

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BRASSIÈRE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRIETTA ROTHSTEIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at 561 West 180th Street, in the city, county, and State of New York, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Brassières, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates generally to a bust supporter, and more particularly to that type generally classed as a brassière.

What is known as the youthful figure is the vogue among women at present. To assist in the attainment of this figure, a type of brassière has been developed and become popular, in which the bust is reduced so as to give it a generally flat appearance. This type of brassière is closed at the front and fastens at the back and is supported in position by straps about the shoulders and has its lower end at the front fastened to the corset. The dimensions and cut of the brassière are such that when secured and positioned as indicated, the brassière is caused to lie flat due principally to the downward pull on the brassière by its fastening to the corset. As is well understood, such downward pull on the brassière has a tendency to apply a pressure to the breasts so that while the desired flat appearance is to some extent attained by compression, the action of the brassière in attaining this form is really effected by this pressure being downward thus forcing the breasts downwardly. In other words the type of brassière now in general use operates only partly by compression of the breasts but principally by forcing them out of their natural position.

This action of the brassières hitherto employed is found generally objectionable as well as harmful and where the brassière is incorrectly centered, such defects will be materially increased, because of the increased pressure on one side.

Among the more important objects of my invention therefore are: the provision of a brassière in which the desired flat form is attained without forcing the breasts out of their normal position, and more particularly one in which the breasts are pressed flat while maintained in their normal and natural position; the provision with a brassière for causing the bust to assume a flattened contour of means for supporting the bust in

its natural position; the provision with a brassière of an attachment thereto for supporting the bust while it is being acted on by the brassière; the provision of a brassière to act uniformly on the bust and symmetrically thereof; the provision with a brassière of means for supporting the bust and for centering the brassière with reference thereto; and the provision generally of a new and improved construction for supporting and shaping the bust.

For the attainment of these objects and of such other objects as may hereinafter appear or be pointed out, I have illustrated an embodiment of my invention in the drawings wherein;

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the brassière, viewing the inside thereof; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the brassière in position, with part of the brassière broken away.

Figures 3 and 4 are detail views.

On viewing Figure 1 of the drawing it will be observed that I here show a brassière, the body 10 of which is preferably made from non-elastic material and is arranged to have an uninterruptedly or continuous closed front to cover the bust and diaphragm of the body and to be fastened at the back by means of the co-acting fastening members 11 and 12. The brassière is supported from the shoulders by straps 13 and when in position on the wearer, is arranged to have its lower end secured to the corset by the fastening means shown at 14. The action of this character of brassière is such that when it is in position and pulled down tightly by the member 14, the bust of the wearer is pulled downwardly and flattened, giving rise to what is known as the flat form. Brassières of this type, however, are open to the objection that this flattening of the bust is attained by forcing the breasts downwardly and is open to the further objection that such brassière may be positioned unsymmetrically and off centered, thus pressing upon one side of the bust to a greater extent than upon the other. Among the important objects of this invention is the attainment of the desired flat form without this objectionable action, and this end I attain in a manner which I will now proceed to describe.

At spaced points I secure longitudinally of the brassière the spaced stiffening mem-

bers 15—16, of which may be of any desired character, such as whale bone. These members are preferably maintained in position by being held in pockets provided therefor in a manner to be described, and are arranged as clearly shown in Figure 1. These members 15 and 16 are further so positioned that when the brassière is in position on the bust of the wearer, they will be positioned on opposite sides and immediately adjacent the bust, so that the configuration of the bust will tend to keep these members 15 and 16 against movement transversely of the body, so that these members, in fact, tend to co-act with the bust so as not only to center the brassière, but to maintain the brassière in such centered position.

I secure a strip of any character of flexible material to the inside face of the front of the brassière and as shown in Figure 1, this strip is preferably positioned between the members 15 and 16. The strip is secured in position on the brassière in any desired manner as by stitches, which as shown may be used to attach the strip, both at its top 18, and at its sides 19 and 20, the bottom of the strip being free. In this manner the strip 17 which is secured to the brassière in superimposed position as described, forms with said brassière, what is, in effect, a downwardly opening pocket.

As will be observed, on viewing Figure 1 of the drawings, the lower end of the strip 17 is normally maintained contracted but capable of being distended. This I do by securing an elastic 21 to the brassière at points adjacent the members 15 and 16 which points are spaced apart a distance materially greater than the normal length of the elastic 21. This elastic is preferably positioned within the lower end of the strip 17, which is folded thereabout, as shown at 22 in Figure 4 to form a pocket in which the elastic 21 is received.

When, therefore, the brassière is not in position on the bust of the wearer, the elastic 21 will be in its normal unstretched condition and will cause the lower end 22 of the strip 17 to become foreshortened and to be gathered as shown in Figure 1 and will further cause the overlying brassière front 10 to be normally spaced therefrom, as shown in Figure 1 and as shown more clearly in the cross section of Figure 4, thus forming a sort of pocket between the strip 17 and the brassière proper 10. When being placed in position on the bust the shoulder straps 13 of the type of brassière which I have above described, are first placed over the shoulders and the fastening members 11 and 12 then brought into association. As the members 11 and 12 are fastened together, the lower edge 23 of the brassière proper 10 will position itself upon the corset adjacent its upper edge and the lower edge 22 of the strip

17 will position itself immediately below the bust, and as the fastening members 11, 12 and 14 are secured in position in the manner already described, the lower end of the strip 17 and the elastic 21 with it, will be caused to expand and in such expansion the lower edge 17 which as stated will be positioned below the bust, will tend to lift the bust slightly and will maintain it in its normal position while at the same time the brassière proper will function to apply pressure to and to reduce the bust.

In this action of the strip 17 and the brassière 10, the various parts will all be maintained centered on the bust and will be kept from any movement transversely of the bust by the co-action of the members 15 and 16 with the bust as already pointed out above. In this manner a symmetrical and uniform reduction of both sides of the bust will be attained without at the same time forcing the bust to assume an unnatural position.

In Figure 3, I show a detail of a preferred manner of securing the members 15 and 16 and the strip 17 in position. The member 15 is held in a pocket formed therefor between the brassière body 10 and the strip 25 secured longitudinally thereof, the side 26 of this strip being secured to the brassière 10 in any desired or preferred manner such as by stitching. As will be observed, upon viewing this figure, the strip 17 has ends turned in as shown at 27, this doubled up end being secured to the brassière body 10 as by stitches 28 and the other end 29 of the strip 25 is superposed upon this doubled up portion 27 of the strip 17 and is secured to the strip 17 and to the body 10 of the brassière by the row of stitches 30. The strip 25 is attached to the brassière 10 at its upper and lower edges as shown to form a closed pocket. In this manner I provide a manner of securing the member 15 and one end of the strip 17, in position and also attain an association of parts which will be found of advantage. The other member 16 and the strip 17 are associated with each other and with the brassière in a similar manner.

Having thus described my invention and illustrated its use, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a brassière, in combination, with a continuous bust and diaphragm form-fitting member, an interposed bust form-fitting member supported at its sides and top to said first member at its inner face, the lower portion of the interposed bust form fitting member being spaced inward from, and of shorter length than, the bust and diaphragm form fitting member and serving to hold the breast therein and adapted to support the bust in substantially normal position.

2. In a brassière, in combination, a bust and diaphragm covering portion continuous

- at the front face over both busts, an attachment interposed on the inner face thereof, continuous in form and of a length to cover both busts and secured to the covering portion at its side edges and spaced inwardly and of shorter length than the bust and diaphragm covering portion serving to support the bust in substantially normal position and acting uniformly and symmetrically thereof.
3. In a brassière, in combination, a bust and diaphragm covering member, an interposed continuous bust form-fitting member attached at the inner side of said first member spaced inwardly and of shorter length to hold the bust in substantially normal position, said second member attached to the first named member along both sides and upper edge of said second member free at its lower edge from the first member.
4. In a brassière, in combination, a bust and diaphragm covering member, an interposed continuous bust form fitting member attached medially and transversely at the inner side of said first member, said second member attached to the first member along both sides and upper edge of said second member, said second member having a distensible lower edge, stiffening members at the sides of said second member, the whole combining to support the bust in substantially normal position and acting uniformly and symmetrically thereof.
5. In a brassière, in combination, a bust and diaphragm covering member, an interposed continuous bust form-fitting member attached medially and transversely at the inner side of said first member, said second member attached to the first member along both sides and upper edge of said second member, said second member having a distensible lower edge, the whole combining to support the bust in substantially normal position and acting uniformly and symmetrically thereof.
- In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name.

HENRIETTA ROTHSTEIN.