June 3, 1952 W. A. R. VON THADEN 2,599,302

COMBINATION CORSET AND BRASSIERE WITH INTERCHANGEABLE BUST SECTION

Filed Nov. 24, 1950 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

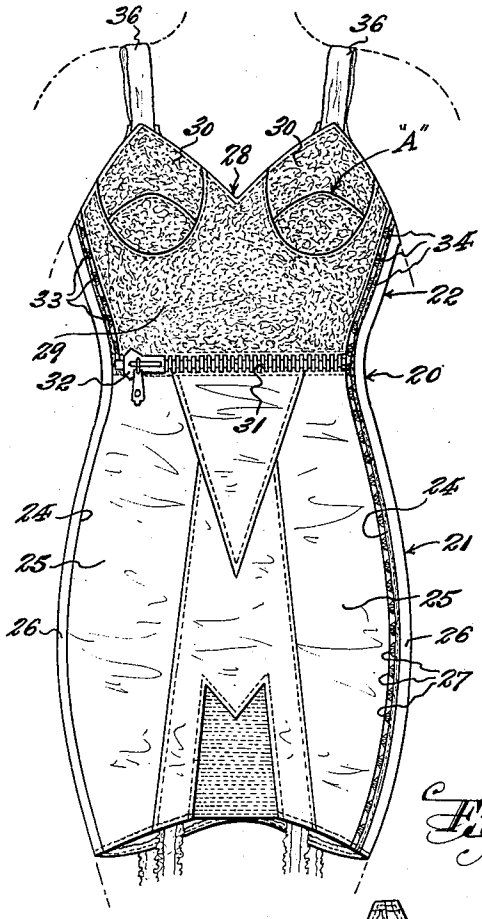


Fig. 2

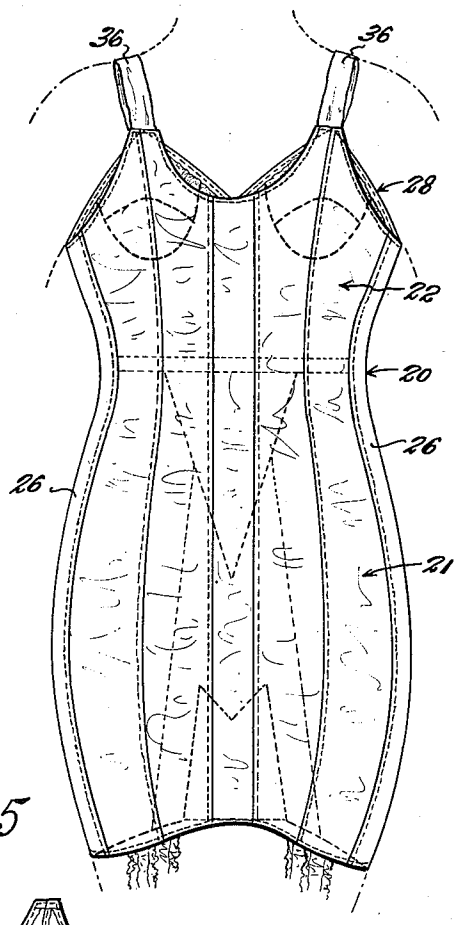
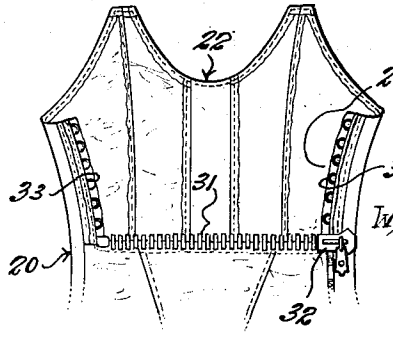


Fig. 5

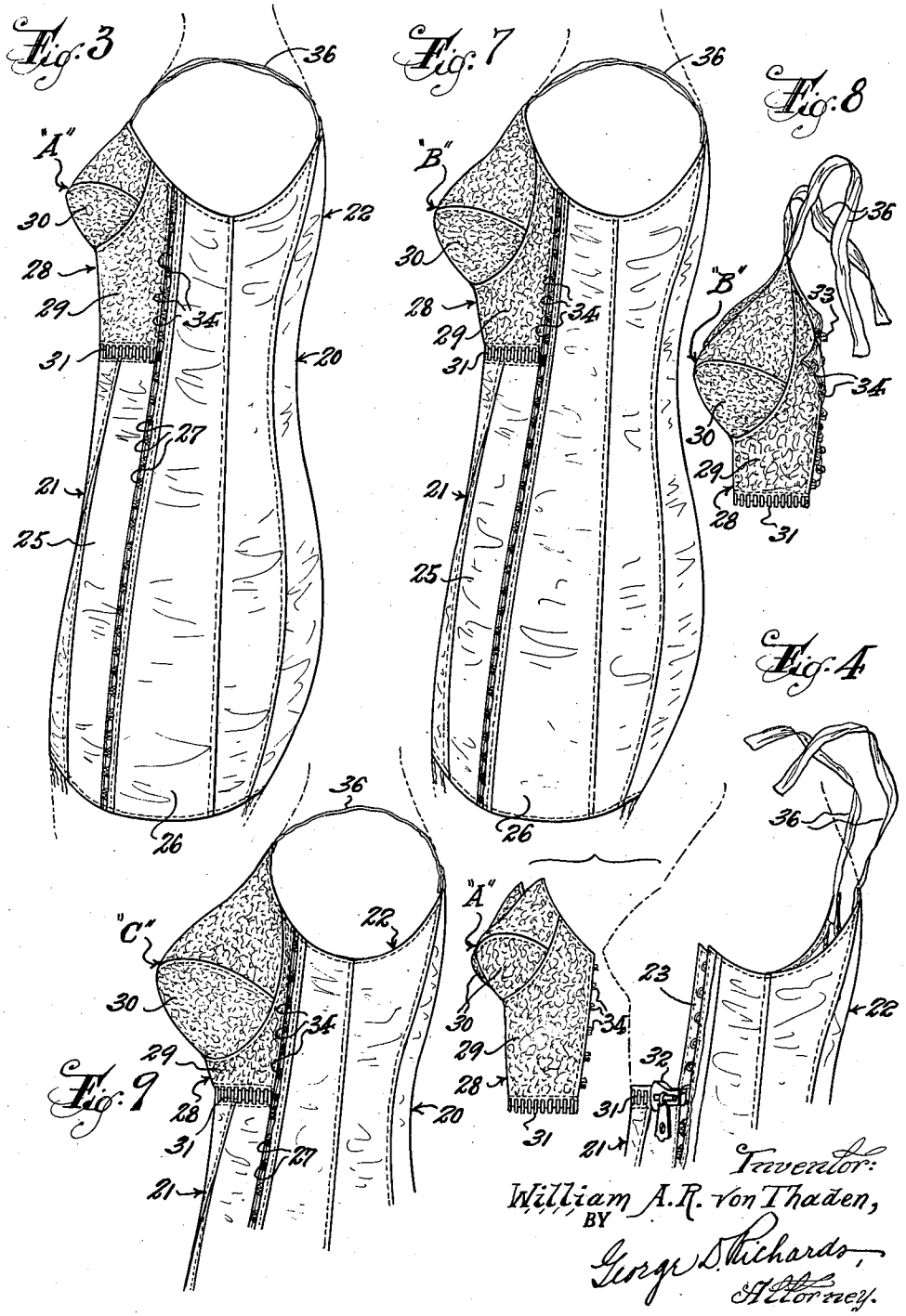


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COMBINATION CORSET AND BRASSIERE WITH INTERCHANGEABLE BUST SECTION

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Fig. 6

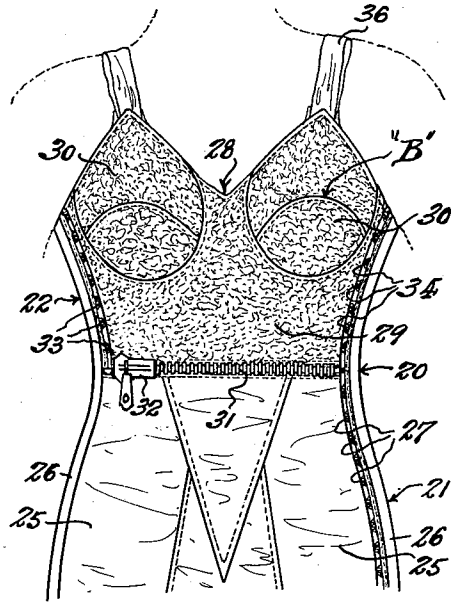


Fig. 10

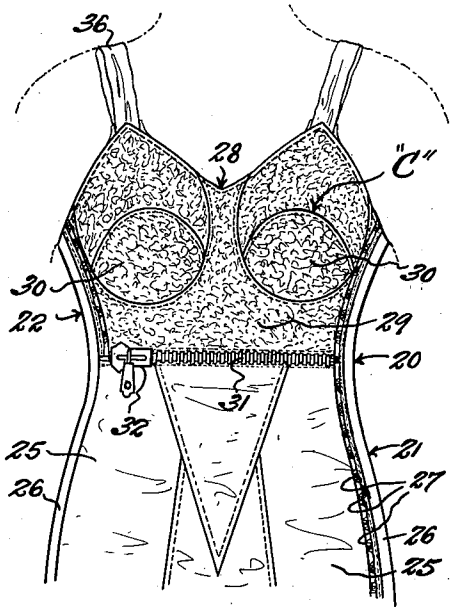


Fig. 11

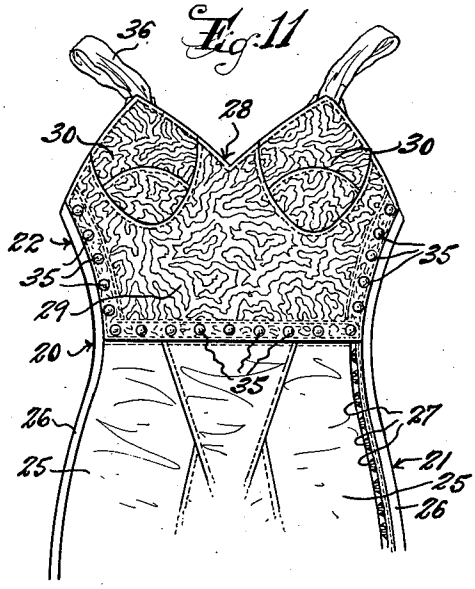
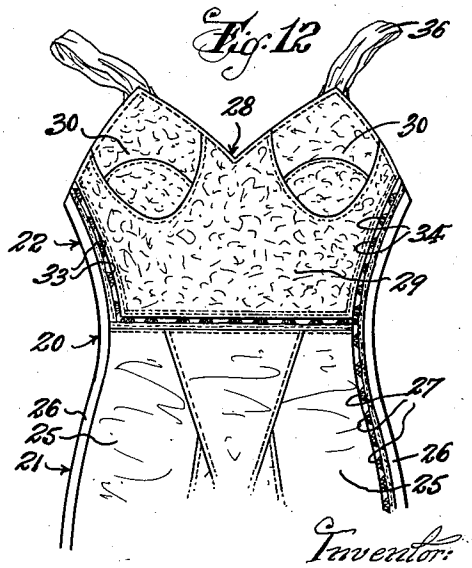


Fig. 12



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2,599,302

COMBINATION CORSET AND BRASSIÈRE WITH INTERCHANGEABLE BUST SECTION

William A. R. von Thaden, Newark, N. J.

Application November 24, 1950, Serial No. 197,410

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—30)

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The invention relates to wearing apparel and in particular to foundation garments of the kind wherein a corset and a brassière are integrally combined.

Prior to the present invention, the advantages of such a one-piece combination were outweighed by the disadvantages for the reason that women who may be fitted readily at the waist and hips by a corset of standard size still may differ greatly in bust measure from the brassière size which is a part of the selected given standard size combination garment. By reason of this it has been necessary in the past to produce a greater variety of standard sizes in combination garments than is desirable from the standpoint of inventory and economy. Retailers are most seriously affected because of the necessity for maintaining a large stock of the garments, and because of the time consumed in fitting customers.

It, therefore, is the primary object of the present invention to provide a combination corset and brassière garment wherein only the side and back portions of the brassière element of the combination are integrally united with the corset element, the front or bust portion of the brassière being completely separable from the other portions of the brassière and from the corset. Due to this provision, it now is practicable to produce the separate brassière bust sections in about three different sizes (determined entirely by the dimensions of the bust pockets), for interchangeable attachment to the integrated body of any particular standard size combination garment of a series which embraces the usual run of body sizes exclusive of bust measure. As a result, no increase in the number of sizes of integrated garment bodies is necessary, nor is the increase in number of bust sections objectionable, because they involve the use of a relatively small amount of material and thus contribute a minor item as compared with the larger garment bodies with which they are to be associated. Furthermore, the fitting of customers is greatly simplified and expedited.

A further object of the invention is to provide fastening means for the separable bust sections which combine suitability for effecting a close, smooth fit with capability of speedy manipulation.

Other objects and advantages will appear as the following specific description is read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of the complete foundation garment as provided e. g. with a selected bust section of small, "A" pocket-size and employing the preferred form of fastening means by which it is incorporated in the garment; Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the same; Fig. 3 is a side elevation thereof; Fig. 4 is a side elevation thereof, partly broken away, showing the bust section detached and adjacent to its applied position; and Fig. 5 is a front elevation, partly broken away, of the integrated body of the garment with the bust section removed.

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Fig. 6 is a front elevation, partly broken away, of the garment as provided with a selected bust section of medium, "B" pocket-size and employing the preferred form of fastening means by which it is incorporated in the garment; Fig. 7 is a complete side elevation of the same; and Fig. 8 is a detail side elevation of the detached bust section alone.

Fig. 9 is a side elevation, partly broken away, of a garment as provided with a selected bust section of large, "C" pocket-size and employing the preferred form of fastening means; and Fig. 10 is a similar front elevation of the same.

Fig. 11 is a front elevation of the complete garment, showing modified fastening means by which a bust section of selected size is incorporated therein; and Fig. 12 is a similar view, showing a further modification of fastening means for attaching a bust section of selected size to the garment.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, the reference character **20** indicates the principal part, or body, of the improved foundation garment, which comprises the integrated corset element **21** and brassière element **22**. It is to be understood, that the term "corset" or "corset element" as used herein refers to all structure below the general waistline, and the terms "brassière" or "brassière element" refers to structure above the waistline.

Since nearly all the structural details of the body **20** conform to usual corset making practice, they will not be described specifically. The improvement consists primarily in elimination of the front or bust section, whereby a substantially rectangular gap **23** is created in the front part of body **20**, as shown particularly in Figs. 4 and 5. This gap **23** extends upwardly from the waistline to open through the top of brassière element **22** and extends horizontally between the seams **24—24** at the juncture of front panels **25—25** and side panels **26—26** of the garment

body 20. The side margins of gap 23 are located well in advance of the axillary lines of the garment so that the fastening means provided to be coextensive therewith, and later herein described, will not interfere with comfortable arm movement.

For wearer's convenience in putting the garment body on and taking it off, corset element 21 is divided along one of the seams 24—24, preferably at the wearer's left side, as shown. The meeting edges of corset element 21 at this selected seam are detachably secured together by linear fastening means 27, which preferably is of the spaced hook-and-eye type in order to facilitate smooth, progressive confinement of the wearer's figure from top to bottom of the said corset element.

In accordance with the invention, gap 23 in garment body 20 is to be closed by any selected one of a set of marginally matched, separate bust sections 28 of different bust-pocket sizes. Since it will be necessary to provide gaps 23 of different widths in garment bodies 20 of different sizes, it follows that there must be a set of separate bust sections 28 of appropriate marginal dimensions to fit the gap 23 in each body 20 of a particular size. This does not necessarily mean that, if a corset shop or other retail store has in stock a dozen garment bodies of a given size, there must be a dozen sets of bust sections. The number of sets for a given number of garment bodies of the same size is a matter of determination by practical sales experience over a considerable period of time.

As to the number of bust sections in each set, it has been quite definitely settled that there shall be at least three different sizes, viz.: one section having bust pockets of small size designated in the corset industry as "A" size; one section having bust pockets of medium or "B" size and one section with larger or "C" size bust pockets. It is to be understood, however, that all such considerations of the number of and variations in, sizes are subject to selective variation within the scope of the invention.

Each separate bust section 28 is of the general form shown in Figs. 1, 6, 10, 11 and 12 in front elevation and in Figs. 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 in side profile. Structurally each bust section 28 comprises a front panel 29 and suitably positioned bust pockets 30 integral therewith. The entire bust section 28 is preferably composed of lace over a lining of strong fabric material to lend it strength and durability. Such composition of the bust section will afford a pleasing contrast with the usual plain body material of which the rest of the garment is made.

Figs. 1 to 10 disclose the preferred means for detachably fastening a selected bust section 28 in applied position across and in closing relation to gap 23 of a garment body 20. Along the horizontal line of juncture between the bottom margin of gap 23 and the lower edge of the front panel 29 of bust section 28, a slide-fastener unit of the separating type indicated at 31 is practicable and desirable, because of the normally relatively flat conformation of the wearer's torso in the abdominal region. Such type of slide-fastener unit permits complete separation of the meeting edges of bust section 28 and the corset element 21 of garment body 20 when the slide proper 32 is moved into disengaging position (as shown in Figs. 4 and 5). Although slide-fasteners may be likewise used to secure the right and left side edges of bust section 28

to the corresponding side margins of gap 23 in garment body 20, it is preferred, at such sides, to use fastening means of the hook-and-eye type, as at 33 and 34, for the same reason that the hook-and-eye fastener 27 is employed along the sub-waistline vertical division in corset element 21. Hooks and eyes may be diverted in position from a straight line to better conform the garmet to body contours, but this cannot be done readily with slide-fastener means. If desired, the snap-fastener means 35 disclosed in Fig. 11 may be used instead of the hook-and-eye fastener means, but since it is much easier to change the location of hooks and eyes to meet changes in body size, which may occur during the useful life of a garment due to gain or loss of weight, than to re-locate snap fasteners, the hook-and-eye fastener means is preferable.

It will be observed in Fig. 11 that snap fasteners may also be used for the horizontal line of juncture instead of the slide-fastener unit 31. This is permissible but not so satisfactory as the use of slide-fastener means, due to the sacrifice of speed in manipulation.

Fig. 12 illustrates the alternative use of hook-and-eye fastening means for all lines of juncture between the bust section 28 and the garment body 20, but it is much preferred to use the combination of hook-and-eye fastener means 33 and 34 and slide-fastener means 31 shown in Figs. 1 to 10 because of the compromises between fitting efficiency and speed of manipulation which may be desirable at the different lines of juncture.

Economy of construction and facility of manipulation of the fastening means are further insured by location of the division line of corset element 21 and the corresponding side margin of gap 23 in brassière element 22 in substantial alignment. When this is done, the hook-and-eye tapes below the waistline should be separated from those above to allow for separation of bust section 28 from the corset element when the slide-fastener 31 has been released.

The fitting of a foundation garment, constructed in accordance with the invention, to a customer should be understood readily from reference to Fig. 4 in particular. From appropriate measurements of waist, hips, body length, etc., a trial size of garment body 20 will be selected and tried on the customer. After a fit of garment body has been obtained, the bust size is determined either by actual measurement or, in the case of an experienced fitter, may be gauged by visual observation. A separate bust section 28 of proper bust pocket size is then tried on and, if proven to be correct, is fastened to the garment body 20 in closing relation to gap 23 by manipulation of the respective fastening means in the following order: first, close slide-fastener 31; and, second, hook up the sides. The fitting operation can be, therefore, accomplished with much greater accuracy and in less time than is possible with respect to combination corset and brassière garments heretofore available on the market.

To complete the foundation garment, shoulder straps 36 may be added either to brassière element 22 of garment body 20, as shown in Fig. 4, or to bust section 28, as shown in Fig. 8, for use in affording support for the peaks of bust pockets 30 of the bust section when the garment is worn.

Having now described my invention, I claim:

1. A foundation garment comprising a one-piece body composed of a corset element and a brassière element wherein the brassière element

is provided with an upwardly open front portion to form a substantially rectangular gap extending upwardly approximately from the waistline of the corset element to the top edge of said brassière element, a bust supporting section of selected bust pocket size marginally dimensioned and shaped to mate with the margins of said gap, one side margin and the bottom margin of said gap and the corresponding mating margins of said bust supporting section having quick-detachable cooperable fastening means whereby to removably attach said section to the garment body within and across said gap, the garment body being divided from end to end along a substantially vertical line extending downwardly in alignment with the other side of the gap in the brassière element, and independent quick-detachable fastening means for closing said division of the garment.

2. A foundation garment according to claim 1, wherein the quick-detachable cooperable fastening means for the bottom margin of the bust supporting section and the mated margin of the

gap in the brassière section is in the form of a slide fastener means so constructed and arranged that the slide proper thereof will be located in retained condition at the end of said mated gap margin adjoining the vertical division in the garment body upon detachment of the bust supporting section from gap closing engagement.

WILLIAM A. R. VON THADEN.

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