

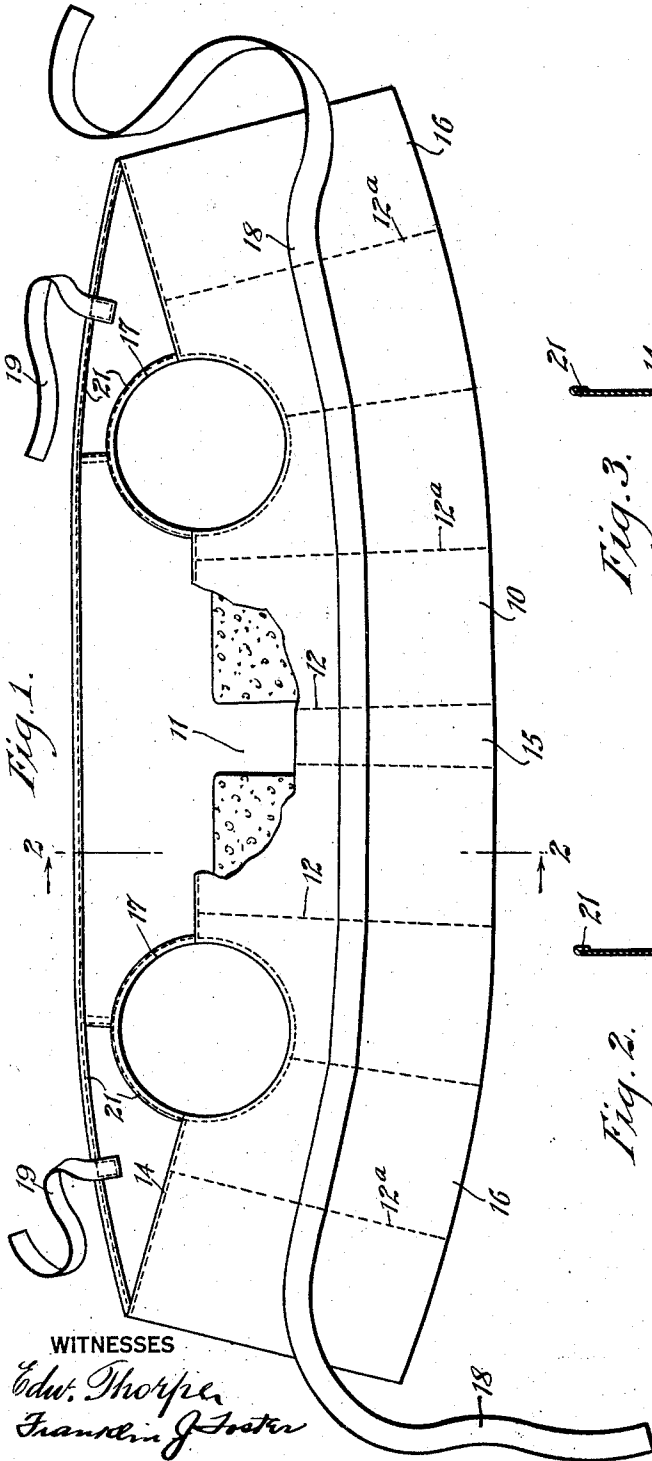
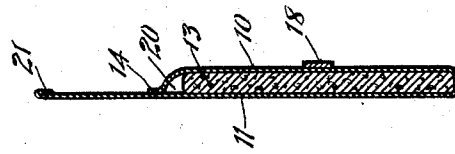
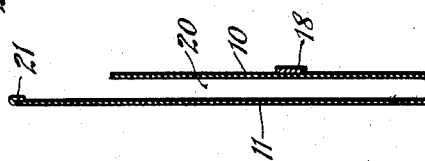
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LIFE PRESERVER

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LIFE PRESERVER

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The present invention is concerned with the provision of life preservers of the vest or body-encircling type. An object of the invention is to provide a device of this character in which the vest is constructed of a single piece of material.

tion in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a life preserver embodying the invention, the preserver being shown fully opened and with portions of two of the pockets broken away to expose the buoyant material within them.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 but showing the pockets before the buoyant material has been inserted and the pockets closed.

Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the buoyant material in place and the pocket completed by the top seam.

It will be noted from the drawings that the life preserver is formed of a single piece of fabric folded upon itself and having the folded over portion 10 connected to the body 11 of the fabric by lines of transverse stitching 12, which lines of stitching cooperatively define pockets for the buoyant material 13, this buoyant material being inserted through the open tops of the pockets which are subsequently closed by a longitudinal line of stitching 14.

The life preserver is of the ordinary vest type including a back 15 and two front sections 16, there being provided the usual armholes 17 at the juncture of the front section and the back section of the garment, and the garment carrying the usual body encircling strap or tape 18 as well as the neck encircling tapes 19.

The pockets 20 which contain the buoyant material 13 extend from the bottom of the garment to a height approximately midway of the armholes 17, leaving a single thickness of material above this point instead of the usual double thickness. The armholes as well as this upper single thickness of material are finished by turning over the edges and sewing as at 21.

Preferably the belt 18 is retained by the same lines of stitching 12 which help to define the pockets 20, while the straps 19 are sewed to the garment in any convenient or conventional manner.

In manufacturing the garment, the last line of stitching to be applied is the line of stitching 14 which closes the tops of the pockets.

Such a construction has many advantages. In the first place the weight of the non-buoyant portion of the life preserver is lightened, its cost is decreased, its manufacture is simplified, and the buoyant material which occupies the pockets of the vest is retained with much more security than in the type of life preservers now commonly employed.

In accordance with present practice, the pockets with the buoyant material are formed by sewing together two overlying similarly shaped pieces of fabric, the buoyant material is inserted through the open bottoms of the pockets thus formed, and the pockets subsequently closed by a line of stitching. In consequence, when this last line of stitching rots out, the buoyant material is free to drop out of the bottoms of the pockets, and when the preserver is donned after a long period of disuse, it is frequently found that these seams have rotted out and the preservers are worthless.

In accordance with the present invention, a single piece of material is folded upon itself to form the pockets; the bottoms of the pockets being entirely seamless, and the filling material being inserted from the top. Thus, there is no stitching at the pocket bottoms to rot, and no danger of losing the buoyant material through the bottoms of the pockets since the pockets are closed by an integral strong piece of fabric, such for instance as canvas or the like.

Other and more general objects of the invention are to provide a life preserver of simple, practical construction, which will be rugged, durable and efficient in use.

With the above noted and other objects in view the invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts as will be more fully hereinafter set forth and pointed out in the claims. The invention may be more fully understood from the following descrip-

Obviously, if it is desired to pack buoyant material in the pockets immediately under the armholes, lines of stitching such as the lines 12^a may be omitted until such time as the pockets under the armholes have been packed from the sides, after which, the lines of stitching 12^a and subsequently the line of stitching 14 are made.

By virtue of the above described construction, the pockets are provided with integral seamless bottoms, and there are no threads to rot out and permit the buoyant material to escape from the bottoms of the pockets. A considerable economy of material is had due to the use of the single thickness of canvas above the pockets, and manufacturing is materially simplified.

Obviously, various changes and alterations might be made in the general form and arrangement of the parts described without departing from the invention. Hence I do not wish to limit myself to the details set forth, but shall consider myself at liberty to make such changes and alterations as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A life preserver including a body encircling portion of fabric folded longitudinally upon itself at its lower edge, lines of transverse stitching connecting the two thicknesses of folded over fabric to divide the same into a series of pockets, buoyant material in the pockets and lines of stitching closing the tops of said pockets below the top of the body, the bottoms of said pockets being seamless and formed by the fold of the fabric.

2. A life preserver of the vest type including a sheet of fabric defining a body encircling portion having armholes therein, the lower portion of the sheet being folded upwardly upon the body encircling portion below the armholes and secured thereto by lines of stitching defining a series of vertically disposed seamless bottomed pockets, buoyant material in the pockets, and a line of stitching closing the tops of the pockets, said line of stitching terminating well below the top of the body encircling portion whereby the upper part of the latter is of a single thickness of material.

Signed at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, this 23 day of March, 1928.

ERNEST W. SKOLDBERG.