

March 8, 1932.

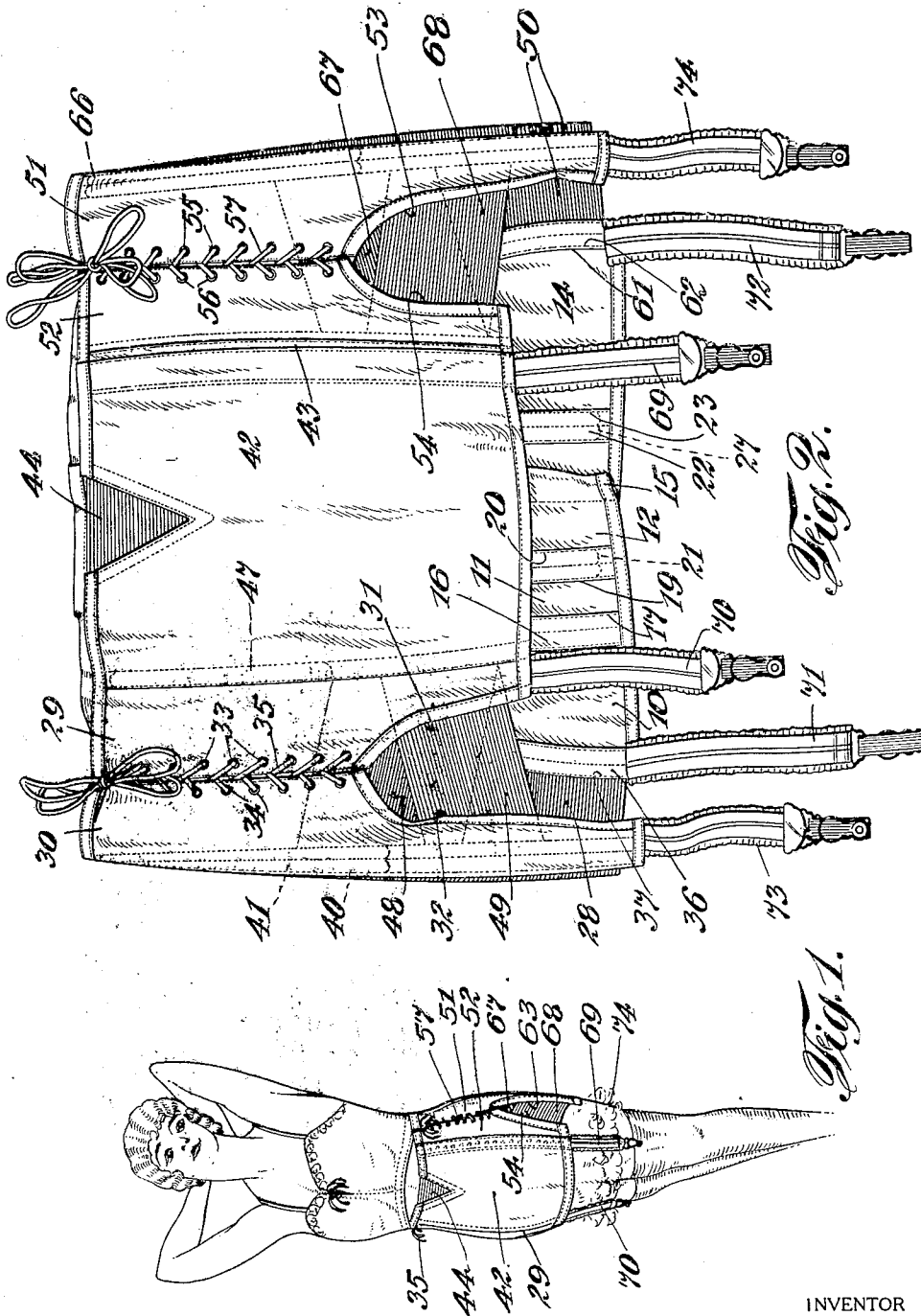
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1,848,633

APPAREL GARMENT

Filed June 30, 1928

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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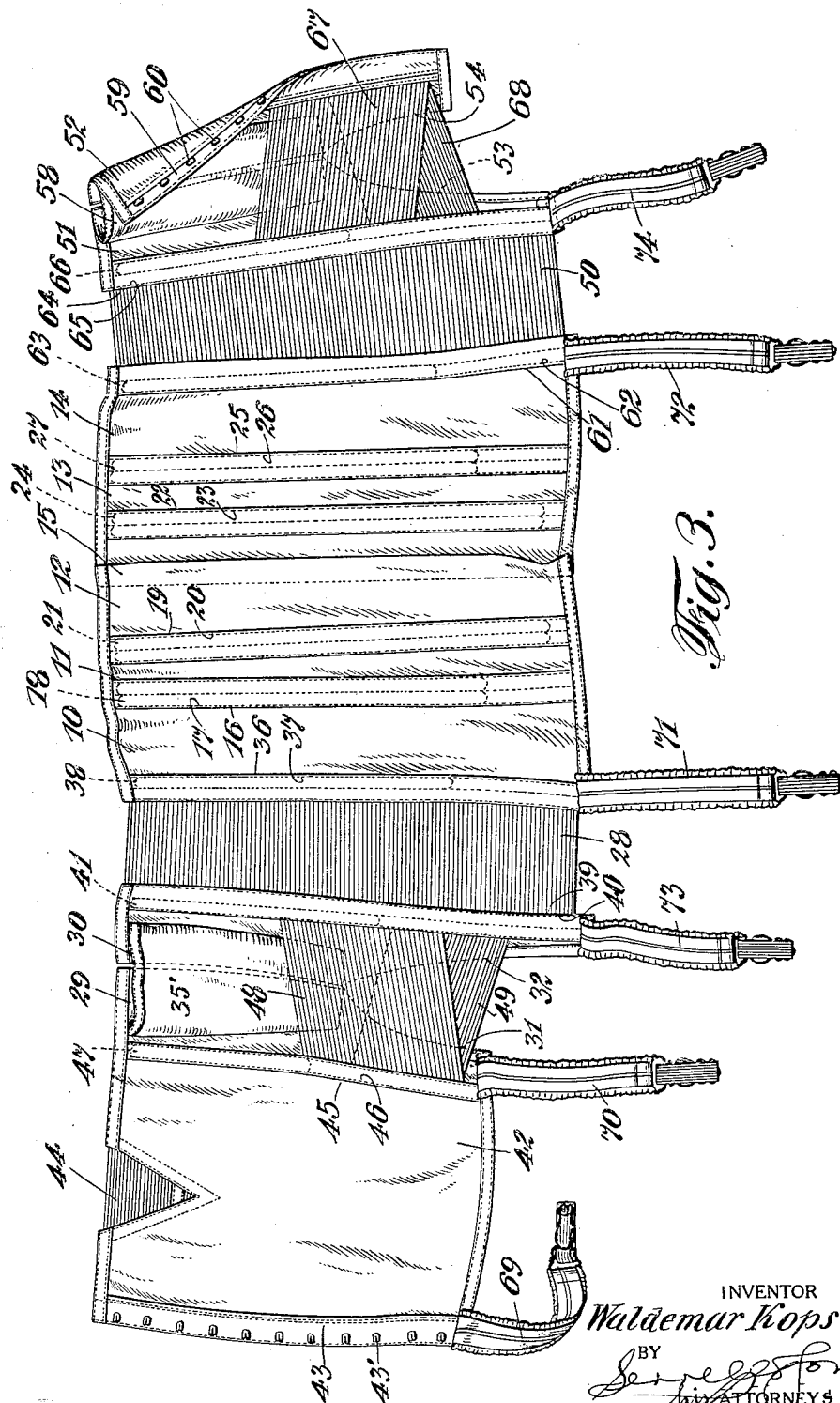
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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APPAREL GARMENT

Application filed June 30, 1928. Serial No. 289,371.

This invention relates to an apparel garment and more particularly to a maternity belt or binder. The object of the invention is the provision of a garment of this type adapted to properly conform to the body and to adequately support the same during pregnancy. The garment as constructed in accordance with the present invention preferably comprises a back member, a front member, both of which are closed, means at the side of the garment for securing the same in position on the body and side members which include elastic and inelastic sections, together with sling straps for providing the required yielding support. The inelastic sections of the side members are preferably divided and fitted with adjustable closures, while the sling straps are located immediately below the closure portions of the side members of the garment and are so constructed as to provide both circumferential and upwardly directed tensions in the adjacent parts of the garment, irrespective of the extent to which the closure devices may be adjusted.

The garment made in accordance with this invention will be hereinafter more particularly described in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating the use of the garment,

Fig. 2 is a front elevation, and

Fig. 3 is a plan showing the garment from the inner side thereof and showing the same in a substantially flat position.

By reference to the drawings it will be seen that in carrying out the invention the garment made in accordance therewith is constructed to include a back member which may be made of or divided into suitable sections, as indicated at 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. The centrally disposed section 12 of this back member may be provided with a plait 15 made therein by a suitable line of stitching or otherwise so that when necessary the line of stitching may be removed and the garment extended circumferentially to the extent of the width of the material forming the plait. As illustrated, this back member is provided with a series of suitable stays or supports.

This is accomplished by the reinforcing strip 16 secured to the back member by lines of stitching 17 so as to include stay members 18. Also by the reinforcing strip 19 secured to the back member by lines of stitching 20 to enclose the stay member 21. These reinforcing strips and stays are on the right hand side of the back member and similarly the left hand side thereof is fitted with a reinforcing strip 22 secured thereto by lines of stitching 23 to enclose stays 24 and also by a reinforcing strip 25 secured to the back member by lines of stitching 26 to enclose the stay member 27.

The right hand side member includes an elastic section 28 and an inelastic section preferably made in two parts, as indicated at 29 and 30, these parts being divisible. The lower ends of the parts 29 and 30 of this section of the side member are cut away, as indicated at 31 and 32. The adjacent edges of these parts of this section of the side member, which are preferably made of inelastic material, are fitted with a series of eyelets 33 and 34 through which a lace 35 is threaded in order to form an adjustable closure at the side of the garment. Underlying these adjacent edges of the parts of this section of the side member, I employ an expansible tongue 35', the edges of which are preferably connected to the parts of the side member adjacent the edges in any suitable manner. This tongue is wider at the top than at the bottom so as to permit of an increasingly greater adjustment from the lower end thereof upwardly. The rearward edge of the elastic section 28 of this side member is connected to the section 10 of the back member by a reinforcing strip 36 and lines of stitching 37 preferably enclosing suitable stays 38. The forward end of the elastic section 28 of this right hand side member is connected to the adjacent edge of the part 30 of the inelastic section of the side member by a reinforcing strip 39 and lines of stitching 40 constructed to enclose a stay member 41.

The garment also includes a front member 42. At one edge thereof this front member is provided with a reinforcing strip 43 in which are suitably secured in spaced positions

a series of hooks 43'. Also, as illustrated, in the upper central portion of the front member I may employ a V-shaped gore of elastic material 44. The opposite edge of the front member 42 is connected to the adjacent edge of the part 29 of the inelastic section of the right hand side member by a reinforcing strip 45 by means of lines of stitching 46 adapted to enclose a suitable stay 47. The right hand side member of the garment also includes sling straps 48 and 49 made of elastic or other yielding material. These straps are connected at their respective edges to the front section 42 by the lines of stitching 46 which connect the reinforcing strip 45 and the part 29 of the inelastic section of the side member thereto, and by the same lines of stitching 40 that connect the reinforcing strip 39 and the adjacent edges of the elastic section 28 and the part 30 of the inelastic section of this side member. It will be noted that the sling strap, 48, extends downwardly toward the front member while the sling strap 49 extends upwardly toward the front member and overlies a portion of the lower part thereof. Moreover, the strap 48 is materially wider than the strap 49 whereby the tension exerted by the strap 48 is correspondingly greater than that exerted by the strap 49.

The side member at the left of the garment is constructed in a similar manner to that in the right hand side thereof and includes an elastic section 50 and a two part inelastic section, the parts of which are indicated at 51 and 52. The lower portion of these parts of the inelastic section are cut away, as indicated at 53 and 54, while the adjacent edges thereof are provided with series of spaced eyelets 55 and 56 through which a lace 57 is threaded in order to provide an adjustable closure at the side of the garment. Underlying the adjustable closure there is an expansible tongue 58 which is attached at its ends adjacent the edges of the parts 51 and 52 in which the eyelets are fixed. The opposite edge of the part 52 is provided with a reinforcing strip 59 suitably secured in which is a series of eyes 60 corresponding in number and position with the hooks 43' so that each hook is adapted to engage an eye 60 in securing the garment about the body of the wearer.

The rearward edge of the elastic section 50 is connected to the adjacent edge of the section 14 of the back member by a reinforcing strip 61 and suitable lines of stitching 62 constructed to enclose a stay member 63. The forward edge of the elastic section 50 is connected to the adjacent edge of the part 51 of the inelastic section of the side member by a reinforcing strip 64 and lines of stitching 65 which enclose a stay member 66. This left hand side section of the garment also includes yielding straps 67 and 68 made of elastic or other yielding material and being complementary respectively to the straps 48 and 49.

The straps 67 extends downwardly toward the free edge of the part 52 and is secured at its rearward edge to the rearward edge of the part 51 and the section 50 by the reinforcing strip 64 and the lines of stitching 65 which connect these parts.

The rearward edge of the strap 68 is similarly connected in the garment. The forward edges of these straps 67 and 68 are connected to the part 52 and the reinforcing strip 59 by the lines of stitching which connect these parts to one another. The strap 68 like the strap 49 extends in a slightly upward direction toward the free edge of the part 52. Moreover, the strap 67 is appreciably wider than the strap 68 in the same manner that the strap 48 is wider than the strap 49 whereby the tension exerted by the strap 67 is correspondingly greater than the tension exerted by the strap 68.

Still furthermore, as clearly shown in the drawing, the lower portions of the straps 48 and 67 extend across the cut-away lower portions of the parts of the inelastic sections of the side members while the straps 49 and 68 also extend across these cut-away portions, in order, as will be understood, to permit the same to function as intended in exerting a yielding pressure both circumferentially and in an upward direction to cause the garment to conform with the body and to provide an adequate support therefor.

The garment, as is customary, may also be fitted with suitable hose supporters. As illustrated, hose supporters 69 and 70 are connected to and depend from the lower portions of the front member 42 while hose supporters 71 and 72 are connected to and depend from the lower edge portions of the back member, and hose supporters 73 and 74 are secured to and depend from the side members in a relatively central position. As will be understood, however, the places in which these hose supporters are placed is merely illustrative as they may be secured in any desired positions.

From the foregoing description it will now be understood that the garment may be secured in place on the body by connecting the hooks 43' in the eyes 60, and that due to the elastic sections of the side members the garment is made to conform generally to the body. It will also be understood that the sling straps 48 and 67 create a circumferential and upward tension in the lower portion of the front member thereby co-acting with the same to support the abdomen, while the sling straps 49 and 68 exert a circumferential tension across the lower front portion of the front member and an upward tension to the elastic sections of the side members and the lower portion of the back member to thereby cause the garment to properly fit the body and support the same. It will also be apparent that the closure devices in the side members may

be adjusted as occasion may require and that when necessary the seam in the back member may be opened to extend the width thereof by utilizing the material normally forming the plait 15.

It will also be understood that the extent to which the lower portions of the inelastic sections of the side members may be separated is determined by the elastic limit of the sling straps 48 and 49 and 67 and 68 and the extent of the upwardly tapering tongues 35' and 58, together with the laces 35 and 57 and that due to this structure the upper portion of the garment is adjustable depending upon the extent to which the body of the wearer is enlarged by the adjustment of the laces which permits the sling straps to act as such and causes the upper portion of the garment, as it were, to pivot at the lower ends of the laces so that the position of the upper parts of the garment for a distance to which the inelastic sections of the side members are adjustable is such that these parts are separated at a distance which increases from the lower portions of the side members toward the upper edge of the garment.

Obviously also the V-shaped elastic gore 44 in the upper central portion of the front member permits an additional yielding effect in the upper edge portion of the garment.

I claim as my invention:

In a garment of the class described, a front member, a back member, side members each comprising an elastic section adjacent the edge of the back section and a two part divided inelastic section forward of the said elastic section, means for adjustably connecting the divided parts of the inelastic sections of the said side members to adjust the position of the upper portion of the front member, the lower portions of the said divided parts of the side members being cut away, an inner sling strap in each side member extending downwardly from the elastic section thereof to the lower edge portions of the said front member and partially underlying the lower cut-away portions of the divided parts of the inelastic sections of the side member, and an outer sling strap extending in a slightly upward direction from the elastic section of the side member to the lower edge portion of the said front member and overlying in part the adjacent portion of the said inner sling strap, the inner sling straps being adapted to exert a circumferential and also an upward tension in the lower portion of the front member and the outer sling straps to exert a circumferential and upward tension in the adjacent elastic sections of the side members, the said inner sling straps being appreciably wider than the said outer sling straps.

Signed by me this 8th day of June, 1928.

WALDEMAR KOPS.