

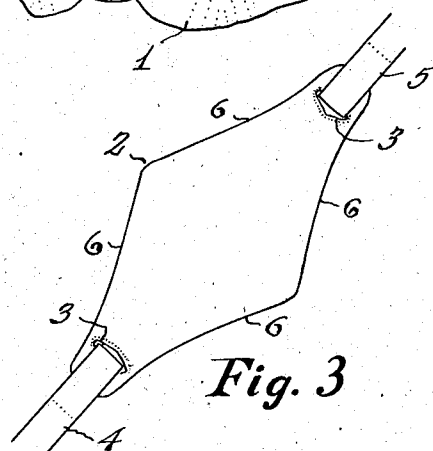
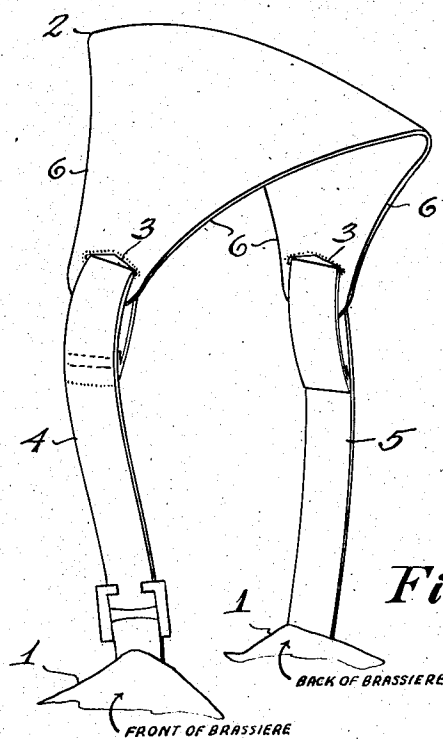
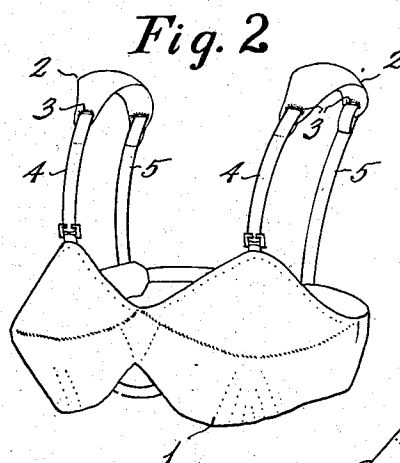
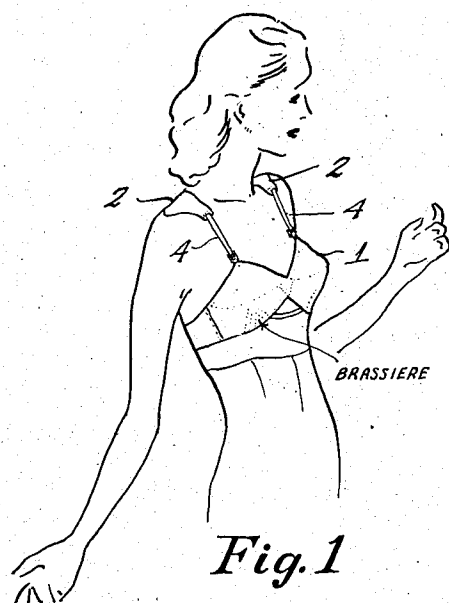
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SHOULDER SUPPORT FOR BRASSIERES

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SHOULDER SUPPORT FOR BRASSIERES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2-42)

This invention is a shoulder support for brassieres. As conventionally made, brassieres are provided with shoulder straps, ordinarily in the form of relatively narrow ribbons which are secured to the front and back of the garment and pass over the shoulders of the wearer. These shoulder straps must hold the garment from shifting downwardly and at the same time support the weight of the breasts which, according to the present vogue, should be sustained in an uplifted position to impart a youthful, full, rounded figure.

Slender women or those with relatively small breasts experience no difficulty with brassieres of conventional design, but those women who have heavy breasts or tend to be fleshy find much discomfort in the use of brassieres with conventional ribbon shoulder straps, for the weight imposed upon these straps is such as to cause them to cut into the shoulder so severely as to cause considerable discomfort and even pain.

I am of course aware that bust supporters, brassieres and the like have been heretofore made with relatively wide shoulder straps usually cut from the same material as the rest of the garment. Garments of that type are exemplified by United States Patent No. 644,606, issued to Laura H. Johnson. Such a garment may be worn with comfort insofar as the support of the weight is concerned, but the modern woman will not wear a brassiere of this kind because of the unsightly appearance of the shoulder pieces, particularly when worn beneath sheer gowns.

With the foregoing considerations in mind, the object of the present invention is to provide a shoulder support for brassieres which will have all the appearance of the conventional support, but which will obviate the aforesaid discomfort and pain inherent therein.

Speaking generally, the present invention consists in incorporating within each shoulder strap of a brassiere an element which, for the want of a better name, I shall hereinafter term a "saddle." This saddle is in the form of a substantially diamond shaped piece of material adapted to rest on the shoulder of the wearer with its longitudinal axis extending over the shoulder and its transverse axis, at the point of its greatest width, positioned so as to rest between the trapezius and the joint formed by the clavicle and the humerus and overlie the trapezius at the back of the shoulder of the wearer. By so positioning the saddle, it is retained in position against slipping either upwardly or downwardly on the shoulder and is capable of affording the maximum distribution

of the weight imposed thereon. Ribbons, tapes or the like, with or without adjustment devices, are secured to the opposite ends of the saddle in any appropriate manner and extend downwardly therefrom to and are securely attached at the front and back of the brassiere proper.

The lateral edges of the saddle are preferably of concave form, so that the outlines thereof merge into the ribbons or tapes along symmetrical lines. One advantage of so shaping the saddle and associating it with the tapes, as stated, is that the presence thereof, even beneath a sheer garment, is not noticeable, particularly if the saddle is tinted to conform with the tapes or to the underlying flesh of the wearer.

The saddle of this invention may be made from various materials and may be either of single or multiple ply. In the preferred form of the invention, it is made from a plastic material, such as "Lucite," or a like plastic which has the property of being relatively flexible in a direction longitudinally of the saddle, but sufficiently rigid in a direction transversely thereof as to prevent the formation of folds, gathers or shirrs therein, particularly when the saddle is longitudinally bent over the shoulder of the wearer. A wide variety of plastics are embraced within these requirements and, as stated, they may be tinted or colored as desired.

Instead of using plastics, however, I may employ fabrics such, e. g., as plush which, if used, should have a relatively firm body and preferably has sufficient nap to cushion the saddle against the flesh of the wearer. If a fabric is used, it may be backed up with a reinforcing material, but in any event it should have sufficient body to preclude the puckering or gathering thereof to which I have referred, when worn for, if this shirring or gathering occurs, it will defeat the purpose of the invention because it will localize the weight, in contradistinction to distributing the same.

Features of the invention, other than those adverted to, will be apparent from the hereinafter detailed description and claims, when read in conjunction with the appended drawing.

The drawing illustrates one practical embodiment of the invention, but the construction shown therein is to be understood as illustrative, only, and not as defining the limits of the invention.

Figure 1 is a view illustrating a brassiere embodying the present invention in place on a wearer.

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the garment removed.

Figure 3 shows the preferred form of saddle of this invention with attached ribbons or tapes.

Figure 4 is an enlarged view showing the saddle with associated tapes attached to front and back portions of the brassière.

Referring to the drawing, 1 designates the body of the brassière which may be conventional and which is adapted to encircle the body in the usual manner, being secured at the back of the wearer in any appropriate way.

2 designates the saddles which are incorporated in the two shoulder tapes. In the drawing, these saddles are illustrated as they would appear if made of plastic material, such as "Lucite." As shown each saddle is generally of diamond shape and is provided at its opposite ends with slots or openings 3 through which are passed tapes 4 and 5, shown in Figure 4 as attached to the front and back of the brassière body 1. If the saddle were of fabric, these slots 3 would ordinarily be made like buttonholes, although in lieu of such slots or buttonholes, other securing means for the tapes may be provided or the tapes may be simply sewed to the opposite ends of the saddle. It will be noted that the widest part of the saddle is midway of its length and that the lateral edges of the saddle extend therefrom along concave lines to substantially merge into the lateral edges of the tapes 4 and 5.

From Figure 1 it will be apparent that the saddle is worn with the widest part thereof at the apex of the shoulder with the tapering portions thereof extending to the front edge thereof and merging into the tapes as stated, so as to minimize the appearance of bulk and at the same time furnish adequate support. If the saddle is formed from a plastic its lateral edges may be tapered so as to be relatively thin, although no part of the saddle need be thick, but it must of course be sufficiently strong for the purposes stated.

Experience has shown that a shoulder support constructed as described may be worn not only with absolute comfort, but its presence is not noticeable. Moreover, it is not bulky and will not tend to destroy the shoulder lines of sheer garments worn thereover. It is economical to manufacture and is a complete answer to the problems to which I have hereinbefore referred.

This invention should not be confused with the expedients heretofore suggested for use in connection with golf bags with the carrying straps

of which have sometimes been associated wide leather pads, through which are passed the carrying straps of the bag. While such an arrangement may be all right for golf bags, it would be wholly impractical for association with a brassière and this is evidenced by the fact that although these golf bag accessories have been known for years, women have continued to suffer the discomfort which the present invention overcomes.

The foregoing detailed description sets forth the invention in its preferred practical form, but the invention is to be understood as fully commensurate with the appended claims.

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

1. A shoulder support for brassières comprising a saddle having a solid, unbroken, substantially diamond shaped body to overlie the shoulder of the wearer and contact therewith throughout substantially its entire area, with its transverse axis at the apex of the shoulder and the longitudinal axis conforming to the front-to-back curvature of the shoulder, whereby weight imposed on said saddle is distributed throughout the entire diamond shaped area thereof, and tapes secured at the opposite ends of the said diamond shaped body to extend and be secured to the front and back portions of the brassière, said body being of sufficient transverse stiffness to preclude gathering or folding thereof when subjected to weight imposed thereon by the brassière.

2. A shoulder support for brassières comprising a saddle having a solid, unbroken, substantially diamond shaped body to overlie the shoulder of the wearer and contact therewith throughout substantially its entire area, with its transverse axis at the apex of the shoulder and the longitudinal axis conforming to the front-to-back curvature of the shoulder, whereby weight imposed on said saddle is distributed throughout the entire diamond shaped area thereof, and tapes secured at the opposite ends of the said diamond shaped body to extend and be secured to the front and back portions of the brassière, said body being of sufficient transverse stiffness to preclude gathering or folding thereof when subjected to weight imposed thereon by the brassière, and the lateral edges of said body being concave to substantially merge into the lateral edges of said tapes.

EDLA JOHANSON.