

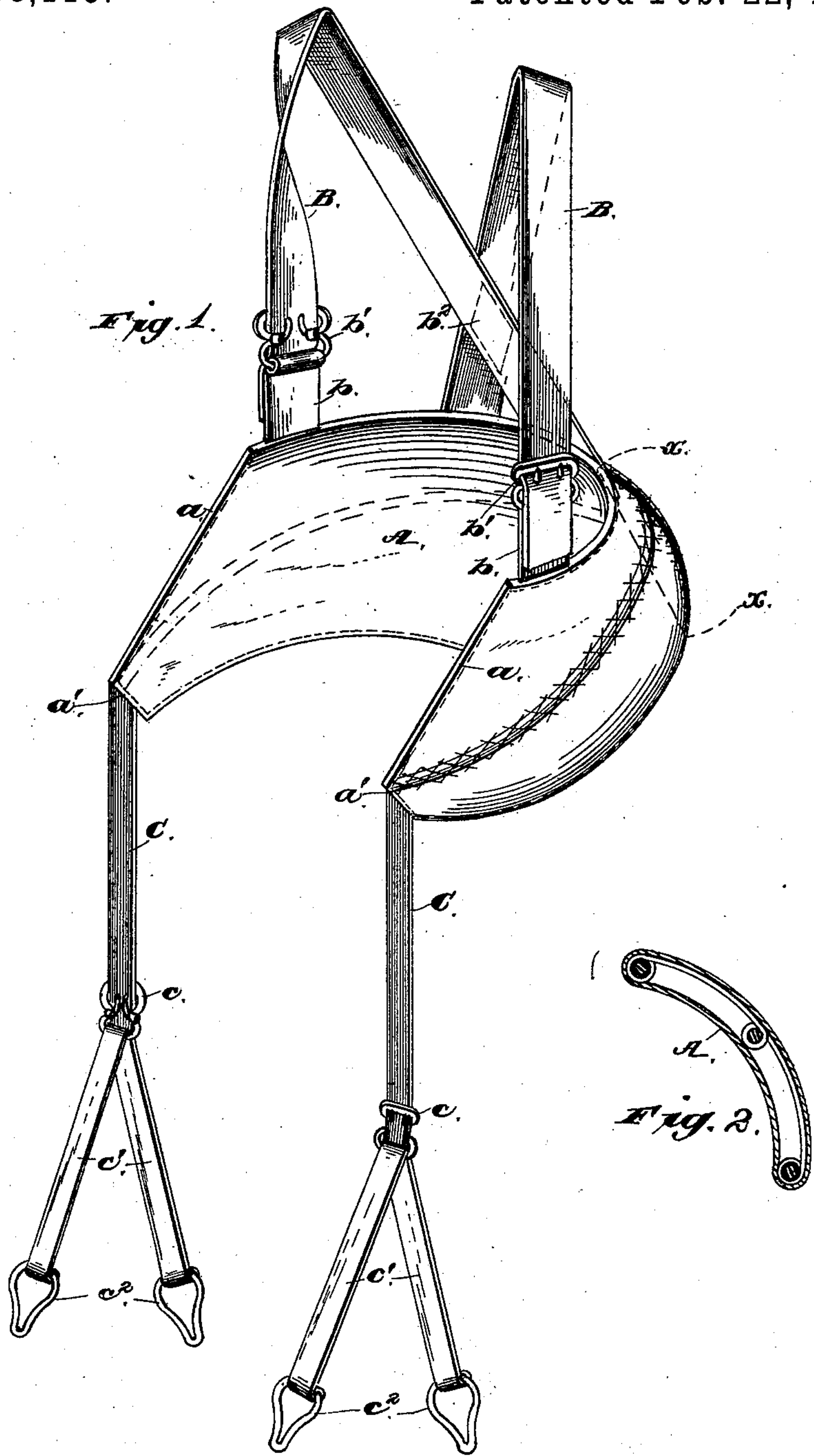
(No Model.)

E. A. GILBERT.

BUSTLE.

No. 358,115.

Patented Feb. 22, 1887.



Witnesses

*J. R. Stuart*

Inventor:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EFFIE A. GILBERT, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 352,115, dated February 22, 1887.

Application filed November 2, 1886. Serial No. 217,784. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EFFIE A. GILBERT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bustles; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to combined beltless suspended bustles and stocking-supporters; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of the parts of the same, which will be more fully hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

One object of my invention is to provide a beltless bustle supported by straps or suspenders passing over the shoulders, and having suitable stocking-supporters attached to the lower portion thereof, thereby providing not only means of comfort and ease to the wearer, but at the same time avoiding the injurious results which necessarily follow where any great weight or strain comes upon the waist and hips.

A further object of my invention is to provide a beltless bustle which is adapted to conform to the posture of the wearer when in a sitting position, the bustle being free to be pressed inward against the rear portion of the body and to assume its normal position when the wearer is in a standing position, all of which is accomplished by means of the stocking-supporters, in connection with the suspenders, and by dispensing with the use of a front securing strap or belt.

I attain these objects by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like letters of reference indicate similar parts, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved bustle. Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section of the same.

A represents a bustle of the ordinary form of construction, which has the two ends forming the open portion of the bustle cut away on an upward incline, as at *a*. The lower forward ends of the bustle are cut in a reverse incline, as at *a'*.

The bustle A is formed with suitable braces,

whereby it is made to rigidly maintain its bustle shape, and, as illustrated, is covered with suitable material. To the upper portion of the bustle A, on each side near the point where the incline *a* ends, two shoulder-straps or suspenders, B B, are secured, being attached at their other ends to the rear portion of the said bustle. These straps B B have a portion, *b*, of each secured at one end to the bustle, and have buckles *b'* attached to their other ends, through which the remaining portions of the said straps may be passed for adjustment. The straps B B cross each other in the rear portion of the bustle at the point *b'*, where they are secured together, the two ends thence passing down to the bustle in a form of construction similar to the ordinary form of suspender. The inclines *a'* have suitable stocking-supporters, C C, attached thereto, and, as illustrated in the drawings, have buckles *c c*, for adjusting the same, and depending from the buckles *c* are two straps, *c' c'*, having stocking-attaching loops *c'' c''* secured to their ends.

The suspending-straps B B and stocking-supporters C C, attached to the bustle A, as heretofore described, may be constructed with a portion thereof elastic, so as to allow the said parts to yield and give with the varying motion of the body. The inclines *aa* of the bustle A give the garment when over the same a more neat and easy appearance, by allowing it to thus gradually and regularly fall down over the said inclines, and prevent any abrupt or irregular appearance of this portion of the dress.

When the straps B have been properly adjusted and put over the shoulders of the wearer, the supporters C C are attached to the stockings by means of the loops *c'' c''* in a well-known manner. The garments are then thrown over the bustle A, supported in the manner heretofore described, the weight of said garments being brought to bear upon the shoulders. No belt encircles the front part of the waist, as the bustle is held in place and prevented from turning by means of the suspenders B B and the supporters C C, which act as stays or braces.

By this construction of a beltless bustle there is no weight whatever brought to bear upon the front portion of the waist, thus avoiding injury to this portion of the body. The wearer is allowed more ease in assuming different post-



ures, the entire weight of all the garments being brought to bear upon the shoulders.

It is obvious that many minor details in the construction and arrangement of the parts of my bustle could be made and substituted for those shown and described without in the least departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

I am aware that bustles have been constructed having suspenders and stocking-supporters, but have all been provided with and retained in place by a belt, and such I do not claim; but

What I do claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a bustle having suitable adjustable shoulder-straps or suspenders attached to the upper portion thereof, and suitable stocking-supporters connected to the lower front portion, said sus-

penders and stocking-supporters adapted to support and hold the bustle in place, thereby dispensing with the use of a waist-belt, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the bustle A, having inclined cut-away portions *a* and *a'*, of adjustable shoulder-straps B B, connected to the upper portion thereof, and suitable stocking-supporters, C C, attached to the lower front portion, said suspenders B and supporters C supporting and retaining the bustle in place, and thereby dispensing with the use of a waist-belt, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

EFFIE A. GILBERT.

Witnesses:

J. B. MILLS,

GEO. W. WOODBURY.