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(54) **UNISEX UNDERWEAR**

(57) The invention relates to a thong-type item of clothing comprising at least two independent parts, namely a rear part (1) and a front part (2) which are provided with complementary coupling means (11, 21) such that they can be fixed in a use position and subsequently

separated. The front part (2) is essentially T-shaped and the coupling means (21) thereof are arranged at the ends of the wings. The rear part (1) can have different configurations and the coupling means (11) thereof are arranged at the sides or at the upper and lower ends of same.

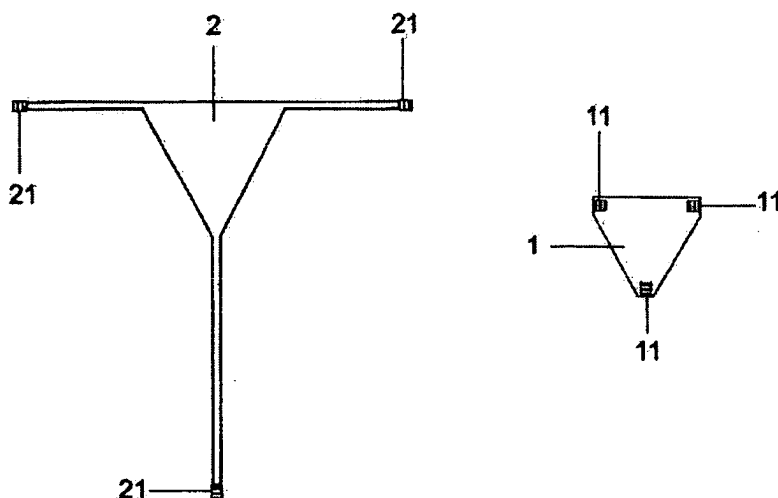


Fig. 2

Description

Object of the invention

[0001] As indicated by the title, the present invention relates to unisex underwear, and more specifically to thong-type underwear.

Background of the invention

[0002] Thong-type underwear having a front part and rear part permanently joined together generally by sewing are currently well-known.

[0003] It is also frequent for this thong-type underwear to incorporate adornments or decorative elements in their rear area making them more appealing.

[0004] In this type of underwear the front area or part is subjected to greater wear than the rear part, meaning that when said front part becomes deteriorated due to use it is necessary to dispose of the entire item of clothing. On the other hand, successive washings of the underwear cause an accelerated deterioration of the decorative elements incorporated in the rear part, causing a progressive loss of the original appeal.

Description of the invention

[0005] The unisex underwear object of the invention, being of the mentioned type, i.e. thong-type, has special constructive features aimed at allowing: successive couplings and decouplings of the front part and rear part, which allows selling both parts separately, the possibility of using the same rear part with different front parts or vice versa, and the possibility of washing the front part and the rear part separately and when it is required.

[0006] To that end, and according to the invention, the unisex underwear object of the invention comprise at least two independent parts, a front part and a rear part, incorporating complementary coupling means for their eventual fixing in an operative or use position, said complementary coupling means obviously allowing the separation of both parts and their individual replacement.

[0007] The front part has a general T-shaped configuration, the wings of which start in a central part, the coupling means for coupling with the rear part being arranged in correspondence with the ends of its wings. The rear part in turn can have different configurations, the coupling means for coupling with the front part being arranged in correspondence with its side or upper areas and with its lower area.

[0008] The complementary closing means fixed to the front part and to the rear part can be of any known type (pressure, contact, hook type, etc.) as long as they allow repeatedly forming the attachment and separation of the mentioned parts of the underwear.

[0009] The rear part of the underwear can be made up of different materials of a metallic, textile, leather, fiber nature, or of any other materials, it having been provided

that the front part is preferably made of a textile material, textile fibers or any other material assuring comfortable and practical use of the underwear.

[0010] Furthermore, both the front and rear parts can incorporate decorative elements or motifs intended for making the underwear more appealing.

Description of the drawings

[0011] To complement the description being made and for the purpose of aiding to better understand the features of the invention, a set of drawings is attached to the present specification in which the following has been shown with an illustrative and non-limiting character:

- Figure 1 shows a rear perspective view of the unisex underwear object of the invention, where the independent front and rear parts can be seen joined together by the complementary coupling means thereof.
- Figure 2 shows an elevational and planar view of an embodiment of the front part and of the rear part separated from one another, having depicted them in this case separated.

Preferred embodiment of the invention

[0012] As can be seen in the attached figures, the unisex underwear object of the invention are made up of an independent rear part (1) and front part (2) incorporating complementary coupling means (11 and 21), respectively.

[0013] Said complementary coupling means (11, 12) allow the eventual fixing of the parts (1 and 2) in an operative or use position, as is shown in Figure 1, and their subsequent separation, as is shown in Figure 2.

[0014] Both the front part (2) and the rear part (1) are individually replaceable, which enables using different front parts (1) with a single rear part (2), or vice versa.

[0015] Having sufficiently described the nature of the invention as well as a preferred embodiment thereof, it is stated for all intents and purposes that the materials, shape, size and arrangement of the described elements can be modified, provided that this does not imply an alteration of the essential features of the invention claimed below.

Claims

1. Unisex underwear, said underwear being the thong-type, **characterized in that** they comprise at least two independent parts, a rear part (1) and a front part (2) incorporating complementary coupling means (11, 21) for their eventual fixing in an operative or use position and their subsequent separation.
2. Unisex underwear according to claim 1, **character-**

ized in that the front part (2) generally has a T-shaped configuration, the coupling means (21) being arranged in correspondence with the ends of its wings.

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3. Unisex underwear according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the rear part (1) can have different configurations, the coupling means (11) being arranged in correspondence with its sides or with its upper end and in correspondence with its lower end.

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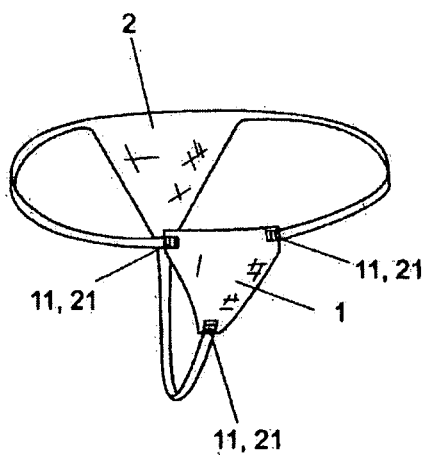


Fig. 1

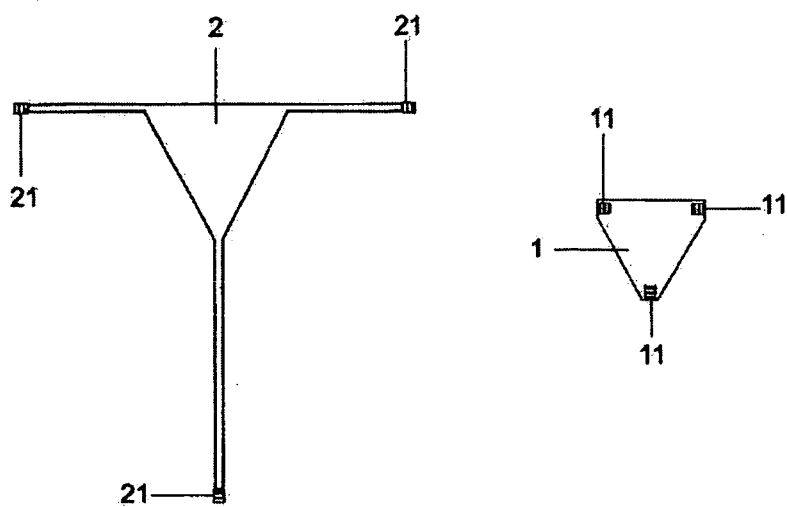


Fig. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ES 2005/000221

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC 7 : A41B 9/04		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC 7 : A41B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
CIBEPAT,EPODOC,WPI		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ES 1056577 U (GONZALEZ VILLARREAL) 1 April 2004 figure 1; claim	1-3
A	ES 1044538 U (GRIMA) 1 May 2000; figures	1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
10 June 2005 (10.06.05)		30 June 2005 (30.06.05)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ S.P.T.O.		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/ ES 2005/000221

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
ES 1056577 U	01.04.2004	NONE	
ES 1044538 U	01.05.2000	NONE	