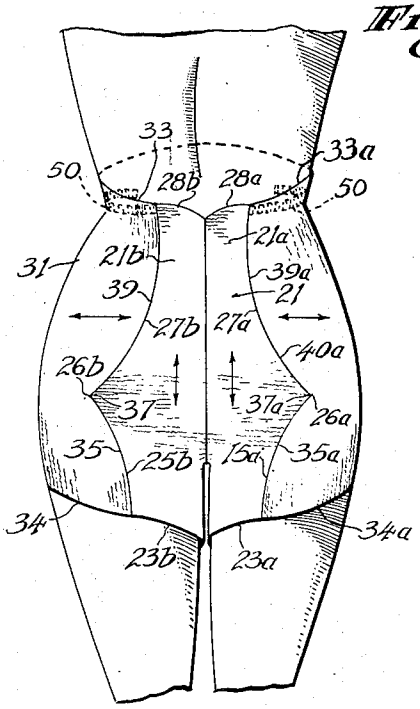
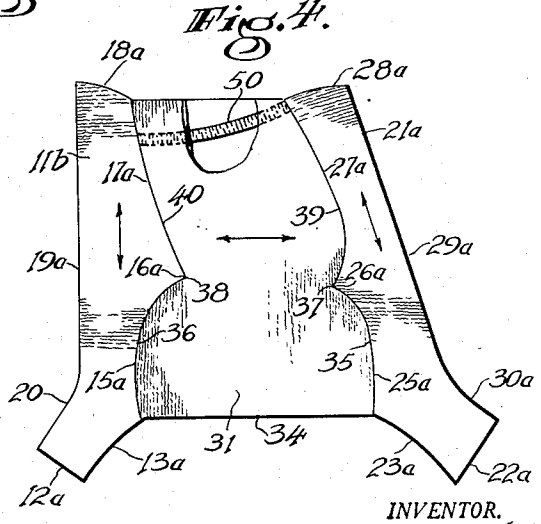


Fig. 4.



INVENTOR.
Dorine A. Gourdon
BY
Kenyon & Kenyon
ATTORNEYS

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Fig. 5.

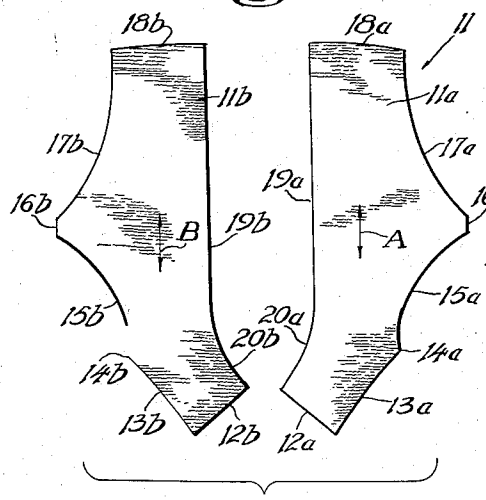


Fig. 6.

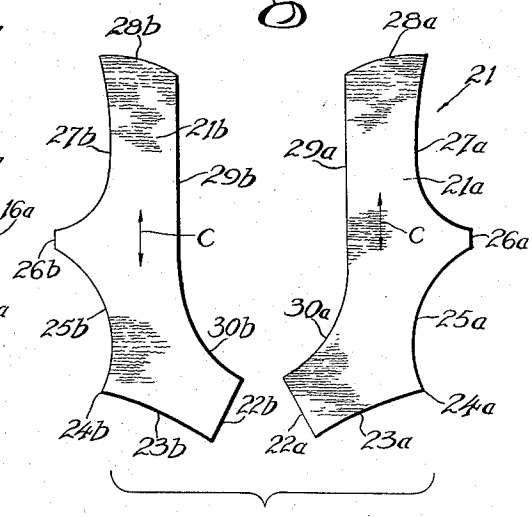
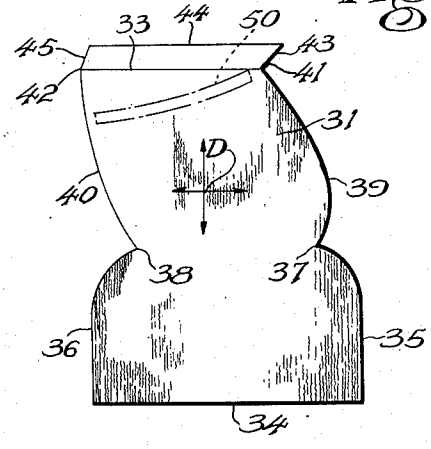


Fig. 7.



INVENTOR.
Dorine A Gourdon
BY
Kenyon & Kenyon
ATTORNEYS

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2,702,903

GARMENT

Dorine A. Gourdon, New York, N. Y.

Application December 5, 1951, Serial No. 259,939

6 Claims. (Cl. 2—28)

This invention relates to garments and more particularly to garments useful as pantie girdles or corsets, bathing suits, shorts or sports apparel.

Objects and features of the invention are to provide garments of the character mentioned which when worn retain substantially the natural contour of the body and at the same time provide two-way shaping for the buttocks. In the garment of this invention each individual buttock of the wearer is separately restrained and shaped in contrast with conventional garments wherein the tendency of the garment is to compress both buttocks as a unit. The result in such conventional garments is an exaggeration of the wearer's form in contrast with the natural form fit provided by the individual buttock support and restraint made possible with the garment of this invention.

Further objects and features of the invention are to provide a garment in which the buttocks are cupped naturally thereby eliminating any tendency of the garment to ride up during wear.

Further objects and features of the invention are the provision of a garment having a crotch portion in its lower section shaped to the body of the wearer to provide coverage and restraint without binding.

Further objects and features of the invention are the provision of the garment having a portion above the waistline in front to provide diaphragm control and a gradually descending line around the sides and toward the back, eliminating the usual roll of flesh that appears when ordinary garments are worn.

Further objects and features of the invention are the provision of a garment in which the front portion is shaped substantially to the natural abdomen line permitting freedom of movement while providing necessary restraint.

Further objects and features of the invention are the provision of a garment made of a minimum number of pieces cut from fabrics of appropriate widths having selvage edges which may be utilized as finished edges in the production of a shaped garment with a minimum number of seams.

Other objects and features of the invention will become apparent from the following specification and the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is an angular profile elevation of a garment embodying the invention in position of use on a wearer;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the garment of Fig. 1 as worn;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation of the garment as it appears upon the wearer;

Fig. 4 is a plan view illustrative of the manner of assembly of the individual pieces of the garment;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the pattern of the front piece of the garment;

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the pattern of the rear piece of the garment; and

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the pattern of one of the side pieces of the garment, the other side piece being identical therewith and not being shown.

Referring to the drawings, and first to Fig. 1, the reference character **10** denotes the garment generally. This garment **10** includes a front piece **11** seen in Figs. 1 and 5. This front piece **11** is of one-way stretch material with the stretch direction in vertical direction or it could be of non-stretch material This front piece **11** is made up of two sections **11***a* and **11***b* symmetrically disposed

about a vertical center line as illustrated in Fig. 5 cut from elastic or plain non-stretch material whose grain direction in each section extends along the lines of the respective arrows A and B. As indicated clearly in Fig. 5, the bottom edges **12** and **12***a* of the front pieces **11***a* and **11***b* are oblique substantially extending in opposite directions from the vertical center line. The lower outer side edge sections **13***a* and **13***b* are concave and flare upwardly from the bottom edge **12** to the respective horizontally aligned peaks **14***a* and **14***b*. The outer side edge sections **15***a* and **15***b* are respectively concave and taper from the respective peaks **14***a* and **14***b* to their junctions with the peaks **16***a* and **16***b*. The outer side edge sections **17***a* and **17***b* are concave and taper towards their functions with the convex upper edges **18***a* and **18***b*. The inner edges **19***a* and **19***b* are straight and parallel in the greater parts of their lengths and concavely curved at **20***a* and **20***b* to join the lower edges **12***a* and **12***b*. As the front piece **11** is made of two half sections **11***a* and **11***b* as shown in Fig. 5 these two sections are joined along their edges **19***a*, **19***b*, **20***a* and **20***b* by an appropriate seam.

The garment also includes a back piece **21**. This back piece **21** is illustrated in Figs. 3 and 6 of the drawings and is made of two symmetrical pieces **21***a* and **21***b* of one-way stretch fabric whose direction of stretch is parallel with the vertical center line as indicated by the arrows C in Figs. 3 and 6. With reference to this back piece **21** its two pieces **21***a* and **21***b* are cut on the straight of the goods and have the respective oblique bottom edges **22***a* and **22***b* extending oppositely from the vertical center line. The piece **21** may be cut as a single panel or preferably as shown is cut as two separate halves **21***a* and **21***b* symmetrical about the vertical center line and joined together as will be described. The lower side edge sections **23***a* and **23***b* which join edges **22***a* and **22***b* are both concave and flare upwardly from the bottom edges **22***a* and **22***b* to the respective horizontally aligned peaks **24***a* and **24***b*. Outer side edge portions **25***a* and **25***b*, both concave, connect the respective peaks **24***a* and **24***b* with the horizontally aligned peaks **26***a* and **26***b*. Outer side edge sections **27***a* and **27***b* connect the peaks **26***a* and **26***b* with the upper convex edges **28***a* and **28***b*. The inner edges **29***a* and **29***b* are straight and parallel for major portions of their length and are concavely curved in their lower portions **30***a* and **30***b*. Portions **21***a* and **21***b* are joined together along their inner edge portions **29***a*, **29***b* and **30***a*, **30***b* by an appropriate seam to form the back piece **21**.

A pair of left and front side pieces **31** and **32** are provided. These side pieces **31** and **32** have identical pattern and the pattern of the left side piece **31** only is shown in Fig. 7. The material of the side pieces **30** and **31** is optionally either two-way stretch or one-way stretch fabric. If of one-way stretch fabric, the direction of stretch is substantially horizontal as denoted by the arrow D of Fig. 7. If of two-way stretch material the second direction of stretch is perpendicular to the arrow D. The material selected for the side pieces **31** and **32** preferably has a width whose dimensions provide straight selvage top and bottom edges **33** and **34**. Providing selveges at these edges eliminates the necessity for seams or hems at said edges. This is optional and hems may be used instead. The lower side edge sections **35** and **36** both convex extend upwardly from the bottom edge **34** to the respective cusps **37** and **38** which are horizontally aligned. The upper side edge sections **39** and **40** both convex extend upwardly from the respective cusps **37** and **38** respectively to a cusp **41** and a peak **42** in the top edge **33**. A slanting side edge **43** joins the cusp **41** with the edge **44** and a slanting side edge **45** joins the peak **42** with the edge **44**. The area defined by edges **33**, **43**, **44** and **45** constitute a hem allowance. The pieces **31** and **32** it is to be observed are unsymmetrical relative to a vertical axis and simulate substantially a side profile view of a wearer's body at its mid-section thereof.

It is understood that appropriate seam allowances are provided at each edge of each piece.

The pieces **11**, **21**, **31** and **32** are assembled together to form the garment **10** generally as follows:

The lower concave side edge section **15***a* of the piece **11** is sewed or otherwise joined to the lower convex

side edge section **36** of the piece **31**. Similarly, the upper concave side edge section **17***a* of the front piece **11** is joined to the upper convex side edge section **40** of the side piece **31**. The lower concave side edge section **25***b* of the rear piece **21** is similarly joined to the lower convex side edge section **35** of the side piece **31**. Also the upper concave side edge section **27***b* of the back piece **21** is joined to the upper convex side edge section **39** of the side piece **31**. The concave side edge sections **15***b* and **17***b* of the front piece **11** are joined to the convex side edge sections **36***a* and **40***a* of the side piece **32** while the concave side edge sections **25***a* and **27***a* of the back piece **21** are joined to the convex side edge sections **35***a* and **39***a* of the side piece **32**. The respective convex side edge sections **35***a*, **36***a*, **39***a* and **40***a* of the side piece **32** correspond identically in shape with the respective convex side edge sections **34**, **35**, **39** and **40** of the side piece **31**. When the pieces **11**, **21**, **31** and **32** have been joined as described, the peaks **16***a* and **16***b* of the front piece will lie on an equatorial line passing through the peaks **26***a* and **26***b* of the back piece **21**. In other words, the peaks **16***a*, **16***b*, **26***a* and **26***b* are horizontally aligned. The dimensions of the side edge sections **25***a*, **25***b*, **27***a* and **27***b* of the back piece **21** and of the side edge sections **35**, **35***a*, **39** and **39***a* of the side pieces **31** and **32** to which they are joined are dimensioned to provide a fullness at the back of the garment which is in the form of a pair of buttock cups which fit with the respective buttocks of the wearer. By providing individual buttock cups they individually shape and restrain each buttock. The peaks **26***a* and **26***b* are located at the respective buttock apices of the wearer. Since the peaks **16***a*, **16***b*, **26***a* and **26***b* lie horizontally aligned on an equatorial or circumferential line and since the material of the side pieces **31** and **32** is preferably one-way stretch material with its direction of stretch parallel with said equatorial line and, furthermore, since the back piece **21** only has one-way vertical stretch, the restraining forces applied to cup the buttocks is substantially in two directions, namely, along their vertical direction of curvature and along their horizontal direction of the curvature. The effect is thus to retain the natural contour of the body while at the same time provide adequate restraint in all directions of curvature of the buttocks. In addition, the bottom edges **12***a* and **12***b* of front piece **11** are appropriately joined as by a seam or the like to the bottom edges **22***a* and **22***b* thus forming a continuous crotch piece extending across the bottom of the garment from its front piece to its back piece.

Because of the curvature of edges **20***a*, **20***b* and **30***a*, **30***b* and the obliquity of the bottom edges **12***a*, **12***b* and **22***a*, **22***b*, the crotch portion of the assembled garment has inverted natural V-line shape as seen in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 making it very form fitting when the garment is worn and permits free stride.

Moreover, because of the provision of the buttock cups the upper back portion of the garment fits naturally into the small of the wearer's back thereby eliminating wrinkles. Furthermore, the upper edge **19** of the front portion **11** terminates high enough above the waistline of the wearer to provide diaphragm control and, as the upper edge of the garment extends around the wearer's sides toward the center of the back it descends gradually, fitting closely to the wearer's body and eliminating any tendency for the formation of a roll of flesh at the wearer's sides and back.

To augment the fit at the wearer's sides along the upper edge elastic strip inserts **50** (Fig. 4) may be provided in each of the side pieces **31** and **32** in proximity of their upper edges **33** and **33***a*. These elastic inserts **50**, however, are optional and are not essential to the garment.

The resulting construction, therefore, provides two-way shaping for the buttocks, and an inverted V-shaped crotch portion and retains the natural contour of the body while producing necessary restraint and provides a garment shaped into the natural abdomen line to permit freedom of movement with necessary restraint. In addition the garment will not ride up and does not require the use of garters to retain it in its appropriate position on the wearer's body.

To facilitate donning the garment, a slide fastener S may be provided along a part of one of the seams, for example that between edges **17***b* and **40** of the side and front pieces **11** and **32**.

The parts of front piece **11** defined by edges **12***a*, **13***a*, **20***a* and **12***b*, **13***b* and **20***b* and the parts of the rear piece **21** defined by edges **22***a*, **23***a*, **25***a*, **30***a* and **22***b*, **23***b*, **25***b* and **30***b* constitute under leg sections forming the crotch portion. Meeting edges of this portion are on the bias relative to each other to provide sufficient stretch to eliminate binding when the garment is worn.

If the front and back pieces **11** and **21** are unitary pieces then an extra crotch piece (not shown) must be provided.

While the garment has been described as assembled from separate pieces of material, if of latex or other moldable elastic material, the entire garment **10** may be molded as a unit to provide the buttock pockets at its rear that are formed when separate pieces are used by the joints between the side pieces **31** and **32** and back piece **21**. Wearing of such a unitary garment will have the same body restraining and buttock retaining and shaping features of the garment **10**.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been disclosed, variations in structural detail within the scope of the claims are possible and are contemplated. There is no limitation therefore to the exact details shown and described.

What is claimed is:

1. A garment adapted to be worn about the mid-section of the body to provide support and restraint therefor along natural body contour lines, comprising a front piece having side edges, upper and lower edges, the side edges having peaks intermediate the upper and lower edges with the remainder of the side edges describing inwardly extending concave arcs from the peaks to the upper and lower edges, the ends of the arcs joining with the upper and lower edges being inwardly toward the center of the front piece with relation to the peaks, a back piece having side edges and upper and lower edges, the side edges having peaks intermediate the upper and lower edges with the remainder of the side edges describing inwardly extending concave arcs from the peaks to the upper and lower edges, the ends of the arcs joining with the upper and lower edges being inwardly toward the center of the back piece with relation to the peaks, and a pair of side pieces, each side piece having straight and parallel upper and lower edges and side edges, each side edge having a cusp intermediate the upper and lower edges with the remainder of each side edge describing outwardly extending convex arcs from the cusps to the upper and lower edges of the side piece, the front, back and side pieces being joined together along meeting side edge sections with the peaks interfitting with the cusps and the concave portions of the front and back pieces interfitting with the convex portions of the side pieces, and the peaks horizontally aligned so as to be substantially medially of the buttocks of the body of the wearer to provide individual buttock pockets at the rear of the garment, at least one of the front and back pieces being stretchable in a substantially vertical direction, and at least one of the side pieces being stretchable in a substantially horizontal direction, the upper edge of the entire garment extending in a gradually descending line from the front toward the back thereof, and wherein folding up of the lower and upper edges of the garment is prevented during use because of the straight and parallel lines of the upper and lower edges of the side pieces.

2. The garment of claim 1 in which said back piece is of elastic material having one-way vertical stretch, in which said side pieces are of elastic material having horizontal stretch and in which said front piece has vertical stretch.

3. The garment of claim 2 in which said side pieces also have vertical stretch.

4. The garment of claim 1 in which said back piece consists of two symmetrical sections of elastic material having one-way vertical stretch joined together along the center line thereof, in which said side pieces are of elastic material having horizontal stretch and in which said front piece consists of two symmetrical sections of elastic material joined together along the center line thereof and having vertical stretch.

5. The garment of claim 1 wherein the dimensions of the side sections of the pieces are such that when joined the upper front portion of the garment provides diaphragm control and the upper edge of the garment extends in a descending line from the front towards the

rear of the garment, and wherein the lower front edge of the garment is at a higher level than the lower rear edge thereof, the lower edge of said front piece extending in concave arcs upwardly and outwardly from the inner thigh portions to form peaks at junctions with the upwardly inclining bottom front edges of the side pieces.

6. The garment of claim 1 wherein each side section has a laterally disposed elastic member secured near its upper edge.

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