

W. D. HARDY.
SHOULDER AND BODY BRACE.
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1,293,089.

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Fig. 1.

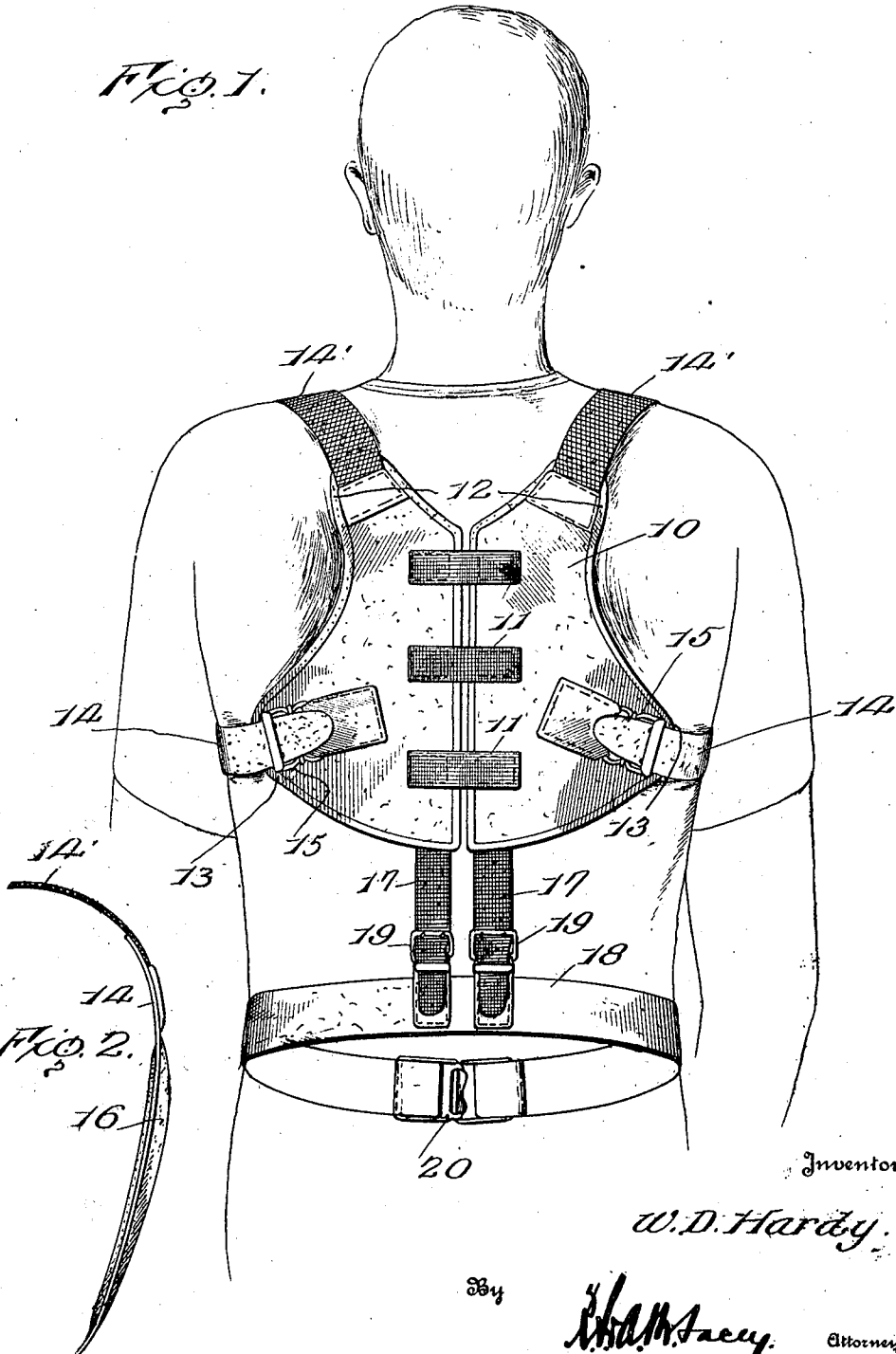
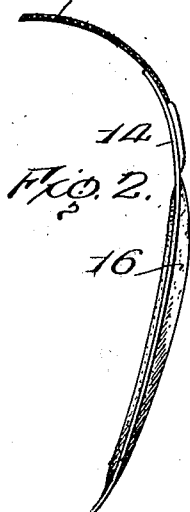


Fig. 2.



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SHOULDER AND BODY BRACE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLOUGHBY D. HARDY, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoulder and Body Braces, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved shoulder and body brace and has as its primary object to provide a device of this character so constructed that the pressure of elastic straps will be brought to bear for holding the shoulders of the wearer thrown back as well as holding the body in an erect position.

The invention has as a further object to provide a device employing a belt arranged to be fitted about the waist and yieldably connected with the body or back brace of the device for holding the body of the wearer erect and wherein the said belt will also form a support for the abdomen.

And the invention has as a still further object to provide a construction wherein the belt will be adjustably connected with the body or back brace of the device so that the belt may be properly positioned with respect to the waist line.

Other and incidental objects will appear as the description proceeds and in the drawings wherein I have illustrated the preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a rear elevation showing my improved device applied, and

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the padding of the shoulder straps of the device.

In carrying out the invention, I employ a sectional body or back brace 10, the sections of which are formed with straight meeting edges and are connected by a plurality of elastic straps 11. The body may be formed of any suitable material and is provided at its upper extremity with upwardly extending reduced portions or tabs 12 carried one by each of the sections of the body and at its lower extremity with laterally extending reduced portions or tabs 13, one of which is also arranged upon each of the body sections. Extending from the tabs 12 are shoulder straps 14 connected with the said tabs by elastic strips 14' stitched or

otherwise secured to the tabs. The straps 14 are arranged to extend in front of the shoulders beneath the arms and the free extremities thereof are adjustably connected to buckles 15 secured upon the tabs 13 of the body. The intermediate portions of these straps are, as shown in detail in Fig. 2 of the drawings, provided with suitable pads 16 to bear against the shoulders.

Extending from the lower inner corners of the sections of the body 10 are downwardly directed elastic straps 17 and supported by these straps is a belt 18. Secured to the belt midway the ends thereof, are buckles 19 engaging with the free extremities of the straps 17 for adjustably connecting the belt with the body 10. At its free ends, the belt 18 is adjustably connected with the coacting elements of a suitable belt buckle 20 for holding the belt in position extending about the waist of the wearer.

As will now be clear, the shoulder straps 14 may be so adjusted about the shoulders of the wearer that the elastic straps 11 connecting the sections of the body 10 will be normally stretched to exert an elastic pressure tending to hold the shoulders thrown back. At the same time, the elastic straps 17 may be so adjusted that the said straps will be normally stretched between the belt 18 and the body 10 to exert an elastic pressure upon the shoulders tending to hold the body in an erect position. This effect will be particularly pronounced should the wearer of the device bend over, when the straps 17 will be further stretched to consequently exert an increased pressure upon the shoulders tending to return the body to an erect position. As shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the rear portion of the belt adjacent the connections for the buckles 19 is preferably worn to fit midway of the small of the back, while the forward portion of the belt is arranged to engage beneath the outward curve of the abdomen so that the belt will thus have a secure purchase about the waist. Furthermore, by thus applying the belt, the said belt will also provide an abdominal support.

It will therefore be seen that I provide a particularly simple and efficient construction for the purpose set forth and a device which will not only act to yieldably hold the shoulders of the wearer thrown back but will also act to yieldably hold the body in an erect position.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A combined shoulder and body support comprising a back brace substantially panduriform in shape and formed of mating sections having their inner vertical edges disposed parallel with each other, transverse elastic straps connecting the sections of the back brace and tending to hold said sections normally in juxtaposition to each other, shoulder straps forming a connection between the upper and lower ends of the sections comprising the back brace, a non-elastic body belt spaced from the back brace and spaced adjustable elastic straps secured to and depending in a straight line from the lower edges of the sections of the back brace near the inner vertical edges thereof and permanently connected with the rear portion of the body belt.

2. A combined shoulder and body support comprising a back brace formed of mating sections having their upper ends reduced to

form diverging shoulder tabs and their lower ends extended laterally to produce body tabs, the inner vertical edges of the sections of the back brace being parallel and the lower edges of said sections being curved upwardly and gradually merged into the body tabs, buckles secured to the body tabs, non-elastic shoulder straps secured directly to said buckles, elastic straps forming a connection between the shoulder straps and the shoulder tabs, a body belt of non-elastic material spaced from the back brace and having spaced buckles rigidly secured to the rear portion thereof, transverse elastic straps connecting the sections of the back brace and adjustable elastic straps secured to and extending in a straight line from the curved lower edges of the sections of the back brace near the inner vertical edges thereof and connected with the buckles on the body belt.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

WILLOUGHBY D. HARDY. [L. S.]