Oct. 14, 1952 B. J. CHRISTENSEN 2,613,357

WOMAN'S GARMENT

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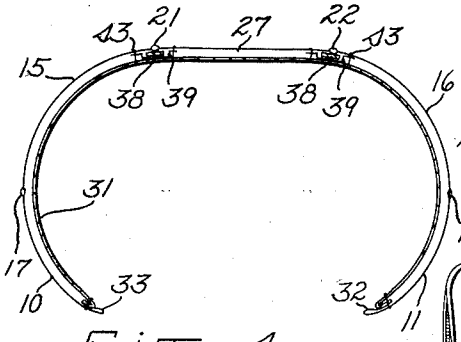


Fig. 4.

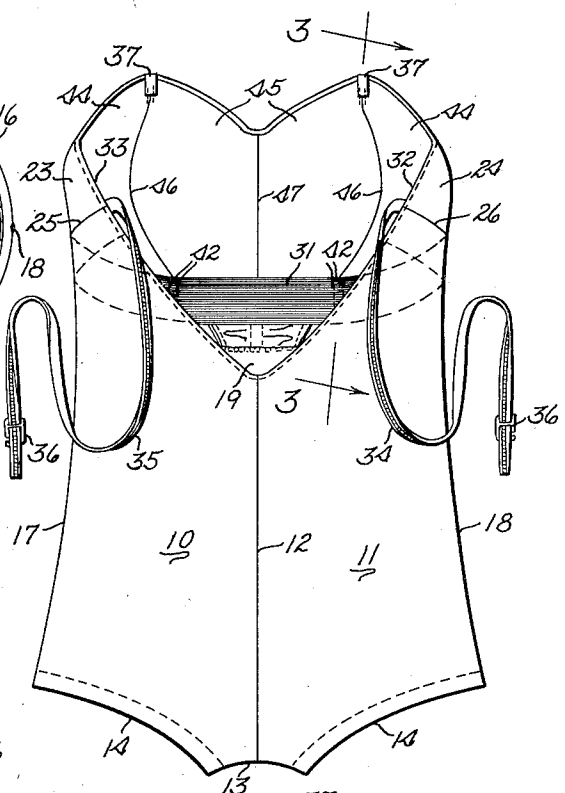


Fig. 1.

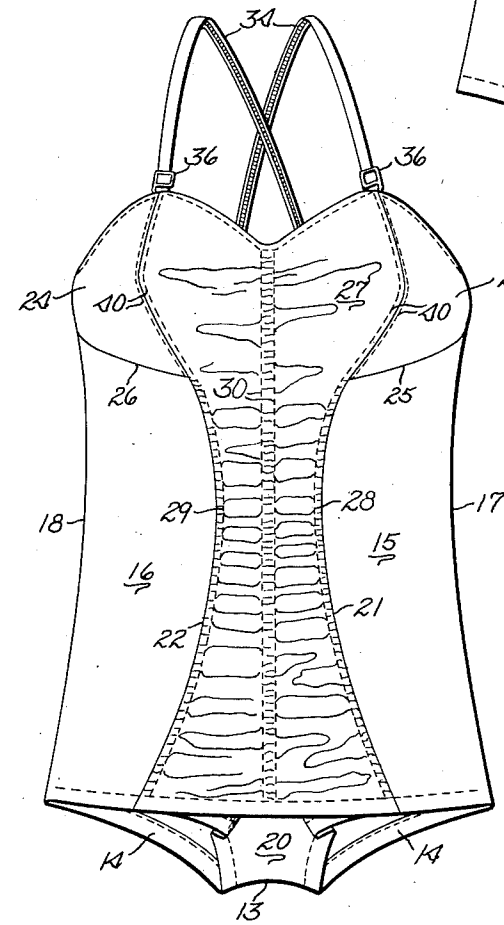


Fig. 2.

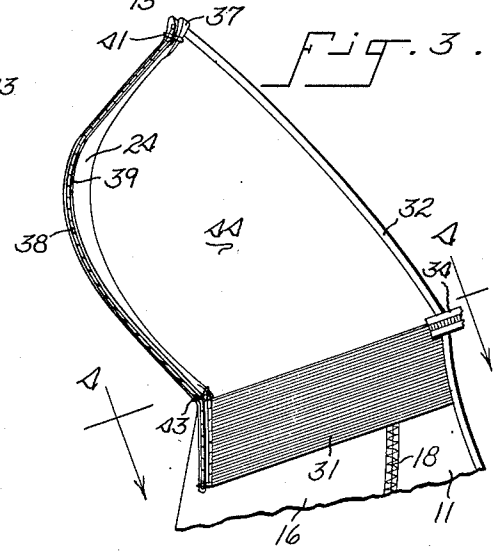


Fig. 3.

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WOMAN'S GARMENT

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4 Claims. (Cl. 2—67)

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The present invention relates to a woman's garment, having particular reference to a swimming suit, but, as will appear, the inventive concept is not necessarily restricted to a swimming suit and may be embodied in other inner or outer garments. The principal object of the present invention is to provide firm support for the breasts of the wearer and the garment therefore comprises an upper portion including breast pockets. A feature of the present invention resides in the provision of an elastic band passing about the bust of the wearer beneath the breasts and to which breast pocket stiffener elements are attached, the combination having novel features as will appear.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a woman's garment such as a swimming suit in which the breast-supporting portions will remain steadfastly in position regardless of the movements of the wearer.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a garment of the character described which affords uplift for the breasts of the wearer without binding or chafing in any way.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the present invention will be more readily ascertained from inspection of the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawing wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, while the features of novelty will be more distinctly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing,

Fig. 1 is a rear view of a swimming suit embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view of the swimming suit;

Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken substantially along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, following the profile line of one of the breast pockets; and

Fig. 4 is a section taken substantially along line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The garment in which the present invention is herein illustrated comprises a swimming suit having a deep V-back, the side edges of the V-back being the upper edges of a pair of back panels 10 and 11 joined together by a central back seam 12 which extends from the point of the V to a transverse crotch seam 13 extending laterally between the inner edges of the leg openings 14. The front of the swimming suit comprises a pair of side panels 15 and 16 attached to the rear panels 10 and 11 respectively along side seams 17 and 18 respectively. Portions of the lower edges of the panels 15 and 16 provide portions of the leg openings 14, the remainder of the leg openings being provided

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by a central, inner panel 19 terminating in a crotch tab 20 which is joined to the back panels along the crotch seam 13. The central panel 19 is joined to the side panels along seams 21 and 22 and the upper edges of the side panels 15 and 16 are stitched to the outer, pocket panels 23 and 24 respectively, which form the outer halves of the breast pockets, along horizontally extending seams 25 and 26 respectively which define the lower edges of the breast pockets. The central panel 19 terminates below the breast pockets as seen immediately above the point of the V-back in Fig. 1. A central outer panel 27, which is gathered throughout its length by side shirring seams 28 and 29, extends in front of the panel 19 to provide a decorative effect down the front of the garment, the upper end of the panel 27 forming the central portion of the breast pockets. Preferably the center of the panel 27 is gathered along parallel shirring seams 30 extending from top to bottom of the garment along the centerline thereof. It is to be appreciated that the garment may be cut and sewed together in various other fashions as long as the garment includes an upper portion including breast pockets. In some types of garments the lower portion may not include a crotch part as long as there is means provided in the garment to tightly stretch a resilient bust-encircling, relatively wide, elastic band 31 about the body of the wearer beneath the breasts.

In the instant garment the elastic band 31 is stitched at its ends to the opposite side edges 32 and 33 of the V-back and a pair of shoulder straps 34 and 35 are respectively sewed to the edges of the V-backs near the upper edges of band 31 and directed outwardly therefrom in such manner as to call for their being crossed behind the back of the wearer to pass over the opposite shoulders. Each of the straps is preferably provided with an adjustable hook 36 which may be slid along the strap and hooked into fabric loops 37 provided at the upper edges of the breast pockets, preferably along the profile line thereof, the straps cooperating with the lower portion of the garment to maintain the band 31 in taut condition about the bust. Therefore it is possible to have a V-backed garment with the point of the V substantially opposite or materially below the bottoms of the breast pockets, but it is to be appreciated that the portion of the garment to be described may be incorporated in other garments having backs and in which the elastic band may completely encircle the bust.

In accordance with the present invention,

means are provided for uplift and figure control including a pair of deformable stiffener members **38**, each of which is attached throughout the major portion of its length to the inner surface of a breast pocket along the profile line thereof defined by the upper portions of the seams **21** and **22**. The stiffener members may be formed of various materials but preferably comprise thin steel strips of the type which may be bent to assume the desired shape. When steel strips are used it is preferred to attach the stiffener members in position by means of fabric tapes **39** stitched to the garment by lines of stitching **40** paralleling the profile seams. The upper end of tape **39** is looped and stitched within the breast pocket by stitches **41** in order to provide the hook-attaching loops **37**. The lower end of each stiffener strip extends free of the garment for a considerable distance below the lower edge of the breast pocket, preferably the projecting end being of the same length as the width of band **31**. The tape **39** is preferably looped back outside of the projecting end of the stiffener strip and is stitched to the band **31** on either side of the stiffener strip along lines of stitches **42** with the lines of stitches preferably extending substantially normal to the band. Means are thus provided to maintain the stiffener strips in upright condition, and due to the conformation of the body, the central portions thereof which are outwardly bowed and may be shaped by the wearer to the desired contour will point outwardly to follow the profile lines of the breasts. The band **31** is attached to the garment by stitches **43** at the points where the stiffener strips emerge from the breast pockets, the band being otherwise unattached to the garment except at its ends where it is sewn to the edges **32** and **33** of the V-back. Therefore, the band may stretch and adjust itself to the bust of the wearer without interfering with, or interference from, the remainder of the garment which may otherwise adapt itself, particularly by stretching, to the shape of the wearer's body.

A liner is preferably interposed in the breast pocket portion of the garment, the same preferably comprising outer portions **44** and central portions **45** joined together by seams **46** extending along the profile lines of the breast pockets and a central seam **47**, but other forms of inserts may be joined together as desired to provide a soft lining. The upper edge of the lining is sewn to the upper edge of the garment including the adjacent portions of the V-back, and the lower edge of the lining is sewn to the upper edge of the resilient band **31**, the lining being otherwise unsecured to the garment so as to provide means for permitting the breast portion of the garment to stretch or shift about without frictionally engaging the skin of the wearer. The lining is, of course, cut and stitched together with fullness to accommodate the breasts, but the pockets so formed lie loosely within the pocket portions of the garment itself.

Having illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention permits of modification in arrangement and detail. I claim as my invention all such modifications as come within the true spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A woman's garment comprising an upper portion including breast pockets, a pair of forwardly bowed stiffener strips secured within said pockets, each extending vertically along the profile line of one of said pockets, a relatively wide elastic band extending around the interior of the front of the garment with its upper edge adjacent the lower edges of said pockets, said band being free from said garment throughout its length and being secured to said garment at its ends, said ends being spaced apart and located at the sides of the rear of said garment, said strips having elongated, lower end portions extending freely beneath said pockets across said band, and means securing said lower end portions throughout their lengths to said band to maintain said stiffener strips extending upright therefrom.

2. A woman's swimming suit comprising an upper portion including a pair of breast pockets in front and having a V-line upper edge in back with the point of the V substantially opposite the lower edges of said pockets, a relatively wide elastic band extending from one side of the V-line upper edge in back around the front of the suit to the opposite side of the V-line upper edge in back, said band lying freely inside of the suit immediately below said pockets and being secured to said suit at its ends, a deformable stiffener strip secured within each pocket along the profile line thereof, and means securing the lower ends of said stiffener strips to said band, said stiffener strips including freely projecting, elongated lower end portions extending transversely across said band and secured thereto throughout, whereby said strips are maintained in upright condition, said band being secured to the lower edges of said pockets solely where said stiffener strips project therefrom.

3. A woman's swimming suit comprising an upper portion including a pair of breast pockets in front and having a V-line upper edge in back with the point of the V extending to a level below the lower edges of said pockets, a relatively wide elastic band secured at its ends to the side edges of the V-line upper edge in back and extending around the front of the suit inside of the suit immediately below said pockets, a forwardly bowed, deformable stiffener strip extending along the profile line of each pocket and secured thereto throughout the extent of the profile line, said stiffener strips including freely projecting lower end portions extending transversely across said band and secured thereto throughout, whereby said strips are maintained upright, said band being secured to the bottom edges of said pockets solely where said stiffener strips project therefrom, and a liner stitched along its upper edge to the upper edges of said pockets and along its lower edge to the upper edge of said band, said liner including breast pocket portions loosely extending into the breast pockets of said suit.

4. A woman's garment comprising an outer portion including a pair of breast pockets in front and having a V-line upper edge in back with the point of the V extending to a level below the lower edges of said pockets, a relatively wide elastic band secured at its ends to the side edges of the V-line upper edge and extending around the front of the garment inside of the garment immediately below said pockets, a forwardly bowed, deformable stiffener strip extending along the profile line of each pocket and secured thereto throughout the extent of the profile line, said stiffener strips in-

cluding freely projecting lower end portions extending transversely across said band and secured thereto throughout whereby said strips are maintained upright, said band being secured to the bottom edges of said pockets where said stiffener strips project therefrom, a liner stitched along its upper edge to the upper edges of said pockets and along its lower edge to the upper edge of said band, said liner including breast pocket portions loosely extending into the breast pockets of said garment, crossed shoulder straps each secured at one end to a side of the V-line upper edge adjacent the end of said band, and means for securing the other ends of said shoulder straps to the upper edges of said pockets where the stiffener strips associated therewith terminate.

BETTE J. CHRISTENSEN.

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