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H. SCHOEBEL

2,446,437

BRASSIERE

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Fig. 1.

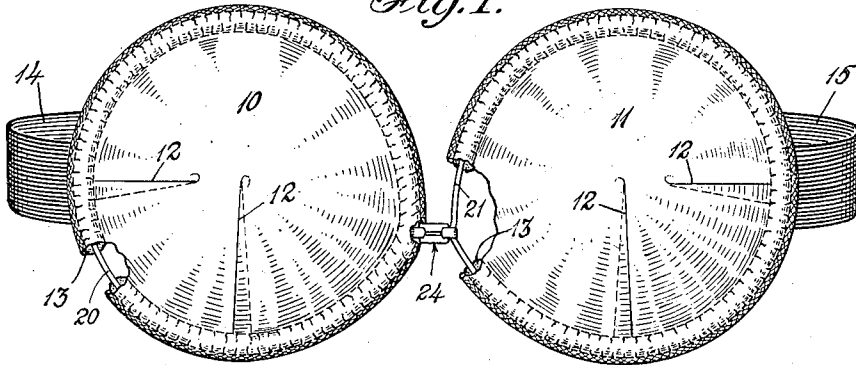


Fig. 2.

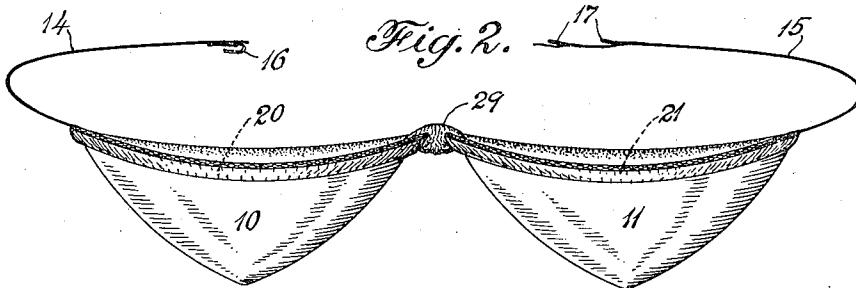


Fig. 3.

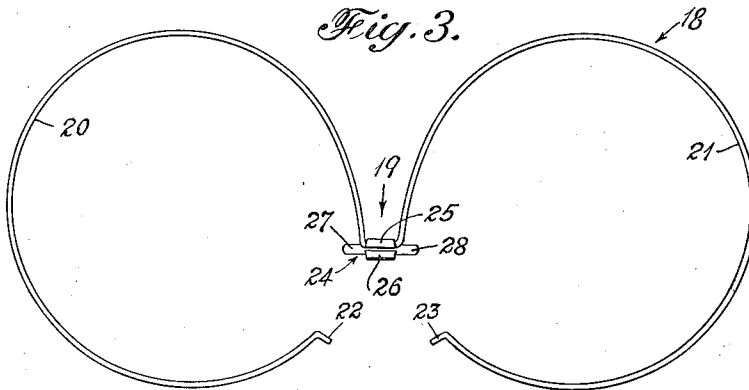


Fig. 4.

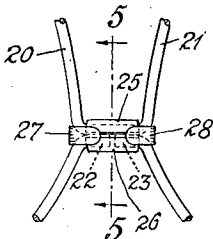


Fig. 5.

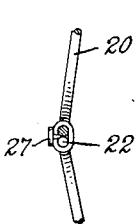
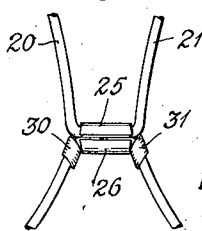


Fig. 6.



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BRASSIÈRE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—42)

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The invention relates to a brassière, whether worn as an undergarment with conventional street wearing apparel or as an integral or separable part of a bathing suit or bathing ensemble constituted of a trunk portion and a brassière portion. More particularly, the invention relates to a brassière of the strapless type and one having wire encompassed bust sections or breast receiving pockets.

Strapless brassières, by which term is meant a bust supporting article of wearing apparel having no shoulder straps to support the brassière from the shoulders of the wearer, have been heretofore designed and marketed, primarily for use with strapless evening gowns and functionally to give the wearer freedom from shoulder pull. Strapless brassières have also been in demand for the present-day conventional day-time dress which leaves the wearer bare shouldered.

Wired brassières, i. e., brassières in which segments of wire are utilized as reinforcing elements for the bust sections, extending either partially or wholly throughout the periphery of each bust section, being maintained as a border member for the bust section by a tubular lining through which the wire is threaded, have also been produced and marketed.

The novelty of my strapless wire brassière, however, is based neither in the fact of its strapless character, nor in its utilization of wires for encompassing the bust sections, but in the construction of the wire element, its manner of attachment and firm positioning within the bust sections, and its contour and configuration, when incorporated in the brassière as an integral part thereof, to yield a bust and body encircling article of wearing apparel of marked advantages never heretofore attained in the art.

The attempts of those skilled in the art have provided strapless wire brassières in which a segment of wire is disposed under the breast, to yield an extended neck line. Others have positioned the segment of wire over the bosom, seeking accentuation of the bust line. In both types, the wire is ordinarily encased in plush or a lining of non-slipping material to hug the peripheral base line of the bosom.

Brassières, with wire completely encompassing the busts have also been produced, but they have been complete commercial failures for many reasons, the primary one of which is that they could not, by reason of their inherent separation, produce a proper support for the busts and a proper positioning thereof in symmetrical outline so as

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to correct inequalities in bust formation or maintain equality of configuration and disposition thereof.

In its broadest aspect, my novel strapless brassière comprises a single length of wire, preferably of stainless steel, bent into a substantially V-shaped open loop at its center and each section completing a substantially circular segment, to encompass the bust sections, with the ends of each segment joined, after the circular segments have been applied to the bust sections, to the center open loop by a clamping device. The substantially circular segments are given a configuration, so that the two segments are not flat, are co-planar, but conform exactly to the body contour of the wearer of the brassière when it is in position upon the body. Thus, the brassière is characterized by a degree of animation of the wire structure, by reason of which it is capable of hugging the body to an extent sufficient to automatically conform it to the contour of the body in the bust region and thereby be securely held in position irrespective of the movement of the wearer.

A specific embodiment of my invention, with two bust forms and a clamping member, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 is a front view of my novel strapless wire brassière; Fig. 2 is a top view thereof when in position upon the body of the wearer; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the wire element; Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view of the clamping structure for joining the free ends of the wire element to the V-shaped open loop of such element, to complete the bust section encircling segments; Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4; and Fig. 6 is an enlarged detail view of a slightly modified form of clamp structure.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, in which similar reference characters identify similar parts in the several views, the brassière comprises two bust sections 10 and 11 of pliable material and substantially circular in outline. Such bust sections are completely separate from each other and are given the conventional cup-shape by means of darts 12, 12 suitably provided in the pliable fabric material.

The peripheral edges of each bust section are formed into tubular selvage edges 13 in any conventional and suitable manner, for instance, by turning inwardly the edges of the material and securing such turned in edges to the fabric by stitching.

From each of the outermost medial edges of each bust section extends an elastic strap 14, 15

having any conventional fastening means, for instance, hooks and eyes 16 and 17, for securing the brassière in place about the body of the wearer.

Each of the bust sections has threaded through the peripheral selvage tubing 13 thereof, the relatively stiff wire element, generally designated as 18, and which is constituted of a single length of preferably stainless steel wire formed at its medial point into a substantially V-shaped open loop 19 with the length of wire extending on each side of such V-shaped open loop formed into a circle designated as 20 and 21, the end of each circle terminating in a bend 22, 23.

The horizontal extent of the portion of the wire element constituting the base of the V-shaped open loop 19 is clamped to a clamping device 24 which has turned in flanges 25 and 26, the former retaining the horizontal section of the wire forming the base of the loop and the latter adapted to receive and clamp the bends 22 and 23 of the free ends of the wire element after the circular sections 20 and 21 have been threaded through the tubular peripheral selvage of each bust section. When such bends 22 and 23 have been positioned within the clamping member, the tabs 27 and 28 of such clamping member are bent upwardly and over the flanges 25 and 26 to their positions shown in Fig. 4, whereby the wire element is securely fastened together.

It will be noted from Fig. 2, that the stiff wire element generally designated in Fig. 3 as 18, is not flat but in its position within the bust sections is slightly curved in each of its circular segments, so that it conforms substantially to the contour of the body of the wearer in the region of the busts and thereby have sufficient life to hug the body of the wearer.

The clamping structure may be encased within a plush or other soft non-slipping material, pad 29, which material may also be used as a lining for the interior surface of the peripheral selvage tubing of each bust section where it is in contact with the body.

In Fig. 6 I have illustrated a slightly modified form of clamp structure in which the tabs 30 and 31, of the clamp, instead of being bent inwardly so as to overlie the flanges 25 and 26 of the clamping device, are bent downwardly and inwardly over the circular portions of the wire adjacent the bends 22 and 23, whereby one section of the wire element is pivotable about the clamping member through a considerable angle, whereas the other section is rigidly secured in position. By such pivotal arrangement of a portion of the wire element, a considerable degree of flexibility is imparted to the wire structure to enable it to conform readily to the contour of the body of the wearer.

While I have described a specific embodiment of my novel strapless wire brassière and only two specific forms of the clamping arrangement therefor, it is obvious that various changes therein may be made without departing from my invention.

For instance, it would be within my invention, to make the wire element in two substantially symmetrical sections of the form of the upper half of Fig. 3, to thread such sections through the bust pockets, and thereafter secure such sections together at their outermost medial points. Also, instead of using a clamp structure, of either form illustrated and described, the free ends of the wire element may be merely crimped or looped over the central portion thereof to secure a closure of the sections.

I claim:

A garment adapted to encircle the body of the wearer in the bust region, comprising two bust supporting sections of pliable material, a single length of relatively stiff wire completely encompassing each of said bust sections and having bent ends, said wire element having a substantially V-shaped open loop in the center thereof between the bust sections and means for permanently and rigidly clamping the free ends of said wire element to said looped central portion to constitute complete and rigid wire frames for said bust sections and a body encircling band, extending from each bust section, having fastening means for securing the garment about the body of the wearer, said garment including a clamp structure for the wire constituted of a flat member, a pair of flanges for receiving the bottom section of the loop and the bent ends of the wire, and tabs foldable upon said flanges to secure said bent ends of the wire in place, said tabs being bent downwardly to clamp the ends of the wire constituting the bust encircling sections adjacent their bent ends.

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