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C. H. A. PETERSEN

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LIFE PRESERVING AND SWIMMING BELT

Filed May 10, 1928

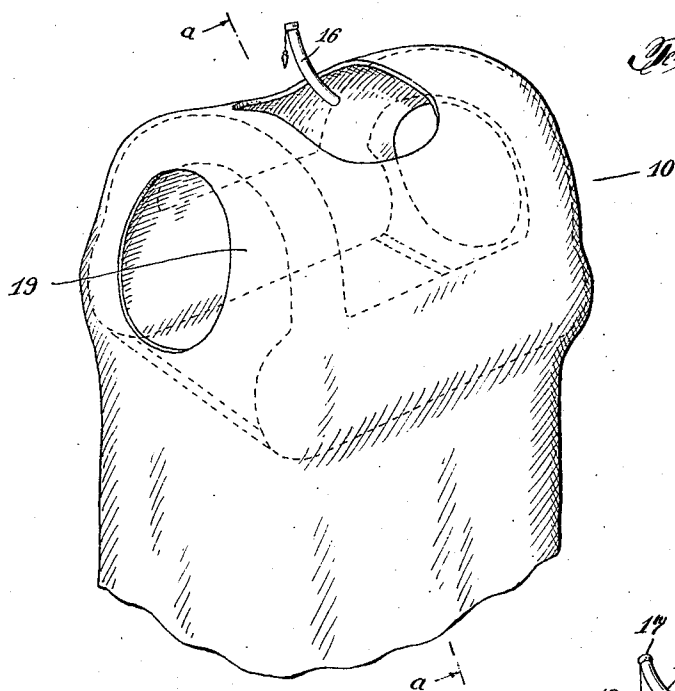


Fig. 1.

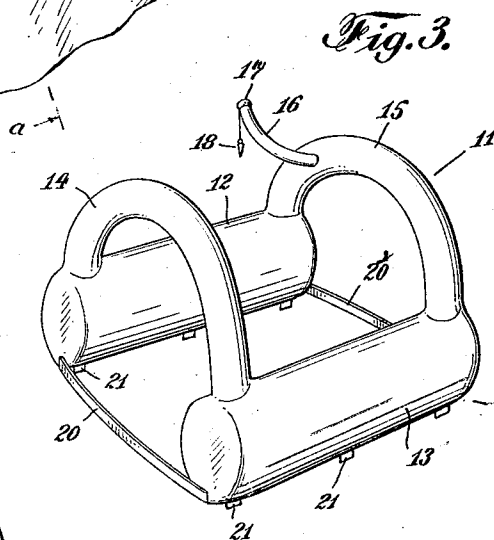


Fig. 3.

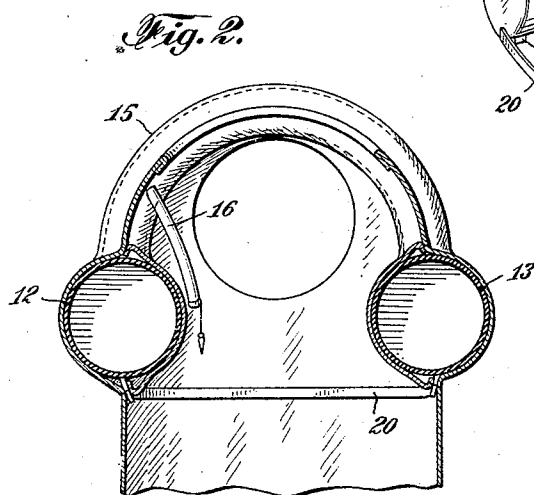


Fig. 2.

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LIFE-PRESERVING AND SWIMMING BELT.

Application filed May 10, 1928. Serial No. 276,551.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in life preserving and swimming belts and has for its object to produce a device that may, if desired, conveniently be worn, or carried about as part of a person's wearing apparel, incidentally ready to be put into use at any moment; the said device may also be worn in a somewhat inflated state to the effect, that should an accident befall a person and the latter as a result be thrown into deep water, he will nevertheless right then be able to keep afloat and have ample opportunity to fill the said device with air, so that it becomes entirely inflated and acquires its full lifting capacity.

A further object of my invention is to provide a swimming belt as a facilitating means in regard to the swimming sport, making it possible by decreasing the lifting capacity of the belt to gradually increase the dexterity of the prospective swimmer and stimulate his self confidence.

As this life preserving belt, or the life buoy proper, may be constructed in combination with almost any piece of clothing, such as an armless sweater, or, as shown in the drawing, with the shirt of a bathing suit, it should be possible to wear the said life belt without any uncomfortable feeling under all circumstances, whenever a dangerous situation may be expected to arise.

The construction of this life preserving belt is very simple, and as only inexpensive materials are required, the manufacturing cost should accordingly be very small.

With the above and other objects in view, this invention consists of the novel features of construction, combination and arrangements of parts, hereinafter fully described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming parts of this specification, and in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all views, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my device attached to some wearing-apparel; Fig. 2 is a vertical, transverse sectional view taken on line *a-a* of Fig. 1, while Fig. 3 illustrates my device proper, separate from any garment.

Referring more particularly to the drawings 10 illustrates the embodiment of my device as it is applied to the trunk of a bathing suit; the manner of attachment being in

general the same in any instance; 11 indicates a rubber member, formed in one piece, and being capable of inflation, that is, which may be expanded in a way common to the usual rubber devices, such as toy-balloons, and rubber tubes.

The rubber member 11 comprises a front and back-portion, indicated by 12 and 13, respectively, the said portions being integrally connected by the shoulder portions 14 and 15, of which the latter has integrally formed upon it a small rubber tube 16 terminating in a mouthpiece 17 of the usual kind, that is with a valve-member to admit air into the said rubber member 11, preventing at the same time any backflow of air or deflation of the device. When such deflation, however, is desired, it is only necessary to exert a slight pressure upon the top of the valve in the said mouthpiece by means of a key 18, and the air will readily escape, and the rubber member become deflated.

Applied to a garment or any wearing-apparel the said rubber member may be woven or sewn into the former, as it on its inner side is provided with a reenforcing piece or pieces of material 19, which serves to cover the inner side of the said rubber member, making of the garment a complete ensemble with nothing of the inflated rubber member exposed to sight.

In order to assure a close and still comfortable fitting of a garment formed with the said device to the body of a person, the device is provided with elastic side ribbons 20 disposed in such a manner as to hold the device snugly in place.

As an additional means of securing the said rubber member to a garment, the former is made with a plurality of eyelets 21 adapted to be especially connected to the said garments.

It is obvious that changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the several parts, as shown, within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention, and I do not therefore limit myself to the construction and arrangement shown and described herein.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:—

1. A swimming belt of the class described, comprising a garment provided with pocket

sections formed by an inner reenforcing member; a rubber member susceptible of inflation and divided in sections corresponding to and positioned within the aforesaid pocket sections, elastic side ribbons engaging the lower portions of the said rubber member to secure the garment in position, a plurality of lugs formed upon the said rubber member for the purpose of facilitating a rigid attachment of the latter to the garment, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A life preserver and swimming belt of the class described, comprising a garment provided with interengaging pocket sections formed by an inner reenforcing member; a

rubber member susceptible of inflation and divided into sections corresponding to and positioned within the aforesaid pocket sections, elastic side ribbons engaging the lower portions of the said rubber member to secure the garment in proper position, means for rigidly connecting the rubber member and garment together, further means for inflating the said rubber member, and additional means for deflating the same, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

Signed at Eugene in the county of Lane and State of Oregon this 28th day of March A. D. 1928.

CHRISTEN HANSEN ALFRED PETERSEN.