Sept. 15, 1953 A. J. FOX 2,651,777

PANTY GIRDLE

Filed Nov. 1, 1951

FIG. 1.

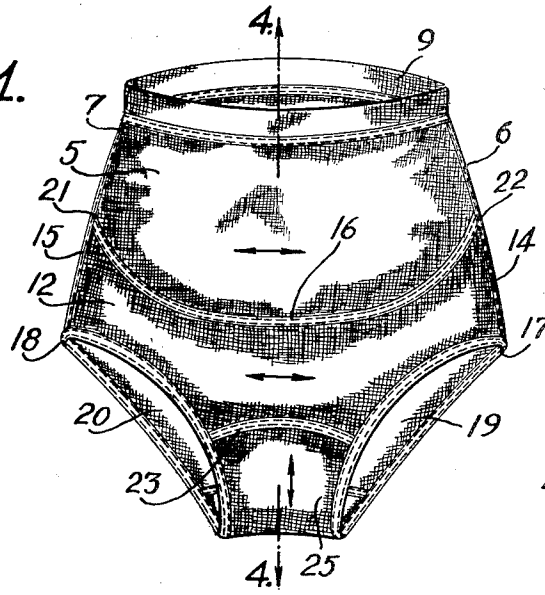


FIG. 4.

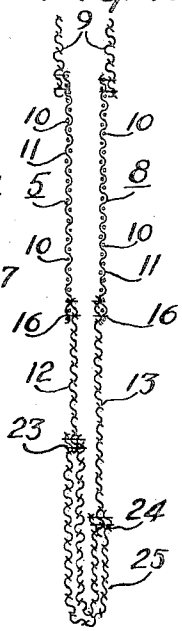


FIG. 3.

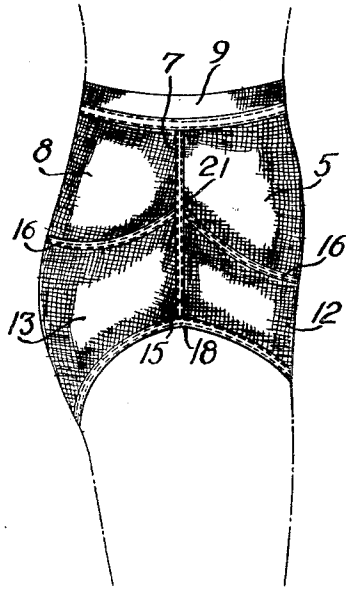
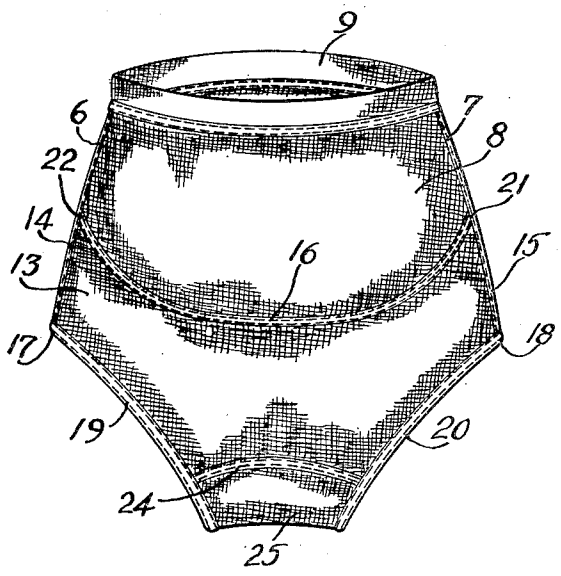


FIG. 2.



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PANTY GIRDLE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 2—37)

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This invention relates to women's foundation garments and more particularly to an improved garment of the panty girdle type which combines desirable features of the panty, girdle and garter belt.

The present invention has for its primary object the provision of a foundation garment which provides limited elastic support in the upper abdominal region and which also utilizes a one-way stretch jersey or tricot fabric band around the hips to improve the "feel" of the garment.

Girdles providing appreciable elastic support for the wearer are cumbersome and oftentimes uncomfortable. Various attempts have been made to provide elastic support in a panty girdle type of garment, but these have not been entirely acceptable for several reasons, one of which is the use of wide elastic panels that extend from top to bottom of the garment and therefore having an uncomfortable tightness in the pelvic area that is undesirable.

A further object of the present invention is to combine an upper abdominal elastic support with a lower knitted fabric having a knitted crotch attached thereto.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved garment of the type described having one-way cross stretch in an upper elastic area and in a lower knitted fabric area.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved garment of the type described having one-way cross stretch in an upper elastic area and in a lower knitted fabric area together with a one-way vertical stretch crotch piece.

A further object of the invention is to provide a contoured seam between upper elastic abdominal panels in a panty girdle and a lower knitted area of the garment, the knitted area extending completely around the wearer's body and being higher at each side of the garment than at the front and rear thereof.

Further objects will be apparent from the specification and drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of an improved panty girdle constructed in accordance with my present invention,

Fig. 2 is a rear view of the garment of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a side view of my improved panty girdle, and

Fig. 4 is a vertical section as seen at 4—4 of Fig. 1.

My improved foundation garment comprises essentially an upper abdominal elastic girdle portion that extends around the wearer's body

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and a lower knitted panty portion which is secured to the girdle portion. The stitching between the upper and lower portions at the front is at the lower abdominal region, and the stitching between the upper and lower portions in the rear falls in the area at the upper portion of the buttocks. The stitching between the portions at the sides, however, curves upwardly so that it has an apex substantially higher than the stitch at the front and rear. Both the elastic upper portion and the knitted lower portion are stretchable horizontally but not vertically. The crotch piece is also a one-way stretch knitted fabric, but it is desirable to provide vertical rather than transverse stretch in the crotch in order to relieve stress and to provide a more comfortable and better fitting garment.

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, my improved panty girdle has an upper elastic front panel 5 which is stitched at 6 and 7 to an upper elastic rear panel 8. An elastic band 9 may be stitched around the top of both panels 5 and 8 if desired. The horizontal or weft yarns 10, 10 of both the front and rear upper panels are made of a resilient elastic material such as rubber, whereas the warp or vertical yarns 11, 11 are of a relatively inelastic material. The lower front panel 12 is similarly stitched at the sides to the lower rear panel 13 at 14 and 15 to form two continuous seams with seams 6 and 7 respectively.

The upper edges of the front and rear knitted panels 12 and 13 are stitched to the lower edges of the upper panels 5 and 8, and it is an important feature of the invention that this seam 16 is not in a single horizontal plane. As shown clearly in Fig. 1, seam 16 dips at the front until it is slightly above the uper extremities 17 and 18 of the leg apertures 19 and 20. At the sides, however, seam 16 is carried upwardly so that the apexes 21 and 22 are substantially half way between the top of the garment and the leg apertures 19 and 20. It will thus be understood that the knitted tricot is in contact with the pelvic region and completely surrounds the wearer's body. The elastic portion of the garment surrounds the abdominal region and like the tricot is tapered to cover generally the area that requires elastic support.

The lower edges 23 and 24 of panels 12 and 13 respectively are connected by a crotch piece 25 which is desirably formed of a double layer of knitted fabric such as jersey or tricot.

I prefer to employ a special stitch in the tricot panels 12 and 13 as well as the crotch 25. This stitch provides one-way stretch in the crotch and

in the panels 12 and 13. The direction of stretch is shown by the arrows. The overlock stitches in seam 16 permit cross stretching so that both upper and lower panels stretch horizontally completely around the wearer's torso.

The crotch, however, is arranged so that the stretch in the fabric is turned at 90°, thus there is no side or cross stretch in the crotch, but only vertical as shown by the arrow.

It will thus be understood that the one-way cross stretch in the elastic as well as in the tricot panels permits a shorter garment to be used which in turn provides a daintier and more feminine appearance because the garment is able to equalize itself on the wearer's body. The relative proportions of the panels as well as the direction of stretch and the curvature of seam 16 combine to provide a foundation garment in which the elastic supporting back panel 8 fits and fills the hollow of the wearer's back and provides sufficient back support to eliminate the need for stays. This enables the wearer to have a more erect carriage without the constricted feeling that usually accompanies such action when a conventional girdle is worn. The front elastic panel 5 gently supports and restrains the abdomen so that the muscles are aided in retaining the abdomen inwardly and upwardly.

The lower knitted rear panel 13 conforms to body contour under the buttocks and supports and restrains fleshy area thereabouts. The sides of the knitted panels 12 and 13 do not decrease in area with the result that the knitted fabric covers the hips, thereby enhancing the feeling of the garment and reducing the area of flesh in contact with the relatively harsher elastic fabric of the upper panels. This also has a very important advantage in eliminating the likelihood of a mark on the flesh at the sides and also in eliminating any likelihood of a "roll" in the flesh at the junction between the upper and lower panels.

An especially important feature of the present garment is the unique utilization of an elastic one-way stretch fabric providing abdominal support in contoured areas both at the front and back of the garment, as well as a knitted fabric having a similar one-way cross stretch permitting it to follow the stretching of the elastic fabric but eliminating pressure in the pelvic area. Furthermore, the reversal of the one-way stretch fabric in the crotch piece relieves stress imparted to this member which enhances the comfort and utility of the garment. Therefore, the garment in effect combines the particular advantages of an elastic girdle, knitted panty briefs, and a satisfactory stocking supporting garment; because, like a girdle there is sufficient elastic support in the upper part of the garment to prevent its being pulled out of position when used with garters.

Having thus described my invention,

I claim:

1. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type, an upper elastic front panel having horizontally stretchable yarns and relatively non-stretchable vertical yarns, an upper elastic rear panel having horizontally stretchable yarns and relatively non-stretchable vertical yarns, a lower front panel of knitted tricot fabric secured to the front elastic panel, a lower rear panel of knitted tricot fabric secured to the rear elastic panel, said front and rear lower panels having stitches stretchable horizontally but relatively non-stretchable vertically, said front and rear upper panels and front and rear lower panels being secured together along their respective opposite side edges with the front upper and lower panels and the rear upper and lower panels, respectively, in vertical alignment with one another, and a continuous seam of horizontally stretchable overlock stitches connecting the upper and lower panels and encircling the garment, said seam in the portion between the upper and lower rear panels being located substantially between the hollow of the wearer's back and the buttocks and in the portion between the upper and lower front panels being located to substantially register with the top of the wearer's pelvic region.

2. A panty girdle constructed in accordance with claim 1 in which the seam between the upper and lower panels curves upwardly at the sides of the garment to terminate in an apex.

3. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type comprising, upper front and rear fabric panel members secured together along their respective opposite side edges and each containing elastic strands extending horizontally between said respective opposite side edges of the panels to provide stretch in said panels in the crosswise direction of the garment, lower front and rear fabric panels underlying said upper panels and stretchable in the crosswise direction of the garment, said lower front and rear panels being secured along their upper edges to the bottom edges of their respective upper panels and being secured together along their respective opposite sides edges, and a crotch piece interconnecting the bottom edges of the lower front and rear panels centrally thereof and defining therewith leg openings.

4. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type comprising, upper front and rear fabric panel members secured together along their respective opposite side edges and each containing elastic strands extending horizontally between said respective opposite side edges of the panels to provide stretch in said panels in the crosswise direction only of the garment, lower front and rear fabric panels underlying said upper panels coextensively therewith crosswise of the garment and being stretchable in the crosswise direction only of the garment, said lower front and rear panels being secured along their upper edges to the bottom edges of their respective upper panels and being secured together along their respective opposite side edges in alignment with the side edges of the upper panels, and a crotch piece interconnecting the bottom edges of the lower front and rear panels centrally thereof and defining therewith leg openings.

5. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type comprising, upper front and rear fabric panel members secured together along their respective opposite side edges and each containing elastic strands extending horizontally between said respective opposite side edges of the panels to provide stretch in said panels in the crosswise direction only of the garment, an elastic waistband secured to the upper edges of the upper front and rear panels and extending continuously about the garment, lower front and rear fabric panels underlying said upper panels coextensively therewith crosswise of the garment and being stretchable in the crosswise direction only of the garment, said lower front and rear panels being secured along their upper edges to the bottom edges of their respective upper panels and being secured together along their respective opposite side edges in alignment with the side edges of the

upper panels, and a crotch piece interconnecting the bottom edges of the lower front and rear panels centrally thereof and defining therewith leg openings, said crotch piece being stretchable only in the direction perpendicular to the direction of stretch in the upper and lower front and rear panels of the garment.

6. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type comprising, upper front and rear woven fabric panel members secured together along their respective opposite side edges and each containing elastic strands extending horizontally between said respective opposite side edges of the panels to provide stretch in said panels in the crosswise direction only of the garment, lower front and rear panels of knitted tricot fabric underlying said upper panels crosswise of the garment and having stitches stretchable in the crosswise direction only of the garment, said lower front and rear panels being secured along their upper edges to the bottom edges of their respective upper panels and being secured together along their respective opposite side edges, and a crotch piece interconnecting the bottom edges of the lower front and rear panels centrally thereof and defining therewith leg openings.

7. In a foundation garment of the panty girdle type comprising, upper front and rear woven fabric panel members secured together along their respective opposite side edges and each containing elastic strands extending horizontally between said respective opposite side edges of the panels to provide stretch in said panels in the crosswise direction only of the garment, an elastic

waist-band secured to the upper edges of the upper front and rear panels and extending continuously about the garment, lower front and rear panels of knitted tricot fabric underlying said upper panels coextensively therewith crosswise of the garment and having stitches stretchable in the crosswise direction only of the garment, said lower front and rear panels being secured along their upper edges to the bottom edges of their respective upper front and rear panels and being secured together along their respective opposite side edges in alignment with the side edges of the upper panels, and a crotch piece interconnecting the bottom edges of the lower front and rear panels centrally thereof and refining therewith leg openings, said crotch piece being of knitted tricot fabric stretchable only in the direction perpendicular to the direction of stretch in the upper and lower front and rear panels of the garment.

ASHER J. FOX.

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