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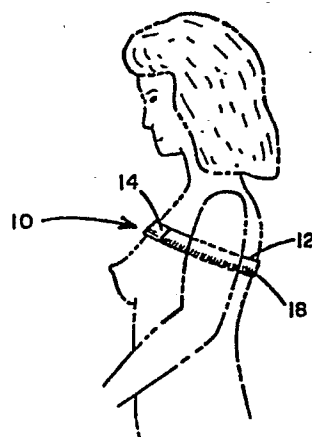
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54 Chest band.

57 A chest band is worn just above the breasts of a woman to prevent discomfort or injury due to up-and-down motion of the breasts during exercise, the chest band comprising a longitudinally elastic strap (12,18) and means (14) for joining the two ends of the strap together, the strap being mounted around the chest close to the armpits and above the breasts. The strap may carry lateral ribs (18) to prevent lateral displacement of the strap.



**Fig. 2**

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CHEST BAND

This invention relates to a chest band, and more particularly to a band worn across the chest of a woman during exercise to prevent discomfort or possible injury to the chest or breasts during the exercise.

5 Various types of brassieres have been developed in the past to provide support to the breasts of women while exercising. With the advent and increased popularity of aerobic exercises, which involve constant jumping, hopping and skipping for extended periods of time, these  
10 brassieres have not proven to be adequate, especially for large-breasted women, to protect the delicate breast tissues from injury due to constant up-and-down movement of the breasts during exercise.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a chest band for use in controlling the  
15 up-and-down movement of the breasts during vigorous exercise, which is comfortable to wear.

The features of invention are as set out in Claim 1 of the appended claims.

20 In the preferred embodiment, the chest band comprises a unitary elastic band which is ribbed and has a Velcro (RTM) fastener. The band is approximately two and one-half inches (6.3 cm) wide with a first set of ribs on the band extending from one edge of the band to approximately its longitudinal centre line. When in use, the  
25 band is placed around the chest, not on the breasts, but immediately above them, with the first set of ribs extending downwardly, whereby up-and-down motion of the breasts is restricted. A snug fit is insured by joining the two ends of the band in front of the Velcro fastener.  
30 Once the band is properly in place, the woman can put on her regular bra and her exercise clothes and commence exercising.

Reference is now made to the accompanying drawings,

wherein:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a chest band according to the invention showing each of the separate parts of the chest band; and

5 Figure 2 shows the chest band as it is intended to be worn.

In Figure 1, the chest band 10 is shown as comprising a long elastic strap, which is capable of longitudinal elastic expansion. The elastic strap is substantially smooth on the upper half 12 and has uniformly-spaced ribs 18 on the bottom half. The ribs 18 extend generally perpendicularly to the length of the band from the lower edge of the band to approximately its midpoint and serve to prevent lateral movement of the strap relative to the wearer's body during strenuous exercise. In an alternative embodiment, the upper half 12, instead of being smooth incorporates a second set of uniformly spaced ribs which are perpendicular to ribs 18. This second set of ribs prevent longitudinal movement of the strap relative to the wearer's body during exercise.

As is shown further in Figure 1, sewn to one side of one end of the strap is a piece of loosely-woven or non-woven synthetic or cotton fabric 16. Sewn to the other side at the other end of the strap is a longer piece of material 14 containing a series of closely-spaced plastic hooks. The two ends of the strap can be joined together by pressing the fabric patch 16 against the plastic hook patch 14, thereby forming a durable bond between the two ends of the strap to allow for exercise to be done comfortably. Such attachment means is sold under the registered Trade Mark "Velcro".

Figure 2 shows the proper positioning of the chest band 10. As is shown in this figure, the chest band 10 is wrapped around the torso in a position immediately above the breasts and immediately below the armpits. It

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is not intended that the strap be worn directly on the breasts, but rather that it be worn on the chest above the breasts. Wearing the strap in this position limits, in an effective but comfortable fashion, up-and-down  
5 movement of the breasts which can cause injury during exercise.

Due to the elasticity of the band, and its placing, and longitudinal adjustment permitted by the fastener, the band may be wearable by many women of different  
10 sizes.

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CLAIMS

1. A chest band to be worn during exercise to prevent\_\_\_\_  
breast discomfort or injury, comprising a strap (12, 18)  
which is sufficiently long to allow it to surround the  
chest on the area immediately above the breasts and means  
5 (14, 16) for connecting the two ends of said strap to-  
gether.
2. A chest band according to Claim 1 wherein said means  
for connecting the two ends of the strap together com-  
prises a fabric portion (16) attached to one side of the  
10 strap at one end thereof and a plastics portion (14) att-  
ached to the other side of the strap at the opposite end  
thereof and containing a multitude of hooks which are  
engageable with the fabric portion to form an attachment  
sufficiently durable to withstand the forces exerted dur-  
15 ing exercise.
3. A chest band according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein said  
strap is made of a flexible, longitudinally elastic mat-  
erial.
4. A chest band according to Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein  
20 said strap has a series of equally spaced rib portions  
(18) extending upward from the lower edge of the strap  
approximately to the longitudinal median line of the  
strap.
5. A chest band to be worn during exercise to prevent  
25 breast discomfort or injury, comprising a strap made of a  
flexible, elastic material which is sufficiently long to  
surround the chest during exercise and which is suffic-  
iently stretchable so that it will not interfere with the  
expansion and contraction of the chest during breathing;  
30 the strap having numerous spaced ribs extending from the  
lower edge of the strap approximately to its longitudinal  
median line; and means for fastening the two ends of the  
strap together, said means including a first portion on  
one side of the strap at one end thereof, constructed of  
35 a fibrous material and a second portion sewn to the other

side of the strap at the opposite end thereof and constructed of plastics and having a multitude of hooks which engage the fibrous material of the first portion when in use.

5 6. A chest band to be worn by a woman during exercise to prevent discomfort or injury to her breasts, the band comprising a strap (12, 18) in the form of a length of flexible fabric which is longitudinally elastic, and fastening means (14, 16) at each end of the strap  
10 engageable to form a continuous band, the length of the strap being such that the band can be firmly fastened around the chest so as to extend above and adjacent to the breasts.

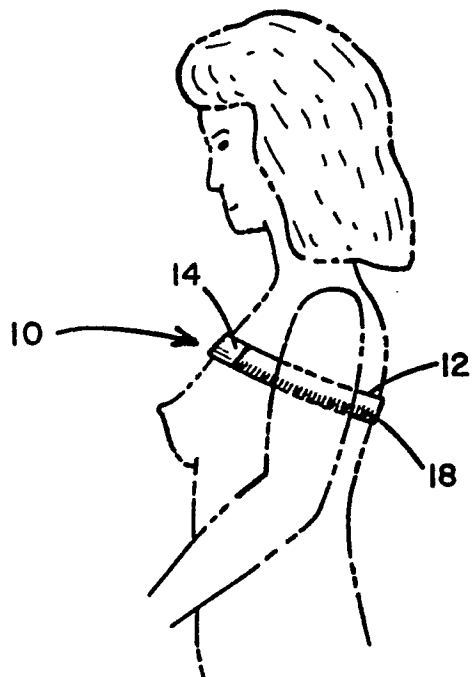
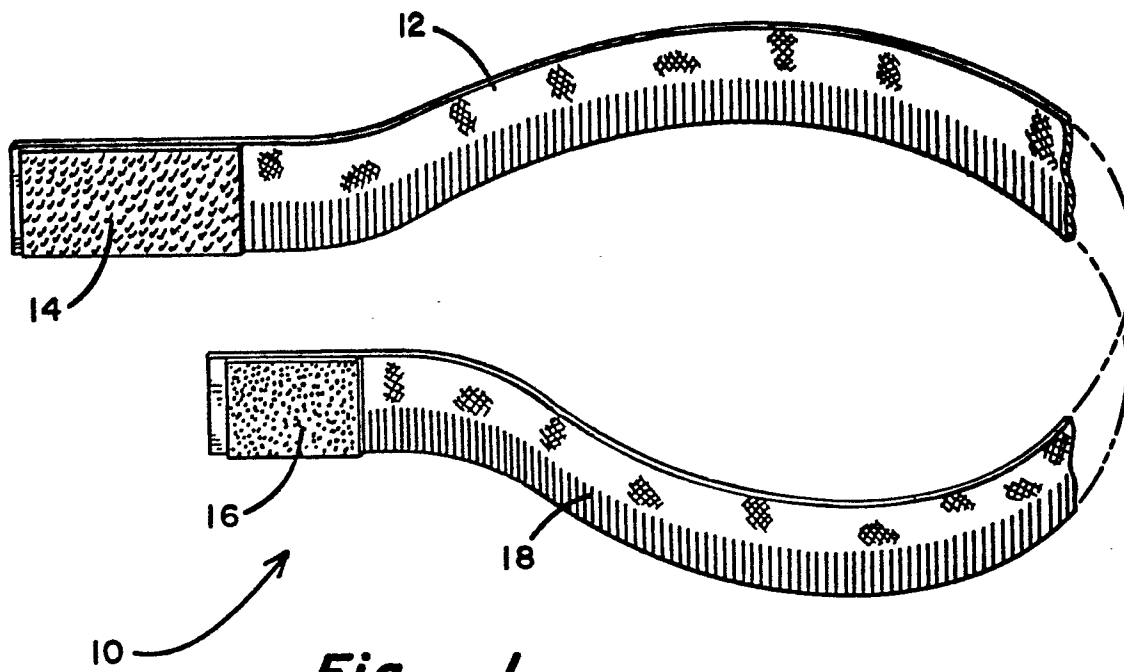
15 7. A method of supporting the breasts of a woman to prevent discomfort or injury during exercise, comprising fixing a longitudinally elastic, fabric band around the chest the band being located close to the armpits and above the breasts.

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European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Application No.

EP 85 30 1256

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	US-A-2 468 841 (S.SIEGEL) * Column 3, lines 16-36; figures 4-6 *	1,6-7	A 41 D 13/00 A 41 C 3/00
A	---	5	
P,A	US-A-4 444 191 (M.J.HARNED) * Column 4, lines 36-64; figures 4-6 *	1,5,6-7	
A	US-A-4 412 357 (S.MINCHER) -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			A 41 D A 41 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 03-06-1985	Examiner NEHRDICH H.J
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			