April 26, 1938. W. ROSENTHAL 2,115,398

BRASSIÈRE

Filed May 8, 1936

Fig. 1.

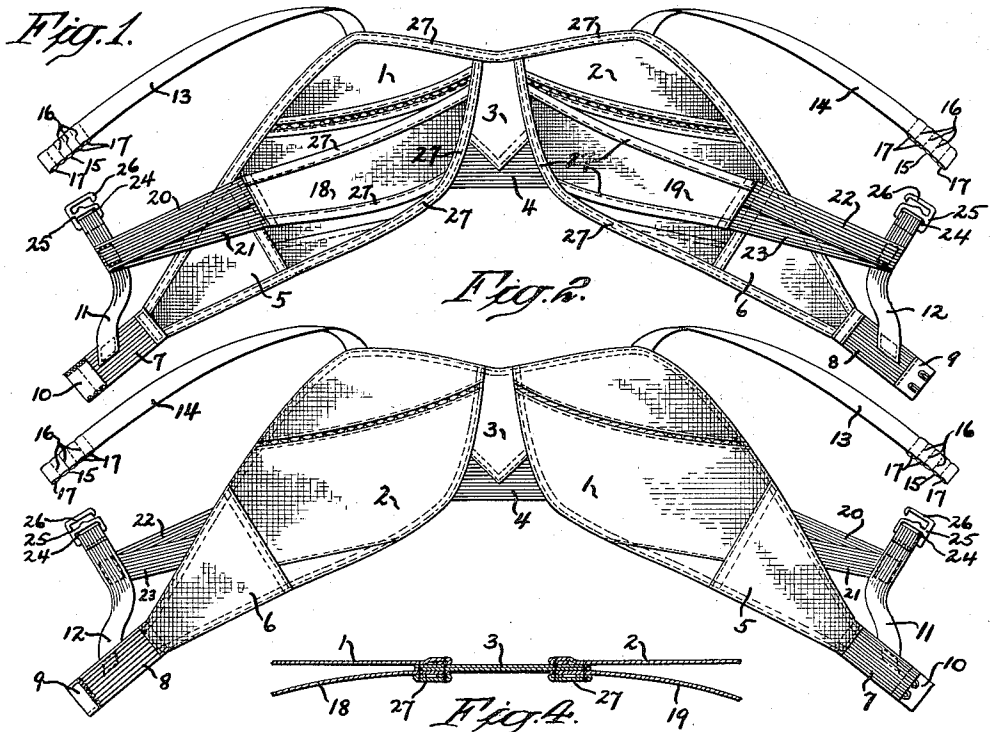
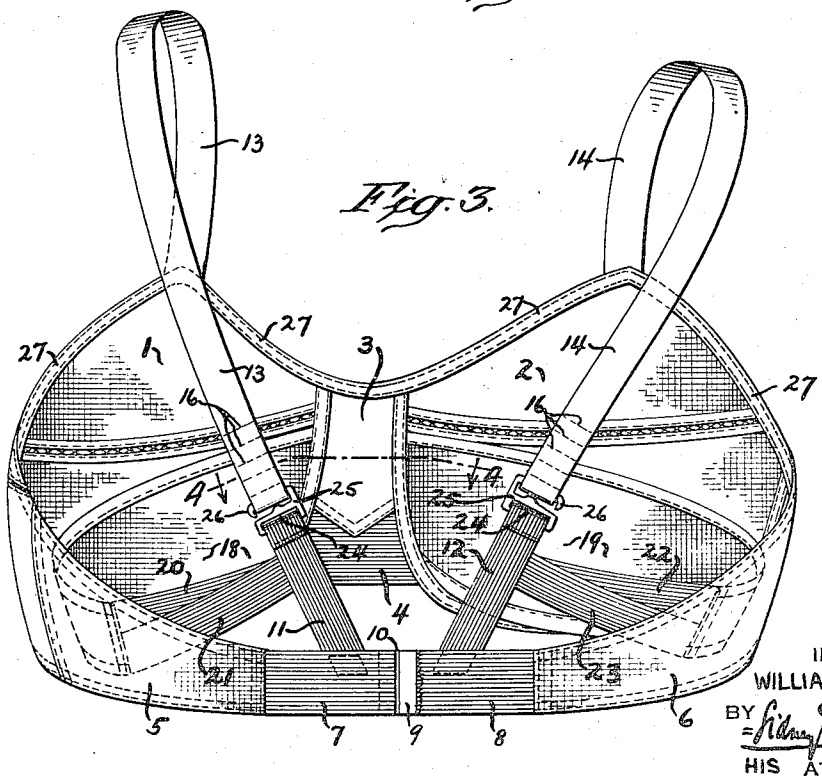


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.



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Patented Apr. 26, 1938 2,115,398

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,115,398

BRASSIÈRE

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Application May 8, 1936, Serial No. 78,599

16 Claims. (Cl. 2—42)

This invention relates broadly to a new brassière construction.

One of the objects of this invention is the creation of a brassière which is adapted to support the bust in natural position.

Another object of this invention is the creation of a brassière having the constructional elements thereof so arranged, located, associated and combined that the breasts of the wearer thereof by virtue of the employment of the brassière are uplifted to a predetermined degree and firmly and comfortably supported in a natural uplifted position.

Another object of this invention is the creation of a breast supporting garment embodying adjustable means for uplifting and supporting the wearer's breasts.

Another object of this invention is the creation of a brassière having within each breast receiving pocket thereof a relatively free and adjustable sling-like element adapted to under-breast contact for the purpose of supporting and uplifting the wearer's breasts.

A further object of this invention is the creation of a brassière including novel internal breast supporting and uplifting elements.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a novel brassière construction wherein the degree of breast uplift and support may be adjustably arranged for by adjustment of the effective length of shoulder straps which shoulder straps are at the point of possible adjustment susceptible of complete disengagement, and being undone from the devices to which they are secured when the garment is worn.

A still further object of this invention is the creation of a brassière providing desired breast uplift and support and which is adapted to ready manufacture in quantity, and is of strong and durable construction although soft, comfortable and easy to wear.

These and many other objects are secured by the brassière construction herein disclosed. Various other objects and advantages of the invention than those hereinabove specifically mentioned will appear more fully hereinafter. It is to be understood, that the specific form or forms shown are merely illustrative and hence the detailed description thereof is not to be taken as limiting the invention itself.

This application is a companion to the joint application of myself and one, Charles M. Sachs, Serial No. 78,598, filed May 8, 1936.

This invention resides substantially in the parts as well as the combination, construction, arrangement and relative location of parts, all as will appear more fully hereinafter.

Referring to the drawing, in which the same reference numerals are used throughout the several views to indicate the same or similar parts, it will be found that:

Fig. 1 represents a rear elevational view of a brassière employing the novel principles of my construction shown as spread out and with the back straps disengaged from each other and with the shoulder straps disengaged in the rear;

Fig. 2 represents a front elevational view thereof;

Fig. 3 represents a rear perspective view of my novel brassière construction, shown in wearing position; and

Fig. 4 represents a sectional view, taken along the section line 4—4 in Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrows.

As pointed out in the above identified copending application for United States Letters Patent, the trend in present day women's styles, as is well known, is towards accentuation of the natural breast and body lines so as to emphasize the inherent beauty in the natural curves of the well developed human form, while providing a high degree of comfort and freedom of natural movement.

Some women find that their bust line is not sufficiently accentuated and outstanding to accord with present day styles because their breasts although of ample proportions are pendulous.

Other women having the desired configuration of bust line find that they are often in serious danger of losing the same for one reason or another such, for example, as because of lactation, abnormalities, and the like. Women such as these run the risk of finding themselves outmoded, out of step with current fashion and frequently unable to wear and make use of current styles, particularly of outer wearing apparel.

Furthermore, it is also readily apparent that solely as a matter of health and well being, and quite apart from all considerations of style and/or women's figures, it is imperative that women generally wear such breast supporting garments as will provide the uplift and support necessary to prevent undue strain (such as might be occasioned by exercise, strains or even the continual weight of the breasts themselves) which might result in a permanent stretch and distortion of the delicate breast tissues; and that proper and adequate support and uplift be employed at all times as a safeguard and means for

retaining and conserving the natural and youthful configuration of bust lines.

As further pointed out in said co-pending application, considerable difficulty has, in the past, been encountered in the creation of brassières which would provide ready means whereby the desired necessary support and uplift could be adjustably arranged for by the wearer, to meet the wearer's requirements.

It is the purpose of this invention, therefore, to provide a novel type of brassière of novel construction, having the usual supporting and uplifting effect of the conventional breast receiving pockets enhanced by means whereby the desired necessary support and uplift is made available to the wearer, said means being adapted to emphasize the separation between the breasts and which brassière is easy to wear and use as well as economical to manufacture.

Turning now to the drawing, it will be observed that I have shown at 1 and 2 two breast receiving pockets. These pockets are joined together by an upper fabric element 3 and a lower elastic element 4. Attached to the respective free ends of each of pockets 1 and 2 are the back bands 5 and 6, respectively.

Secured to the free end of back band 6 is an elastic element 8 having at its free end the usual hook strip 9. Secured to the free end of back band 5 is an elastic element 7 having secured at its free end an eye strip 10, the eyes on which are adapted to engagement with the hooks on hook strip 9, and the fabric of such eye strip being extended to overlap and cover the hooks and eyes when engaged and separate the same from the skin of the wearer of the garment.

Turning now to the arrangement of shoulder straps, it will be noted that secured to the upper edges of each of pockets 1 and 2, respectively, at substantially the highest points on the respective pocket edges are shoulder straps 13 and 14, respectively. Likewise it will be observed that secured adjacent the upper edge of each of elastic elements 7 and 8, respectively, are the further elastic strap elements 11 and 12, respectively, which are generally upwardly running towards the free ends of shoulder straps 13 and 14, respectively.

It will be understood that the free end of shoulder strap 13 is to be preferably adapted to detachable and adjustable engagement with the free end of elastic element 11, while the free end of shoulder strap 14 is likewise preferably adapted to detachable and adjustable engagement with the free end of elastic element 12. Such detachable and adjustable engagement should make it possible for the wearer to selectively arrange for a desired effective shoulder strap length providing the desired shoulder strap pull. Moreover, this detachable and adjustable engagement might be arranged for in different ways, such for example as the employment of a conventional button on the free end of elastic element 11 and a plurality of spaced apart button holes on the free end of shoulder strap 13, with similar construction on elastic element 12 and shoulder strap 14, respectively, all like the adjustability of shoulder strap arrangement disclosed in United States Letters Patent No. 1,979,576 of November 6th, 1934 of which I was inventor, or else by any other suitable arrangement adapted to yield the desirable adjustable and detachable construction. In the co-pending application of myself and one, Charles M. Sachs, hereinabove mentioned, a novel construction for providing the desired detachable adjustability is fully disclosed which construction I preferably desire to employ in the present garment. I will, therefore, now here describe same, as shown, arranged for use, in the garment of the drawing of this application.

Such construction involves the use of an element 25 having a preferably rectangular eye 24 therein and having integral therewith a hook portion 26; one of said elements to be employed at the free end of each of elastic elements 11 and 12, respectively, for engagement with the respective free ends of each of shoulder straps 13 and 14.

The free ends of each of shoulder straps 13 and 14 are formed with a plurality of successive parallel hook receiving channels 17 by the folding back of their ends as shown at 15 and stitching of each along a plurality of parallel transverse lines of stitch 16. It will be understood that a hook portion 26 of an element 25 may then be passed through successive hook channels 17 until the desired effective shoulder strap length is provided. Although as illustratively shown in the drawing I preferably provide five of such hook channels at the end of each shoulder strap, a greater or lesser number of such channels of appropriate width, if desired, may be provided to yield a wider range of adjustability, by appropriate increase or decrease in the number of transverse lines of stitch 16. As will be understood the employment of elastic elements 11 and 12 in conjunction with the channels 17, is effective to provide for finer variation in effective shoulder strap length than might be possible by the employment of channels 17 alone.

It may at this point be noted, that, if desired, adjustment in effective shoulder strap length could be arranged for in the front of the garment by having the elements 25 secured to each breast receiving pocket at or adjacent its upper edge and having the elastic elements 11 and 12 permanently secured to non-elastic shoulder straps which are free in the front but provided at their free ends with hook channels 17 for adjustable cooperation with elements 25.

Turning now to the interior of the brassière as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, it will be noted that I have provided fabric sling-like elements 18 and 19 which are secured over the whole of their respective widths in the lower portion of each of the breast receiving pockets 1 and 2, respectively, at and partially along the line of joinder of each of said pockets with adjacent upper fabric element 3 and lower elastic element 4.

In this connection attention is directed to Fig. 4 where there is illustratively shown in section the manner in which the fabric of pocket 1 and that of fabric element 3 is joined to the fabric of sling-like element 18; and likewise the manner in which the fabric of pocket 2 and that of fabric element 3 is joined to the fabric of sling-like element 19.

These sling-like elements 18 and 19 are shown and preferably formed with curved upper and lower edges and tapering down in width towards the sides of the garment where they each terminate in a relatively straight edge lying adjacent the respective back bands.

Secured to the free end of element 18 are two elastic strap elements 20 and 21, secured one next to the other along the width of the free end of element 18. These strap elements are so arranged as to converge and have their free ends

lie one atop the other upon the elastic element 11 a short distance from its free end where there is secured an element 25. When in proper position the elastic strap elements 20 and 21 are secured to elastic element 11 by stitching and the sling-like element 18 is then accordingly secured at one end adjacent the mid-length of the garment and at the other end by elements 20 and 21 to the elastic element 11. Aside from this securement, however, the sling-like element 18 is otherwise entirely free. Turning to the free end of element 19, it will be noted, that this sling-like element has similarly secured at its free end two elastic strap elements 22 and 23 which are secured one next to the other along the width of the free end of element 19. These strap elements, likewise, are so arranged as to converge and have their free ends lie one atop the other upon the elastic element 12 a short distance from its free end where there is secured an element 25. Accordingly, when in proper position the elastic strap elements 22 and 23 are secured to elastic element 12 by stitching and the sling-like element 19 is then accordingly secured at one end adjacent the mid-length of the garment and at the other end by elements 22 and 23 to the elastic element 12. Aside from this securement, however, the sling-like element 19 is otherwise also entirely free.

A further inspection of the drawing will disclose that the edges of the pockets and back bands as well as the curved edges of sling-like elements 18 and 19 as shown are finished with tape 27 which is stitched to such edges to provide a garment having smooth edges and a distinctly finished appearance.

From the foregoing construction it will be readily understood that the contact of each of sling-like elements 18 and 19 with the individual breasts will be from beneath and that the pull that will be exerted on each of said elements will be in opposite directions, to wit: each away from the mid-length of the garment, as well as upwards. It will be further understood that the amount and degree of this pull may be adjustably arranged for by appropriate selection of hook channels 17 for cooperation with appropriate hook portions 26 of respective elements 25. It will be further noted that the effect of raising element 25 in order to engage hook portion 26 thereof with a higher hook channel 17 will be to raise the ends of elements 20 and 21 or 22 and 23, as the case may be, and to increase the pull upon elements 18 or 19, respectively. It will still further be noted that the pull on the free ends of each of elements 18 and 19 also provides an emphasis on the separation between the breasts by drawing the same apart. In this connection it may be observed that the present construction will find peculiar value in cases where the wearer's breasts are naturally set too close together.

Moreover, it will be further appreciated that the present construction while finding peculiar value in cases such as those mentioned, will also provide the desired uplift and support generally required even in cases where the breasts are already amply separated.

It should be noted that although I have shown each of pockets 1 and 2 as individually made of two pieces of irregularly shaped fabric joined together by decorative open-work stitching or so-called "fagoting", that since the breast receiving pockets may be otherwise satisfactorily constructed and the present invention employed with equal effect and advantage irrespective of the construction of pockets to produce desired fullness, that I do not, therefore, intend that the present invention be taken to be in any way limited in its use and application to any particular pocket construction or size. Moreover, it should be further understood that the present invention may be employed with equal effect and advantage not only in connection with brassières of the length illustratively shown in the drawing, but also in connection with brassières of the so-called "longer-length" type or those provided with depending body or diaphragm bands. Indeed the instant invention can be employed with beneficial results whenever appropriate uplift and support of the breasts are indicated as necessary and may even, either alone or in conjunction with other devices, find invaluable application and use as a surgical appliance.

Having thus described my novel construction, I will now briefly describe the manner in which the same is used:

It will be understood, of course, that a woman desiring the advantages of proper uplift and support as well as emphasis of line of separation between breasts will naturally select and purchase a proper sized brassière which will be constructed to afford her a desired range of adjustability.

As is usual, the brassière is secured by the wearer about her body so that the left breast is received in pocket 1 and the right breast in pocket 2.

The sling-like elements 18 and 19 are then preferably arranged so that the inner-most sides thereof, to wit: the sides thereof not facing the fabric of pockets 1 and 2, respectively, come under each individual breast contacting therewith so that each of the wearer's breasts may ultimately rest upon a sling-like element. The wearer having secured the brassière about her body in the fashion described, will then bring shoulder strap 13 over her left shoulder and shoulder strap 14 over her right shoulder and by passing the hook portions 26 of the elements 25 through successive hook channels 17 in the ends of the shoulder straps, will adjust the garment so as to provide herself with the desired necessary breast uplift and support as well as the desired emphasis on breast separation, and will, of course, leave the hook portions 26 of elements 25 in such hook channels 17 as she may find most suitable to provide the desired degree of uplift, support and accentuation of breast separation. In this connection, it may again be observed that variation in effective shoulder strap length will be effective to provide variation in the pull exerted upon the respective sling-like elements and that adjustment of the magnitude of such pull may accordingly be arranged for by adjustment of the effective shoulder strap length.

Moreover, it will be further apparent that the adjustable construction of the garment is such that the wearer can arrange for equal or unequal pull upon the sling-like elements by adjustment of respective effective shoulder strap lengths. In this connection it is, of course, preferable to arrange for equal support of both breasts, but, of course, abnormalities and lack of figure symmetry may necessitate, in an individual case, unequal support. It should be further understood that due to the fact that shoulder straps 13 and 14 are connected to elastic elements 11 and 12, and have the plurality of hook channels 17 at the shoulder strap ends, and due to the further fact that elements 20 and 21 as well as elements 22 and 23 are preferably of elastic, or like resilient material, a relatively wide range of ad-

justability is provided for each given garment size.

I have found that the employment of the invention herein disclosed by me, when properly adjusted, applied and used, does not compress or distort the wearer's breasts, but rather to the contrary provides the necessary and proper uplift and support essential to the creation and/or conservation of a natural pleasing bust configuration, as well as emphasis of natural line of breast separation.

It will be obvious from the foregoing that the invention I have disclosed as well as many features thereof are possible of general usage in breast supporting garments or devices generally, such as brassières, bandeaux, combination garments, surgical appliances and the like. Furthermore, it is conceivable that materials other than those I have mentioned might be employed in place of those I have mentioned with equal result. Still further, I am, of course, aware that many changes in the details of construction and relative arrangement of parts will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art. I do not, therefore, desire to be limited to the exact details herein set forth by way of illustration, but rather to the spirit and scope of my invention as I define it in the appended claims:

What I seek to secure by and claim for United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, a pair of shoulder straps for holding said garment upon the shoulders of the wearer, means for adjustably varying the effective actual length of said shoulder straps, and means disposed in each of said pockets and secured adjacent the mid-length of the garment for contacting, supporting, uplifting and separating the wearer's breasts and means joining the free ends of said last mentioned means with said shoulder straps below and near the respective means for adjustably varying shoulder strap length.

2. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means securing said pockets together, a back band secured to each of said pockets at its free end, a shoulder strap secured to the upper edge of each of said pockets at one of its ends and to the rear of the garment at the other of its ends, means for varying the effective actual length of each of such shoulder straps, a sling-like element secured in each breast receiving pocket adjacent the mid-length of the garment and means joining said sling-like element to the corresponding shoulder strap in the rear of the garment below and near the means for adjustably varying shoulder strap length for varying the pull applied to said sling-like element in accordance with variation in effective shoulder strap length.

3. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means securing said pockets together, a back band secured to the free end of each of said pockets, a resilient element secured to the free end of each of said back bands, means for securing the free ends of said resilient elements together, a shoulder strap element secured to each pocket at its upper edge, a resilient strap element secured to each of the resilient elements attached to the back bands, means for engaging the free end of said resilient strap element with said shoulder strap element at a selected point adjacent the free end of the shoulder strap element, an internal sling-like element secured in each of the breast receiving pockets adjacent the mid-length of the garment, such sling-like element being adapted to lie in the lower portion of each breast receiving pocket and tapering in width towards the side of the garment and terminating in a relatively straight edge lying adjacent the line of joinder of each pocket with its corresponding back band and means joining the sling-like element at its aforesaid relatively straight edge with the resilient strap element near and below the point where same engages with the shoulder strap element.

4. The structure recited in claim 3 characterized in that the means joining the sling-like element at its relatively straight edge with the resilient strap element consists in a plurality of resilient elements converging at the resilient strap element to which they are secured.

5. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means securing said pockets together, a back band secured to the free end of each of said pockets, means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer, an internal relatively free sling-like element secured in the lower portion of each of said pockets adjacent the mid-length of the garment, such sling-like elements extending towards the sides of the garment where they terminate, elastic elements secured to the free ends of said sling-like elements, the free ends of said elastic elements being secured in the rear of the garment to the means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer, and means for selectively varying and adjusting the actual length of the aforementioned means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer and subjecting the respective sling-like elements to an upward pull in accordance with the desires of the wearer.

6. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, a back band secured to the free end of each of said breast receiving pockets, shoulder straps adjustable in effective actual length for supporting the garment on the body of the wearer and a movable sling-like element secured in each breast receiving pocket adjacent the mid-length of the garment, and means joining the free end of each sling-like element with its corresponding shoulder strap whereby adjustment in effective actual length of shoulder strap is adapted to vary the pull applied to the free end of each sling-like element.

7. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means joining said pockets together, a back band secured to the free end of each of said breast receiving pockets, means for securing the free ends of said back bands together, a shoulder strap of adjustable effective actual length secured to each pocket at one end and to its corresponding back band at the other end and a sling-like element secured in each pocket adjacent the mid-length of the garment and means joining the free end of said sling-like element with the adjacent shoulder strap at a fixed point on said strap in the rear of the garment just below the point on said shoulder strap where adjustability in effective actual shoulder strap length may be arranged for and effected so that decrease in effective actual shoulder strap length increases the pull upon the sling-like element while increase in the effective actual shoulder strap length decreases the pull upon such element.

8. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means securing said pockets together, a back band secured to the free

end of each of said pockets, means for securing said back bands together, means secured to said pockets and said back bands for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer, means for varying the effective length of said supporting means in accordance with the desires of the wearer, an internal relatively free sling-like element secured in the lower portion of each of said pockets adjacent the mid-length of the garment for supporting, uplifting and separating the wearer's breasts which are respectively adapted to contact from beneath with the sling-like elements, said sling-like elements being formed with curved upper and lower edges tapering in width towards the sides of the garment where they respectively terminate in relatively straight edges, and means joining the respective sling-like elements at such edges with the respective means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer so that variation in effective length of said means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer results in variation in the pull applied to each sling-like element and thus variation in the degree of support, uplift and separation of the wearer's breasts effected thereby.

9. The structure recited in claim 8 characterized in that the means for varying the effective length of the means for supporting the garment upon the shoulders of the wearer includes an element carrying a hook and an element carrying a plurality of hook channels one of which channels may be selected to receive said hook.

10. In a garment of the type described a pair of joined breast receiving pockets, a sling-like element secured in each breast receiving pocket adjacent the midlength of the garment, a back band secured to each of said pockets at the free end of each thereof, a resilient strap element secured to each of said back bands, a hook carried by each resilient strap element at its free end, a shoulder strap secured to each of said pockets at one end and provided at its other end with a plurality of channels, one of which may be selected to receive the said hook, and means joining the free end of each of the aforesaid sling-like elements to a resilient strap element.

11. In a brassière a pair of joined breast receiving pockets, a sling-like element secured in each breast receiving pocket adjacent the midlength of the garment, a back band secured to each of said pockets at the free end of each thereof, a strap element secured to each of said back bands, a second strap element secured to each of said pockets at one end, means for adjustably engaging together the free ends of said strap elements, and means joining the free end of each of the aforesaid sling-like elements to a strap element which is secured to a back band, adjacent the free end of such strap element.

12. The structure recited in claim 11 characterized in that the means for adjustably engaging together the free ends of said strap elements consists in a hook carried by the free end of one element and a plurality of hook channels carried by the free end of the other such element.

13. In a garment of the type described, a pair of joined breast receiving pockets, a back band secured to the free end of each of said pockets, a fabric sling-like element secured in each breast receiving pocket, a fabric shoulder strap section secured to each pocket in the front, an elastic shoulder strap section secured to each back band in the rear, means for engaging the free end of said elastic shoulder strap section at a selected one of a number of possible separated points adjacent the free end of the corresponding fabric shoulder strap section and elastic means joining the free end of each sling-like element to the corresponding elastic shoulder strap section adjacent the free end thereof.

14. The structure recited in claim 13 characterized in that each sling-like element is secured along but a single edge thereof in each breast receiving pocket in the lower portion thereof and adjacent the midlength of the garment and is otherwise free and moveable in the pocket.

15. In a garment of the type described, a pair of breast receiving pockets, means securing said pockets together, a sling-like element secured in each of said pockets along the line where each of said pockets joins the means securing said pockets together, a back band secured at the free end of each of said pockets, a resilient element secured to the free end of each of said back bands, means for securing the free ends of said resilient elements together, a shoulder strap element secured to each pocket at its upper edge, a resilient strap element secured to each of the aforesaid resilient elements which are attached to the back bands, means joining the free end of each of the aforesaid sling-like elements with a resilient strap element, and means for engaging the free end of said resilient strap element with a shoulder strap element at a selected point adjacent the end of the shoulder strap element.

16. In a garment of the type described, a pair of joined breast receiving pockets, means disposed in each of said pockets and secured adjacent the midlength of the garment and arranged to contact and uplift the wearer's breasts from beneath, a pair of shoulder straps of adjustable length for supporting the garment upon the wearer's shoulders, and means for joining the means herein first mentioned with said shoulder straps, so that adjustment in the length of said straps adjustably varies the pressure with which the said means herein first mentioned act upon the wearer's breasts.

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