

E. A. Y. QUERNS.
 WOMAN'S UNDERVEST.
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1,276,266.

Patented Aug. 20, 1918.

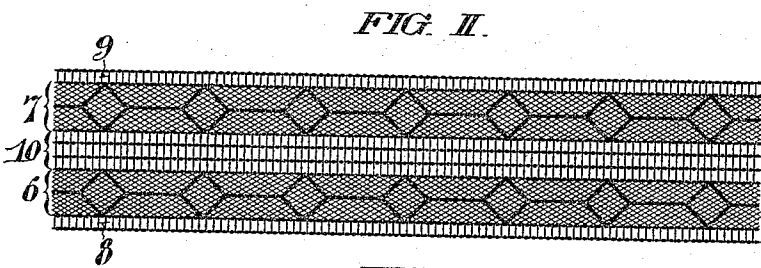
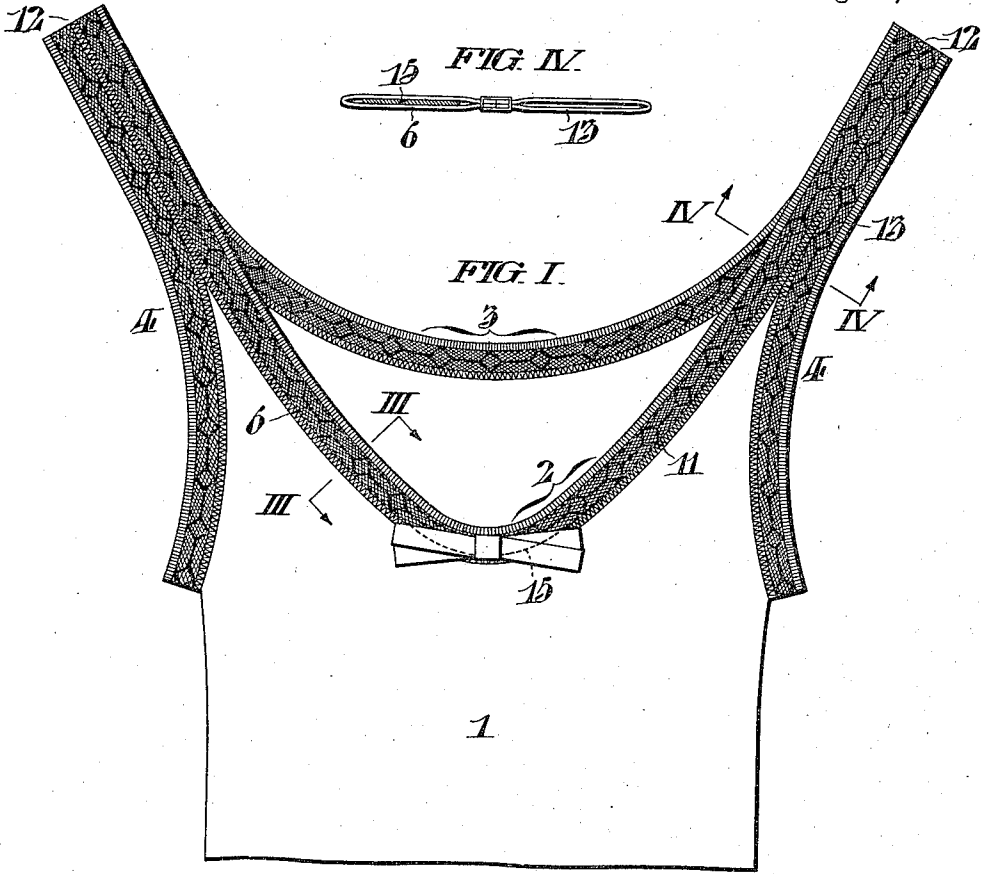
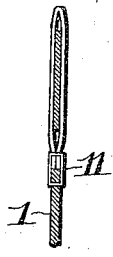


FIG. III



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WOMAN'S UNDERVEST.

1,276,266.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EVA A. Y. QUERNS, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Women's Undervests, whereof the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

In said drawings, Figure I, represents a front view in elevation of the upper portion of a vest embodying my invention.

Fig. II, is a top or plan view of a typical double band strip of lace-work edging adapted for carrying out my invention.

Fig. III, is a transverse sectional view through the neck-band on the line III, III, of Fig. I.

Fig. IV, is a transverse sectional view through the shoulder strap on the line IV, IV, of Fig. I.

My invention relates to women's undervests, the main body of which is formed of knit fabric, and the improvements are addressed to the upper portion of the garment, *i. e.*, the parts located at the neck and arm-holes.

Heretofore it has been the usual practice to surround the neck-band and arm-holes with an edging strip of fabric comprising longitudinal edge strips connected by transverse bars so arranged as to leave relatively large openings between the bars through which a ribbon is passed, sometimes by threading in and out around the alternate bars or else passing wholly behind them, the two ends of the ribbon being usually brought out in the front where they are tied in a bow-knot.

Under these circumstances, the ribbon becomes a conspicuous part of the garment, not only when it is directly exposed to view, but when it is seen through a thin and relatively translucent fabric employed as an over-garment. When thus partly seen, it mars the appearance of the garment, by showing a dark or shaded line, usually unevenly disposed at the shoulder straps, because of the fact that the embroidered strip is there of double width.

In my present improvements I have overcome the objection above described, and have produced a structure which permits a tape or ribbon to be employed for the desirable purpose of reinforcing the neck edging and shoulder strap and also of adjusting the neck-band, while rendering the ribbon or

strap practically invisible, and yet at the same time maintaining what may be called the open-work effect, so desirable in an edging of this character.

In the drawings, which illustrate a typical embodiment of my invention, 1, represents the main body of the undervest, whose upper portion has the usual configuration indicated for the front and rear edges 2, and 3, respectively, and for the arm-holes 4, which latter are initially open across the top.

I form upon a suitable machine, a relatively wide strip of ornamental edging, (which may be termed an open-work fabric, as distinguished from the close texture of the knit fabric of the body), said strip having the following characteristics. It comprises two main longitudinal bands 6, and 7, of a width substantially equal to that of an ordinary tying ribbon, said bands having a structure which, while in a general sense, possesses the characteristic of open-work, embodies figures of such character and frequency as to constitute a well covered face, or one which, by reason of the disposition of the heavier lines, becomes substantially obscuring when viewed against a flat surface. The figures upon the two bands are similar and are symmetrically arranged so as to register laterally, as indicated. Along the exterior edge of each band a relatively light and open border, such as 8, and 9, are applied, and the two main bands are integrally united by an intermediate strip of fabric 10, having the general characteristic of the lighter borders, but considerably wider than either of the latter.

The strip of edging is folded along its longitudinal center so that the borders 8, and 9, meet and these are sewed to the upper edge of the body as indicated at 11, in Fig. III, the main or neck-band being carried continuously across the opening at the upper portion of each arm-hole, as indicated at 12. A second folded band 13, similar in structure to the neck-band, and having figures symmetrically arranged with relation to those of the latter, has its meeting edges sewed around the edge of the arm-hole opening and also sewed to the meeting edges of the neck-band at the region across the shoulder, *i. e.*, at the interval between the front and rear extremities of the upper portions of the arm-holes as shown in Fig. IV. A ribbon 15, is then inserted through the pocket formed around the neck-band and

has its ends brought out at the front through an opening, so as to be capable of being tied in a bow-knot.

When the neck-band is thus constructed, the said ribbon is substantially invisible, not only at the front and rear portions of the neck-band, but also (what is very much more important for satisfactory appearance), across the top of the shoulder straps.

Under the system at present employed, and where a double band of fabric is employed at the shoulder straps, the ribbon or tape is very conspicuous and this feature becomes disagreeably emphasized when the shoulder straps are seen through a comparatively light translucent dress fabric.

By my improvements, and through the employment of a substantial obscuring open-work strip, the ribbon or tape is practically indistinguishable and hence the shoulder straps are uniform throughout their entire extent, and the front and rear portions of the neck and both portions of the arm-hole are characterized by a structure which is similar throughout.

In making the above statement, I have not any reference to what may be called the design of the garment, or of the neck and shoulder bands, because said design is susceptible of a wide variation.

The merit of the invention does not lie in the attractiveness of the design, *per se*, but in the employment, in conjunction with a mechanical element, (the ribbon) otherwise objectionable to the eye, of an edging of such structure that while it has the normal decorative effect of an open-work fabric, its appearance is not disturbed by said element, and which moreover lends itself to symmetrical union at the region of the shoulder straps and symmetrical continuance when divided at the regions leading around the lower portion of the arm-hole and around the back and front of the neck.

I am aware that the use of a tubular hem, formed of the same fabric as the body and entirely concealing a drawing string, is old

in garments, and I am also aware, as above stated, that the use of bar work edging with an inserted ribbon, alternately exposed and concealed, is old in garments of this character. Hence I do not claim either of such structures, nor do I claim broadly the use of a closely covered lace-work edging for a garment, my invention residing in the peculiar combination which attains the advantages of an open-work tube at certain regions of a particular garment, and allows the employment of a drawing string, without the recognized disadvantages heretofore characteristic of such structures.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

In a vest, the combination of an under-body formed of knit fabric and having arm-holes open at the top, a neck band formed of a strip of fabric comprising two relatively wide main bands of open-work embroidery having a pattern which is uniformly substantially obscuring throughout its entire length, said main bands being integrally united and folded longitudinally to form a ribbon pocket, the longitudinal edges of said folded band being secured to the edges of the underbody at the front and back, and said neck band being carried across the opening at the top of the arm-holes; and arm-hole bands formed of folded pieces similar to those of the neck band, and having their longitudinal edges secured to the edges of the lower portion of the arm-holes in the body fabric and to the meeting edges of the neck band along the portion which extends across the top of the arm-holes, and a ribbon in the pocket of the neck band, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this twenty-seventh day of May 1916.

EVA A. Y. QUERNS.

Witnesses:

JAMES H. BELL,
E. L. FULLERTON.