

Aug. 25, 1936.

C. BROWN

2,052,163

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Filed Sept. 19, 1935

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

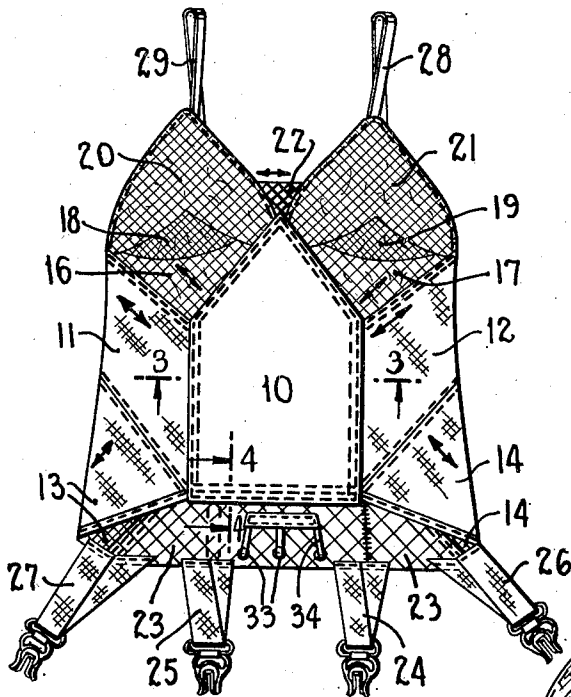


Fig. 4.

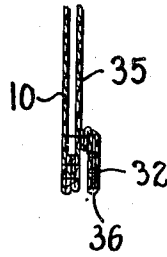


Fig. 2.

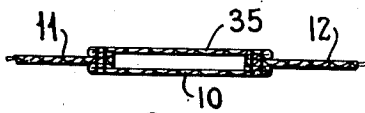
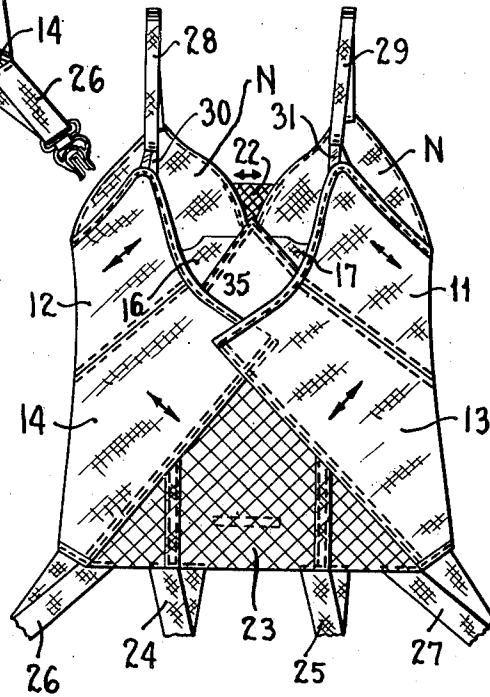


Fig. 3.

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

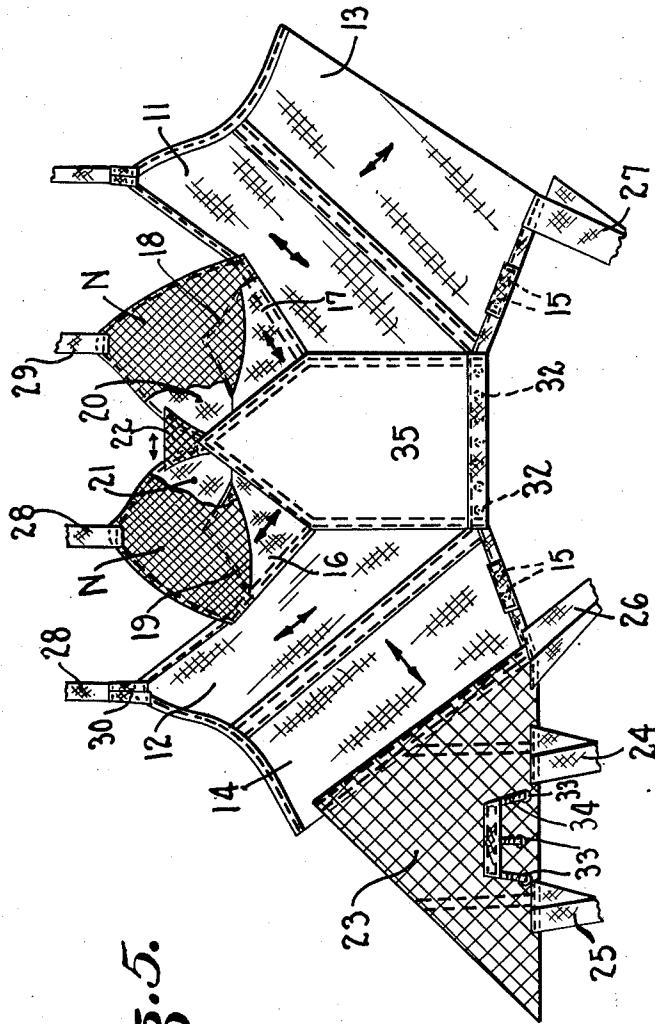


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,052,163

FOUNDATION GARMENT

Caroline Brown, New York, N. Y.

Application September 19, 1935, Serial No. 41,218

4 Claims. (Cl. 2-37)

This invention relates to foundation garments and has as an object the provision of an improved construction which will work in harmony with the muscle and ligament structure of the body by gentle persuasive power in order to correct the posture of the body and tend to straighten the figure of the person.

Another object of this invention is to provide a foundation to aid and support the muscle structure of the body in its movements and particularly to lift and support the busts during motion.

A further object is to prevent binding through the groin and retard and constrict the thighs of a person during activity.

This invention is combined corset and brassiere, constructed so as to remedy a great many faults contained in the usual types of foundation garments.

In the other types of foundation garments the forces are usually circumferentially of the garment, in other words, there is no longitudinal force to tend to contract and straighten the body to its natural position. Instead of aiding the muscles in their work the ordinary corset retards the muscles by stress opposite the muscle action and exerts pressure against such muscles when there should be supporting aid to these muscles.

The gist of this invention is in the combination of non-stretchable and elastic materials cut and pieced together in a manner so as to follow the muscle structure of the body in order to exert gentle persuasive pressure upon the active muscles by elastic members and lifting and supporting aid upon such parts of the body that require such help by non-elastic materials of different qualities.

This combination of stretchable and non-stretchable materials will tend to correct the position of the body because the force of the materials acts as a couple and in opposite directions, not on the same point, thereby tending to produce rotation and thus aiding the muscles needed to be helped. The natural tendency will be to straighten the spine, inflate the chest and force the shoulders into place.

By constructing the garment in my manner, perfect freedom of movement is insured with sufficient stretchability and elasticity so that the garment will remain adjusted upon the wearer in its normal and proper position.

These and other advantages, capabilities and features of the invention will appear from the subjoined detailed description and more particularly pointed out in the claims appended thereto.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate a practical embodiment of my invention.

Figure 1 is a front view of the foundation garment.

Figure 2 is a rear view of same.

Figure 3 is a section of Figure 1 taken through lines 3-3.

Figure 4 is a section of Figure 1 taken through lines 4-4.

Figure 5 is a developed back view of the garment.

Referring to the reference characters in the drawings, numeral 10 of Figure 1 is an anterior member of non-stretchable material of a shape as shown in the drawings and covering the central front part of the person. This member is lined with material 35 as shown in Figure 3, thus giving a stronger construction to the main central member 10. Joined to the sides of member 10 by stitches, are members 11 and 12, made of an elastic material, known by the trade-name "lastex", and stretchable in the direction as indicated by the heavy arrows. The diagonal edges of stretchable members 11 and 12 are seamed to non-stretchable member 10 at approximately a 45° angle and extend around to the rear of the garment.

This angle will vary with the length of the waist of the person. To each of the longer lower sides of members 11 and 12 are seamed elastic members 13 and 14, stretchable in the direction as indicated by the heavy arrows extending around to the rear of the garment and are joined together at the overlapping corners as by stitching. These diagonal hip elastic members 13 and 14 cover the gluteus medius muscles and stretch in the same direction as these muscles, aiding such muscles in their work. Members 11, 12, 13 and 14 which extend to the rear of the garment are finished with elastic piping by means of stitching and the bottom edges of members 13 and 14 are finished with elastic piping while two edges are turned in and have attached thereto the female part of snap fasteners, as shown by number 15 of Figure 5. It should be noted that members 13 and 14 pull at right angles to the forces of elastic members 11 and 12, respectively, thus causing these members to cooperate with one another. Instead of elastic piping at the edge of members 11, 12, 13 and 14, elastic facing may be substituted.

To each of the oblique sides of non-elastic member 10 and to the upper angular sides of members 11 and 12 are seamed members 16 and 17, which are substantially triangular in shape

and are stretchable in the direction as indicated by the heavy arrows. These members 16 and 17 aid and support the lower fibers of the pectoralis muscles, emanating from the sternum and are stretchable in the same direction as these muscles.

To the oblique sides of members 16 and 17 and along practically the full length of these sides are attached by arcuate seams non-elastic members 18 and 19, substantially triangular in shape. These latter members act as supports for the breasts and together with non-elastic members 20 and 21 act as breast pockets. The members 20 and 21 are also substantially triangular in shape having their lower corners joined as by seaming to the oblique part of the apex of member 10. It should be noticed that the elastic members 16 and 17 are attached to each of the lower sides of the non-elastic members 20 and 21, respectively, thus giving greater comfort and support to the breasts. The inside of the breast pockets composed of non-elastic members 18, 19, 20 and 21 are lined with fine net material as indicated in Figure 5, which shows members 20 and 21 broken away. This net lining N gives greater comfort to the breasts acting as an air cushion between the outer material and the skin of the person.

At the apex of non-elastic member 10 and between members 20 and 21 is attached member 22, stretchable as indicated by the heavy arrow. This member 22 is not essential to the garment, but is an aid in holding the breast pockets together, giving firmer support to the breasts should such aid be necessary.

To the lower long sides of members 13 and 14 is attached, as by seaming, triangular shaped elastic member 23 stretchable both horizontally and vertically. This triangular member 23 presses yieldingly and persuasively against the gluteus maxims muscles thus tending to hold the seat of the wearer from protruding and at the same time having sufficient elasticity to allow for the expansion of the garment that would naturally follow when the wearer takes a sitting position.

Elastic garters members 24 and 25 are attached, as by sewing to the lower edge of triangular member 23 and when secured to the stockings at the rear of the leg act as means of anchoring the garment so that it will not move upward upon the body. Elastic garters 26 and 27 are attached at the junction point between the angles of triangular member 23 and the lower portion of stretchable members 13 and 14. These elastic garters are attached to the hose at the front part of the leg, following the lines of the muscle structure of the leg, and act as an anchorage for the sides of the garment.

At the upper angular portion of members 20 and 21, shoulder straps 28 and 29 are attached as by stitching, long enough to cover the shoulders. The portion of the shoulder straps falling over the back is joined to elastic members 30 and 31, which latter members attach to the upper part of members 11 and 12, thus giving an additional amount of play to the shoulder straps in the event of greater movement of the shoulders.

At the base of non-elastic anterior member 10 are placed, along an inside tape, 36, (as shown in Figure 4) a series of female snap-fasteners 32, as shown on Figure 5 and in the section Figure 4. Female snap-fasteners 32 of member 10 are for the reception of male snap-fasteners attached to a soft fabric, known technically as a "fig-leaf

portion", which will convert the garment into a combination step-in and corset arrangement. The rear portion of said "fig-leaf portion" contains a series of buttonholes for the reception of buttons 33 as shown in Figures 1 and 5. Each of these buttons is attached to narrow elastic bands 34, which are attached and terminate near the base of triangular member 23. The attachment of this cut "fig-leaf" fabric member to the elastic strips 34 will give this "fig-leaf" member sufficient play, thus preventing binding in the groin when the wearer takes a sitting position.

When the weight of the body is rested on one leg, an imaginary axial line drawn through the body becomes a curved line and imaginary lines drawn through the shoulders and across the pelvis will be in substantially at right angles to the curved axial line, bringing the hip point higher on the side which supports the figure and closer to the shoulder point on the same side.

Similarly, when the weight of the body is shifted to the other leg, the trunk contracts on the side which carries the weight and expands on the opposite side, thus bringing the shoulder and hip closer together on the side carrying the weight.

Thus, it will be seen that there is a great deal of expansion and contraction to the sides of the body when the weight of the body is shifted from the one leg to the other.

My invention comprises elastic means to support the muscle structure during the flexing and contracting of the muscles of the body at the same time applying an elastic force upon such muscles and the skeleton of the body which tends to correct the balance of the body. This force acts as a couple so that the forces applied act in the same direction as the muscles of the body without applying binding circumferential compression at any point to the body.

Upon raising of one shoulder the force is diagonally applied across the front of the garment, through non-elastic member 10 and across the back of the garment, diagonally across the elastic members so that a gentle uplifting force will act upon the oblique abdominal externus muscles and upon the aponeurosis of the external oblique muscle, thus drawing in the abdomen by a gentle uplifting pressure so that the body assumes a correct and natural position.

In the drawings the warp and woof threads of the cloth and elastic members are designated by intersecting lines which appear as squares to show the proper manner of joining the members in order to give the strongest type of construction to the garment.

It is obvious that various changes and modifications may be made to the details of the invention without departing from the general spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended 60 claims.

I claim:

1. A foundation garment of the character described, consisting of an inelastic front member covering the front central portion of the body, two elastic side and hip members, said side members being stretchable only in a direction upwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, said hip members being stretchable only in a direction downwardly divergent from said inelastic front member.

2. A foundation garment of the character described, consisting of an inelastic front member covering the front central portion of the body, two elastic side and hip members, said side mem-

bers being stretchable only in a direction upwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, said hip members being stretchable only in a direction downwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, a rear member triangular in shape and stretchable in two directions.

3. A foundation garment of the character described, consisting of an inelastic front member covering the front central portion of the body, two elastic side and hip members, said side members being stretchable only in a direction upwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, said hip members being stretchable only in a direction downwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, a rear member triangular in shape and stretchable in two directions, two

triangular portions below the busts and stretchable in the same direction as the side members.

4. A foundation garment of the character described, consisting of an inelastic front member covering the front central portion of the body, two elastic side and hip members, said side members being stretchable only in a direction upwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, said hip members being stretchable only in a direction downwardly divergent from said inelastic front member, a rear member triangular in shape and stretchable in two directions, a pair of shoulder straps and garters attached to the lower portion, exerting a force diagonally across the garment.

CAROLINE BROWN.