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A. L. SOMMERS ET AL

2,329,093

BATHING SUIT

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Fig. 1.

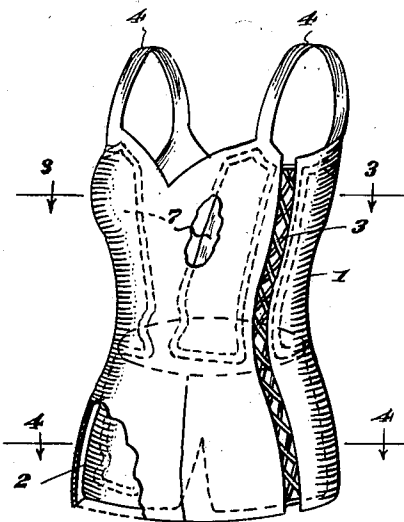


Fig. 2.

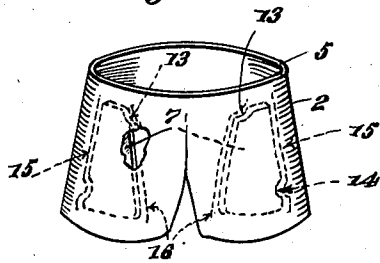


Fig. 3.

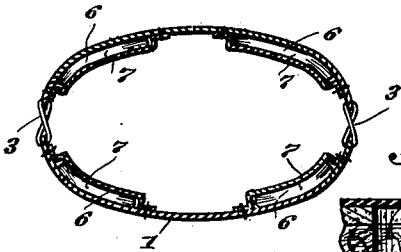


Fig. 4.

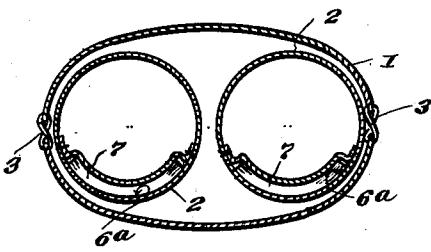


Fig. 5.

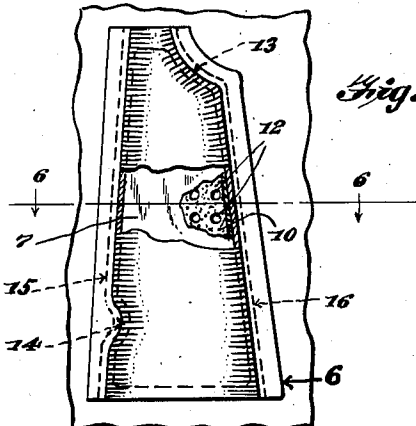


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

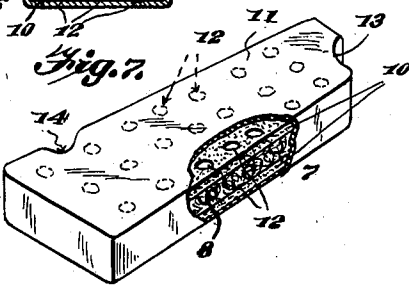
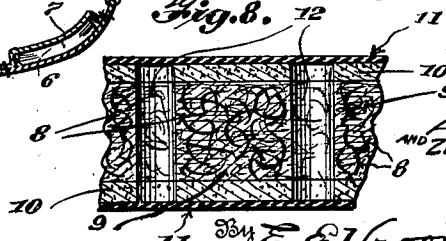


Fig. 8.



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BATHING SUIT

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3 Claims. (Cl. 9—20)

This invention relates to a buoyant bathing suit.

An object of the invention is the construction of a comparatively simple, efficient, and durable bathing suit that is very buoyant when worn by a person, thereby giving great pleasure to the wearer while swimming or sporting in the water and acting also as a life preserver.

Another object of the invention is the construction of a novel and efficient buoyant bathing suit in which new types of floaters or buoyant units are employed.

A still further object of the invention is the construction of a novel and efficient buoyant suit that is adapted to be worn by a person navigating or travelling in airplanes of all types and also in all types of vessels.

A still further object of the invention is the construction of floaters or buoyant units in a buoyant bathing suit, in which buoyant units we use a new compound of fibers which we have discovered produce excellent results in a completed or finished suit.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, our invention comprises certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts as will be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a view partly in perspective and partly in section of a buoyant bathing suit constructed in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 2 is partly a perspective and partly a sectional view of a trunk or panties that is a unit of our bathing suit, but may be worn by a male person as an entire suit, since it is common practice at this time for men and boys to only wear trunks.

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on line 3—3, Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken on line 4—4, Figure 1, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of the bathing suit, showing part in section.

Figure 6 is a sectional view taken on line 6—6, Figure 5, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 7 is an enlarged perspective view of one of the floaters or buoyant units, shown partly in section.

Figure 8 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of one of the floaters or buoyant units.

Referring to the drawing in which we have shown the preferred embodiment of the invention, 1 designates the bathing suit that is usually worn by a female person, although it could be worn by a male person. The trunk or panties 2 is usually worn under the suit 1 by a female person, but when a male person desires only the trunk 2 may be used as is common today. The suit 1 is provided at each side throughout its entire height with preferably crossed elastic lacings 3, whereby the suit 1 can be worn by different size persons, fitting the same snugly. In other words, a single suit will permit of persons differing considerably in age to use the suit with great satisfaction. Shoulder straps 4 are provided as a fixed or integral part of suit 1. The trunk or panties 2 may be provided at their upper edge 5 with any suitable means for securely retaining the same upon a person, such means being commonly tie strings or a rubber band suitably placed or attached to the trunk or panties 2.

In the suit or unit 1 we preferably form four pockets 6, two being in front and two being in the rear. In the trunk or unit 2 there are two pockets 6a. All of these pockets are provided to receive novel and efficient floaters or buoyant units 7, Figs. 6, 7, and 8. Each floater or buoyant unit comprises a central body (Fig. 8) of mixed zonka fiber 8 and milk-weed fiber 9; the zonka or pina deseta fiber 8 is the Brazilian name of a hair-like fiber which we have discovered, when mixed with the fluffy wilkweed fiber 9, produces an exceedingly buoyant mass, because the hair-like zonka fiber 8 binds or interlocks the two fibers efficiently together, for excellent handling and results. The milkweed fiber is usually secured from the pod of the weed, and both fibers are of a very buoyant nature, and fluffy so that the zonka fiber is efficient for the purpose just specified. Thin sheets or layers of cotton 10 are against the upper and lower faces of the combination zonka and milkweed fiber central body for making an exceedingly excellent surface to be engaged by the thin, durable rubber cover 11 that constitutes the enclosing casing of the buoyant unit 7. The buoyant unit 7 is provided with evenly disposed air cells 12 that extend through the mixed central body and the cotton layers, as will be clearly seen in Figure 8; the rubber cover 11, however, closes the ends of the cells 12 whereby the air is retained in the cells and at the same time water is prevented from entering the cells

or any portion of the interior of the floater or buoyant unit 7.

Each floater or buoyant unit 7 is provided at its upper end with an arm notch 13 which efficiently fits under the arm of the wearer. The buoyant unit 7 is also provided in one side edge with an anchor notch 14. When the buoyant units are in the pockets 6 and 6a, a single line of stitching 15 is placed on the garment along the edge of the buoyant unit 7 in which the anchor notch 14 is formed, with the stitching following the line of contour of notch 14, whereby the buoyant unit is efficiently held in a fixed position with no upward or downward creeping, whether the buoyant unit is in the type of garment designated by 1 or in the type of garment designated by 2. There is also, at the other edge of the buoyant unit, a line of stitching 16, which follows the edge of the buoyant unit including the arm notch 13, Fig. 5, whereby an additional means is provided insuring against any lateral or vertical movement or play of the buoyant unit in the suit or garment. We have found that this novel and valuable construction produces a very satisfactory construction in actual practice.

The pockets are preferably open at their top and bottom, to facilitate the placing of the floaters or buoyant units 7; each buoyant unit 7 is run up into position, through the open bottom, and is then fixedly secured in place only by the stitching 15 and 16 (Fig. 5), fitting the side notch 14 and the shoulder notch 13.

The air cells 12 greatly increase the efficiency of the bathing suit, which with the other novel constructions and arrangement makes a highly efficient suit. However, the air cells 12 may be omitted, but the results will not be near as satisfactory as when the air cells are employed in the construction.

The same type of buoyant unit 7 can be employed in the trunks or panties 12 with equal satisfactory results. Therefore, matters are simplified by the same floater or buoyant unit being adapted for use on either unit or garment of our particular type of construction.

Our suit is just as light as a latex suit or a wool suit and does not get wet inside of the buoyant units and weighs approximately less than one-half as much as other suits; it quickly dries when it has been in use.

It is to be understood that in the following claims the term "buoyant bathing suit" may mean

either the garment 1 worn by a female or the garment 2 worn by a male, notwithstanding garments 1 and 2 are preferably used simultaneously by the female.

While we have described the preferred embodiment of our invention and illustrated the same in the accompanying drawing, certain minor changes or alterations may appear to one skilled in the art to which this invention relates during the extensive manufacture of the same and we, therefore, reserve the right to make such alterations or changes as shall fairly fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What we claim is:

1. A buoyant bathing suit provided with pockets, a buoyant unit in each pocket, each buoyant unit provided at its upper end with an arm notch and in one side with an anchor notch, said suit provided contiguous to the side edges of each buoyant unit with a line of stitching, and one of said lines of stitching conforming to the shape of said arm notch and the other line of stitching conforming to the shape of the anchor notch, whereby the buoyant unit is locked upon the suit against vertical or lateral movement within the pocket.

2. A buoyant bathing suit provided with pockets, buoyant units in said pockets, each buoyant unit comprising an intermediate body portion consisting of mixed zonka fiber and milkweed fluffy fiber, thin sheets of cotton against the upper and lower faces of the intermediate body portion, said intermediate body portion and thin sheets of cotton being provided with air cells therethrough, and a thin sheet rubber cover over all of said central body portion and thin sheets of cotton closing the ends of said air cells.

3. A buoyant bathing suit provided with pockets, buoyant units in said pockets, each buoyant unit comprising an intermediate body portion of fluffy milkweed fiber and interlocking zonka fiber, sheets of cotton extending parallel and being against the upper and lower faces of said intermediate body portion, transverse air cells extending through the intermediate body portion and said cotton sheets, and a thin rubber cover around said intermediate body portion and cotton sheets hermetically sealing the same against liquid and retaining air in said air cells, substantially as shown and described.

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