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A. J. ELDON

SWIMMING RING

Filed May 29, 1925

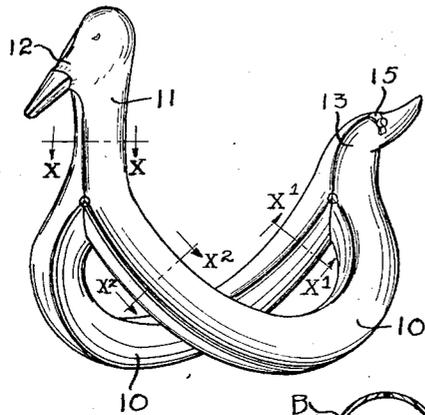


FIG.- 1

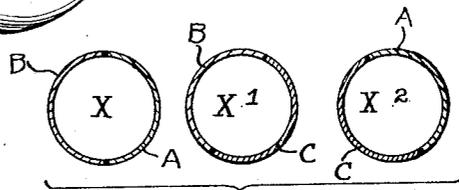


FIG.- 2

FIG.- 4

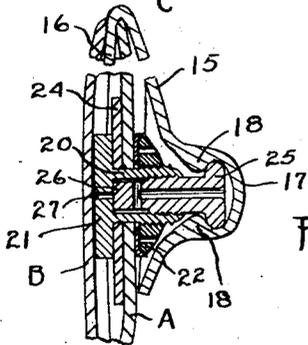
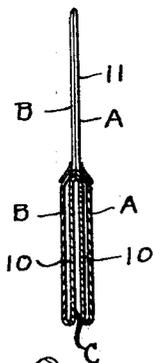


FIG.- 5

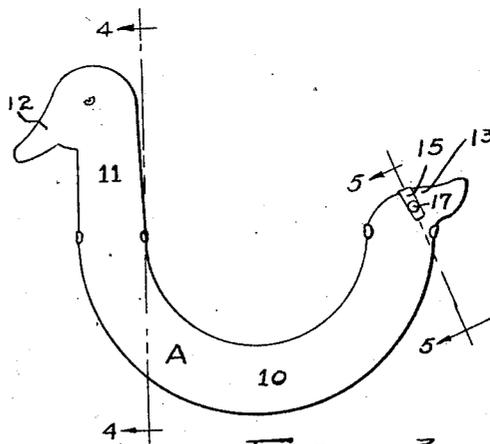


FIG.- 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SWIMMING RING.

Application filed May 29, 1925. Serial No. 33,799.

This invention relates to swimming rings of the type comprising hollow tubular rubber members adapted to be placed around the body of the user and assist in supporting him. One of the objects of the invention is to provide such ring in a form which in addition to its supporting characteristic, may afford amusement by reason of its appearance. Another object is to so form the device that it may be folded into very compact shape, while being readily inflatable for use. Another object is to provide means for protecting the inflating nipple.

My invention is illustrated by the drawing and more fully herein described. The essential novel characteristics being summarized in the claims.

In the drawings Fig. 1 is a perspective of one embodiment of the invention; Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view illustrating on a larger scale three cross-sections on the lines $x-x$; $x'-x'$; $x''-x''$; respectively, attention being called to the different characters of sectioning as indicating different sheets of rubber; Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the article in its deflated form; Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line designated 4-4 in Fig. 3 looking toward the left; Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross-section through the inflating nipple and the protector therefor, as indicated by the line 5-5 in Fig. 3.

The articles shown, comprise two semi-annular tubular members 10-10 joined together at their ends, in such manner that when they are deflated they lie side by side as shown in Fig. 4 and when inflated lie in planes at an angle to each other as shown in Fig. 1, together with certain upward extensions of the tubular members in the regions of their junction.

As shown, the upward extension at one end comprises a neck 11 which terminates in a head 12, and at the other end an upward and rearward contracting portion 13 representing a tail. In the drawings these parts indicate a duck, although any suitable animal or other object might be indicated.

At some suitable point, as in the tail, an inflating nipple is provided whereby the flat article may be blown by the user's breath into the form shown in Fig. 1. This nipple may be of any suitable form and is preferably covered by a flap 15 secured to the article. The particular form of flap and

nipple will hereinafter be described with reference to Fig. 5.

In the manufacture of the article, a sheet of rubber A may be employed, making the outer side of one of the body sections and one-half of the neck, head and tail; a similar sheet B making the other half of the head, neck and tail and the outer portion of the other tubular member, and intermediate sheets C making the inner portion of the two tubular members, these latter sheets being connected to each other beneath the neck and tail portions and between these regions are connected along their concave and convex edges to the corresponding edges of the sheets A and B.

The article may be readily manufactured by means of a process invented by Fred Thomas Roberts comprising surmounting of sheets of rubber with an intermediate doubled sheet and joining simultaneously two outer sheets together in one region and each layer of the intermediate doubled sheet to the adjacent outer sheet in another region. Such process is illustrated and described in Mr. Roberts's application No. 712,505 filed May 12th, 1924 and broadly claimed therein, and is also claimed more specifically with reference to such an article as here shown in another application to be filed by Mr. Roberts.

Fig. 5 shows a usual form of inflating nipple comprising a bushing 20 passing through the sheet A and having a head 21 on the inner side thereof and carrying beyond that sheet a nut 22 threaded on the bushing and clamped against the outer side of the sheet. A suitable rubber reinforcing patch 24 is preferably provided between the head and the sheet A. Screwing into the bushing is a hollow plug 25, the inner end of which may extend across and close an opening 27 in the head 21.

The plug 25 is shown in closed position in Fig. 5. If however, the plug is slightly unscrewed, the head 26 is carried away from the opening 27 and then the operator may blow through the plug into the interior of the rubber article. When the latter is properly inflated, the plug is simply screwed to its seat.

I find it desirable to put a protector over the external portion of the filling nipple, preventing access of water into the interior.

This may be readily provided by the flap 15 heretofore mentioned. I have this shown as anchored at its upper end to the tail portion of the article by having an extension 16 passing between the junction seam of the sheets A and B. At the nipple this flap is formed into a suitable dome or cap 17 provided with inward annular protuberance or rib 18. This enables this dome to be sprung over the head of the plug 25 and retain its position thereon normally. It may however be removed from the plug by suitable force applied to the end of the flap.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. An article of the character described, comprising a plurality of partly annular tubular members connected together at their ends to make a complete annulus occupying a plurality of planes, a tubular member extending upwardly from two of the members adjacent their junction communicating with them and terminating in a head, and means for inflating the article.

2. As a new article of manufacture, a swimming ring or similar article composed of two semi-annular tubular members connected together at their ends to form a complete annulus lying in two planes at an angle to each other, and tubular extensions leading upwardly from the junctions of the

semi-annular portions and communicating therewith, and means for inflating the semi-annular portions and the extensions.

3. The combination of a hollow rubber body, a hollow nipple connected with said body whereby the same may be inflated, and a rubber flap carrying means to engage and protect the filling nipple.

4. In a swimming ring, the combination of a hollow body adapted to extend into a continuous course, a nipple connected with said body whereby the same may be inflated, and a rubber flap anchored to the body and carrying means to engage and protect the filling nipple.

5. The combination of a hollow rubber tubular body, a filling nipple therefor having a plug, a rubber flap secured to the body and having a dome adapted to seat over the nipple plug.

6. The combination of a hollow rubber tubular body, a filling nipple therefor having a plug, a rubber flap attached to the article and having a dome adapted to seat over the nipple plug and a protuberance on the inner side of the dome to engage beneath the head of the plug.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

ALBERT J. ELTON.