

Nov. 21, 1950

A. LIGHT
LADY'S GARMENT

2,530,829

Filed Feb. 11, 1947

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

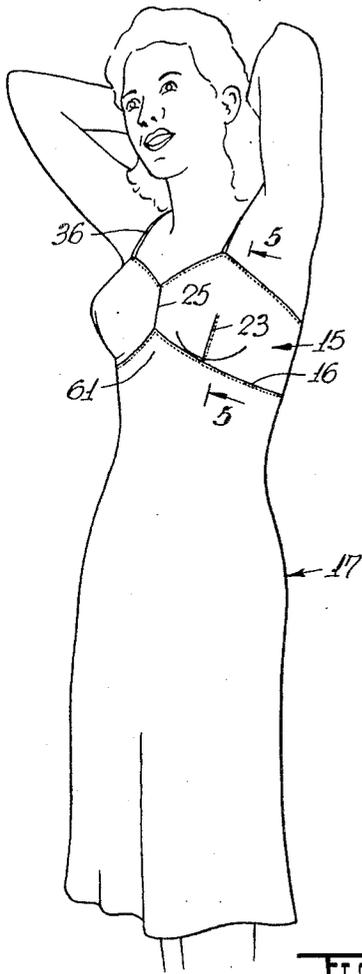


FIG. 2.

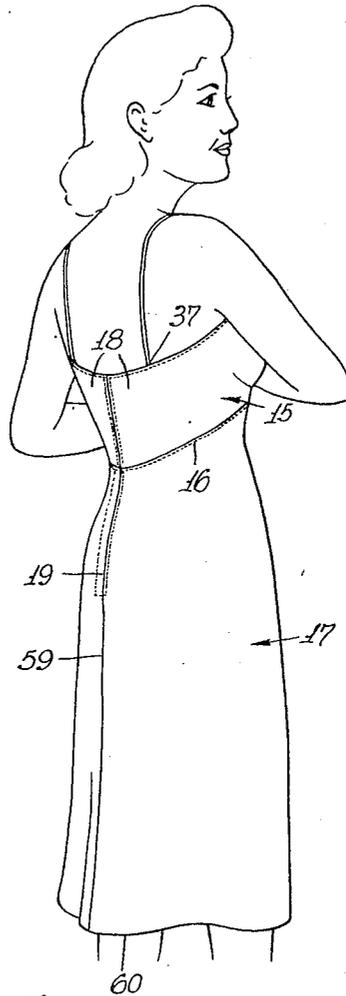
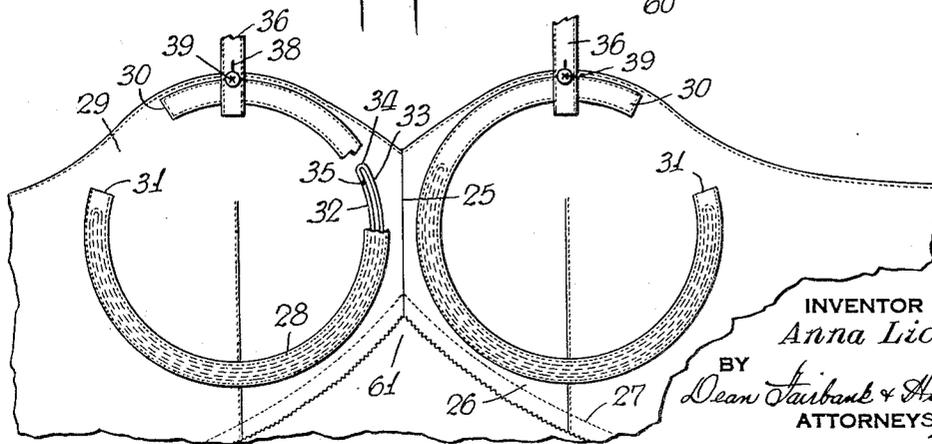


FIG. 3.



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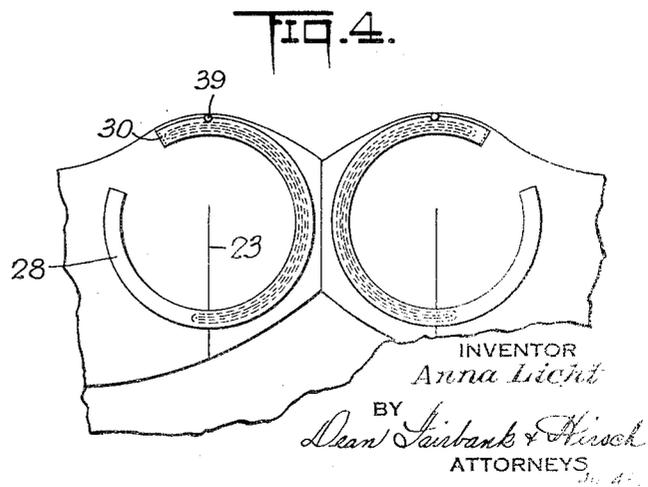
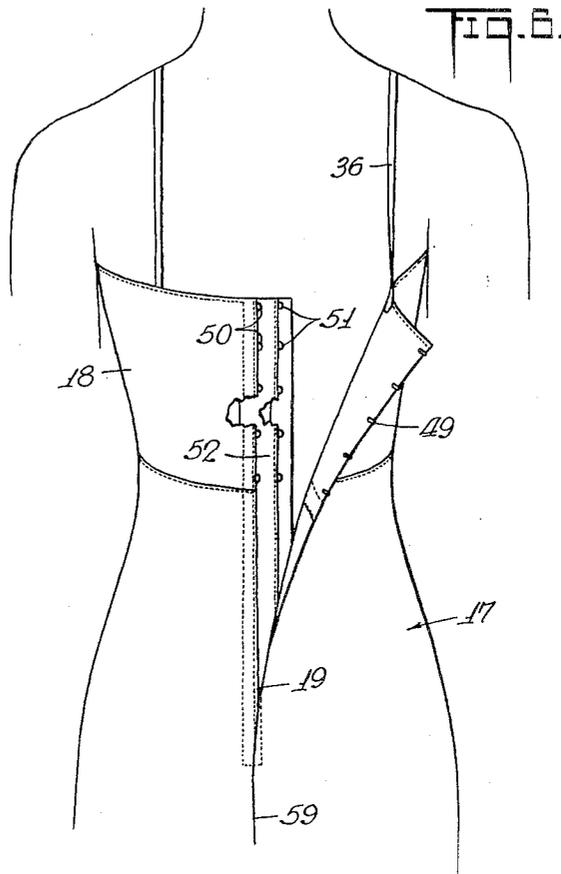
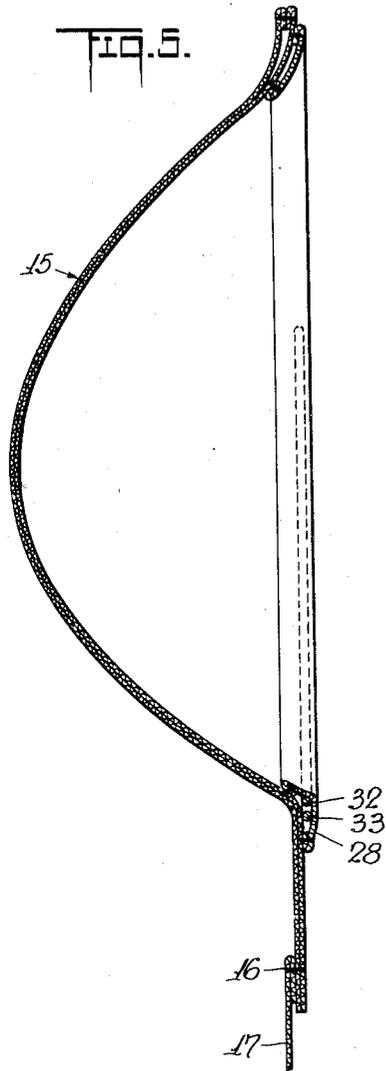
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3 Sheets-Sheet 2



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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

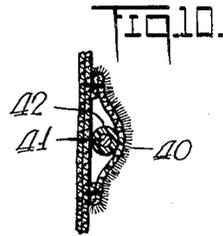
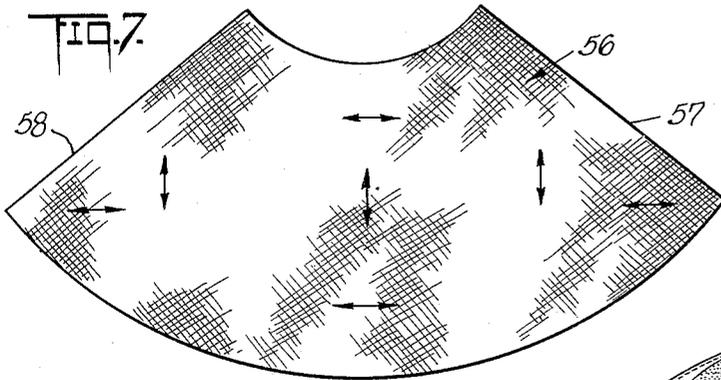


FIG. 9.

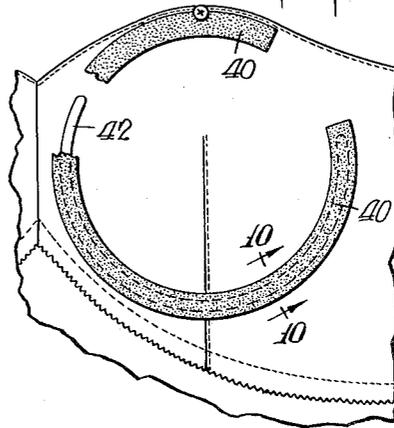


FIG. 8.

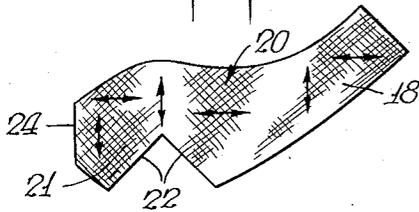


FIG. 11.

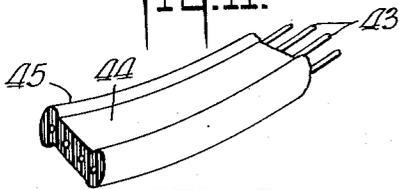


FIG. 12.

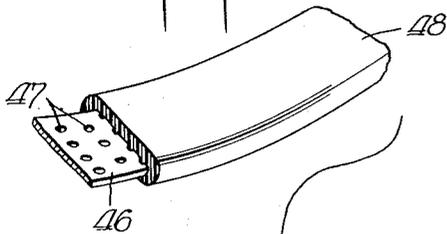


FIG. 13.

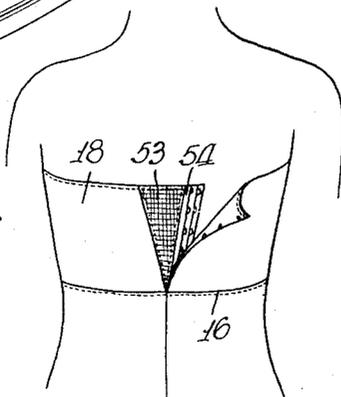
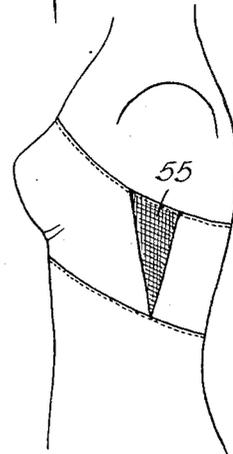


FIG. 14.



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LADY'S GARMENT

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Application February 11, 1947, Serial No. 727,816

2 Claims. (Cl. 2-42)

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My present invention relates to ladies' garments and while shown applied to a combination brassière and slip, certain aspects of the invention are applicable to slips generally, as well as more broadly to underskirts; while in other aspects, the invention is applicable to brassières and to ladies' garments generally that include breast cups and which are designated by me as brassière type garments.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a combination brassière type garment which is inherently form fitting, which affords adequate support for the bust and without discomfort and which at the option of the wearer may be supported by a strap in one setting thereof and be worn strapless in another setting thereof.

Another object is to provide a brace structure for a brassière type garment which though of adequate stiffness for the desired purpose, affords a soft area of engagement with the body without undue bulk.

Another object is to provide a lady's garment which consists of or comprises a skirt of woven fabric, which skirt though devoid of excess material, such as pleats or the like, yet inherently adapts itself to the form of the wearer without looseness, wrinkling or displacement.

Another object is to provide a unitary garment constituting a combination slip and brassière in which the brassière element affords the various advantages of a well designed brassière including adequate support without undue pressure and in which the skirt portion is inherently form fitting to a wide variety of different figures.

In the accompanying drawings in which are shown one or more of various embodiments of the several features of the invention

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a combination brassière and slip type of garment in wear, as viewed from the front,

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 as viewed laterally from the rear,

Fig. 3 is a view in longitudinal cross-section on a larger scale of the inner side of the brassière element of Fig. 1 with parts broken away,

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the garment in its strapless setting,

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view on a larger scale taken on line 5-5 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary rear view of the garment showing the detail of the brassière fastening construction,

Fig. 7 is a plan view of the blank from which the skirt element is made,

Fig. 8 is a plan view of one of the two blanks from which the brassière element is made.

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Fig. 9 is a plan view of one embodiment of the breast cup element viewed from the inside,

Fig. 10 is a transverse sectional view on a larger scale taken on line 10-10 of Fig. 9,

Fig. 11 is a fragmentary perspective view of one embodiment of brace element,

Fig. 12 is a view similar to Fig. 11 of another embodiment of brace element,

Fig. 13 is a rear view showing a modified form of brassière construction, and

Fig. 14 is a view similar to Fig. 13 of an alternative embodiment taken from the side.

Referring now to the drawings, the combination slip and brassière preferably comprises a unitary garment including a brassière portion 15 to the lower edge of which is permanently stitched the skirt portion 17 as by line of stitching 16. The brassière portion is releasably secured about the body by releasable fasteners along abutting rear edges of brassière bands 18. The skirt portion 17 which hangs from the brassière is cleft to a point well below the waist, as best shown at 19 in Figs. 2 and 5.

The brassière element is desirably made from two blanks 20 of the general shape shown in Fig. 8, cut from woven fabric, the band portion 18 thereof being at the narrow portion at the right of Fig. 8 and the wider portion 21 toward the left having a deep notch 22 in its lower edge, the edges of which are stitched together as at 23 to form a breast cup.

As shown in the drawings, the brassière blank is cut from the woven fabric with the warp or weft extending as shown generally lengthwise of the band portion, to be substantially non-extensible lengthwise thereof. The warp and weft respectively extend generally in the direction of the edges of notch 22 so that the length and width of the wider portion 21 of the blank is in effect bias cut for longitudinal and transverse extensibility thereof. The brassière is formed by stitching together two of the blanks, of Fig. 9, along the upright 24 of the edge of the blank to form the seam 25.

Accordingly, the garment is substantially non-extensible along the line of said seam 25 and is also substantially non-extensible along the lengths of the bands 18, but is extensible longitudinally and transversely at various parts of the cup other than the seam 23 to assure adaptation to the form, but with complete comfort.

As customary with brassières, the structure described has a lining 26 stitched in place as at 27 about the periphery thereof.

Stitched along the generally circular rim of each of the breast cups, are the edges of an arcu-

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ate strip of fabric 28 to form a sheath. That sheath preferably extends over an arc in the order of 300 degrees and desirably somewhat in excess of 300 degrees as shown, to encompass the entire breast cup except for a short region 29 adjacent the arm pit for freedom of muscular movement thereat. The sheath is closed as at 30 at one end, desirably the upper end, and open at the other end 31 for ready insertion and removal of an arcuate stiffener brace which preferably extends through an arc of about 180 degrees. That brace may be substantially of the construction of those shown in my prior patent, Reissue No. 22,771 of July 16, 1946. Illustratively there is shown in Fig. 3 the wire embodiment of the brace of said prior patent, which need be described but briefly. It may comprise, a pair of nested arcuate lengths of wire 32 and 33 connected in a closed flat loop by hairpin turns 34 at opposite ends thereof, the continuous length of wire being welded together near the one end thereof, as for instance at 35.

In the setting of the wire shown in Fig. 3, in which the same extends in the sheath substantially along the lower portion thereof, the garment requires shoulder straps 36, which may be of conventional form stitched as at 37 to the rear of the brassiere at its upper end and releasably connected, as for instance by means of a button hole 38 at its free end attached to a button 39 at the inner surface of the upper edge of each of the breast cups.

By reason of the much greater arcuate length of the sheath as compared with that of the braces, the latter may be shifted around in the sheath to the position shown in Fig. 4, in which the braces desirably extend clear to the respective closed ends 39 of the sheaths 28, and along the inner or adjacent sides of the respective cups. Since the brace in this relation extends over the rotundity of the breast, the garment is well supported without the need for shoulder straps. In that setting, the shoulder strap 36 would of course be allowed to hang idly from within the rear of the garment. Thus, the garment admits of alternative settings, either for the usual shoulder strap wear or for strapless wear.

In the embodiment of Figs. 9 and 10, the sheath 40 is shown of plush to afford a padded effect against the body by reason of which it is possible to use a single run of wire brace 41, preferably completely embedded from end to end in a heavy plastic covering 42, which may, if desired, be of rubber, natural or synthetic, or of other plastic.

In Figs. 11 and 12 are shown other alternative forms of braces. These are both in the form of bands of width considerably greater than their thicknesses so as to afford a considerable area of contact against the body and to dispense with the need even of rudimentary padding, such as the plush sheath of Figs. 9 and 10. Each brace embeds stiffener means, desirably of metal, affording gaps or openings across which the embedding plastic body extends.

In the embodiment of Fig. 11, the brace comprises a multiplicity of arcuate wire lengths 43 retained in spaced parallel relation by completely embedding the same in the structure 44 of plastic, preferably of synthetic rubber of the type that is perspiration-resistant. The wire lengths 43 may be deformed along any desired curvature, both along the length thereof for adaptation to the curvature of the breast and for displacement out of the plane of the sheath for adaptation to

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the transverse curvature of the wearer's body, the brace having sufficient stiffness to maintain its setting. As shown in Fig. 11, the molded body of the brace may be thickened at its edges to provide ribs 45 thereat, if desired, for greater security of anchorage to the body, although this expedient is not ordinarily necessary.

In the alternative embodiment of Fig. 12, the plastic body is shown flat-sided instead of ribbed and the completely embedded stiffener in this case is a thin arcuate blank of sheet metal 46 having a multiplicity of perforations 47 there-through, through which perforations the plastic 48 is molded for secure anchorage thereof.

It will be understood that the embodiments of Figs. 9, 10, 11 and 12 replace the brace shown in Figs. 3 and 4 and may otherwise be used substantially in the same manner as the simple wire brace of my prior patent above identified. Obviously, the brace in each of its embodiments is readily removable from the garment to permit laundering and may as readily be reinserted.

The brassiere element of the garment desirably is constructed to permit use of one and the same garment by wearers of slightly different size and shape. To this end, one line of eyes 50 may be mounted at the edge of the main structure of the band 18 and a second line of eyes 51 is mounted at the edge of an auxiliary strip 52 stitched to the garment and extending along the length of its edge, and in the combined slip embodiment clear down the entire length of the cleft to the point 19 in Fig. 5 to be engaged by a line of hooks 49 at the other edge of the garment. Of course, the fastener might be of the zipper or hookless type instead of the form specifically shown, although the zipper type of fastener would preferably be used single and not as a double line of fasteners, such as the hook and eye type just described.

If desired, the brassiere garment or element may present a gore 53 of elastic which may flare upwardly from the waist line 16 to the upper edge and may either be interposed as shown in Fig. 13, between the eye-bearing strip 54 and the main length of brassiere band 18 at one end thereof or, as shown in Fig. 14, two of said gores 55 may be disposed one at each side of the garment under the arm pits. Thus, while the brassiere or brassiere type garment presents the necessary longitudinal resistance to stretching along the length of the bands and the necessary yield at the breast cups, it still admits of adaptation (whether the hook and eye or zipper type of fastener be used) to wearers of somewhat different size and shape by reason of the elastic gores of Figs. 13 or 14 or of both the alternative lines 50 and 51 of fasteners and the gore or gores.

It will be understood that the structure set forth may be used not only in brassieres as such, but in any brassiere type of garment, that is, in any ladies' garment that includes breast cups. Such brassiere type of garment would include not only brassieres as such, but among others, combination brassieres and slips, evening dress liners, play suits and bathing suits.

In the embodiment of Figs. 1, 2, 6 and 7 is shown the skirt element of the combination brassiere and slip. That skirt element according to the present embodiment is preferably cut from a single blank of woven fabric. That blank as shown in Fig. 7 is a sector 56 of an annulus and preferably a quadrant sector, as shown, in which the lateral edge 57 extends substantially along

one line of weave illustratively along the warp, while the opposite edge 58 at right angles thereto extends substantially along the other line of weave, illustratively the weft. In the finished garment, the edges 57 and 58 are stitched together to form the rear seam 59 which extends from the lower hem 60 to the point 19 of the cleft below the breast line, as best shown in Figs. 2 and 5.

By the arrangement shown, the main length and width of the skirt portion extends along the bias of the woven fabric, while the rear vertical seam 59 extends on the straight cut. Therefore, it is clear that the skirt except for its rear seam, will have the yield of a bias cut fabric, both longitudinally and circumferentially thereof, the longitudinal or vertical extensibility being a maximum at the front and sides of the garment and being less near the seam 59 at the rear mid-section of the garment. Similarly, the garment is readily extensible circumferentially or transversely by reason of the bias relation of the weave so that the garment is correctly form-fitting at the hips and thighs. The skirt portion though devoid of excess material such as pleats or the like, yet is inherently form fitting and without looseness, wrinkling or displacement.

In a preferred embodiment shown, the fabric of the skirt portion 17 extends to a peak 61 at the top of the mid-section of its front to conform to the corresponding shape of the lower edge of the brassière portion 15, and though these elements are firmly stitched together, the stitch 16 yet admits of transverse yield at this region by blunting or flattening out of the angle of said peak 61 under tension along the waist line.

Though the skirt portion, as described, has been shown as part of a combination brassière and slip, it will be understood that the structure of skirt, as described, is also useful, wholly apart from any brassière combination, for petticoats, night gowns and other undergarments.

As many changes could be made in the above construction and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made

without departing from the scope of the claims, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A garment comprising a brassière element having breast cups, sheaths about the rims of the respective breast cups, each extending through an arc in the order of 300 degrees, leaving clear the region nearest the armpit, each sheath having a closed end and an open end, arcuate braces, each extending through an angle in the order of 180 degrees, whereby the braces may be positioned at will either along the lower parts of the respective sheaths for a strap type garment or from the upper parts of the respective sheaths along the inner or adjacent portions of the sheaths for a strapless type of garment.

2. The combination recited in claim 1, in which the garment has straps affixed to the rear portions of the upper edges thereof and releasable fasteners to the front portions thereof, said straps being allowed to depend unused within the garment in the setting of the braces for strapless use.

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