

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

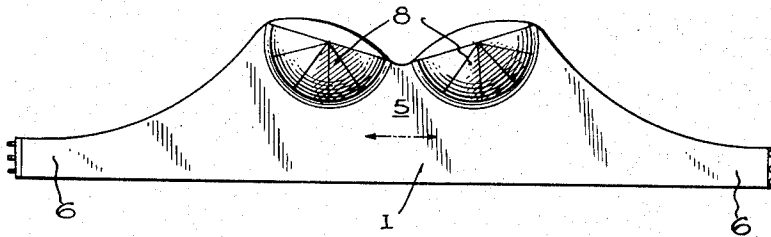


FIG. 2.

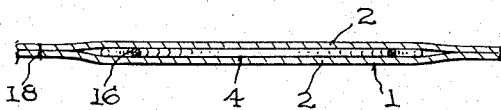
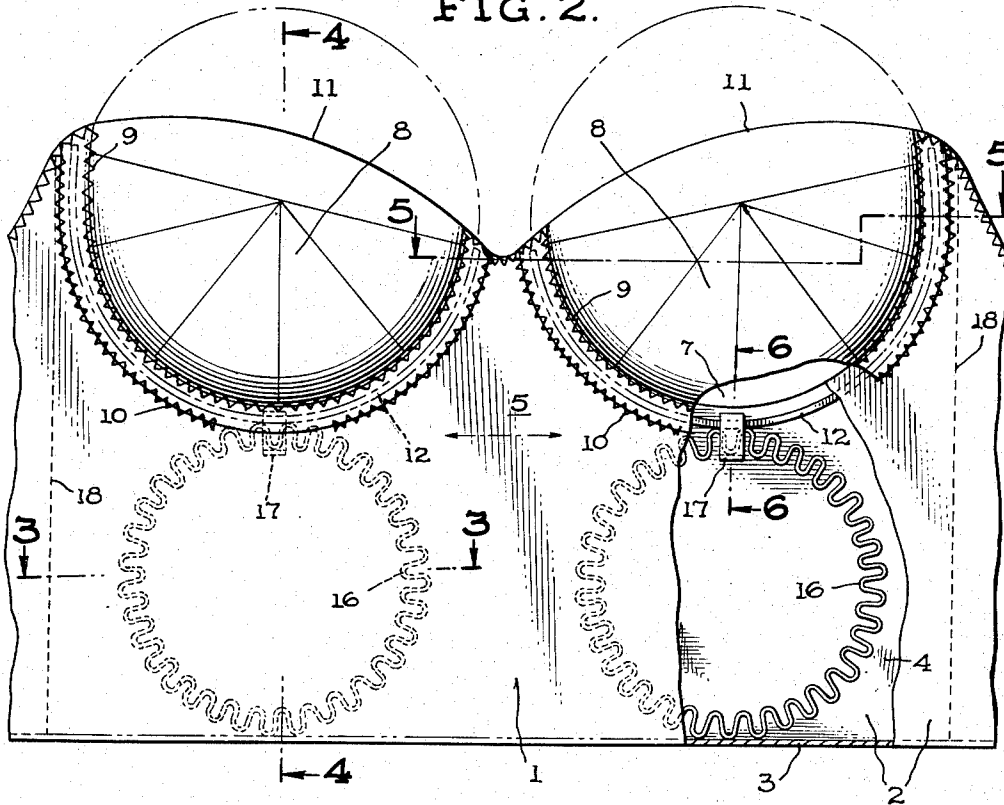


FIG. 3.

INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. P. Williams*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 2
FIG. 8.

FIG. 4.

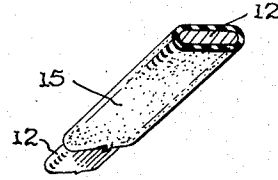
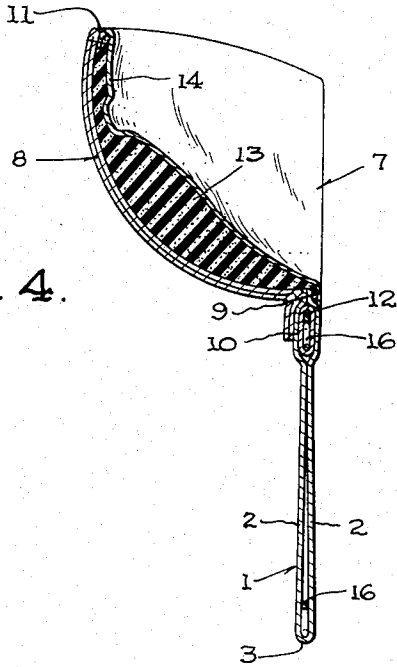


FIG. 6.

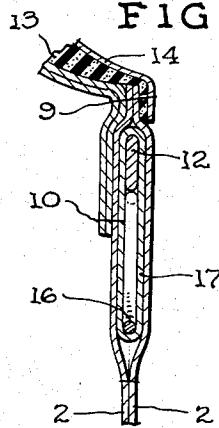


FIG. 5.

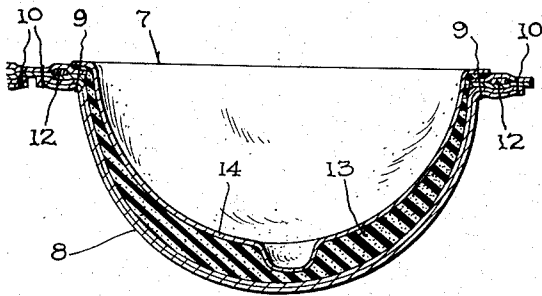
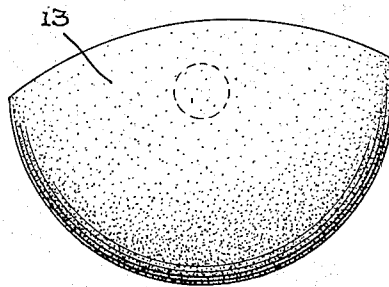


FIG. 7.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY

B. M. Hulme

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 3

FIG. 9.

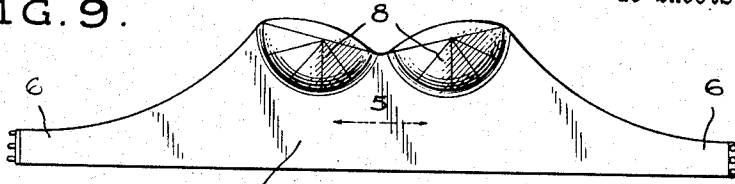


FIG. 10.

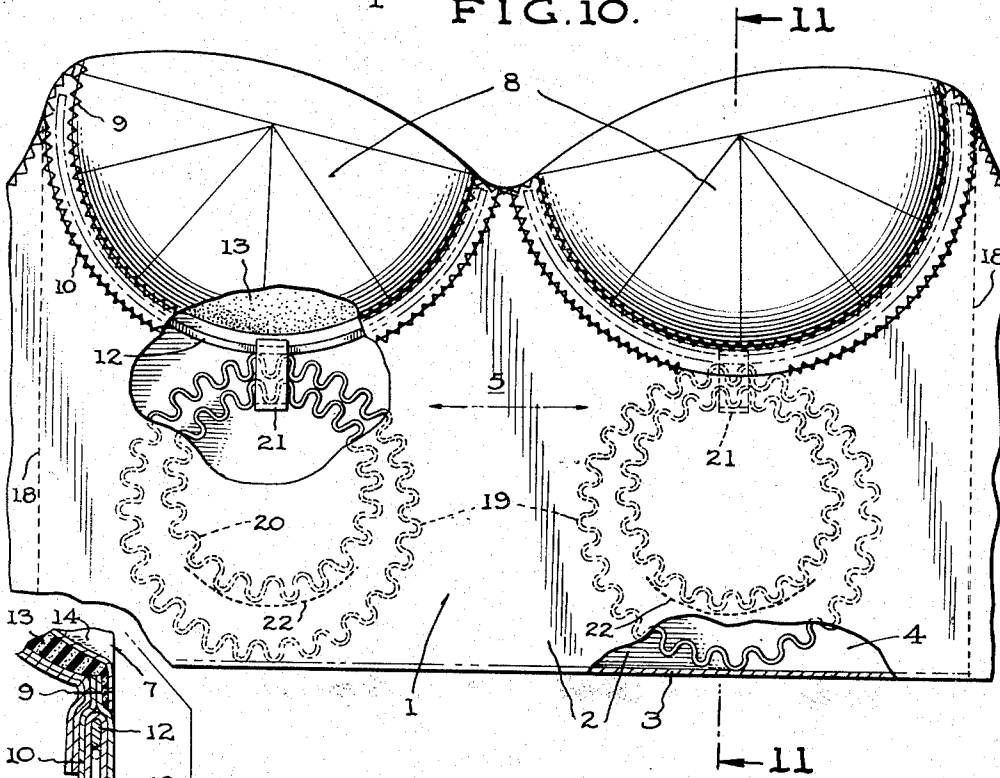
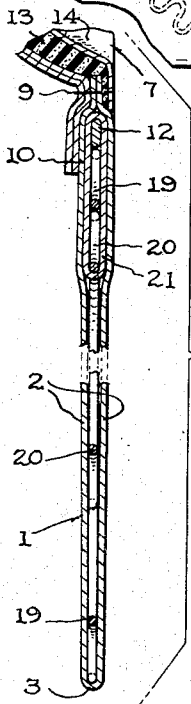


FIG. 11.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 4

FIG. 12.

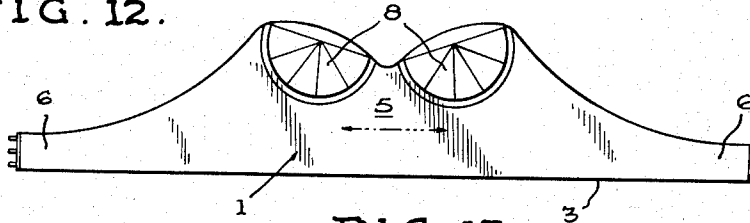


FIG. 13.

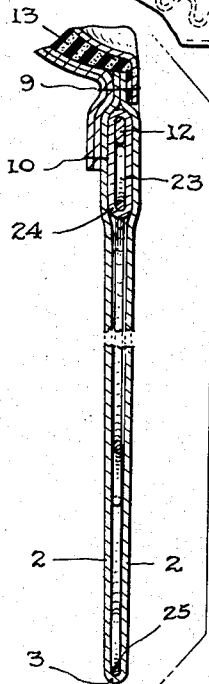
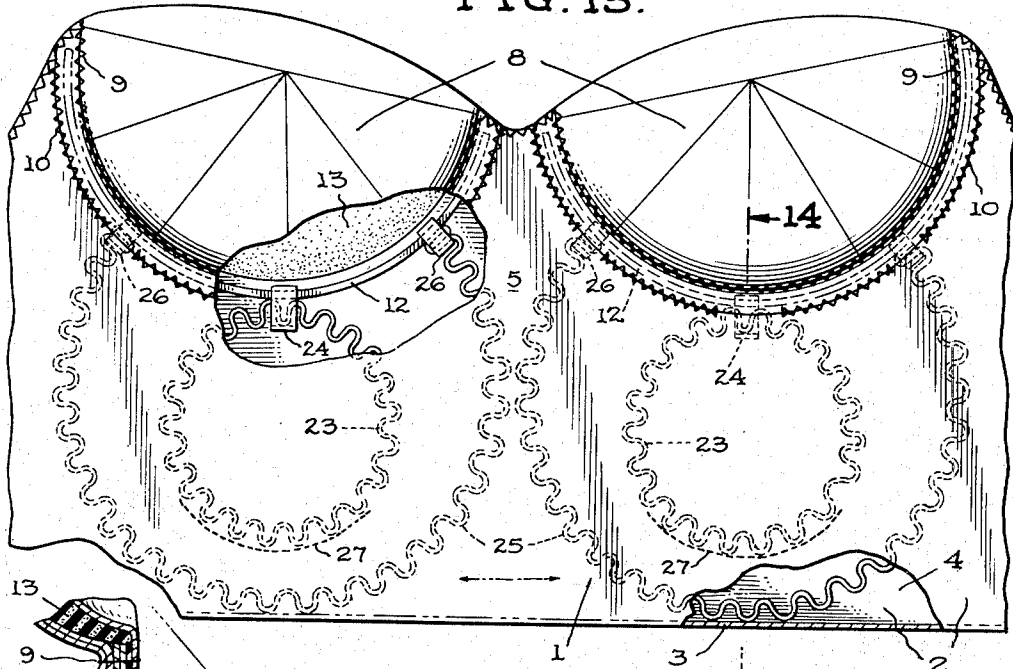


FIG. 14.

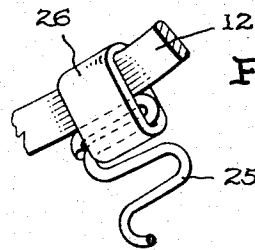


FIG. 15.

INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. J. Williams*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 5

FIG. 17.

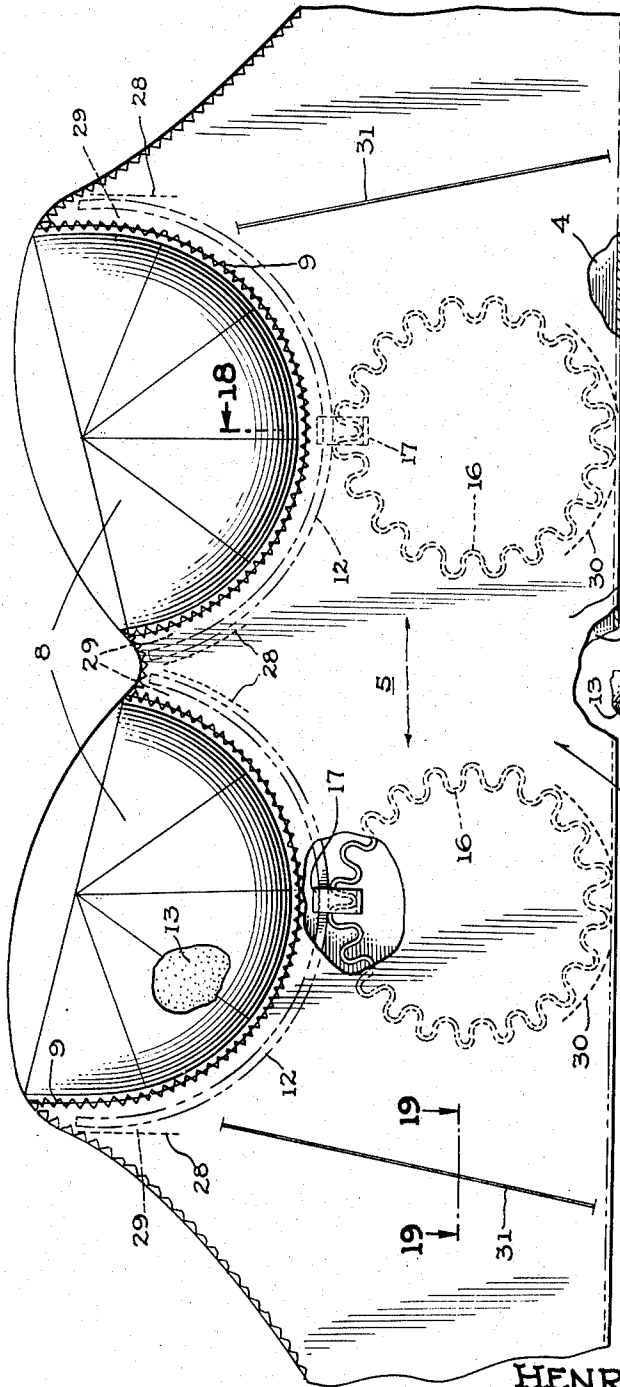


FIG. 19.

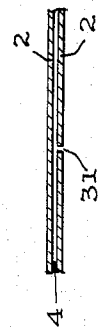


FIG. 18.

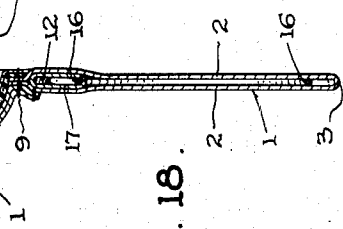
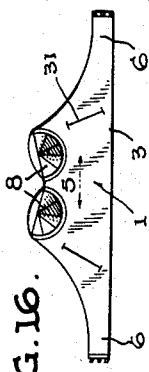


FIG. 16.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. J. Williams*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 6

FIG. 21.

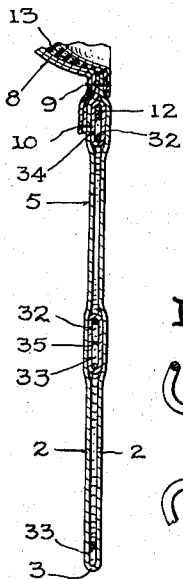
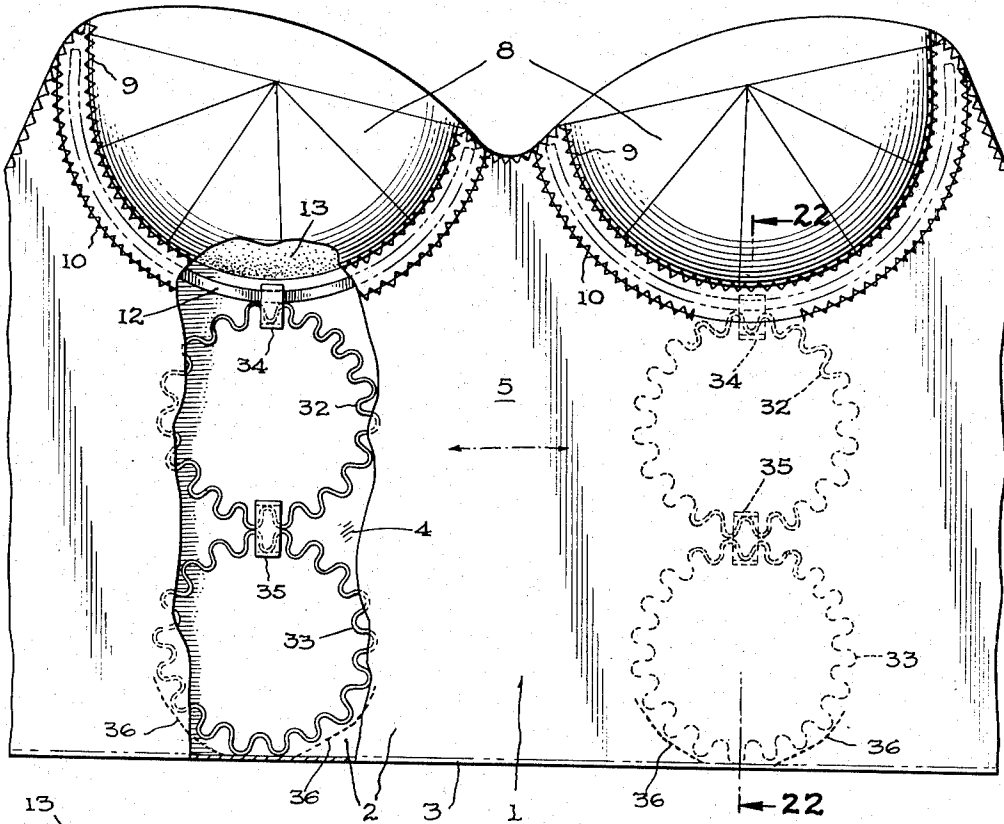
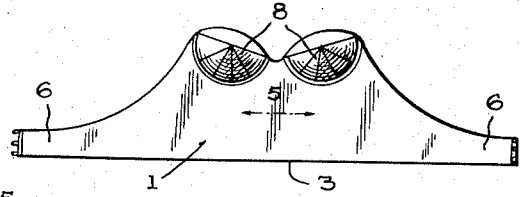
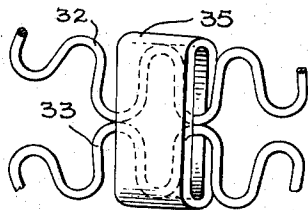


FIG. 22.

FIG. 20.

FIG. 23



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. P. Kline*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 7

FIG. 25.

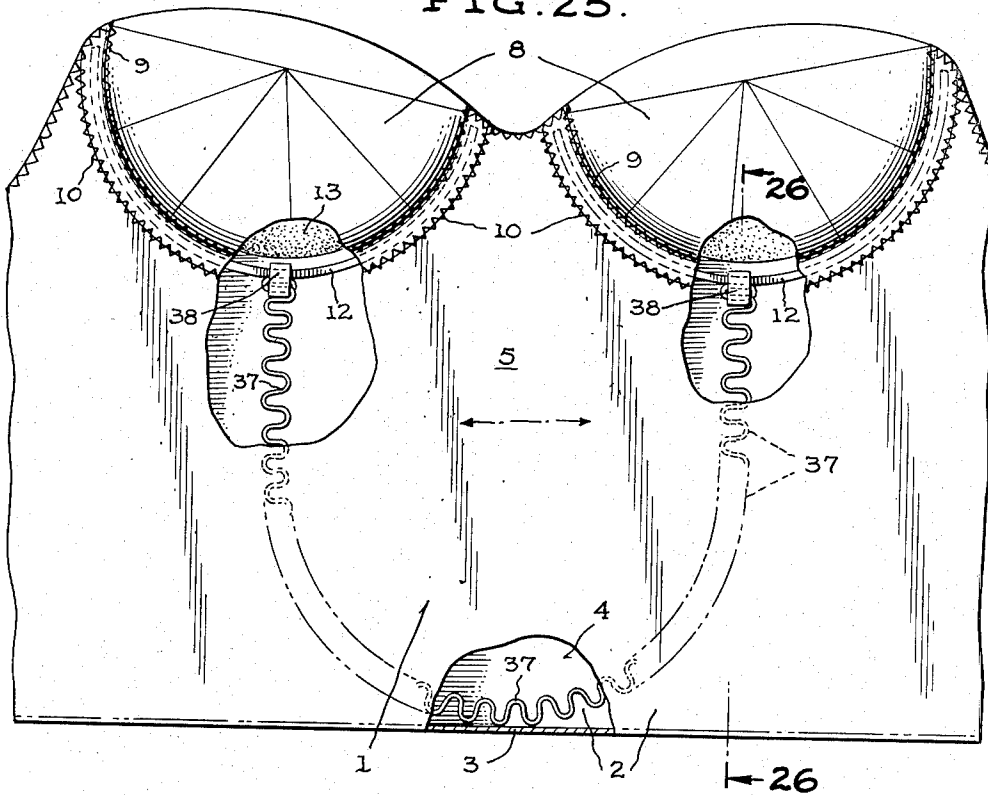


FIG. 26.

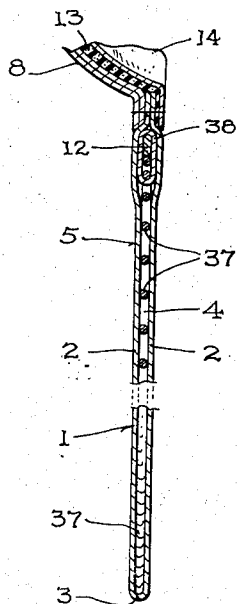
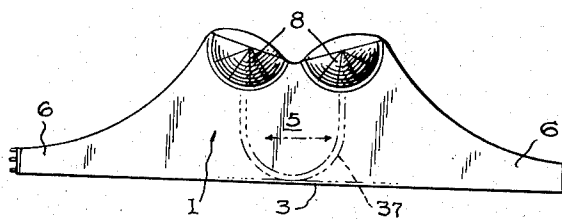


FIG. 24.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B.P. Miller*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 8

FIG. 28

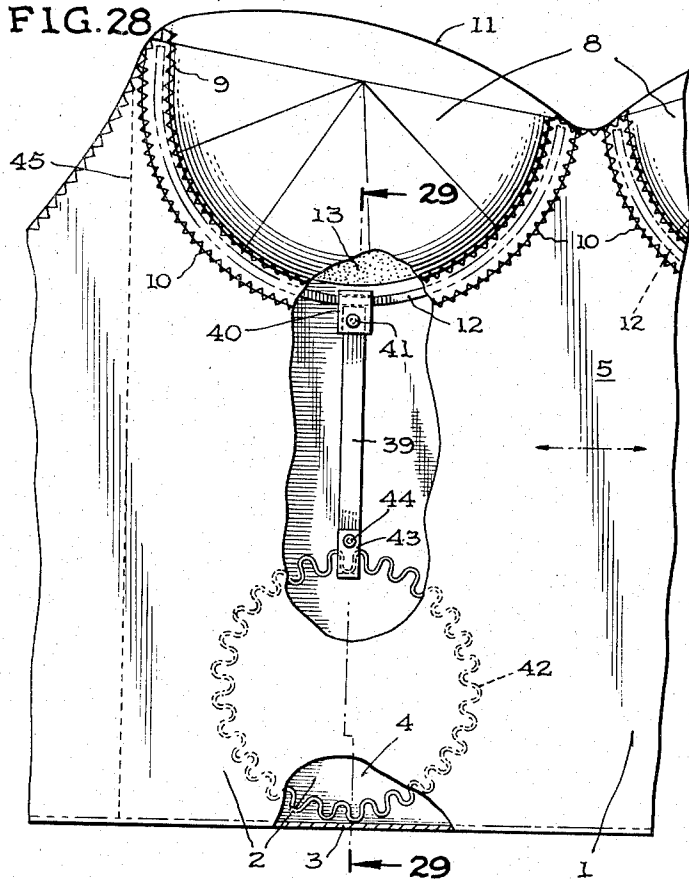


FIG. 29

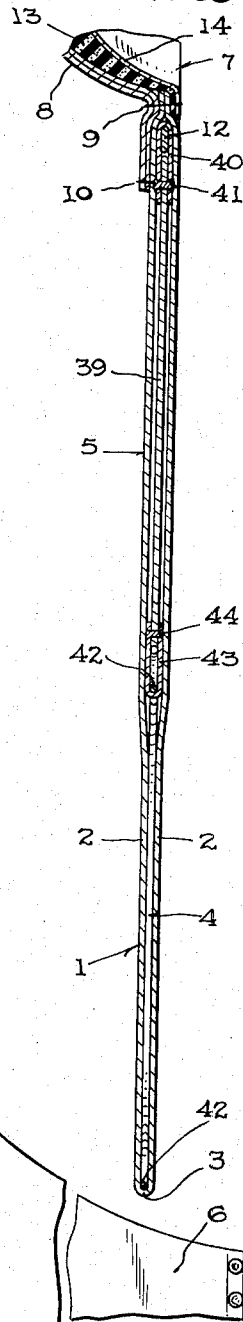
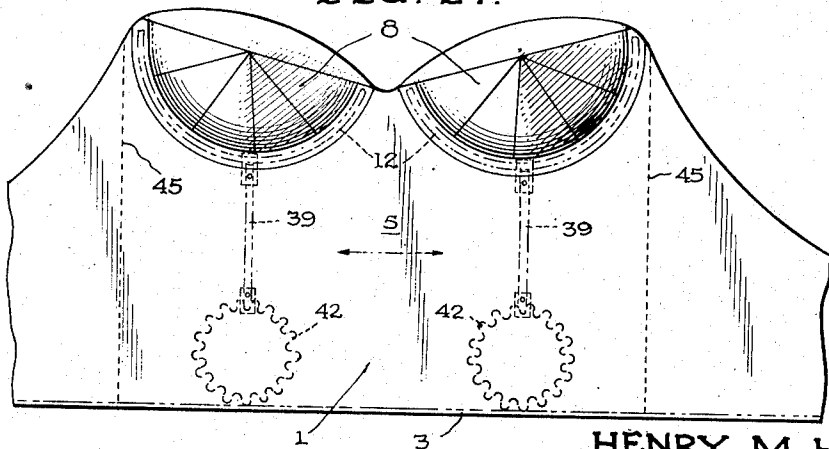


FIG. 27



INVENTOR
HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. J. Kellerman*

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER

2,900,981

BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 9

FIG. 30.

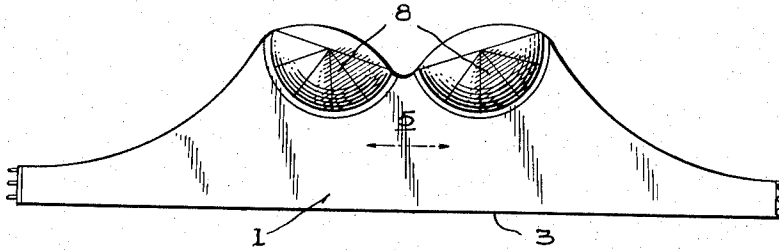


FIG. 31.

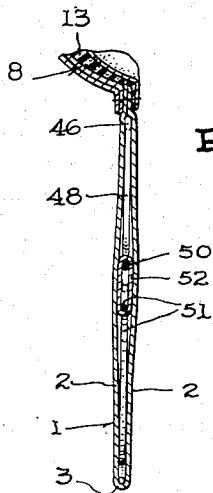
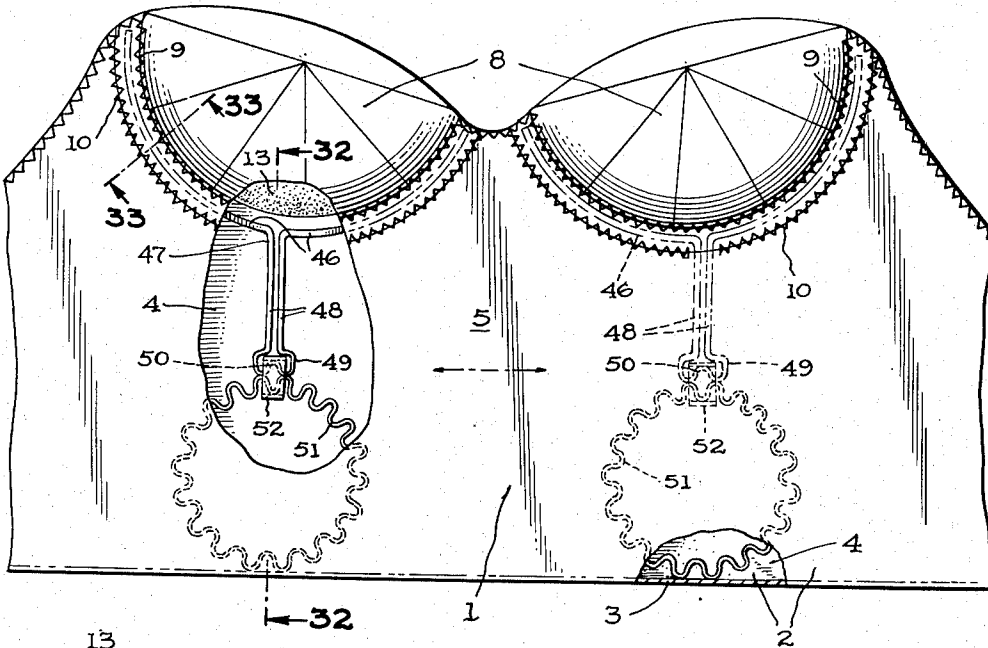
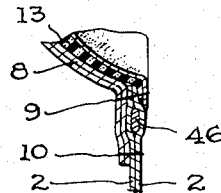


FIG. 32.

FIG. 33.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY

B. J. Liberman

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER

2,900,981

BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 10

FIG. 35.

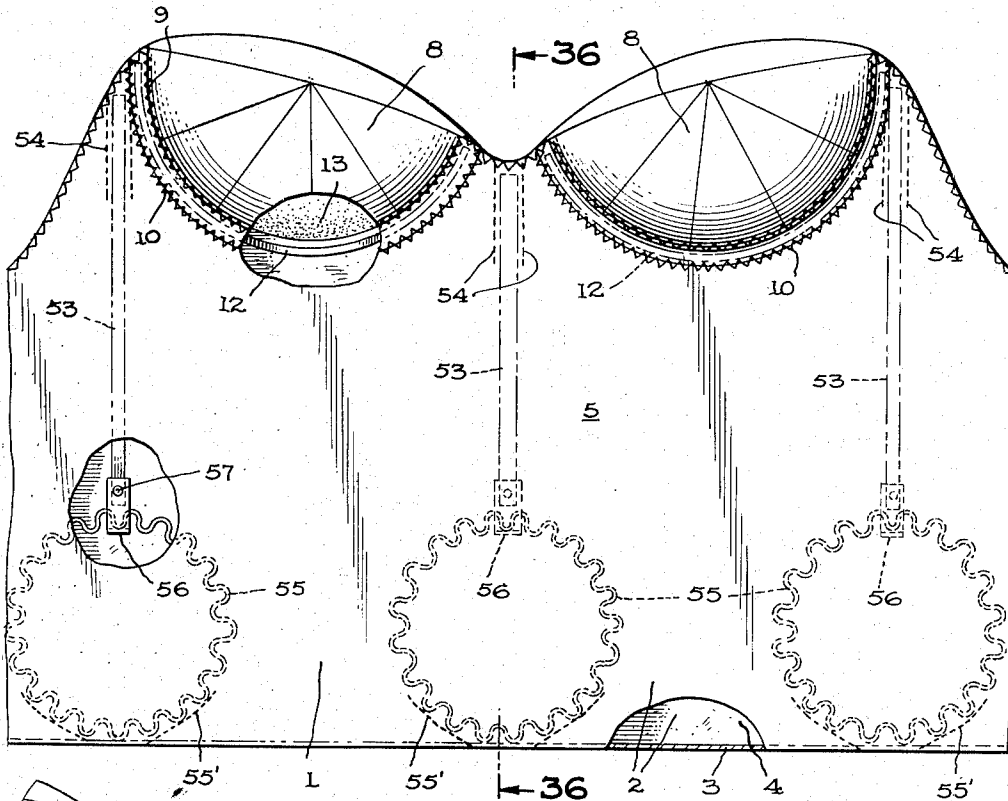


FIG. 36.

FIG. 34.

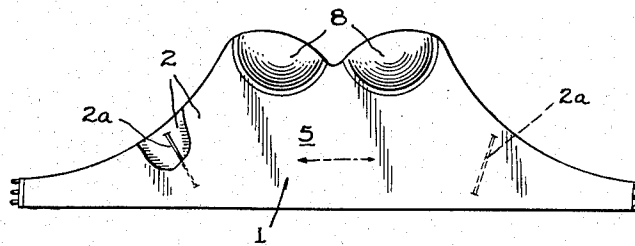
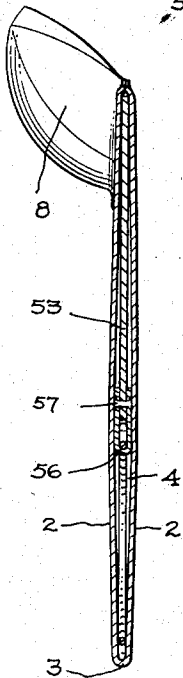
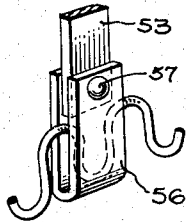


FIG. 37.



INVENTOR

HENRY M HERBENER

BY

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 11

FIG. 39.

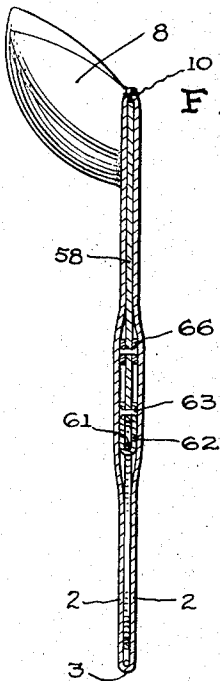
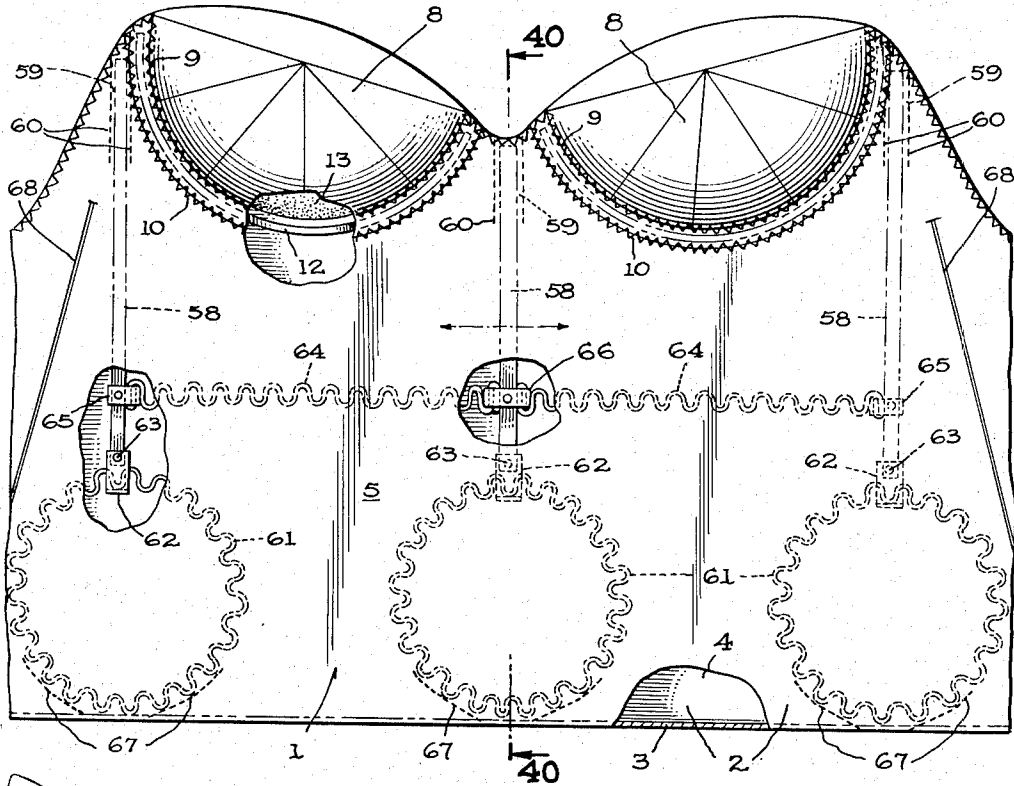
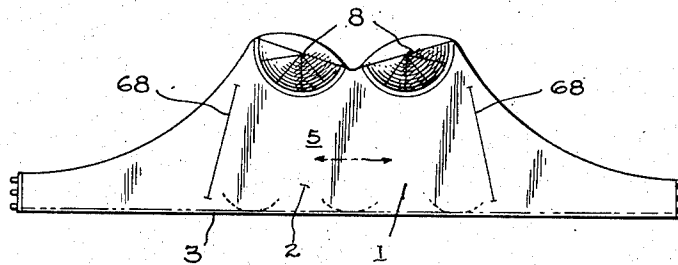


FIG. 40.

FIG. 38.



INVENTOR

HENRY M. HERBENER

BY

ATTORNEY

Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 12

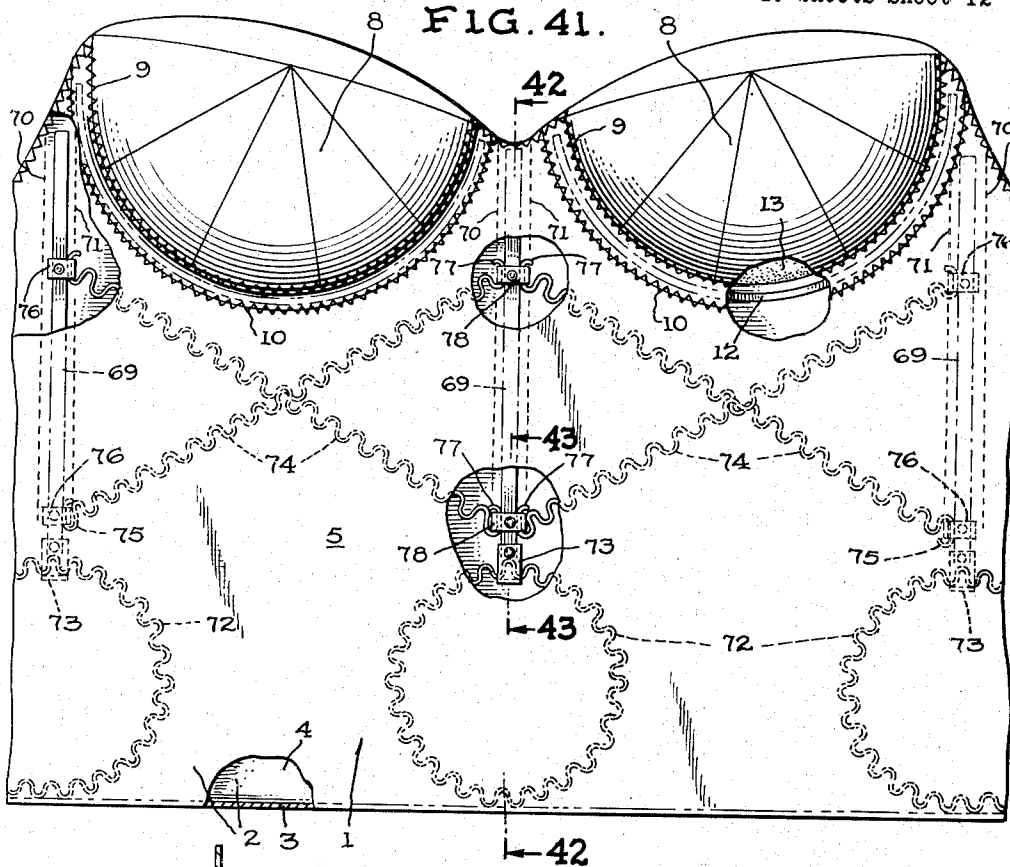


FIG. 42.

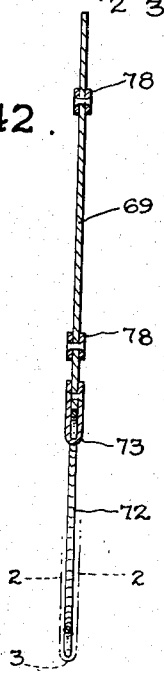
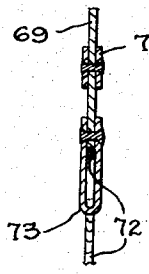


FIG. 43.



INVENTOR
HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *B. M. Allen*

ATTORNEY

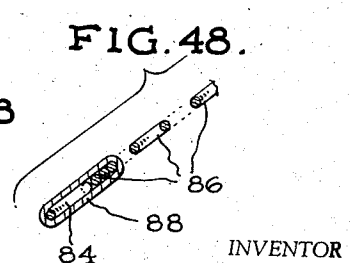
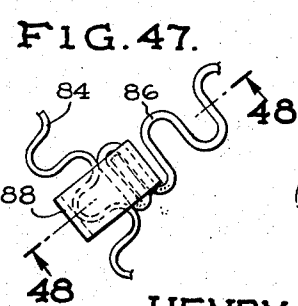
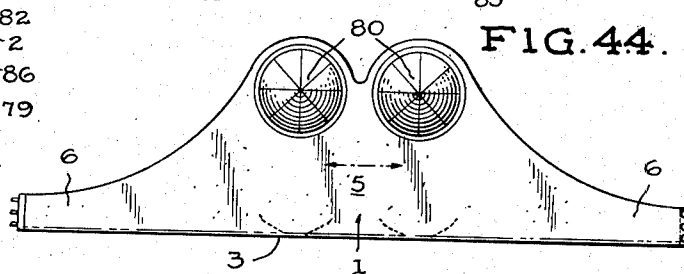
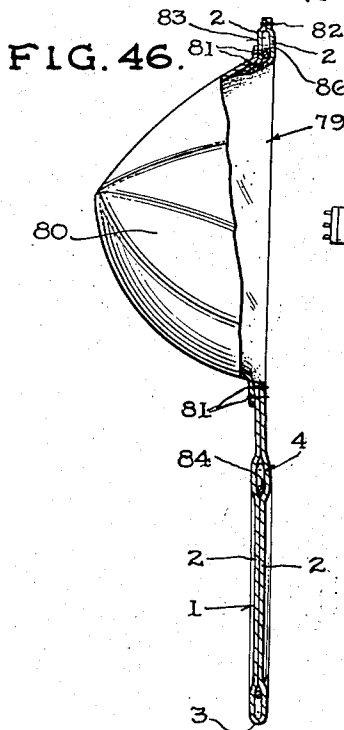
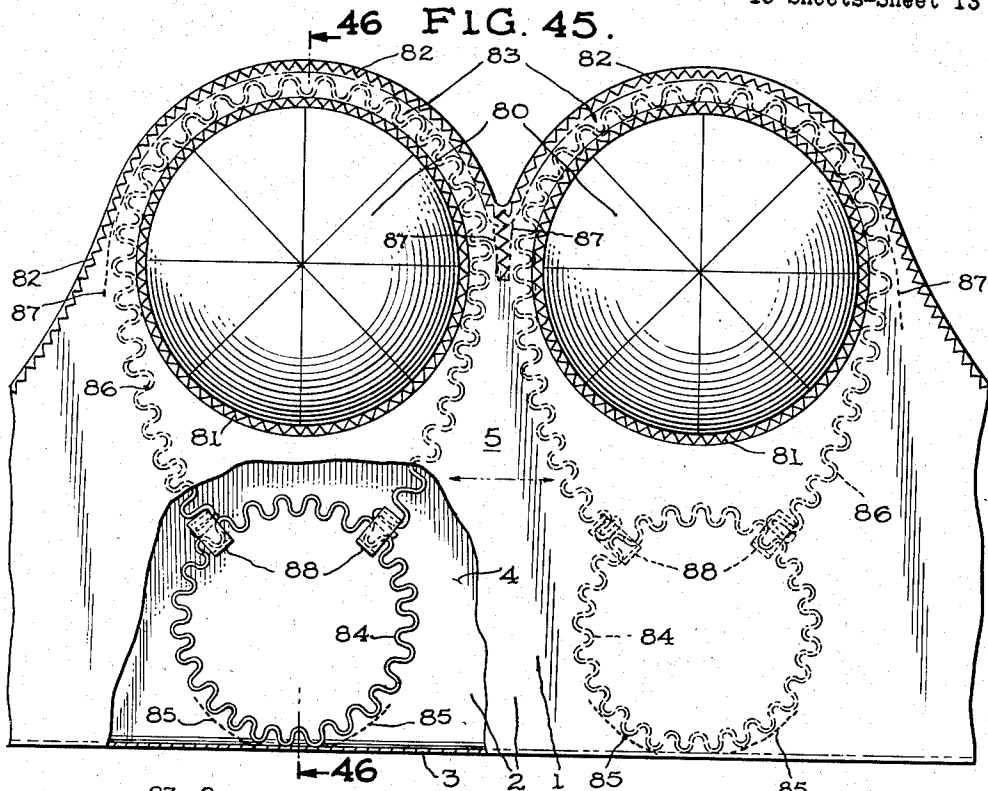
Aug. 25, 1959

H. M. HERBENER
BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

2,900,981

Filed March 18, 1957

13 Sheets-Sheet 13



HENRY M. HERBENER

BY *[Signature]*

INVENTOR

ATTORNEY

1

2,900,981

BODY ENCIRCLING GARMENT

Henry M. Herbener, Thomasville, Ga.

Application March 18, 1957, Serial No. 646,593

14 Claims. (Cl. 128—465)

My invention relates to body encircling garments of the brassiere, corselet, corset or slip type.

An important object of the invention is to provide a garment of the above-mentioned character, so constructed that the busts are yieldingly supported and shifted inwardly, toward each other, to some extent.

A further object of the invention is to provide a garment of the above-mentioned character which is freely vertically yieldable, to permit of convenient movement of the body, but will remain close to the body, and return to the inner position when removed therefrom.

A further object of the invention is to provide a stiff supporting element, serving as a support for a soft compressible pad which supports the bust, thereby promoting the comfort of the wearer.

A further object of the invention is to provide a brassiere which is cut low in the back, and which may be attached at the bottom of the back of the brassiere to the top of the back of a girdle or the like, if desired, to prevent displacement of the brassiere.

A further object of the invention is to provide a brassiere of the above-mentioned character which will produce a minimum of pressure of the upper portion of the front of the garment upon the wearer, due to the circumferential tension of the brassiere, promoting easy breathing and comfort of the wearer, and at the same time retaining the upper portion of the front and the bust receiving pockets close to the body.

A further object of the invention is to provide resilient pocket supporting means, which may be formed in a desired length, so that it will properly function when the body encircling garment is spaced from the waistline, or extends to or below the waistline.

A further object of the invention is to provide means whereby the resilient pocket supporting elements may be removed from the garment when it is desired to launder the garment.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent during the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this application and in which like numerals are employed to designate like parts throughout the same,

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying my invention,

Figure 2 is an enlarged side elevation of the central portion of the brassiere, parts broken away,

Figure 3 is a horizontal section taken on line 3—3 of Figure 2,

Figure 4 is a vertical section taken on line 4—4 of Figure 2,

Figure 5 is a horizontal section taken on line 5—5 of Figure 2,

Figure 6 is a vertical section taken on line 6—6 of Figure 2,

Figure 7 is a front elevation of the pad inserted in the pocket of the brassiere,

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the flattened wire from which the supporting element is formed, showing a rubber sleeve or cover for the same,

2

Figure 9 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a second form of the invention,

Figure 10 is a front elevation of the central portion of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 11 is a vertical section taken on line 11—11 of Figure 10,

Figure 12 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a third form of the invention,

Figure 13 is an elevation of the front portion of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 14 is a vertical section taken on line 14—14 of Figure 13,

Figure 15 is a perspective view of a loop or coupling and associated elements,

Figure 16 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a fourth form of the invention,

Figure 17 is a side elevation of the front portion of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, and parts broken away,

Figure 18 is a vertical section taken on line 18—18 of Figure 17,

Figure 19 is a vertical section taken on line 19—19 of Figure 17,

Figure 20 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a fifth form of the invention,

Figure 21 is a side elevation of the front portion of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, and parts broken away,

Figure 22 is a vertical section taken on line 22—22 of Figure 21,

Figure 23 is a perspective view of a coupling connecting two adjacent hoops, parts broken away,

Figure 24 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a sixth form of the invention,

Figure 25 is a side elevation of the front of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 26 is a vertical section taken on line 26—26 of Figure 25,

Figure 27 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a seventh form of my invention, parts broken away,

Figure 28 is a side elevation of the front of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 29 is a vertical section taken on line 29—29 of Figure 28,

Figure 30 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying an eighth form of my invention,

Figure 31 is an elevation of the front of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 32 is a vertical section taken on line 32—32 of Figure 31,

Figure 33 is a section taken on line 33—33 of Figure 31,

Figure 34 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a ninth form of the invention,

Figure 35 is an elevation of the front of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 36 is a vertical section taken on line 36—36 of Figure 35,

Figure 37 is a perspective view of one of the loops or couplings, and associated elements, parts broken away,

Figure 38 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a tenth modification of the invention,

Figure 39 is an elevation of the front of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 40 is a transverse section taken on line 40—40 of Figure 39,

Figure 41 is a front elevation of a brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away, of an eleventh modification of the invention,

Figure 42 is a vertical section taken on line 42—42 of Figure 41,

3

Figure 43 is a transverse section taken on line 43—43 of Figure 41,

Figure 44 is a side elevation of a brassiere embodying a twelfth form of the invention,

Figure 45 is a side elevation of the front portion of the brassiere, upon an enlarged scale, parts broken away,

Figure 46 is a vertical section taken on line 46—46 of Figure 45,

Figure 47 is a fragmentary side elevation of the adjacent portions of the hoop and loop and coupling,

Figure 48 is a longitudinal section taken on line 48—48 of Figure 47.

In Figures 1 to 8 inclusive, I have shown the first form of my invention. A body encircling garment or brassiere includes a body portion 1, which is longitudinally elastic. The body portion 1 includes sides 2, folded upon themselves to provide a bottom 3, affording a pocket 4. The body encircling portion includes a forward portion 5 and bands 6, which extend around the body and the ends of the bands are detachably connected by any suitable means. The forward portion 5 projects above the bands 6, Figure 1. When in use, the lower edge or bottom 3 of the body portion may be spaced from the waistline, but the invention is not restricted to this feature. The forward portion 5 has substantially spherically curved openings 7 formed therein, for the passage of the bust, and 8 designates bust receiving pockets or cups which are spherically curved and bulge forwardly. The spherically curved cups may be formed in the manner shown in my Patent 2,759,190, or by any other suitable means. The pockets 8 have their edges overlapping with the forward portion 5, Figures 4 and 5, and are secured thereto by lines of zigzag stitching 9 and 10. The lines of stitching 9 and 10 are spaced, as shown. The pockets 8 are so arranged that their upper edges 11 are vertically inclined and converge downwardly toward their inner edges, and these pockets therefore not only support the busts but tend to move them inwardly toward each other.

The lines of stitching 9 and 10 are spaced, as stated, and their upper ends are connected, and these lines of stitching form a circularly curved casing for receiving a circularly curved or generally U-shaped supporting element 12. This supporting element is formed of a flattened wire, Figure 6. The supporting element is vertically stiff but is horizontally or laterally flexible and resilient.

Arranged within each pocket 4 is a filling or supporting pad 13, preferably formed of sponge rubber, and preferably of the construction shown in my Patent 2,563,241. This pad has a cloth lining 14 secured to its inner face by cement or the like, and the edges of this lining 14 overlap the edges of the forward portion 5 at the opening 7, and the edges of the cloth are secured in place by the lines of stitching 9. The supporting element 12 supports the pocket and bust and the pad 13 is interposed between the bust and supporting element 12, thus promoting the comfort of the wearer.

I may cover the supporting element 12 with a compressible casing 15, formed of rubber, as shown in Figure 8.

Disposed within the pocket 4 formed by the sides 2, Figures 2, 4 and 5, are resilient wire hoops 16. These hoops are formed from suitably stiff and resilient wire, bent into zigzag formation, as shown and described in my Patent 2,774,073. One hoop 16 is arranged beneath each vertically stiff U-shaped supporting element 12 and bears against the lower edge of the supporting element. As more clearly shown in Figure 6, a flat stiff loop or coupling 17 surrounds the supporting element 12 and hoop 16 and is rigidly secured thereto. If these parts are made of metal, they may be welded together or the coupling 17 may be rigidly clamped to the elements 12

4

and 16. The supporting element 12 cannot turn within the loop or coupling 17, nor can the hoop 16 turn therein. When the supporting element 12 is moved forwardly with the pocket, as when the user stoops, the hoop 16 will yield and has a torsional action, and when the pressure is removed from the supporting element 12, the hoop will swing the supporting element 12 toward the wearer so that the supporting element remains close to the wearer. The hoop 16 normally holds the supporting element 12 in the raised position, but the hoop is vertically resilient or compressible, and the lower edge or bottom of the hoop bears against the bottom 3 of the pocket 4. When the hoop 16 is vertically compressed, due to the downward movement of the supporting element 12, the sides of the hoop 16 will move horizontally outwardly since they are slidably mounted within the pocket 4. If desired, the sides 2 may be secured together by vertical lines of stitching 18. Since the supporting element 12 is held in place within the casing formed by the lines of stitching 9 and 10, and since the hoop is secured to the supporting element 12 by the loop or coupling 17, it is unnecessary to provide additional means to hold the lower edge of the hoop in place, and their lower edge contacts with the bottom 3. It might be stated at this point that the line of stitching 10 is interrupted to permit of the passage of the loop or coupling 17 and the adjacent portion of the hoop, Figures 2 and 6.

In view of the foregoing description, it will be seen that I have provided a brassiere which will promote the comfort of the user, since the pockets 8 are supported by the supporting elements 12 and the pads 13 are arranged between the supporting elements and bust. The U-shaped supporting elements are stiff in a vertical plane and are flexible or resilient in a lateral or horizontal direction. The torsional action of the hoops 16 tend to move the supporting elements 12 and the pockets toward the wearer and retain them in close relation to the wearer. When the supporting elements and pockets are moved forwardly, by the stooping of the wearer, the torsional action is produced upon the hoops 16. The hoops 16 yieldingly support the supporting elements 12 to permit of the individual vertical movements of the same.

In Figures 9 to 11 inclusive, I have shown a second form of the invention. The same pockets 8, the same supporting elements 12, and the same lines of stitching 9 and 10 are used. The same body portion 1 is employed, with the front portion 5, and the body portion includes the sides 2, the edge or bottom 3 and the pocket 4. The brassiere thus far described is identical with the first form of the invention shown in Figures 1 to 7 inclusive.

Arranged within the pocket 4 of the body portion 1 are pairs of resilient hoops 19 and 20, which are of the zigzag formation and are identical with the hoops 16, but may be of somewhat different sizes. The hoops 20 are arranged within the hoops 19 and are eccentric with relation thereto. The elements 12, 19 and 20 are arranged in the same plane, Figure 11, and the edges of the hoops 19 and 20 engage at the upper portions of the hoops, and the edge of the hoop 19 at its upper portion engages with the supporting element 12. A stiff loop or coupling 21, corresponding to the loop 17, receives therein the adjacent contacting portions of elements 12, 19 and 20. This loop or coupling is preferably rigidly secured to the elements 12, 19 and 20, by welding, or the loop may be clamped against the same. The flattened supporting element 12 cannot turn within the loop or coupling 21 nor can the hoops 19 and 20 turn therein, and when the supporting element 12 is swung forwardly, as when the user stoops, a torsional action is applied to elements 19 and 20, and this torsional action serves to swing the supporting element 12 toward the wearer

5

and retains the element 12 close to the wearer. The same lines of stitching 9 and 10, as shown in connection with the first form of the invention, are used, and the line of stitching 10 is interrupted for the passage of the coupling 21 and the adjacent portion of the hoop 19. The same pads 13 are used. The lower edges of the hoops 19 bear against the edge or bottom 3, and the lower edges of the hoops 20 bear against curved lines of stitching 22, connecting the sides 2. The hoops 19 and 20 are slidably mounted within the pocket 4 and their sides move horizontally when the supporting element 12 is moved downwardly to vertically compress the hoops 19 and 20. The construction of the brassiere shown in Figures 9 to 11 inclusive is identical with the first form of the invention, Figures 1 to 7 inclusive, except that in the second form of the invention the pairs of hoops 19 and 20 are used.

The operation of the second form of the invention is similar to that of the first form and is thought to be unnecessary to state the same.

In Figures 12 to 15 inclusive, I have shown a brassiere embodying a third form of the invention. This brassiere comprises the same body portion 1 including sides 2 folded to provide a bottom 3 and forming a pocket 4. The same front portion 5 is provided, having the pockets 8 and the lines of stitching 9 and 10, forming the casing for holding the supporting elements 12. The same pads 13 are used. The construction of the brassiere, up to this point, is identical with the brassiere shown and described in connection with Figures 1 to 7 inclusive.

Disposed within the pocket 4 and arranged beneath and adjacent to the supporting elements 12 are resilient hoops 23 of zigzag formation and which are identical with the hoops 16 except that they may be smaller. The hoops 23 are arranged beneath and in the plane of the supporting elements 12 and contact therewith. The hoops 23 are attached to the supporting elements 12 by loops or couplings 24, corresponding to the loops or couplings 17, Figure 6. These loops or couplings 24 are stiff or rigid and are rigidly attached to the flat supporting elements 12 and the hoops 23. The lateral swinging movement of the supporting elements 12 produce a torsional action upon the hoops 23, as explained in connection with the hoops 16, Figure 2. Surrounding the hoops 23 are larger hoops or frames 25, of zigzag formation, like the hoops 16. The hoops or frames 25 are open at their upper ends and the free ends of each hoop 25 has mounted thereon loops or couplings 26, which also receive the supporting element 12. One of the couplings 26 is shown in Figure 15, and this coupling is rigidly secured to the supporting element 12 and to the free end of the hoop or frame 25, by welding or by being clamped thereto. When the supporting element 12 is swung forwardly by the user stooping, the swinging movement of the supporting element causes a torsional action upon the end of the hoop or frame 25.

The outer hoops or frames 25 do not overlap and their lower edges engage the bottom 3 and are supported thereby. The hoops 23 have their lower portions engaging curved lines of stitching 27, connecting the sides 2. The hoops 23 and the hoops 25 are slidably mounted within the pocket 4. The lines of stitching 10 are interrupted for the passage of the couplings 24 and 26.

In use, the hoops 23 and the hoops or frames 25 yieldingly support the supporting elements 12 and the pockets. When these hoops are vertically compressed, their side or sides can shift horizontally since they are slidable within the pocket 4. Since the couplings are rigidly attached to the supporting element 12 and the hoops 23 and 25, the forward swinging movement of the supporting elements will produce a torsional action in the hoops, and these hoops will keep the supporting elements 12 close to the body, by virtue of this torsional action.

6

In Figures 16 to 19 inclusive, I have shown a brassiere embodying a fourth form of the invention. In the fourth form of the invention, the same body portion 1 is provided comprising sides 2 folded to provide the bottom 3 and forming the pocket 4. The same pockets 8 are provided receiving the pads 13. The same line of stitching 9 is provided for each pocket. The same supporting elements 12 are provided, arranged near and beneath the line of stitching 9. The construction of the brassiere, up to this point, is identical with that shown in connection with Figures 1 to 7 inclusive. The lines of stitching 10 are omitted, and upstanding lines of stitching 28 are provided, connecting the sides. These lines of stitching 28 form with the lines of stitching 9, casings or pockets 29, which removably receive the ends of the supporting elements 12. The same hoops 16 are arranged within the pocket 4, and these hoops have their upper portions secured to the supporting elements 12 by the loops or couplings 17. This is the same construction as shown in connection with the first form of the brassiere, Figures 1 and 2. The lower portions of the hoops 16 engage within curved lines of stitching 30, which removably hold the hoops in place, and the hoops in turn support and hold the supporting elements 12 in place, with their free ends in the pockets 29.

The outer side 2 of the front portion 5 is provided with upstanding or generally vertical slits or openings 31. If desired, these slits could be formed in the inner side 2.

The hoops 16 resiliently support the supporting elements 12, as explained in connection with the first form of the invention, and the forward swinging movement of the elements 12 place a torsional action upon the hoops 16, so that these hoops swing the supporting elements 12 toward the body.

When it is desired to remove the supporting elements 12 and hoops 16, as units, from the pocket 4, so that the garment may be laundered, the supporting elements 12 have their free ends removed from the pockets 29. This can be readily done because the body portion 1 is of course flexible and the hoops 16 are flexible. The hoops 16 may be passed through the slits 31, subsequent to which the supporting elements are removed through these slits. If desired, the supporting elements 12 may be passed through the slits 31 first. After the laundering, it is obvious that the hoops and supporting elements may be readily returned to their positions in the pocket 4.

In Figures 20 to 23 inclusive, I have shown a fifth modification of the brassiere. This brassiere comprises a body portion 1 including sides 2 folded to provide the bottom 3 and forming a pocket 4. The body portion includes a front portion 5. The same pockets 8 are employed, the same lines of stitching 9 and 10 and the same pads 13. The front portion 5, Figure 20, is vertically taller than the front portion 5, Figure 1. In other respects, the fifth form of the invention as shown in Figures 20 to 23 inclusive, up to the point described, is identical with the first form of the invention, Figures 1 and 2.

As more clearly shown in Figure 21, pairs of resilient hoops 32 and 33 are arranged beneath the supporting elements 12, which are the same supporting elements shown in Figure 2. The hoops 32 and 33 are identical with the hoops 16, Figure 2. The hoop 32 is arranged beneath the supporting element 12 and is in the same plane with the same, and contacts therewith. Each hoop 32 is connected with its supporting element 12 by a loop or coupling 34 corresponding to the coupling 17. The coupling 34 is rigid and is rigidly secured to the supporting element 12 and the resilient hoop 32. A rigid loop or coupling 35 receives the contacting portions of the superposed hoops 32 and 33, and is rigidly secured thereto. The loop or coupling 35 receives the

loops of the hoops 32 and 33. The superposed hoops 32 and 33 in each pair are arranged in the same plane, thereby providing a flat construction. The lower hoops 33 engage curved lines of stitching 36, connecting the sides 2. These lines of stitching serve to hold the lower hoops 33 in place.

Since the front portion 5 of the brassiere is relatively tall, the body portion of the brassiere may extend to the waistline. The pairs of hoops 32 and 33 are provided, for supporting the supporting elements 12, in the tall front 5, thus eliminating the necessity of using supporting hoops which would be so large in diameter that they would cross each other.

In the use of this form of the brassiere, the pairs of superposed hoops resiliently support the supporting elements 12 and pockets 8. The couplings 34 connect the supporting elements 12 with the upper hoops 32, so that lateral swinging movement of the supporting elements 12 impart a torsional action to the hoops 32, which in turn tend to hold the supporting elements 12 close to the body. When the upper hoops 32 are swung forwardly with respect to the lower hoops 33, a torsional action is imparted to the lower hoops 33, and the lower hoops therefore tend to hold the upper hoops 32 close to the body.

In Figures 24 to 26 inclusive, I have shown a sixth embodiment of my invention. In these figures, the numeral 1 designates a body portion of the brassiere, including sides 2 folded to produce a bottom 3 and a pocket 4. The numeral 5 designates the front portion of the brassiere. The same pockets 8 are employed, the same lines of stitching 9 and 10, the same supporting elements 12 and the same pads 13, as shown and described in connection with the first form of the invention. The front 5 is taller than the front 5 of Figure 1, like the front 5 in Figure 20. The garment shown in Figure 24 may have its lower edge or bottom 3 disposed at the waistline.

In the form of the invention shown in Figures 24 to 26 inclusive, the numeral 37 designates a resilient U-shaped supporting element, of zigzag formation, like the hoops 16. The U-shaped resilient element 37 has its opposite ends arranged beneath and contacting with the supporting elements 12, as shown. The numeral 38 designates rigid loops or couplings which are rigidly mounted upon the supporting elements 12 and the ends of the U-shaped supporting element 37. The loops or couplings 38 receive loops formed upon the ends of the U-shaped supporting element 37. The loops or couplings 38 may be welded to the supporting elements 12 and the ends of the resilient U-shaped element 37 or they may be clamped thereto.

The lower closed end of the resilient U-shaped supporting element bears against the bottom 3. The supporting element 37 resiliently supports the elements 12, and since the elements 12 are connected with the U-shaped supporting element 37 by the loops or couplings 38, when the supporting elements 12 are swung forwardly by the stooping action of the wearer, the elements 12 impart a torsional action to the U-shaped supporting element 37, and this U-shaped supporting element will accordingly hold the elements 12 close to the body. The U-shaped supporting element 37 is slidably mounted within the pocket 4, and when this element is vertically compressed, its lower portion can readily flatten, and its sides shift horizontally.

In Figures 27 to 29 inclusive, I have shown a seventh modification of the invention. In these figures, the numeral 1 designates a body portion, including sides 2, folded to provide a bottom 3 and a pocket 4. The body portion 1 is identical with the body portion 1 and front 5 of Figures 24 and 25. The same pockets 8 are employed, the same lines of stitching 9 and 10, the same supporting elements 12 and the same pads 13 as used in connection with the first form of the invention, Figures 1 and 2. The construction of the brassiere, up to this point,

is identical with that shown in connection with the first form of the invention, Figures 1 and 2. The brassiere shown in Figure 27 has its front 5 vertically taller than the front 5, Figure 1, and the brassiere shown in Figure 27 is adapted to have its edge or bottom 3 arranged at the waistline.

Arranged beneath the supporting elements 12 are vertical ribs 39, which may be formed of metal. These ribs are vertically stiff but may be flexed laterally or forwardly and are resilient so that they will return to the vertical position. The ribs 39 have their upper ends arranged beneath and in contact with the supporting elements 12. Rigid U-shaped loops or couplings 40 receive the lower portions of the supporting elements 12, and the upper ends of the ribs 39. The U-shaped loops or couplings 40 may be rigidly secured to the upper ends of the ribs 39 by rivets 41 or they may be welded thereto or otherwise rigidly secured to the same. The loops or couplings 40 may be rigidly secured to the supporting elements 12 by welding or the like or they may be clamped thereon. Arranged within the pocket 4 beneath the ribs 39 are hoops 42, of zigzag formation, which may be identical with the hoops 16. The hoops 42 are resilient. The ribs 39 have U-shaped loops or couplings 43 rigidly secured thereto by rivets 44 or the like but they may be secured to the ribs by welding or any other suitable means. The loops or couplings 43 receive the upper portions of the hoops 42, and may be rigidly secured thereto by welding or may be clamped to the same. The lower ends of the ribs 39 bear against the upper portions of the hoops, and the lower portions of the hoops bear against the bottom 3. The sides 2 may be connected by vertical lines of stitching 45, as shown.

In use, the hoops 42, yieldingly support the elements 12 and pockets 8. The hoops 42 are slidably mounted within the pocket 4, and when these hoops are vertically compressed, their sides shift horizontally. The ribs 39 may flex forwardly and when the supporting elements 12 are swung forwardly, they impart a torsional action to the upper ends of the ribs, which tend to hold the elements 12 close to the body. When the ribs 39 swing forwardly, they impart a torsional action to the upper portions of the hoops 42, and this torsional action tends to move the ribs 39 toward the bust. It is obvious that the resilient hoops 42 yieldingly support the elements 12 and pockets for individual adjustment.

In Figures 30 to 33 inclusive, I have shown an eighth embodiment, or modification, of my brassiere. In these figures, the numeral 1 designates a body portion having the front portion 5. The same pockets 8 are employed, the same lines of stitching 9 and 10 and the same pads 13. The construction of the brassiere thus far given is identical with the first form of the invention, Figures 1 and 2, except that the front portion 5 is taller in Figure 31 than the front portion 5 in Figures 1 and 2. The body portion 1 includes the same sides 2 folded to form the bottom 3 and pocket 4. This is the same construction shown in connection with the first form of the invention.

In this form of the invention, I do not use the identical supporting elements 12 but I use U-shaped or curved supporting elements 46 made from a section of wire 47, which has been flattened, Figure 33, and bent on edge to form the U-shaped supporting elements 46. Each U-shaped supporting element 46 includes sections which are continued at their inner ends to form rib sections 48, and these rib sections are formed or bent at their lower ends into a head or loop 49, having an upstanding U-shaped extension 50, arranged therein. The rib sections 48 form a rib which is vertically arranged. The line of stitching 10 is interrupted for the passage of the rib sections 48. The ribs formed by the rib sections and the supporting elements 46 are vertically stiff but are laterally resilient, in a forwardly direction. The supporting elements 46 are

held within the casings formed by the lines of stitching 10 and 9.

Arranged beneath the heads or loops 49 are resilient hoops 51, of zigzag formation, and are identical with the hoops 16. These hoops are arranged beneath and engage the heads 49. The numeral 52 designates rigid loops, receiving the lower ends of the heads 49 and loops 50 and also receiving the upper portions of hoops 51. The hoops 52 are rigidly secured to the heads 49 and the hoops 51 and may be welded to the same or clamped thereto. The hoops 51 are slidably mounted within the pocket 4 and their lower portions engage the edge or bottom 3.

The hoops 51 resiliently support the supporting elements 46 and pockets 8. The ribs formed by the rib sections 48 are laterally resilient in a forward direction, and the loops or couplings 52 connect the heads 49 with the hoops 51, so that when the ribs are swung forwardly, a torsional action is imparted to the upper portions of the hoops 51. This torsional action enables the hoops 51 to move the vertical ribs including rib sections 48 toward the body.

In Figures 34 to 37 inclusive, I have shown a ninth form of my brassiere. This embodiment comprises the body portion 1, including sides 2 folded to provide the bottom 3, forming a pocket 4. The body portion 1 includes the front 5. The same pockets 8 are used, the same lines of stitching 9 and 10, and the same supporting elements 12. The same pads 13 are used. The form of brassiere described up to this point is identical with the brassiere of Figure 1, except that the front is taller so that the bottom 3 may be arranged at the waistline. The brassiere in Figure 34 thus far described is identical with the brassiere shown in Figure 20.

Arranged within the pocket 4 are vertical ribs 53, which may be formed of metal. These ribs are normally flat and are vertically stiff but are laterally flexible or resilient in a forward direction. The ribs are held in place by vertical lines of stitching 54, forming casings which receive the ribs, and the upper ends of these casings are closed. The outer ribs 53 are arranged adjacent to the outer ends of the supporting elements 12 and the inner rib 53 is arranged between the inner ends of the supporting elements 12. The supporting elements 12 are not directly mounted upon the ribs 53 by couplings, but they are connected with the ends of the ribs by the casings and the adjacent portions of the front 5. These ribs support the elements 12 and the pockets 8.

Arranged within the pocket 4 and mounted upon the edge or bottom 3 are resilient hoops 55, of zigzag formation and these hoops engage and support the ribs 53. The ribs 53 have U-shaped loops or couplings 56 secured to their lower ends, by rivets 57, welding or the like. The loops or couplings 56 are stiff and are rigidly secured to the ribs 53, as stated, and these loops or couplings receive therein the upper portions of the hoops 55, and these loops or couplings may be rigidly secured to the hoops by welding or by being clamped against the same. The hoops 55 are held against displacement by lines of stitching 55', connecting the sides 2.

In view of the foregoing description, it will be seen that the resilient hoops 55 support the supporting elements 12 and pockets 8. By combining the hoops 55 with the ribs 53, the front 5 may be sufficiently vertically long so that its bottom will be near the waist line.

The inner rib 53 is stiffer than the outer ribs 53, with respect to lateral flexing, all ribs being resilient. This increased stiffness of the inner rib may be effected by making it slightly wider than the outer ribs 53, as shown, although this increased stiffness may be produced by making the inner rib thicker. The outer ribs 53 serve to support the elements 12 and the inner rib 53 also serves this purpose but the principal function of the inner rib 53,

with its increased stiffness, is to hold the front of the brassiere close to or against the body.

The units including the hoops 55 and ribs 53 are removable. For this purpose, I provide the inner side 2 with upstanding slits or slots 2a, for the passage of the hoops 55 and ribs 53. The supporting units may therefore be removed when it is desired to launder the garment, and may be readily returned in position after such laundering. The ribs 53 are held against displacement by the lines of stitching 54 and the hoops 55 are held against displacement by the lines of stitching 55'.

In connection with the form of the invention shown in Figures 34 to 37 inclusive, would state that I contemplate omitting the supporting elements 12 and may also omit the pads 13. The ribs 53 will then be connected with the ends of the pockets 8 near the tops of the pockets and will serve to support these pockets from their ends.

In Figures 38 to 40 inclusive, I have shown a tenth modification of the invention. In these figures, the numeral 1 designates the body portion of the brassiere, formed of a section of fabric including sides 2, folded upon itself to provide a bottom 3 and a pocket 4. The body portion 1 includes a front 5. The same pockets 8 are employed, with the same lines of stitching 9 and 10 and the same supporting elements 12 and pads 13. The construction of the brassiere up to this point is identical with the first form of the invention shown in Figure 1, except that the front 5 in Figure 38 is vertically longer than the front 5 in Figure 1, and the brassiere of Figure 38 is adapted to have its bottom 3 extending to the waistline.

Arranged within the pocket 4 are vertical ribs 58, which may be formed of metal, and which are vertically stiff but are laterally resilient or flexible in a forward direction. The upper ends of these ribs are removably mounted within casings or pockets 59 formed by vertical lines of stitching 60. These pockets are relatively short. The pockets will hold the upper ends of the ribs 58 in place, in use, but will permit of their ready removal from within the pockets. The outer ribs 58 are arranged near the outer ends of the supporting elements 12 and pockets 8 and the inner rib 58 is arranged between and near the inner ends of the supporting elements 12. When the ribs are held within the pockets 59, they are connected with the ends of the elements 12 and pockets 8 through the medium of the pockets 59 and adjacent portions of the front 5.

Arranged within the lower portion of the pocket 4 are resilient hoops 61, of zigzag formation, which are identical with the hoops 16, Figure 2. The hoops 61 are arranged beneath the ribs 58 to support them and are connected with the ribs by U-shaped loops or couplings 62, similar to the couplings 56, Figure 37. The couplings 62 are secured to the ribs 58 by rivets 63. The couplings 62 may be rigidly secured to the ribs 58 and to the hoops 61.

The outer ribs 58 have connection with horizontal straps 64 by couplings or loops 65. The inner ends of the straps 64 are connected with the inner rib 58 by a coupling or loop 66, as shown. The couplings 65 may be secured to the outer ribs by rivets or any other suitable means and the coupling 66 is secured to the inner rib 58 by rivets or other means. The straps 64 are formed of resilient wire and are of zigzag formation, like the hoops 16, Figure 2. The straps 64 are highly flexible laterally in a horizontal direction and are resilient and elastic and slightly longitudinally extensible. The straps 64 serve to hold the ribs 58, near their lower ends, against displacement.

The hoops 61 are arranged within the pocket 4 adjacent to the bottom 3 and engage curved lines of stitching 67, which removably holds the lower portions of the hoops against displacement.

The front side 2 of the brassiere is provided with upstanding slits 68, as shown.

In connection with the form of the invention shown in

Figures 38 to 40 inclusive, the ribs 58 support the elements 12 and pockets 8, and these ribs are resiliently supported by the hoops 61. The sides of the hoops are slidable within the pocket 4 and when the hoops are vertically compressed, their sides may move outwardly horizontally.

The supporting means including the ribs 58 and hoops 61 are removable from within the pocket 4, so that the garment may be laundered. When this is desired, the ribs 58 are removed from the pockets 59, and the hoops 61 and associated elements are passed through the slits 68. This is rendered possible because the elements 61 and 64 are highly flexible laterally and may be readily folded upon themselves. After the garment has been laundered, the ribs 58 may be again returned to place in the pocket 4.

In connection with the form of the invention shown in Figures 38 to 40 inclusive, I contemplate omitting the supporting elements 12 and pads 13.

In Figure 41, I have shown the eleventh different form of my invention. In this form, the body portion 1 includes sides 2, folded to produce the bottom 3, forming the pocket 4. The same lines of stitching 9 and 10 are employed and the same supporting elements 12 are present. The same pockets 8 are provided with the same pads 13. The construction of the brassiere thus far recited is identical with that shown in Figure 1 of the drawings, except that the front 5 is vertically longer so that the bottom 3 may extend to the waistline.

Arranged within the pocket 4 are vertical ribs 69 formed of metal. These ribs are vertically stiff and are laterally flexible and resilient in a forwardly direction. The upper ends of the ribs 69 are held within pockets formed by vertical lines of stitching 70 and 71, connecting the sides 2. The lines of stitching 70 and 71 extend down to a point near the lower ends of the ribs.

Arranged beneath the ribs 69, within the pocket 4, are hoops 72, which are resilient, of zigzag formation, and are identical with the hoops 16. The ribs 69 are connected with the hoops 72 by U-shaped loops or couplings 73, similar to the coupling 56, Figure 37. The lower portions of the hoops 72 bear against the bottom 3.

Extending between the outer ribs 69 and the inner rib 69 are pairs of diagonal or inclined straps 74, and the straps in each pair cross each other. The straps 74 are identical with the straps 64, Figure 39. The outer ends of the straps 74 carry hoops 75 which engage within loops or couplings 76, which are mounted upon the outer ribs 69. The couplings 76 may be held in place upon the outer ribs by rivets or the like. The lines of stitching 71 and 70, at the left and right respectively, may be interrupted to accommodate the upper couplings 76. The inner ends of the straps 74 have hoops 77, engaging within loops or couplings 78, mounted upon the inner rib 69 and held thereon by rivets or the like. The lines of stitching 70 and 71 adjacent to the inner rib are interrupted to accommodate the upper coupling 78 and the adjacent ends of the straps 74.

In connection with this form of the invention, the vertical ribs 69 support the ends of the supporting elements 12 and pockets 8, and these ribs are resiliently supported by the hoops 72. The straps 74 are highly flexible laterally in a forwardly direction, and these straps, being only slightly longitudinally elastic, serve to hold the ribs 69 in place.

In connection with the form of my invention shown in Figures 41 to 43 inclusive, it should be stated that I contemplate omitting the supporting elements 12 and the pads 13.

In Figures 44 to 48 inclusive, I have shown a twelfth form of the invention. The garment shown in these figures embodies a body encircling portion 1, which is longitudinally elastic. The body encircling portion includes sides 2, folded upon themselves to provide a bottom 3, affording a pocket 4. The body encircling portion includes a forward portion 5 which projects

above bands 6, Figure 44. The form of the invention thus far described is identical with the first form of the invention, shown in Figures 1 and 2. The bottom 3, Figure 45, may extend to the waist line or be spaced therefrom, as desired.

The front portion 5 is provided in its top with openings 79, to receive the bust, and forwardly bulging bust receiving pockets 80 are arranged upon the outer face of the forward portion 5, and are secured thereto by lines of stitching 81. The stitching 81 may be zigzag, so that it will yield, since the body encircling portion 1 is horizontally elastic. The upper edges of the sides 2 are secured together by a zigzag line of stitching 82 forming a curved casing 83. The upper edges of the front portion 5 may be circularly curved and may be concentric with the edges of the pockets 80.

Arranged within the pocket 4 are resilient hoops 84, which are flat and are of zigzag formation and are identical with the hoops 16, Figures 1 and 2. The hoops 84 are arranged beneath the pockets 80 and have their centers in vertical alignment with the centers of the pockets 80. The hoops 84 engage the closed bottom 3 and bear against the same, and I may provide lines of stitching 85 to hold the hoops 84 in place.

The numeral 86 designates resilient loops, which are flat, and are formed of wire bent into a zigzag formation, like the hoops 16 and 84. The loops 86 have their upper ends closed and circularly curved and held within the casing 83, and I may also provide lines of stitching 87, like the lines of stitching 85, and the lines of stitching 87 and 85 connect the sides 2. The lines of stitching serve to further retain the upper portions of the loops 86 in place. The lines of stitching 87 may be omitted, if desired.

The lower ends of the loops 86 are open, as shown. The ends of the sides of each loop 86 are arranged to contact with the periphery of the hoop 84, upon opposite sides of the center of the hoop, and spaced from such center. The sides of the loop 86 are arranged in the same plane with the hoop 84. The ends of the sides of each loop 86 are attached to the hoop 84 by stiff couplings 88, which may be formed of metal. The couplings 88 may be attached to the ends of the loop 86 and hoop 84 by welding, soldering or the like, or may be clamped to the same. The couplings 88 form a stiff connection between the ends of the loop 86 and hoop 84.

When the garment is applied to the wearer, the elastic body encircling portion 1 is under tension, to a certain extent. The pockets 80 support the bust, and these pockets are resiliently supported by the loops 86 and hoops 84. When the pockets 80 move downwardly, by the wearer stooping or the like, the loops 86 and hoops 84 vertically yield to permit of such downward movement and being resilient return the pockets to the raised position when the pressure is removed from the pockets. The hoops 84 are vertically resilient and may be readily vertically compressed since their side portions are free to move outwardly for such side portions are slidable within the pocket 4. The lower portions of the loops 86 may also move outwardly and horizontally, when the loops are vertically compressed, since the lower portions of the loops are slidable within the pockets. The couplings 88 form stiff connections between the lower ends of the loops 86 and the hoops 84, and when the loops 86 are flexed forwardly or laterally, such movement is opposed by the torsional action which the loops apply to the hoops 84 through the medium of the stiff couplings 88.

In connection with all forms of the invention, I wish to state that, under some circumstances, I contemplate omitting the pads 13.

It is to be understood that the forms of my invention herewith shown and described are to be taken as preferred examples of the same, and that various changes

in the shape, size and arrangement of parts may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention or the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A garment comprising a flexible body encircling 5 portion including front and rear sides forming a main pocket having a closed bottom, bust receiving pockets carried by the upper portion of the body encircling portion, lines of stitching connecting said sides near the bust receiving pockets and forming small holding pockets, 10 inclined lines of stitching connecting said sides near the closed bottom, one of said sides having openings formed therein outwardly of the bust receiving pockets, upstanding ribs having their upper ends removably mounted within the holding pockets, resilient hoops of 15 zigzag formation mounted within the main pocket and held in place by the inclined lines of stitching, the side portions of the hoops being horizontally movable with relation to the inclined lines of stitching above the same, and means mounting the ribs upon the tops of the hoops. 20

2. A garment comprising a body encircling portion, bust receiving pockets extending to the body encircling portion and permanently secured thereto, upstanding ribs mounted upon the body encircling portion and having their upper ends terminating substantially at the top of 25 the body encircling portion, said upstanding ribs serving to support said pockets, resilient hoops mounted upon the body encircling portion and having their side portions free to move horizontally when the hoops are vertically compressed, the hoops being mounted adjacent to the 30 bottom of the body encircling portion and adjacent to the lower ends of said ribs, and means to mount the lower ends of the ribs upon the top portions of said hoops.

3. A garment comprising a body encircling portion, bust receiving pockets contacting with the top portion 35 of the body encircling portion, relatively vertically stiff supporting elements secured to the pockets and extending along their bottoms, upstanding ribs mounted upon the body encircling portion and having their upper ends terminating substantially with the top of the body encircling 40 portion, means to mount the vertically stiff supporting elements upon the ribs, resilient hoops mounted upon the body encircling portion near its bottom and having its side portions free to move horizontally when the resilient hoops are vertically compressed, and means to mount the 45 lower portions of said ribs upon the upper portions of said hoops.

4. A garment comprising a body encircling portion, bust receiving pockets contacting with the top portion 50 of the body encircling portion, relatively vertically stiff supporting elements secured to the pockets and extending along their bottoms, upstanding ribs mounted upon the body encircling portion and having their upper ends terminating substantially with the top of the body encircling 55 portion, means to mount the vertically stiff supporting elements upon the ribs, resilient hoops mounted upon the body encircling portion near its bottom and having its side portions free to move horizontally when the resilient hoops are vertically compressed, means to mount the 60 lower portions of said ribs upon the upper portions of said hoops, and generally horizontal straps connecting the upstanding ribs.

5. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket provided with opening means, bust receiving pockets contacting with the top portions 65 of the body encircling portion and permanently secured to the body encircling portion, supporting elements extending about the bottoms of the bust receiving pockets for normally supporting them, means for removably holding the supporting elements in place within the main pocket, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket and extending beneath the supporting elements, said resilient hoops including side portions which are slidably 70 mounted within the main pockets so that said side portions are free to move generally horizontally with respect

to the main pocket when said hoops are vertically compressed, means to permanently secure the hoops to the supporting elements, each hoop and the companion supporting element being removable as a unit through said opening means.

6. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket provided with opening means, bust receiving pockets contacting with the body encircling portion and permanently secured to the body encircling 75 portion, supporting elements arranged within the main pocket and extending about the bottoms of the bust receiving pockets for normally supporting them, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket and extending beneath the supporting elements, said resilient hoops having tops and side portions, said side portions being slidably mounted within the main pocket so that said side portions are free to move generally horizontally with respect to the main pocket when said hoops are vertically compressed, upstanding ribs mounted upon the 80 tops of the hoops, means for removably holding the upper ends of the ribs in place within the main pocket close to the supporting elements, the hoops and ribs being removable through the opening means.

7. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket provided with opening means, bust receiving pockets connected with the top portion 85 of the body encircling portion and permanently secured to the body encircling portion, supporting elements extending about the bottoms of the bust receiving pockets for normally supporting them, means for removably holding the supporting elements in place within the main pocket, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket and extending beneath the supporting elements, said resilient hoops including side portions which are slidably 90 mounted within the main pocket so that said side portions are free to move generally horizontally with respect to the main pocket when said hoops are vertically compressed, means to mount the supporting elements upon said hoops, the hoops and supporting elements being removable through said opening means.

8. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket, bust receiving pockets contacting with the body encircling portion and permanently secured thereto, resilient hoops mounted entirely in the 95 main pocket and removably mounted within the main pocket and having closed tops and side portions which move horizontally outwardly when the hoops are vertically compressed, and upstanding ribs mounted upon the upper closed tops of the hoops and bodily mounted 100 within the main pocket and terminating at substantially the top of the main pocket, said ribs being arranged exteriorly of the bust receiving pockets and detachably connected with the bust receiving pockets.

9. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket, bust receiving pockets permanently attached to the body encircling portion and contacting therewith, resilient hoops removably mounted 105 within the main pocket and terminating within the main pocket, said hoops having closed tops, and means mounted within the main pocket and disposed exteriorly of the bust receiving pockets and mounted upon the closed tops of the resilient hoops, said means and hoops being removable from the main pocket.

10. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket, bust receiving pockets contacting with and permanently secured to the body encircling portion, means forming rib receiving pockets 110 upon the body encircling portion and arranged near and exteriorly of the bust receiving pockets, upstanding ribs bodily mounted within the main pocket and having their upper ends extending into the rib receiving pockets, resilient hoops having closed tops mounted within the main pocket of the body encircling portion and having their side portions free to move horizontally outwardly 115 when such hoops are vertically compressed, and means

to mount the lower portions of the ribs upon the closed tops of the hoops.

11. A garment comprising a body encircling portion having a main pocket, bust receiving pockets secured to and contacting with the body encircling portion, upstanding ribs mounted within the main pocket and not extending above the body encircling portion and arranged exteriorly of the bust receiving pockets and serving to support said bust receiving pockets, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket of the body encircling portion and having side portions which are free to move horizontally outwardly when the hoops are vertically compressed, said hoops having closed tops, means to mount the upstanding ribs upon the closed tops of the hoops, and pairs of diagonal straps connecting the ribs and crossing each other.

12. A garment comprising a body encircling portion having a main pocket, bust receiving pockets contacting with and secured to the body encircling portion, upstanding ribs mounted within the main pocket and extending to and terminating substantially at the top of the main pocket, said upstanding ribs including outer ribs disposed near the outer edges of the bust receiving pockets and an inner rib disposed between the inner edges of the bust receiving pockets, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket adjacent to the bottom of the main pocket and corresponding in number and arrangement to the upstanding ribs and being arranged beneath the upstanding ribs, the resilient hoops having closed tops and side portions which move outwardly horizontally when the hoops are vertically compressed, and means to mount the lower ends of the ribs upon the closed tops of the hoops.

13. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket, bust receiving pockets contacting with the body encircling portion and permanently secured thereto, resilient hoops mounted within the main pocket adjacent to its bottom and having closed tops and sides which move horizontally outwardly when the hoops are vertically compressed, there being two outer hoops

and an intermediate hoop, upstanding ribs arranged within the main pocket above the hoops and disposed exteriorly of the bust receiving pockets and terminating adjacent to the top of the main pocket and serving to support the bust receiving pockets adjacent to the outer ends of their edges, means to mount the outer ribs upon the closed tops of the outer hoops, an intermediate upstanding rib arrangement within the main pocket and disposed between the inner ends of the edges of the bust receiving pockets and serving to support such inner ends, and means to mount the intermediate rib upon the closed top of the intermediate hoop.

14. A garment comprising a body encircling portion including a main pocket, bust receiving pockets contacting with and secured to the body encircling portion, supporting elements for the bust receiving pockets extending about the bottoms of the bust receiving pockets, a plurality of resilient hoops arranged within the bottom of the main pocket beneath the supporting elements and having closed tops and side portions which move outwardly in a generally horizontal direction when the hoops are vertically compressed, elements connected with the supporting elements for supporting the same, and means for mounting the last-named elements upon the closed tops of the hoops.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

1,020,213	Martell et al.	Mar. 12, 1912
2,239,056	Schiffer	Apr. 22, 1941
2,563,241	Herbener	Aug. 7, 1951
2,644,946	Menz et al.	July 14, 1953
2,671,218	Luhr	Mar. 9, 1954
2,721,324	Graf	Oct. 25, 1955
2,740,122	Graf	Apr. 3, 1956
2,759,190	Herbener	Aug. 21, 1956
2,774,073	Herbener	Dec. 18, 1956
2,787,790	Kahn	Aug. 9, 1957