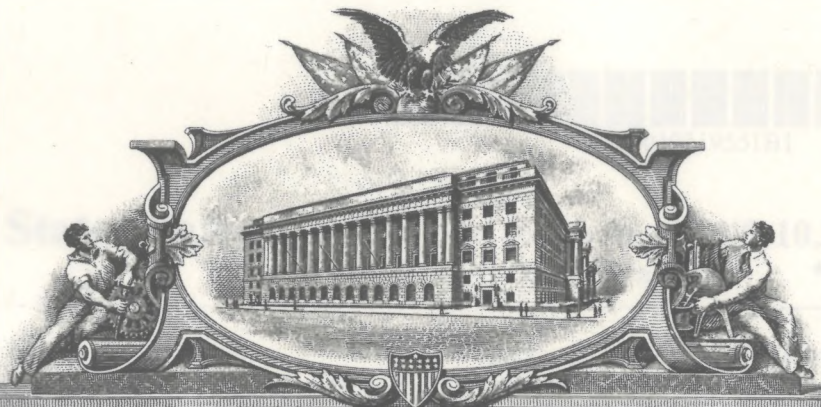


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PATENT NUMBER: 10,219,551

ISSUE DATE: March 5, 2019

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Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
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Sylvia Holley
Certifying Officer

NIKE-1015

p. 1



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**(12) United States Patent
Goff****(10) Patent No.: US 10,219,551 B1****(45) Date of Patent: *Mar. 5, 2019****(54) BRA POCKET SYSTEM**

USPC 450/89, 86, 54-57, 36

See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicant: Sharon Goff, Hilton Head, SC (US)**(72) Inventor: Sharon Goff, Hilton Head, SC (US)****(73) Assignee: Sherrywear LLC, Hilton Head Island, SC (US)****(*) Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

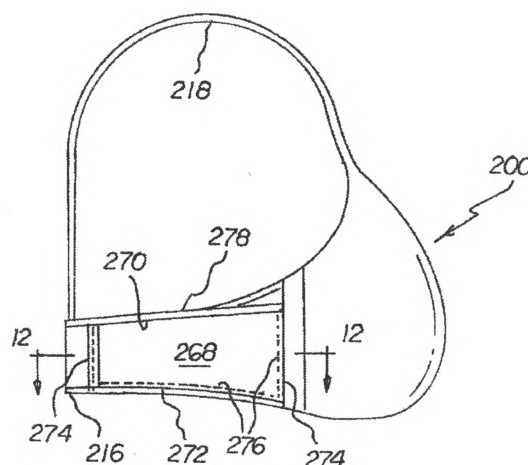
(21) Appl. No.: 15/835,851**(22) Filed: Dec. 8, 2017****Related U.S. Application Data****(63)** Continuation of application No. 15/647,784, filed on Jul. 12, 2017, which is a continuation of application No. 15/045,592, filed on Feb. 17, 2016, now Pat. No. 9,723,878, which is a continuation of application No. 14/614,873, filed on Feb. 5, 2015, now Pat. No. 9,289,016, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 14/082,777, filed on Nov. 18, 2013, now Pat. No. 9,295,288, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 13/066,822, filed on Apr. 26, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,597,072.**(60)** Provisional application No. 61/976,379, filed on Apr. 7, 2014.**(51) Int. Cl.**
A41C 3/00 (2006.01)
A41C 3/12 (2006.01)**(52) U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A41C 3/0035** (2013.01); **A41C 3/122** (2013.01)**(58) Field of Classification Search**
CPC A41C 3/00; A41C 3/0028; A41C 3/0035; A41C 3/10; A41C 3/12148**(56)****References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner — Gloria Hale**(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm** — Lambert Shortell & Connaughton; Gary E. Lambert; David J. Connaughton, Jr.**(57)****ABSTRACT**

A strap assembly includes a chest strap and shoulder straps. Similarly configured left and right cups are provided. The strap assembly is attached to the cups whereby the strap assembly adheres the cups to a wearer. Each cup has curved upper, lower, interior and exterior edges. Each cup has inside and outside surfaces. A patch is operatively associated with each cup. Each patch has a linear upper edge and curved lower, interior and exterior edges. Each patch has inside and outside surfaces. Stitching couples the lower, interior and exterior edges of each patch to the lower, interior and exterior edges of an associated cup. A linear opening is formed along the upper edge of each patch. Piping covers the upper edge of each patch. The piping is adapted to allow the patch to move away from and back toward the cup between open and closed orientations.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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FIG. 1

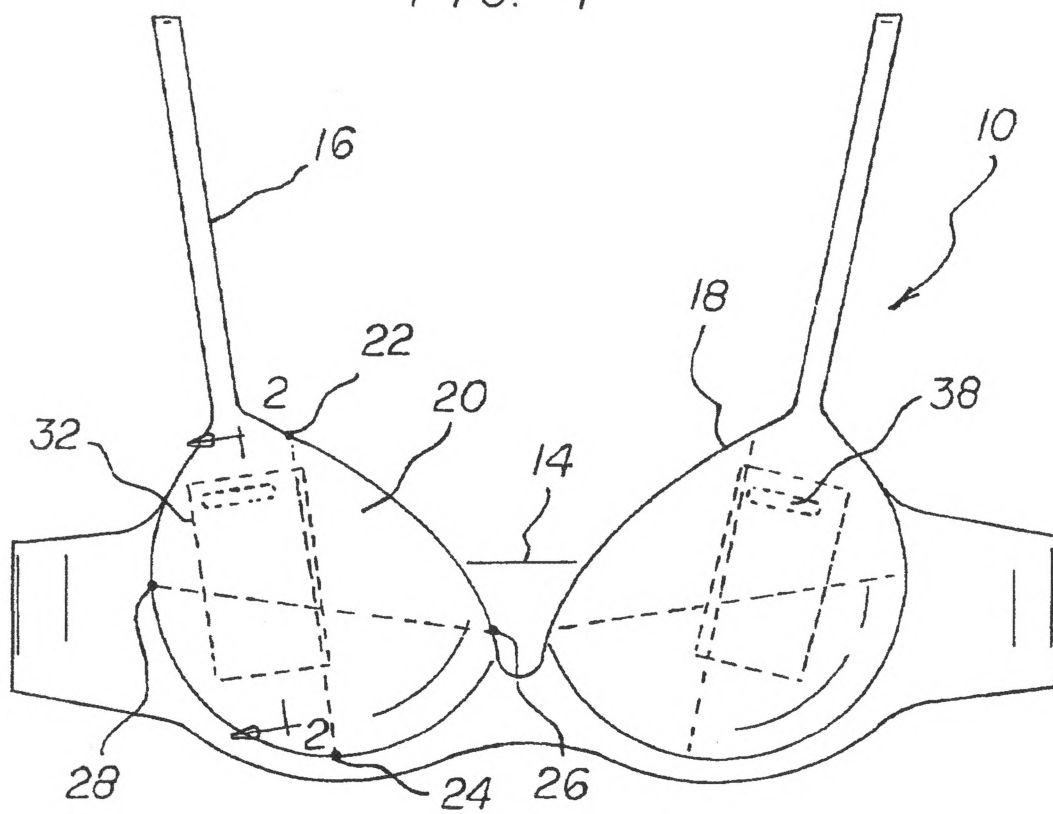


FIG. 2

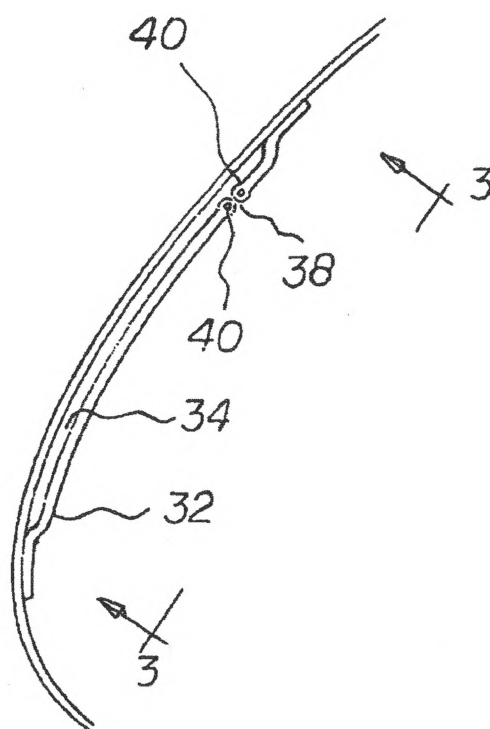
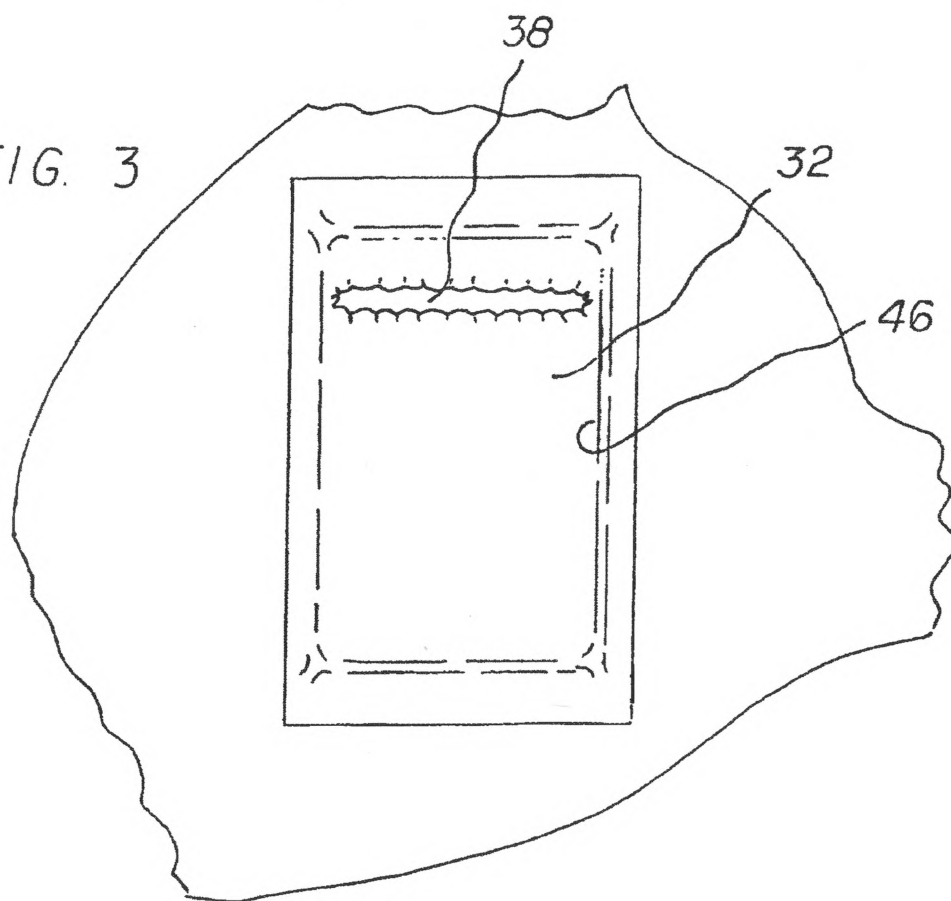


FIG. 3



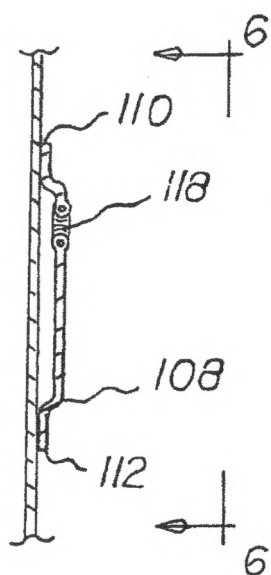
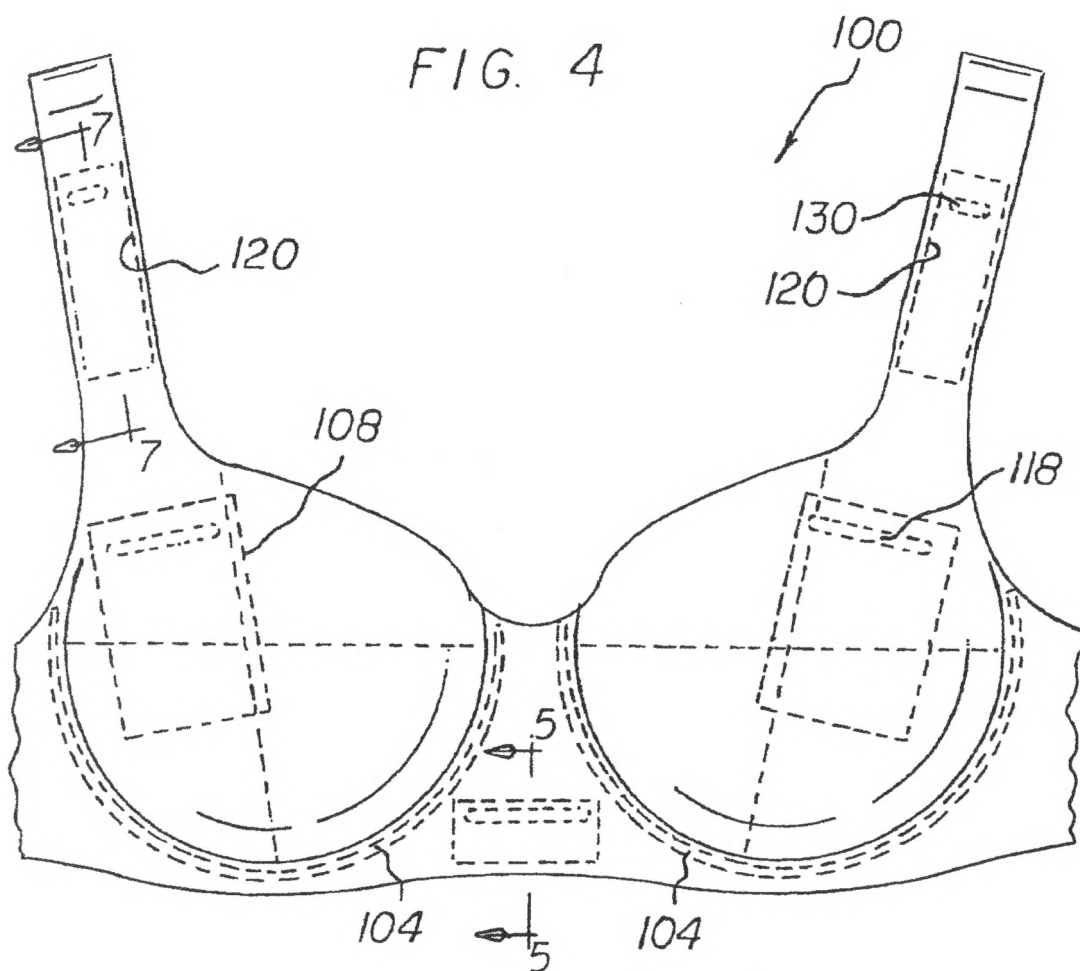


FIG. 5

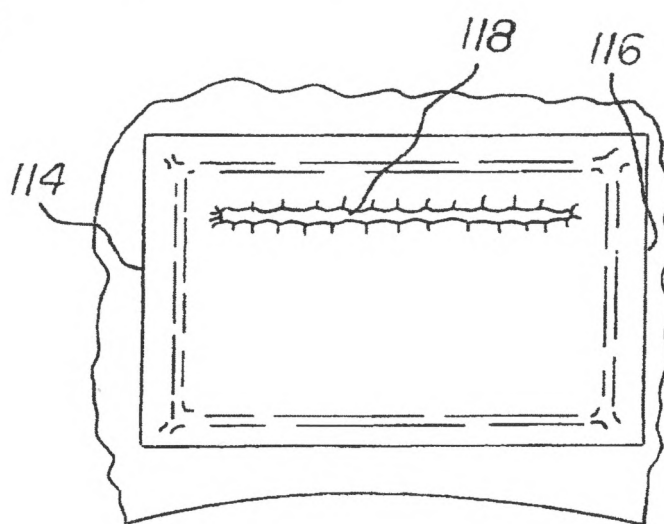


FIG. 6

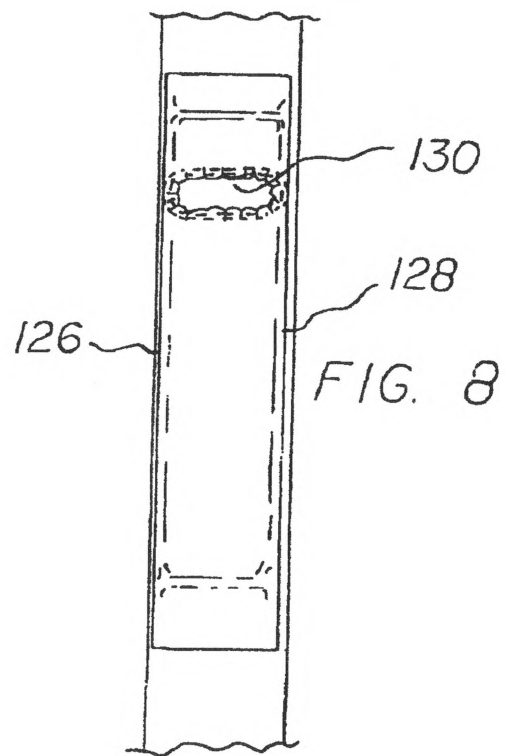
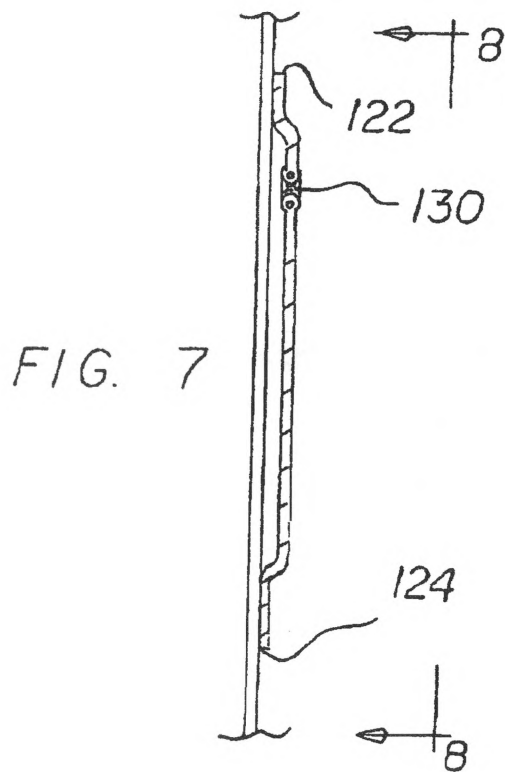


FIG. 9

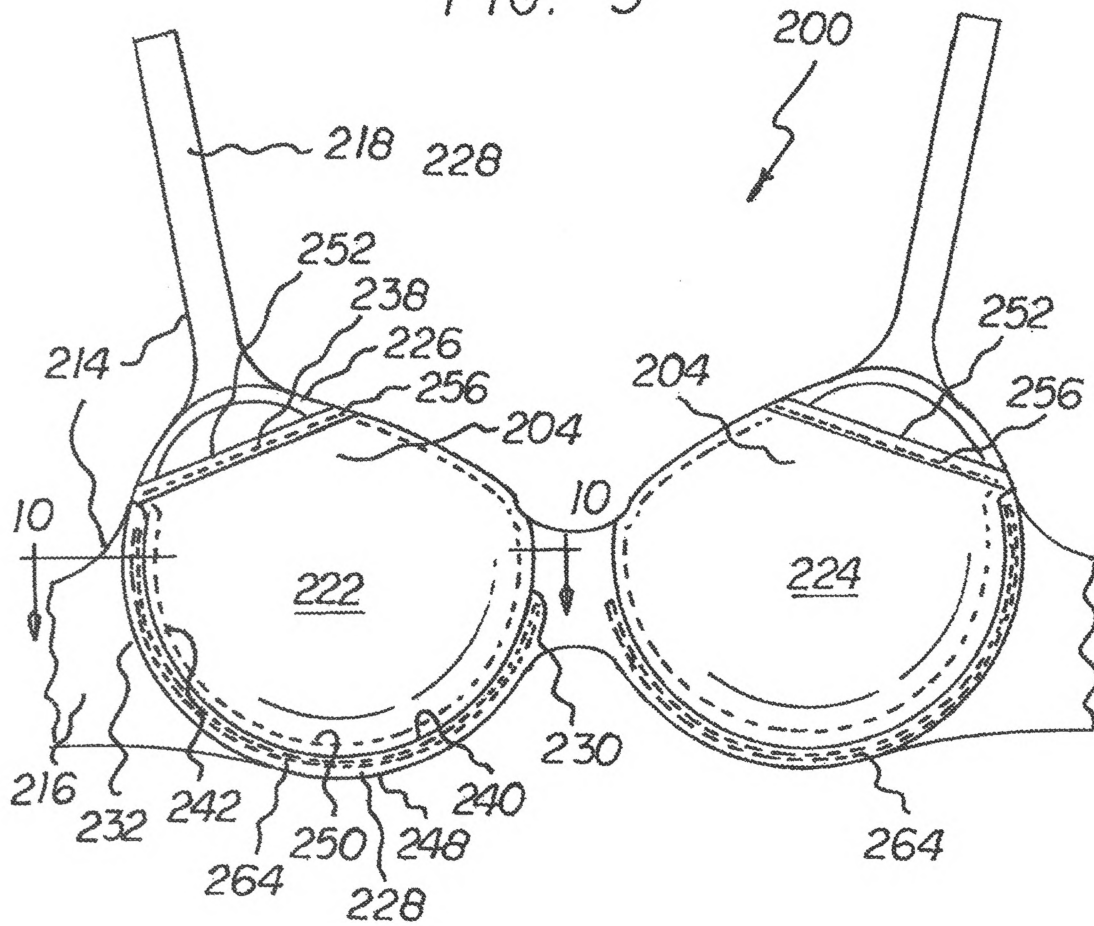
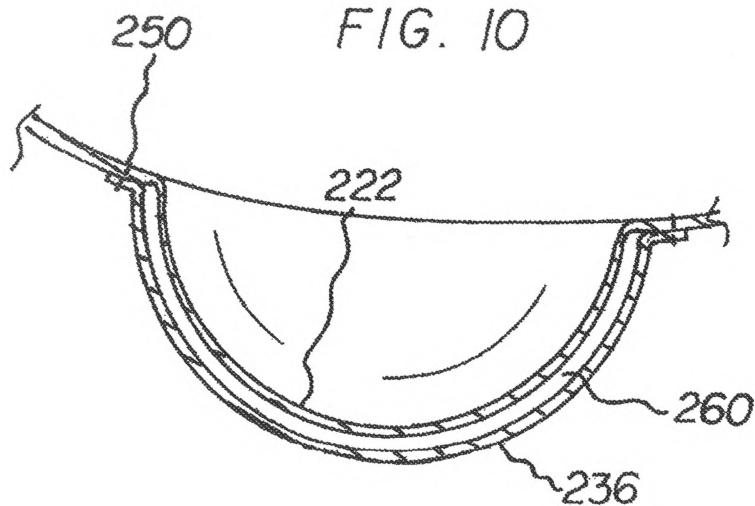


FIG. 10



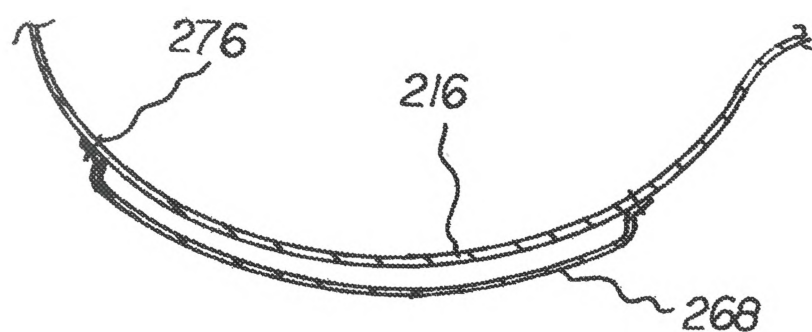
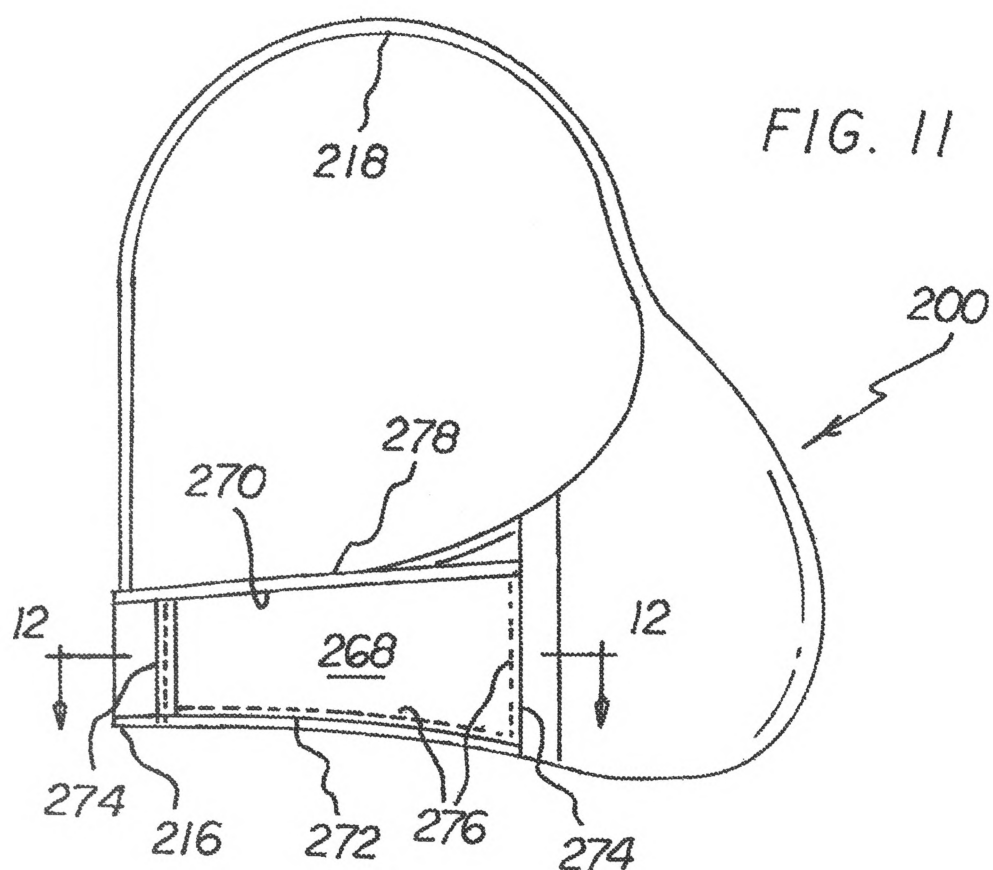


FIG. 12

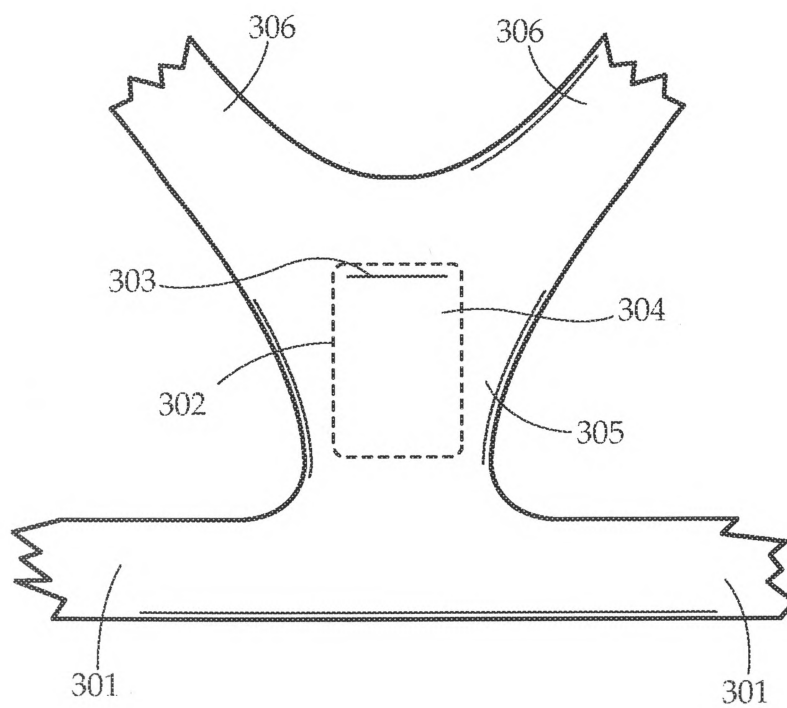


Fig. 13

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BRA POCKET SYSTEM**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a pocket bra system and more particularly pertains to removably receiving a handheld electronic device while providing support and shape to the breasts of a wearer, the receiving and supporting and shaping being done in a safe, convenient and economical manner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the disadvantages inherent in the known types of bra systems of known designs and configurations now present in the prior art, the present invention provides an improved pocket bra system. As such, the general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new and improved pocket bra system and method which has all the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

To attain this, the present invention essentially comprises a pocket bra system. First provided is a strap assembly which includes a chest strap and shoulder straps. Similarly configured left and right cups are provided. The strap assembly is attached to the cups whereby the strap assembly adheres the cups to a wearer. Each cup has curved upper, lower, interior and exterior edges. Each cup has inside and outside surfaces. A patch is operatively associated with each cup. Each patch has a linear upper edge and curved lower, interior and exterior edges. Each patch has inside and outside surfaces. Stitching couples the lower, interior and exterior edges of each patch to the lower, interior and exterior edges of an associated cup. A linear opening is formed along the upper edge of each patch. Piping covers the upper edge of each patch. The piping is adapted to allow the patch to move away from and back toward the cup between open and closed orientations.

In other embodiments, any of the pockets disclosed herein may have a closure structure, such as a hook and loop connector, zipper, a snap closure, button, magnet, and the like.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims attached.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of descriptions and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the

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claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved pocket bra system which has all of the advantages of the prior art bra systems of known designs and configurations and none of the disadvantages.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved pocket bra system which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved pocket bra system which is of durable and reliable constructions.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved pocket bra system which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such pocket bra system economically available to the buying public. It should be understood that the present invention may be formed of any material capable of being used as a bra. These materials may include any sort of flexible fabric, whether elastic or not, plastics, films, and the like. In some embodiments, certain materials may be stitched or layered into the materials to provide different functionality such as an underwire, radio-frequency shielding materials, elastic materials, and the like.

Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a pocket bra system for removably receiving a handheld electronic device while providing support and shape to the breasts of a wearer, the receiving and supporting and shaping being done in a safe, convenient and economical manner.

Lastly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved pocket bra system for removably receiving a handheld electronic device and other objects while providing support and shape to the breasts of a wearer.

These handheld electronic devices and other objects may be any items that are capable of being stored within a pocket on a bra. For example, the electronic devices may be any portable electronic-based device, including, but not limited to cellular telephones (including smartphones), tablets, portable music players, exercise tracking devices such as GPS devices, pedometers, bio-monitors, computation devices, electronic devices, and medical devices, and the like, any other portable and relatively small electronic device, as well as personal items. Similarly, the other objects may be any small objects that are commonly placed in a pocket of a wearer, such as keys, cards, wallets, medicines and medicine dosages, insulin pumps, and the like.

These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there is illustrated preferred and alternate embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

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FIG. 1 is a front elevational view of a pocket bra system constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along line 2-2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a rear elevational view taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a front elevational view of a pocket bra system constructed in accordance with an alternate embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a cross sectional view taken along line 5-5 of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a rear elevational view taken along line 6-6 of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is a cross sectional view taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 4.

FIG. 8 is a rear elevational view taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a front elevational view of a pocket bra system constructed in accordance with another alternate embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 10 is a cross sectional view taken along line 10-10 of FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 is a side elevational view of the pocket bra system shown in FIGS. 9 and 10.

FIG. 12 is a cross sectional view taken along line 12-12 of FIG. 11.

FIG. 13 provides a view of an embodiment of a bra having a back pocket.

The same reference numerals refer to the same parts throughout the various Figures.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to FIG. 1 thereof, the preferred embodiment of the new and improved pocket bra system embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

The present invention, the pocket bra system 10 is comprised of a plurality of components. Such components in their broadest context include a strap, left and right cups, a rectangular patch and a linear slit. Such components are individually configured and correlated with respect to each other so as to attain the desired objective.

First provided is a strap assembly. The strap assembly includes a generally horizontal chest strap 14. The chest strap is positionable around the chest and back of a wearer. The strap assembly includes left and right generally vertical shoulder straps 16. The shoulder straps are positionable over the shoulders of the wearer. The shoulder straps have free ends. The free ends are coupled to the chest strap adjacent to the chest of the wearer and adjacent to the back of the wearer.

A left cup 18 is provided. A similarly configured right cup 20 is provided. Each cup has an inside surface and an outside surface. The left and right cups each have an upper-most point 22. The left and right cups each have a lower-most point 24. A generally vertical axis is provided. The vertical axis divides each cup into an inner hemisphere interiorly and an outer hemisphere exteriorly. The left and right cups each have an inner-most point 26. The left and right cups each have an outer-most point 28. A generally horizontal axis is provided. The horizontal axis divides each cup into an upper hemisphere above and a lower hemisphere below.

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A rectangular patch 32 is provided next. The patch is operatively associated with each cup. Each patch has generally horizontal upper and lower edges. Each patch has generally vertical interior and exterior edges. The patch has a periphery. The periphery has stitching. In this manner the periphery of each patch is coupled to the inside surface of an associated cup. The majority of each patch is in the upper hemisphere. The majority of each patch is in the outer hemisphere. A rectangular chamber 34 is provided. The chamber is provided between each patch and its associated cup. The chamber is rectangular. The chamber has a height of 120 and 140 millimeters. The chamber has a width of between 60 and 70 millimeters. The pockets and the patches are fabricated of a resilient closed cell polyurethane foam. The foam has a thickness of from 2 to 4 millimeters. The patches are fabricated of an elastic fabric.

Further provided is a linear slit 38. The slit is provided in each patch. The slit is provided parallel with, and closely spaced from, the upper edge of each patch. Each slit has a length greater than 90 percent of the width of the chamber. An elastic band 40 is provided. The elastic band is provided within each patch. The elastic band surrounds the slit. The elastic band is adapted to return the slit to a closed orientation. The elastic band is further adapted to allow the slit to stretch to an enlarged orientation.

Provided last is a handheld electronic device 46. The handheld electronic device is positionable within the chamber. In one embodiment, the handheld electronic device has a height of 115 millimeters, plus or minus 10 percent. The handheld electronic device has a width of 59 millimeters. The handheld electronic device has a thickness of 9 millimeters plus or minus 10 percent. The slit is adapted to stretch to the open orientation when adding the handheld device to, or removing the handheld device from, the chamber. The slit is adapted to contract to the closed orientation when the handheld device is within or without the chamber. The thickness and the material of the cups and the patches are adapted to abate inward projections by the handheld devices in the chambers tending to poke a user. The thickness and the material of the cups and the patches are adapted to abate outward projections by the handheld devices in the chambers tending to create unsightly projections.

An alternate embodiment 100 of the present invention is provided. An under-wire 104 is provided. The under-wire is provided beneath each cup.

A central patch 108 is provided. The central patch is provided intermediate the cups. In this manner a central chamber is formed. The central patch has horizontal upper and lower edges 110, 112. The central patch has vertical side edges 114, 116. The upper and lower edges are longer than the side edges. The central patch has a central slit 118. The central slit is provided parallel with and in proximity to the upper edge. The central chamber is adapted to receive and support keys.

An upper patch 120 is provided on each shoulder strap. The upper patches have horizontal upper and lower edges 122, 124. The upper patches have vertical side edges 126, 128. The upper and lower edges are shorter than the side edges. The upper patches each have an upper slit 130. The upper slit is provided parallel with and in proximity to the upper edge. The upper chambers are adapted to receive and support pills.

FIGS. 9 through 12 illustrate a system 200 constructed in accordance with another alternate embodiment of the invention. In such alternate embodiment, enlarged bra pockets 204 are constructed on the cups of the bra. In addition, side pockets 268 are constructed along both sides of the bra.

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Although only a right side pocket is illustrated, it should be understood that a similarly constructed left side pocket is preferably provided additionally.

As shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, there is illustrated a pocket bra system 200 for removably receiving a handheld electronic device and other objects while providing support and shape to the breasts of a wearer. The system includes a strap assembly 214. The strap assembly is formed of a chest strap 216 and shoulder straps 218.

Next provided are similarly configured left and right cups 222, 224. Each cup has inside and outside surfaces. The strap assembly is attached to the cups whereby the strap assembly adheres the cups to a wearer. Each cup has curved upper edge 226, a lower edge 228, an interior edge 230 and an exterior edge 232. Each cup has inside and outside surfaces.

A patch 236 is operatively associated with each cup. Each patch has a linear upper edge 238 and a curved lower edge 240, an interior edge 242 and an exterior edge 248. Each patch has inside and outside surfaces.

Stitching 250 couples the lower, interior and exterior edges of each patch to the lower, interior and exterior edges of an associated cup. A linear opening 252 is thus formed along the upper edge of each patch. Piping 256 covers the upper edge of each patch. The upper edge of the patch and the piping are adapted to allow the patch to move away from and back toward the cup between open and closed orientations.

Pockets 260 are formed between the patches and the cups. In one embodiment, the cups are fabricated of a resilient closed cell polyurethane foam with a thickness of from 2 to 4 millimeters. In another embodiment, the patches are fabricated of a resilient closed cell polyurethane foam with a thickness of from 2 to 4 millimeters.

A handheld electronic device 46 is adapted to be placed within a pocket.

An under-wire 264 is coupled beneath each cup in a generally vertical plane.

Lastly provided is a side patch 268 forming a side pocket on each side of the chest strap. The side patches each have a horizontal upper edge 270 and a lower edge 272 and vertical side edges 274. The upper and lower edges of each patch are longer than the side edges. The side patches include side stitching 276 along the lower and side edges. Thus is formed an upper opening 278 at each side patch, the pocket 268 formed between two layers of the chest strap and defined by the stitching 276.

In one embodiment, the side pocket 268 may be configured to have the upper edge 270 and top edge of the chest strap aligned or nearly aligned. In another embodiment, a pocket flap may extend from the chest strap over the upper opening 278 to form an 'envelope pocket' and thus to cover the upper opening 278. In further embodiments, the flap may be positioned on a side, bottom, or middle of the pocket, with the opening being at least partially covered by the flap when in a closed (and/or non-accessing) position. The pocket flap may be secured via hook and loop connector, button, snap, zipper, or the like to the exterior of the pocket 268, or may simply rest over the upper opening 278. In still a further embodiment, side pocket 268 may further extend at least partially into, over, or beneath the cup such that the pocket, and potentially the upper opening 278 span both part of the chest strap and part of the cup.

FIG. 13 provides a view of an embodiment of a bra having a back pocket. The present embodiment is shown as a sports bra version, however it should be understood that the back pocket design may be employed on any bra, and may be positioned on the chest strap, similarly to the side pocket

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embodiment described above. This may be particularly useful on front-open bra designs. In the embodiment shown, two shoulder straps 306, and two sides of the chest strap 301 extend away from a central area 305. On this central area is a pocket 304. The pocket may be formed in any manner and may be defined at its boundary 302 by stitching, a separate pocket material behind the central area 305 material, or by any other structure. An opening 303 to the pocket 304 is shown at a top, but it should be understood that the opening 303 may be on the sides, middle, bottom, or anywhere on the pocket, depending on embodiment. A closure (not shown) may be used to hold the pocket in a closed position. The closure may be any structure capable of holding the pocket opening 303 in a closed position.

A final embodiment of the invention is designed to protect wearers from radio frequency emissions from electronic devices supported by the system. To achieve this protection, the left and right cups are fabricated of a radio frequency protective material. The radio frequency protective material is fabricated of a blend of fabrics chosen from the class consisting of polyester and cotton and further including copper and silver. In one embodiment, the radio frequency protective material is fabricated of 78 percent of a blend of fabric chosen from the class consisting of polyester and cotton and further including 21 percent copper and 1 silver. In another embodiment, the radio frequency protective material is fabricated of 90 percent of a blend of fabric chosen from the class consisting of polyester and cotton and further including 9.5 percent copper and 0.5 silver.

As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention. To the extent any amendments, characterizations, or other assertions previously made (in this or in any related patent applications or patents, including any parent, sibling, or child) with respect to any art, prior or otherwise, could be construed as a disclaimer of any subject matter supported by the present disclosure of this application, Applicant hereby rescinds and retracts such disclaimer. Applicant also respectfully submits that any prior art previously considered in any related patent applications or patents, including any parent, sibling, or child, may need to be re-visited.

What is claimed is:

1. A pocketed bra assembly comprising:
 - a strap assembly including a chest strap;
 - a left cup and a right cup, each cup being an area to receive a breast of a wearer and having inside and outside surfaces, the strap assembly being attached to the cups whereby the strap assembly holds the cups to a wearer, with the chest strap extending from the left

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cup towards the wearer's back and extending from the right cup towards the wearer's back;
 a side patch on one of an inside or outside surface of the chest strap adjacent to at least one of the left cup and right cups, an upper edge of the side patch lying along a same edge line as at least a portion of a top edge of the chest strap, the side patch forming an opening such that the side patch forms a pocket, the opening capable of repeated receiving and removal of an item when being worn by the wearer; and

an item removably positioned in the pocket.

2. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the side patch comprises upper and lower edges along at least part of a length of the chest strap, and side edges.

3. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 2 further comprising stitching along the lower and side edges of the side patch.

4. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 3 wherein the stitching forms an upper opening to the pocket between the upper edge of the side patch and the top edge of the chest strap.

5. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the opening is an upper opening.

6. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the item removably positioned within the pocket is a handheld electronic device.

7. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the strap assembly further comprises two shoulder straps, and a central area at a back of the strap assembly opposite to the left and right cups, the two shoulder straps and chest strap joining together at the central area, and further comprising a back pocket on the central area.

8. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the side pocket further comprises a closure.

9. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 8 wherein the closure is configured having a first part on the side of the chest strap, and a second part on the patch, the first part connectable to the second part to close the pocket.

10. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein the upper edge of the side patch is aligned with a top edge of the chest strap.

11. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 further comprising a piping attached to the upper edge of the side patch.

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12. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein each side pocket extends onto the adjacent cup, such that each pocket spans both a part of the chest strap and a part of the adjacent cup.

13. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 further comprising a second patch positioned on the chest strap, the second patch forming an opening such that the second side patch forms a pocket.

14. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 2 wherein the lower edge of the side patch is lying along a same edge line as a bottom edge of the chest strap.

15. The pocketed bra assembly of claim 1 wherein a front side edge of the side patch abuts an edge of the at least one of the left cup and the right cup, the pocket extending to the edge of the at least one of the left cup and the right cup.

16. A chest covering comprising:

a strap assembly including a chest strap;

a left cup and a right cup, each cup being an area to receive a breast of a wearer and having inside and outside surfaces, the strap assembly being attached to the cups whereby the strap assembly holds the cups to a wearer, with the chest strap extending from the left cup towards the wearer's back and extending from the right cup towards the wearer's back;

a side patch on one of an inside or outside surface of the chest strap adjacent to at least one of the left cup and right cups, the side patch having upper and lower edges along at least part of a length of the chest strap, and side edges, the side patch upper edge lying along a same edge line as at least a portion of a top edge of the chest strap, the side patch forming an opening such that the side patch forms a pocket, the opening capable of repeated receiving and removal of an item when being worn by the wearer.

17. The chest covering of claim 16 wherein the opening is an upper opening.

18. The chest covering of claim 16 further comprising stitching along the lower and side edges of the side patch.

19. The chest covering of claim 16 wherein the upper edge of the side patch is aligned with a top edge of the chest strap.

20. The chest covering of claim 16 further comprising a piping attached to the upper edge of the side patch.

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