May 22, 1928. 1,670,935

J. E. MAYNARD

PADDED GUARD FOR ATHLETES' WEAR

Filed May 2, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 2.

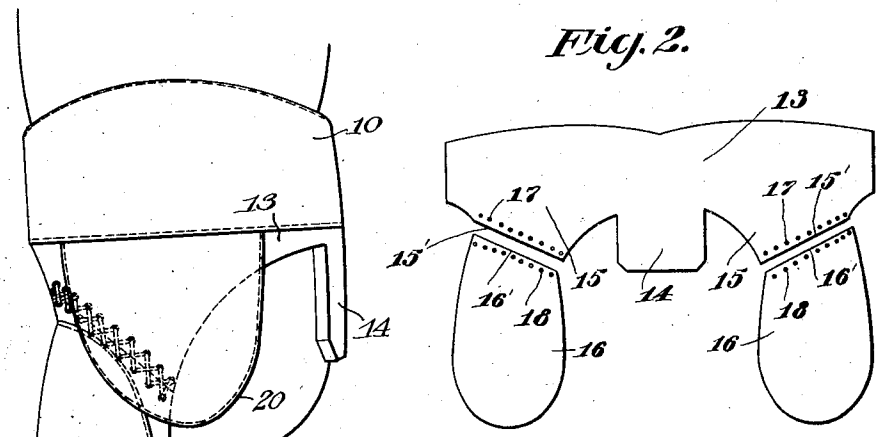


Fig. 3.

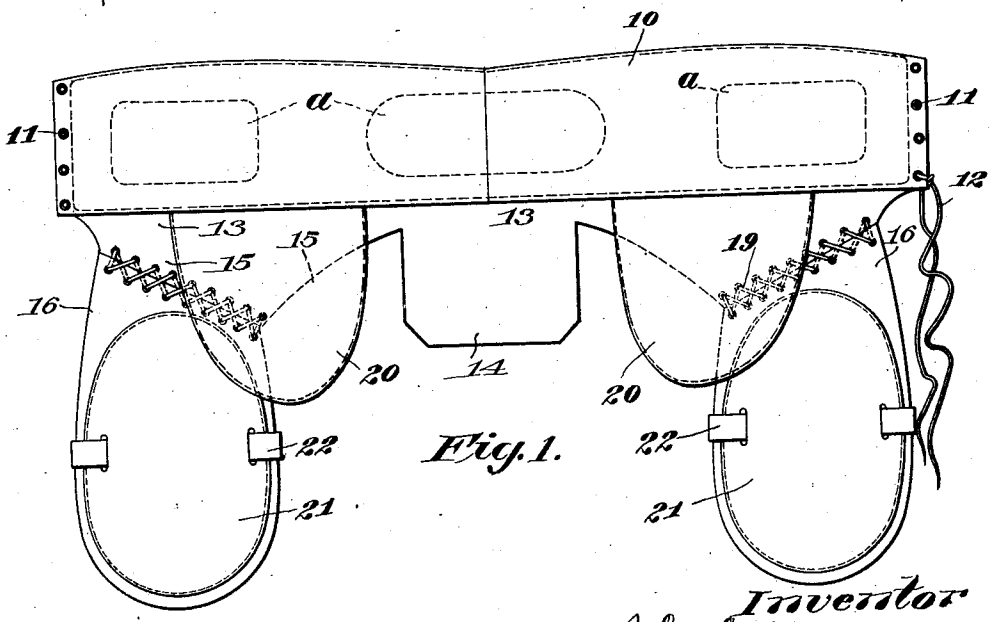


Fig. 1.

Inventor
John E. Maynard
By Macleod Calvin Copeland & Dike
Attorneys

May 22, 1928. 1,670,935

J. E. MAYNARD

PADDED GUARD FOR ATHLETES' WEAR

Filed May 2, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

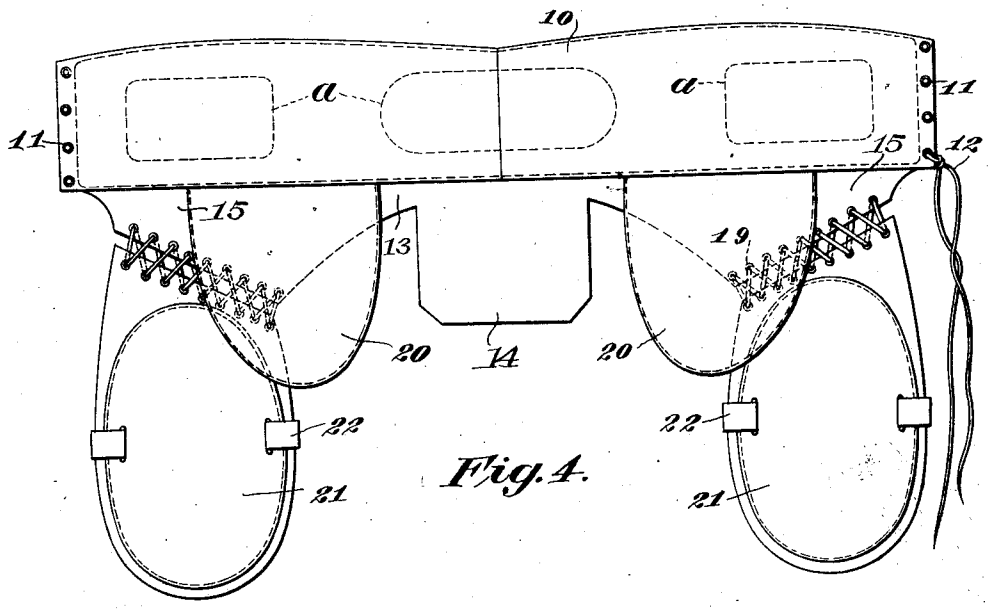


Fig. 4.

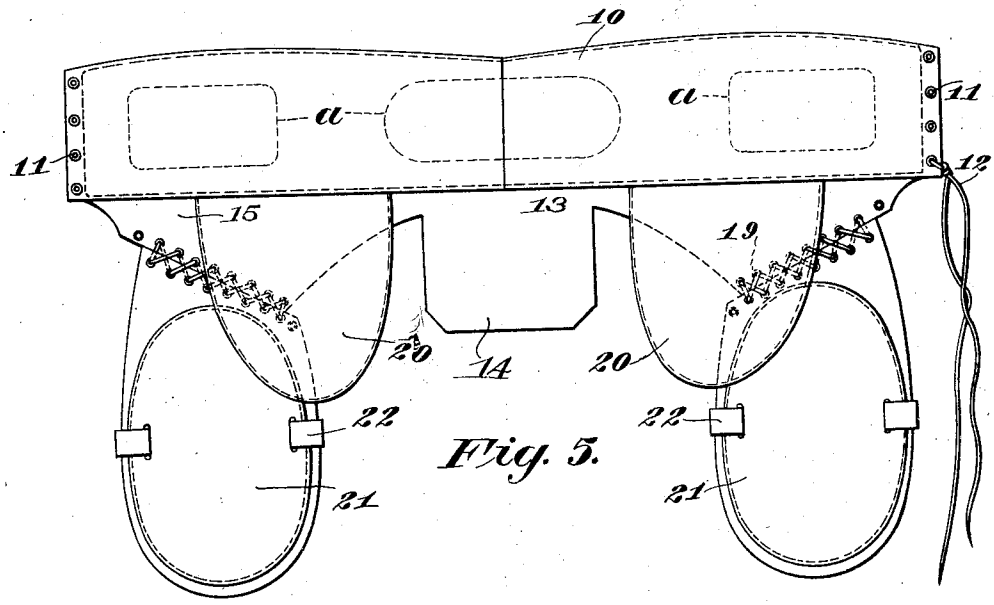


Fig. 5.

Inventor
John E. Maynard
By Macleod Calvin Copeland & Shea
Attorneys

Patented May 22, 1928. 1,670,935

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN EDWARD MAYNARD, OF PLYMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ASSIGNOR TO THE DRAPER-MAYNARD COMPANY, OF PLYMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, A CORPORATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

PADDED GUARD FOR ATHLETES' WEAR.

Application filed May 2, 1927. Serial No. 188,069.

The invention relates to protective guards and pads for athletes' wear, being more particularly intended for use by football players. Football pants are usually provided with separate pads or guards for the thighs and hips. These pads are usually so disposed with relation to each other that there is an unprotected space between the separate pads, or even if their edges are normally adjacent each other, if there is any sliding movement during action they will separate from each other so as to leave an unprotected portion of the body between them.

One object of the present invention is to provide protective members for the hips and thighs so arranged with relation to each other that their edges will overlap sufficiently to allow for sliding of the said protective members with relation to each other and still maintain some degree of overlapping relation during all of the ordinary movements of the player.

Another object of the invention is to provide means for adjusting the thigh pads vertically to allow for adjustment to fit players of different height and also to provide means for adjusting them laterally to enable the player to fit the pad further to the front or rear according to his needs or convenience.

Another object of the invention is to provide a combination of the several pads and supporting member into a unitary article.

The invention will be fully understood from the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the novel features thereof will be pointed out and clearly defined in the claims at the close of this specification.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a rear elevation of the combination device with the several members assembled and united together.

Fig. 2 is a detail view showing the spine and hip pads and the thigh pads before the parts are assembled.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a portion of a human figure showing the manner of wearing the device.

Fig. 4 is a rear elevation showing the thigh pads adjusted vertically to a different position with relation to the hip pads from that shown in Fig. 1 and showing them still in overlapping position.

Fig. 5 shows the thigh pads adjusted laterally to a different position with relation to the hip pads but still in overlapping position.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown at 10 the waist band portion of the device which is provided with suitable means for fastening together its ends. As shown in the drawings it is provided with eyelets 11 and lacings 12 whereby the two ends may be laced together. The waist band is preferably of sufficient width to cover the abdomen and is padded as shown at *a* to provide protection for the spine and for the lower portion of the abdomen. The said waist band portion provides a support for all the other guard and pad members hereinafter described.

Secured to the said waist band member 10 is a thick band 13 of felt or other suitable pad material having a depending middle portion 14 which serves as a lower spine pad and having depending end portions 15, 15 which serve as hip pads and partial thigh pads to which are connected the main thigh pads 16, 16. The lower edge 15′ of each of the said hip pad portions 15, 15 is in a diagonal line, inclining upwardly in the direction towards the end of the waist band. The upper edge 16′ of each of the thigh pads 16, 16 also extends in a diagonal line corresponding with the lower edges of the extension of the hip portions 15, 15. The said members 15 and 16 are respectively provided with a series of eyelets or lacing holes 17 and 18 adjacent the edges of said members 15 and 16 and lacings 19 are provided for securing the thigh pads 16 to the said hip members 15, 15.

In Figs. 1 and 2 the lacings are shown as drawn up to bring the edges 16′ of the pads 16 into close abutting relation to the edges 15′ of the member 15. By letting out the lacings the pads 16 may be dropped down into a lower position, as shown in Fig. 4, than when raised to its full height and thus permit adjustment for individuals of different height.

If it is desired to adjust the thigh pad to bring it further around either toward the inner side or toward the outer side the lacing may be started at the second hole from one end of the hip pad member 15 and terminate at the second hole at the opposite

end of the thigh pad 16 as shown in Fig. 5 or a still further adjustment may be obtained by starting the lacing at the third or fourth or any other hole according to the extent of adjustment desired.

Hip shields 20, 20 free at their sides and lower end are provided which are attached to and depend from the lower edge of the waist band 10 in the rear of the depending hip pad portions 15, thus also bringing them in the rear of the thigh pads 16. These hip shields are of sufficient size and extend down far enough and are so disposed laterally as to partially overlap the thigh pads. This overlap is sufficient so that when the thigh pads are adjusted to different positions by means of the lacings there will still be an overlap.

The depending portions 15 to which the thigh pads are connected are flexible so that the pads can slide both laterally and vertically to some extent with relation to the hip shield 20 to accommodate them to the movements of the wearer and the overlap is sufficient to allow for such movement while still maintaining an overlap.

Preferably the thigh pads have on the outer face thereof a shield 21 of rather rigid material concaved to the general curvature of the thigh. The upper portion of the pad 16, however, extends some distance above this rigid shield 21 so that it makes a flexible connection with the hip member 15, the said pad 16 being preferably of flexible material such for instance as thick felt similar to the portion 15.

The hip shields 20 are preferably somewhat rigid and curved to the contour of the hip.

The thigh pads 16 have connected therewith straps 22 to bind the thigh pads to the leg.

The diagonal junction line along the edges 15′ and 16′ of the thigh pads and the pads 15 makes for a vertical adjustment to some extent at the same time as the lateral adjustment. This is desirable because of the fact that the lower end of the hip shield tapers downward somewhat towards its lower end. If the thigh pad should move in a straight lateral direction it would lessen the overlap but by having the thigh pad move upward at the same time that it moves laterally outward the increasing width of the hip shield in an upward direction still maintains the necessary overlap.

The device embodying the invention may be employed as an independent article of wear or it may be incorporated into a pair of pants.

What I claim is:

1. A protective guard for athletes' wear having thigh guards, hip guards, a waist member from which all of said guards are suspended independently of and free from each other, the said guards being so disposed with relation to each other that each thigh guard partially overlaps one of the hip guards, each thigh guard being connected with its supporting member on a diagonal line by means which permit adjustment of the thigh guard with relation to the supporting member both laterally and vertically, without increasing the distance between the proximate edges.

2. A protective device for athletes' wear having thigh guards, hip guards and a waist member from which all of said guards are directly suspended, each thigh guard having an adjustable lacing connection with its supporting member, said lacing connection being along a diagonal junction line and having lacing holes so arranged that the guard may be adjusted along said diagonal line thereby adjusting the guards both laterally and vertically, without varying the spacing between the guards and the supporting member.

3. An independent protective device for football players comprising a waist band portion adapted to be secured around the waist of the player, a band pad depending from the waist band, said band pad having intermediate its ends a depending portion which serves as a spine pad, said band pad having depending portions near its ends which serve as partial thigh pads, extension thigh pads detachably secured to the lower edges of said partial thigh pads, the connected edges of said partial thigh pads and said extension thigh pads being on a diagonal line whereby adjustment of the lower member with relation to the upper member along said diagonal line will vary the position of the extension members both laterally and vertically without varying the spacing between said extension portions and the partial thigh pads and hip shields which depend from said waist band and hang free at the sides and lower end and partially overlap said thigh pads.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN EDWARD MAYNARD.