June 3, 1947. M. WITKOWER 2,421,448

BRASSIERE

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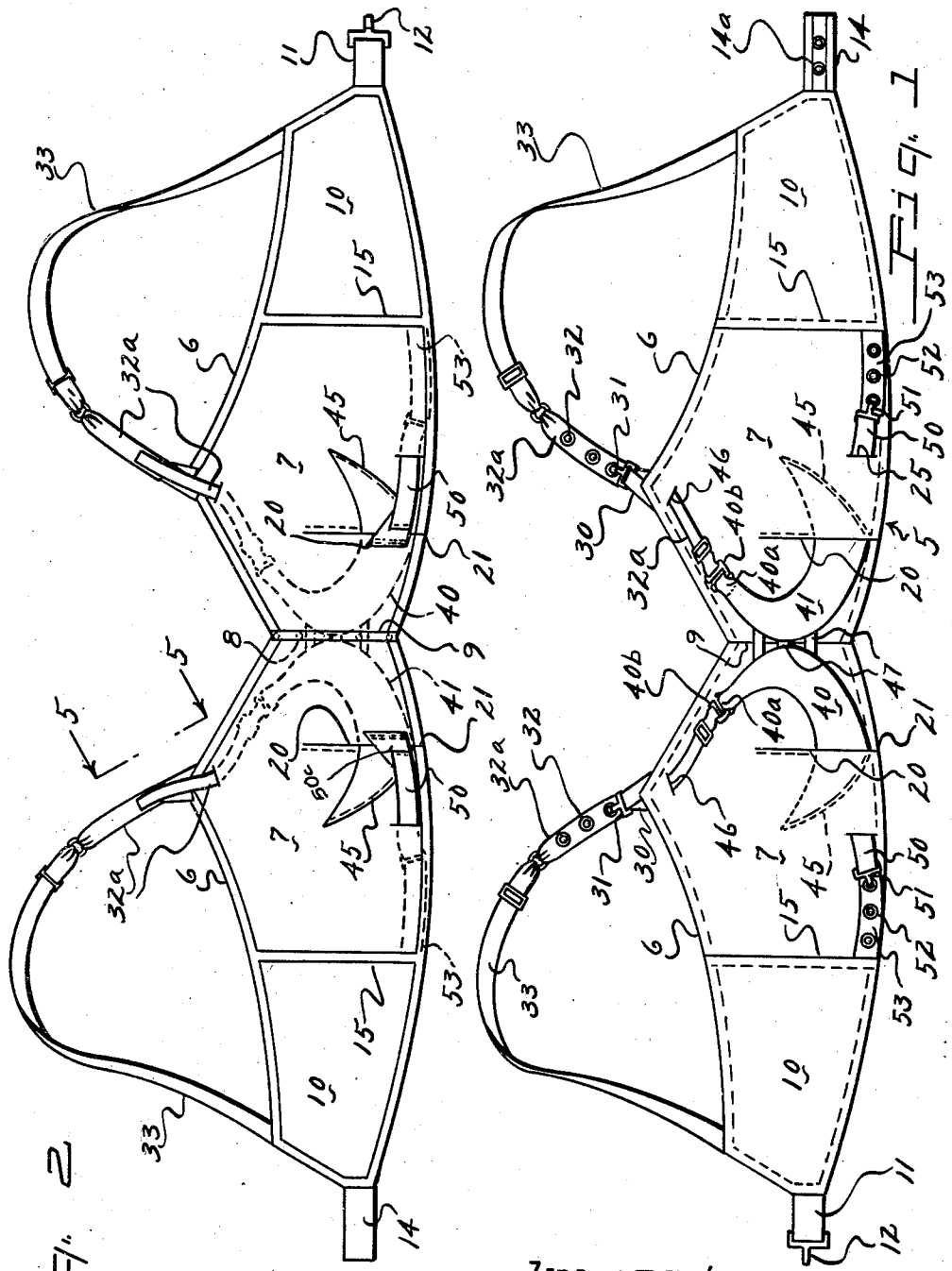


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

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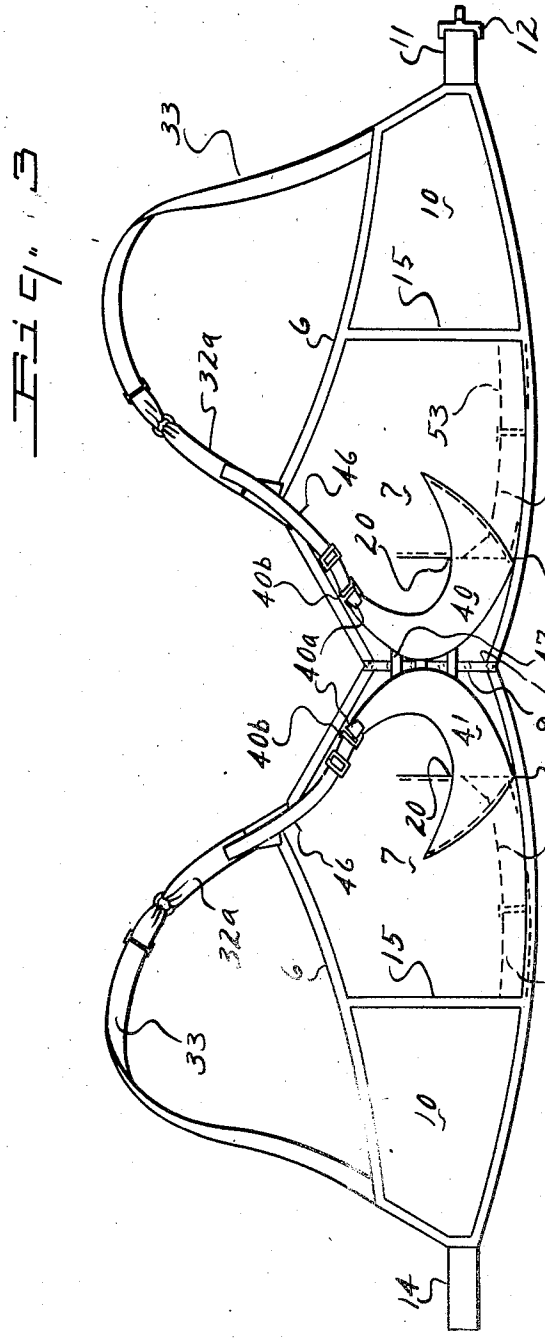


Fig. 3

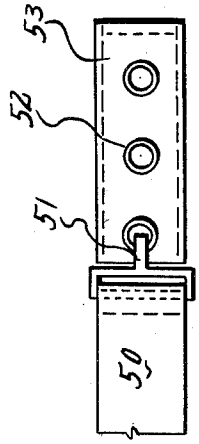


Fig. 4

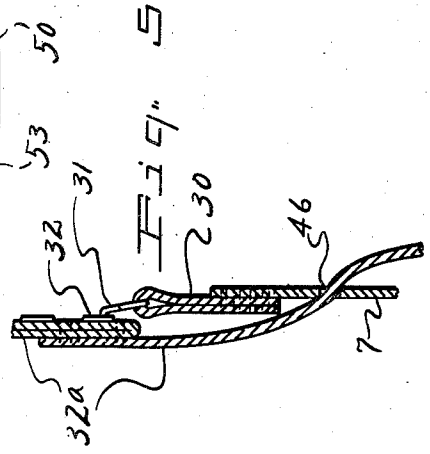


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BRASSIÈRE

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

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My present invention has to do with improvements in brassières, having more particularly to do with brassières peculiarly adapted to be worn by pregnant women, for whom it is so necessary to have garments which fit comfortably without binding the body too tightly and which may be adjusted in material respects to suit the changing condition of the figure.

It is among the objects of my invention to provide a brassière having novel breast supports and incorporating novel means for adjusting the supports into positions affording the most comfort.

It is also an object to provide a brassière so constructed that the breast-supporting elements may be worn either inside or outside the brassière garment.

A further object is to provide a brassière embodying novel breast-supporting elements incorporating means for conveniently and yieldably holding the breasts in proper position.

A still further object is the provision of a brassière wherein the breasts are supported directly from the shoulder straps and wherein the body-encircling member may be fully and easily adjusted to suit the changing conditions of the figure.

Other more specific objects and advantages will appear from the following description of what is now a preferred embodiment of the invention, although I wish it understood that the ensuing description is merely to be taken as illustrative since it is not intended to restrict the broader scope of the invention, as defined by the accompanying claims, to the specific disclosure now to be made.

For purposes of the following description I shall refer to the annexed drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation;

Fig. 2 is a rear elevation;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing the breast-supporting members disposed entirely inside the garment;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary detail; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 2 but being shown in section.

Referring now to the drawings (Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 5) I show generally at 5 the body-encircling portion of the garment, which is comprised of fabric strips 6 each shaped to provide a breast cup 7, the two strips being secured together at their inner ends by hooks and eyes 8 along a medial line 9. Each of the strips 6 has stitched to its outer end an extension strip 10 to pass under the arm and around the back of the

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wearer, one of the extensions 10 having a tab 11 carrying a hook 12 and the other extension having an elastic tab 14 provided with a row of eyes 14a to selectively receive the hook 12 in order that the garment may be adjustably and resiliently secured around the body of the wearer. The extensions 10 are secured to the strips 6 by seams 15.

Each of the strips 6 has a vertical slit 20, each of which slits opens through the bottom edge 21 of the strip, and each strip also has a relatively small opening 25 adjacent its bottom edge and spaced outwardly from the slit 20 for the purpose to be described.

The top end of each strip 6 is so disposed as to form a V having at its apex an elastic anchor strip 30 secured thereto, each of the anchor strips having a hook 31 to engage selectively in one of a plurality of eyes 32 provided in the front end extension 32a of each of the shoulder straps 33, the back ends of the shoulder straps being secured respectively to the respective extensions 10.

A pair of crescent-shaped members 40, 41 provide breast-supporting members and will now be described. Member 40 has its lower end stitched at 45 to the inner surface of the left (as viewed in Fig. 1) strip 6 and, in one of its positions of wear (Figs. 1 and 2) extends through the slit 20 to the outside of the strip 6 and thence curves upwardly and outwardly, having its top end provided with an eye 40a to engage a fastening member 40b carried by the front end extension 33a of the shoulder strap, the latter end extension of the shoulder strap passing inwardly through a hole 46 provided in each strip 6 adjacent its apex. The breast-supporting member 41 is mounted and constructed in the same manner except that it is carried by the other strip 6 and is disposed oppositely to member 40. The adjacent edges of the members 40—41 are resiliently secured together by means of elastic webs 47.

At each of the slits 20, the portion of the strip defining the inner wall of the slit has secured to it an elastic tab 50 carrying at its outer end a hook 51 to selectively engage in either of a plurality of eyes 52 carried by a strip 53 secured to the outer surface of the strip 6.

From the foregoing it will be observed that the garment is fully adjustable in all material respects so that the wearer may adapt it to her changing figure and the breasts are supported entirely from the shoulder straps instead of from the body-encircling portion of the garment. That is, the breast-supporting members are anchored at their top ends directly to the shoulder straps and may

be adjusted. It is therefore unnecessary to tightly constrict the body-encircling portion about the wearer. The degree of tightness of the fit of the body-encircling portion of the garment about the body may be adjusted by means of the anchor strips 50 whose carried hooks 51 selectively engage in eyes 52 provided in strips 53 secured to the garment at one side of the respective slits 20, and the slits 20 are prevented from flaring open since, to each strip, at one side of the slit, an end of one of the breast-supporting members is secured and to the strip at the other side of the slit an end of the anchor strip 50 is secured. As best shown in Fig. 2, so that the slits 20 are held closed without bulging, the permanently anchored end of each anchor strip 50 is secured to a somewhat triangular tap 50c whose wider end is secured to the breast-covering strip 6 at the inner side of the slit 20.

As shown in Fig. 3, if a neater appearance is desired, the breast-supporting strips may be adjusted to be worn inside the body-encircling portion by simply unfastening the top end of the members 41 from the shoulder straps, removing the shoulder strap from the openings 36, and removing the members 40, 41 from the slits 20, and re-anchoring them inside the garment as shown.

I claim:

1. A brassière comprising a fabric body encircling member having breast covering portions each presenting a slit opening through its bottom edge portion and extending upwardly a substantial distance, said breast covering portions each having an opening spaced laterally outward from said slit, a first anchor strip having fastening means and secured to each breast covering portion in a region spaced laterally outward beyond said opening, and a second anchor strip secured at one end to each breast covering portion laterally inward of each slit and carrying at its other end fastening means for engaging the fastening means of the adjacent first anchor strip, said second anchor strip being adapted to extend through said opening.

2. A brassière comprising a fabric body encircling member having breast covering portions, said breast covering portions each having a slit of substantial length extending through and upwardly from the lower edge thereof, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of the body encircling member, a pair of oppositely disposed cresent-shaped breast supporting strips each secured at its lower end portion to a breast covering portion at the side of the slit therein farthest from the middle portion of the garment and adapted to extend through said slit, means for suspending the upper ends of the respective breast supporting strips from the respective shoulder straps, means yieldably securing together adjacent medial edge portions of the breast supporting strips, means for effecting longitudinal adjustment of the lower edge portion of the body encircling member comprising anchor strips secured respectively at the inner end to a breast covering portion at the side of the slit therein opposite to the side to which the breast supporting strips are respectively secured, an anchor member secured to the breast covering portion at the other side of the slit therein, and means for adjustably securing together the outer ends of the respective anchor strips and their respective anchor members.

3. A brassière comprising a fabric body encircling member having breast covering portions, said portions each having a slit through the lower edge and extending upwardly a substantial distance, a pair of shoulder straps secured at their respective ends to the front and back portions of the body encircling member, a pair of breast supporting strips each secured at its lower end portion to a breast covering portion at the side of the slit therein farthest from the middle of the garment and adapted to extend through said slit, means for suspending the upper ends of the respective breast supporting strips from the respective shoulder straps, and means for effecting longitudinal adjustment of the bottom edge portion of the body encircling member in the region of said slits comprising an adjustable strap means bridging each slit and secured to the breast covering portions on each side of the slits, respectively, whereby the portions of the breast covering portions on each side of the slits may be drawn into overlapping relation to each other.

MAX WITKOWER.

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