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(54) **PERSONAL APPAREL GARMENT PARTICULARLY FOR HEALTH CONSCIOUS THREE-FINGER-GLOVE HAND COVER PROPHYLACTICS**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **2/160**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The design is a combination of left and/or right three-finger-gloves integrated with various attachment garments. The gloves help guard against unwanted hand contact with foreign surfaces while the attachment garment provides various utility and fashion functions. The size and shape of the hand covers are specifically designed to enable the wearer to easily slip into and remove. The glove design prevents moisture intrusion while providing a non-slip grip surface and the added dexterity of a three-finger hand cover. The preferred embodiment includes connecting the hand covers together by way of an over-the-shoulder strap garment worn on the outside of normal apparel. The materials used for construction can vary depending on user preference including cloth, leather, man-made fabrics, or bonded fibers such as paper or felt.

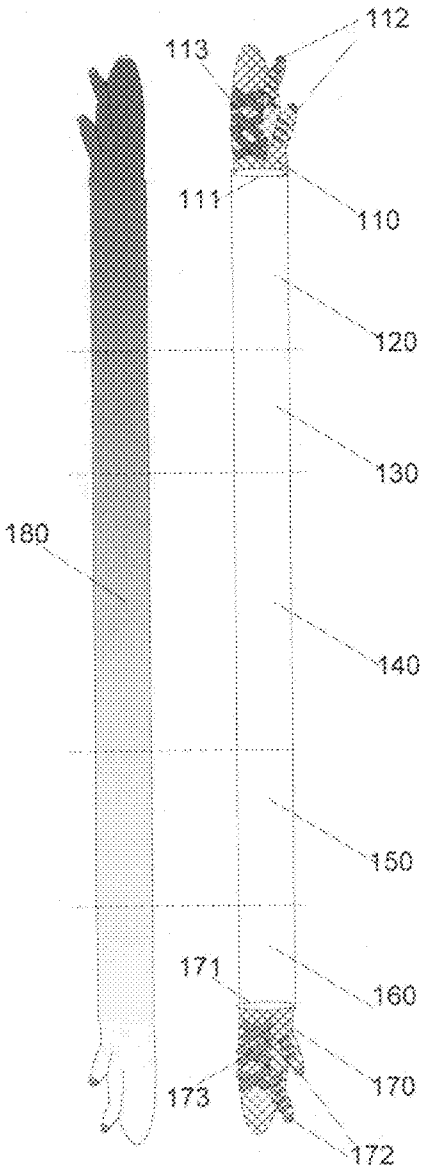


Figure # 1

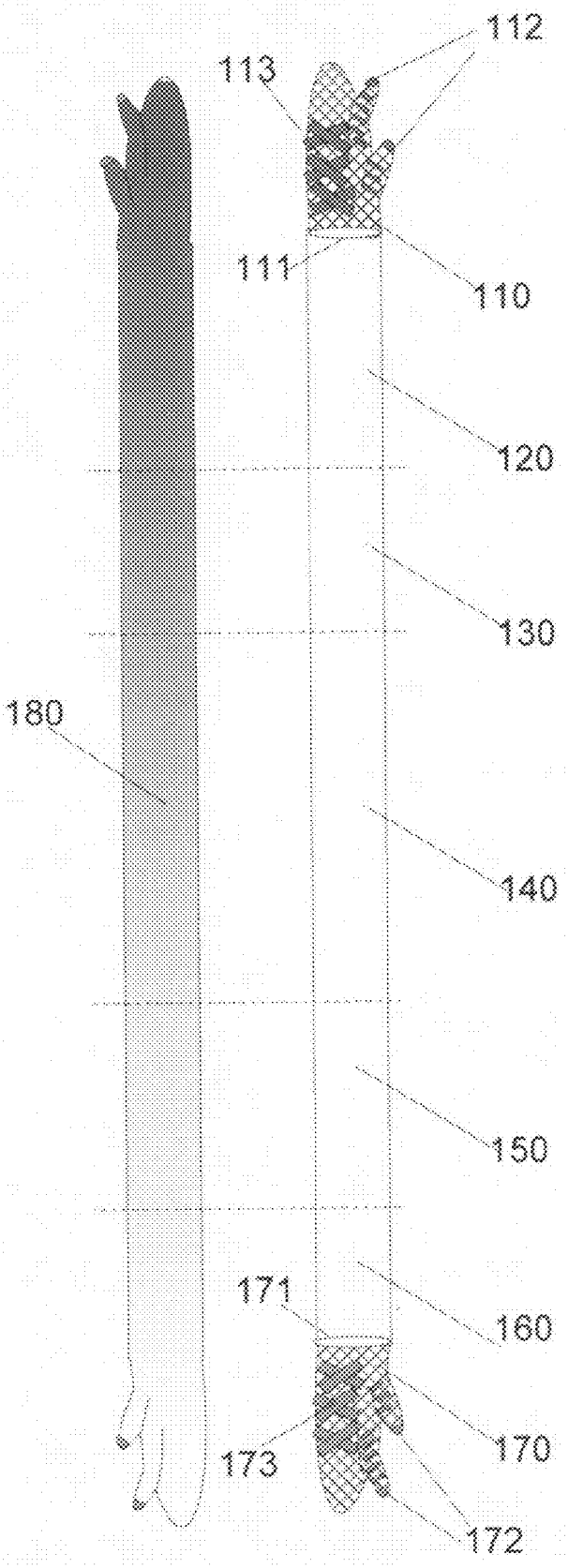
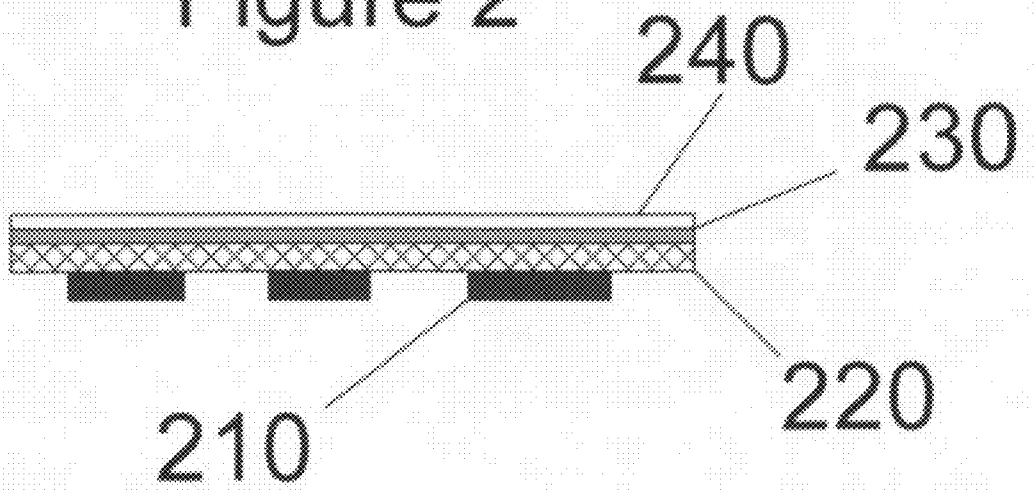


Figure 2



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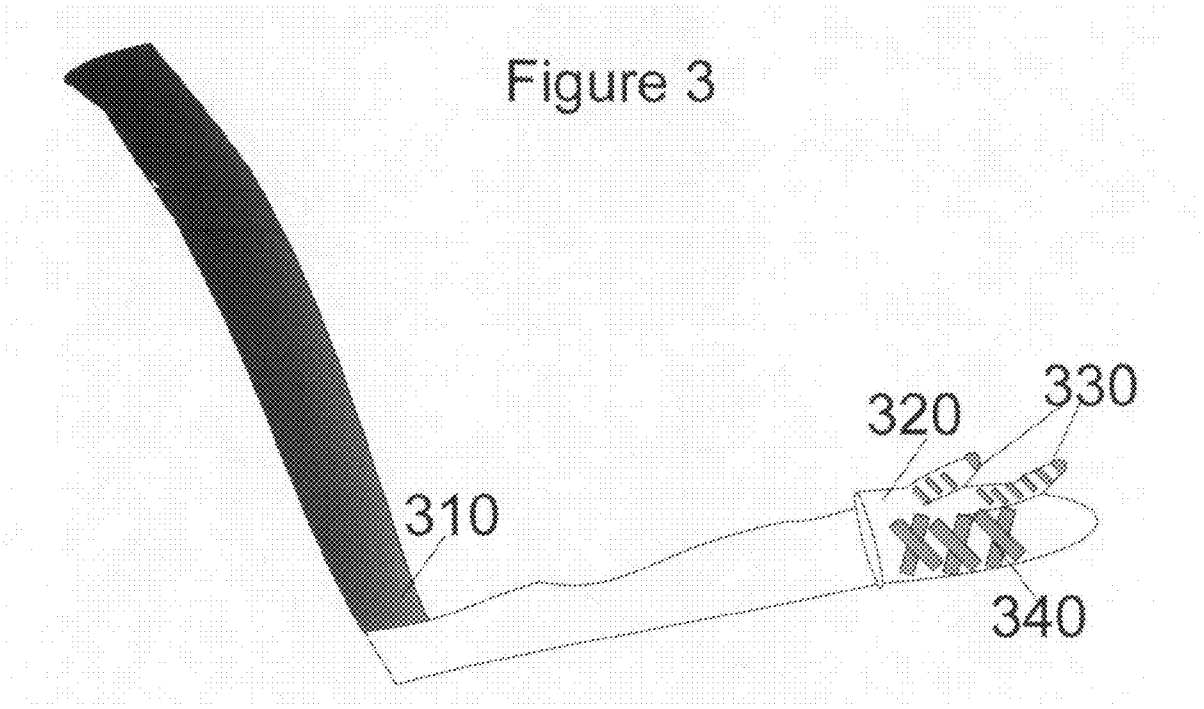

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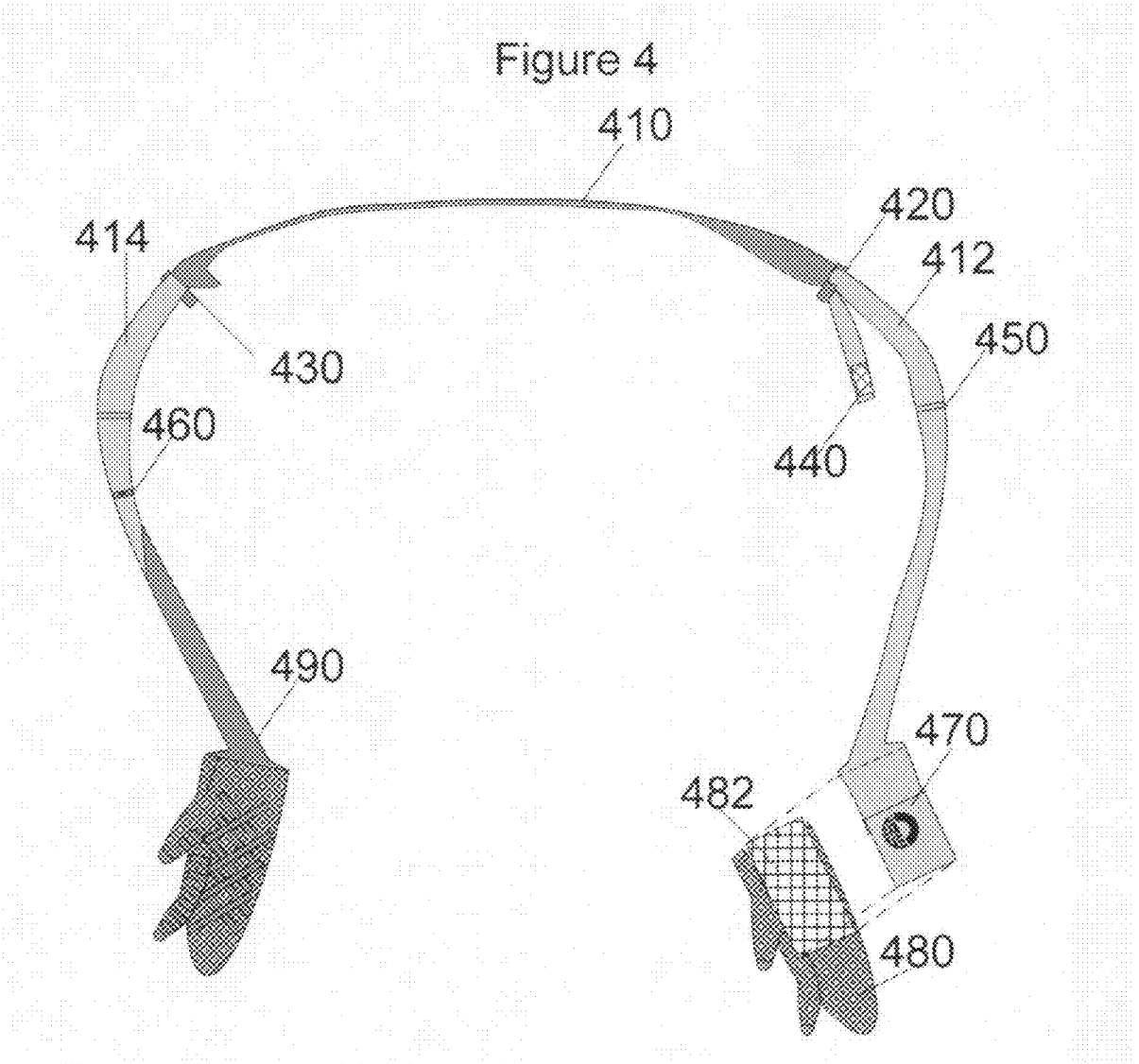

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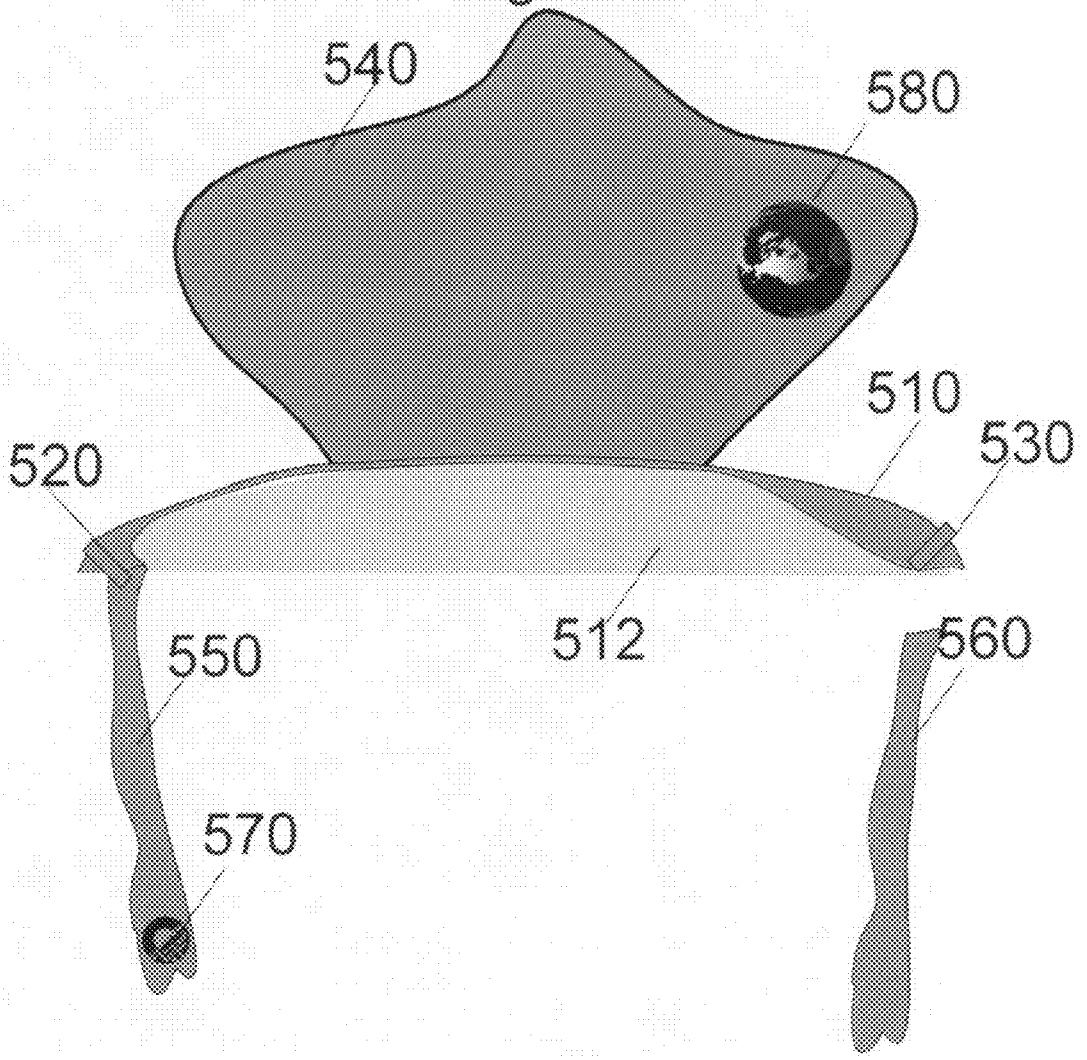

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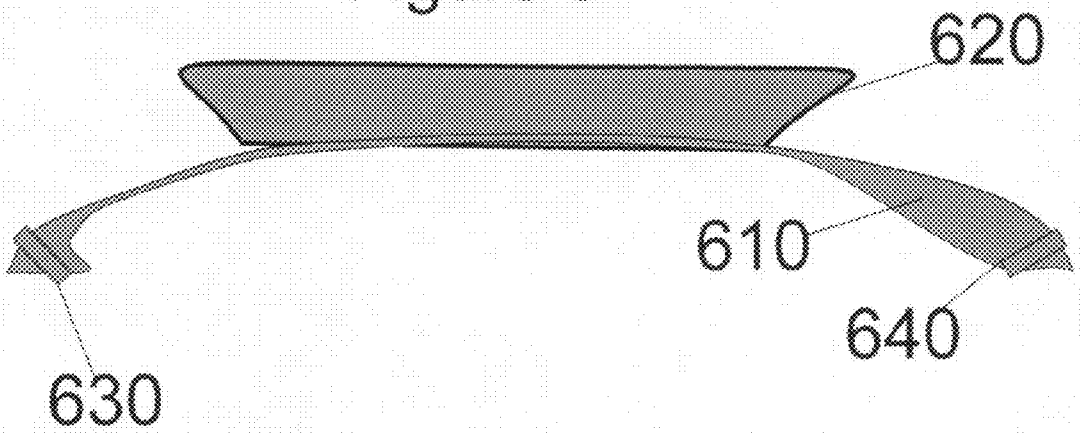

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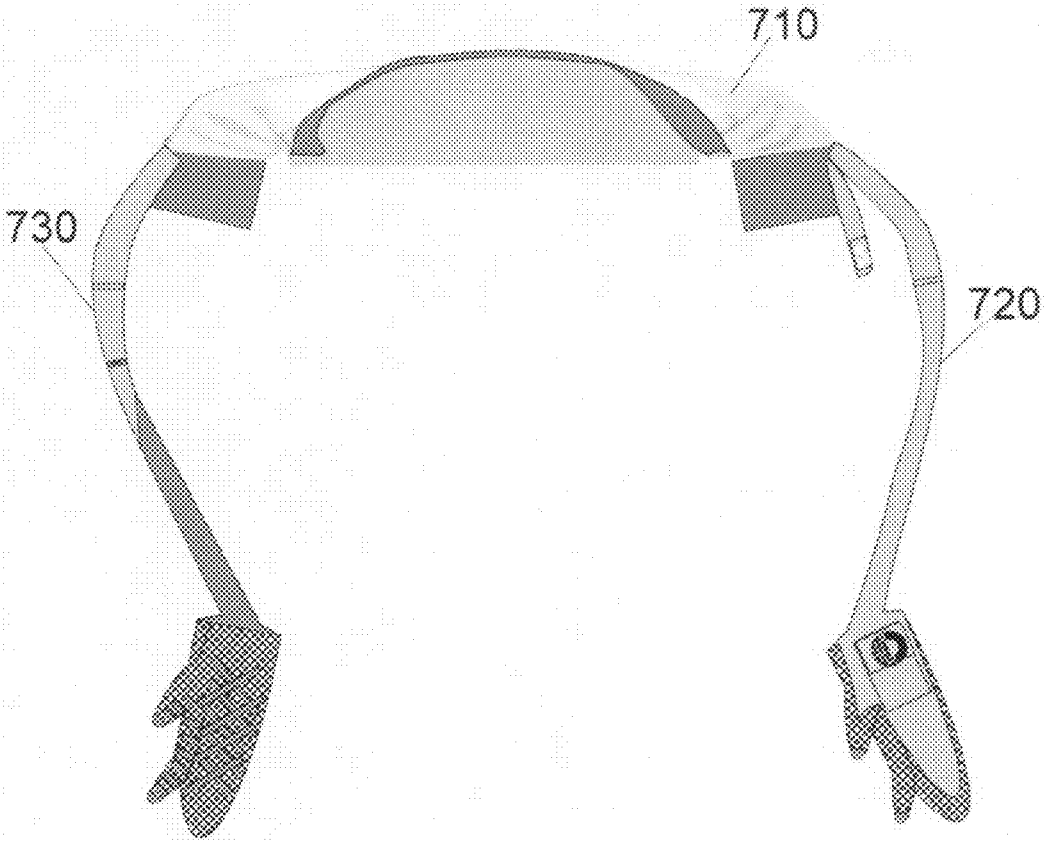

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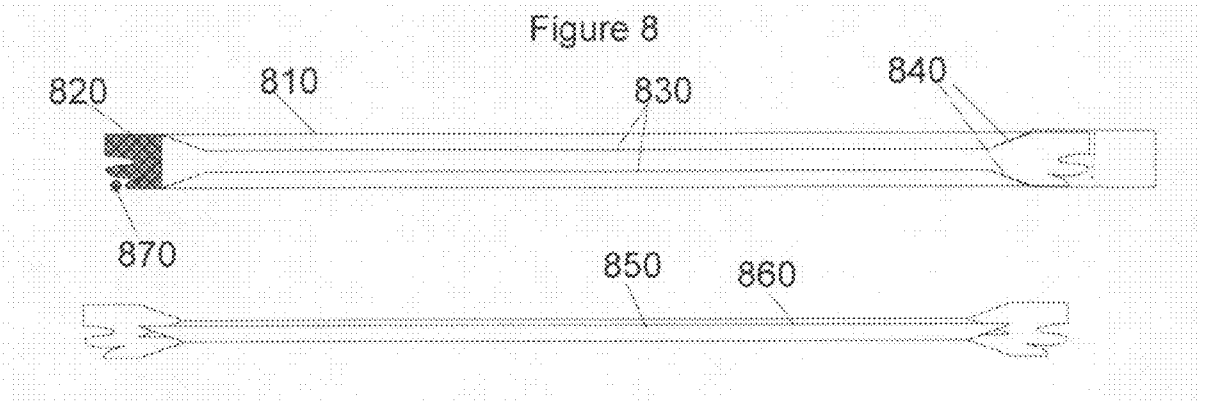


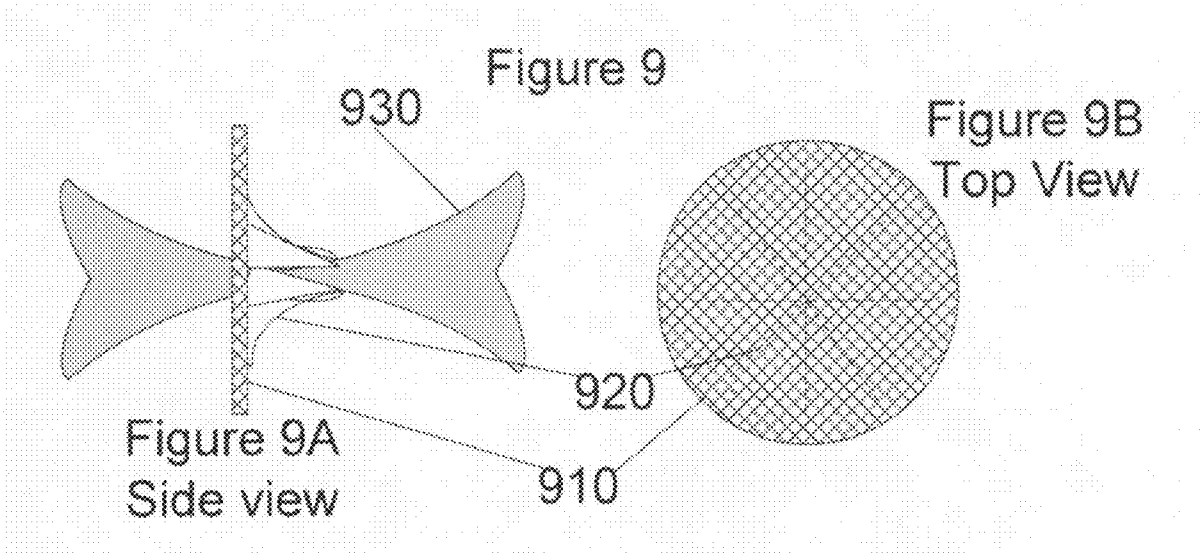


Figure 9
930
Figure 9B
Top View
920
910
Figure 9A
Side view

Figure 10

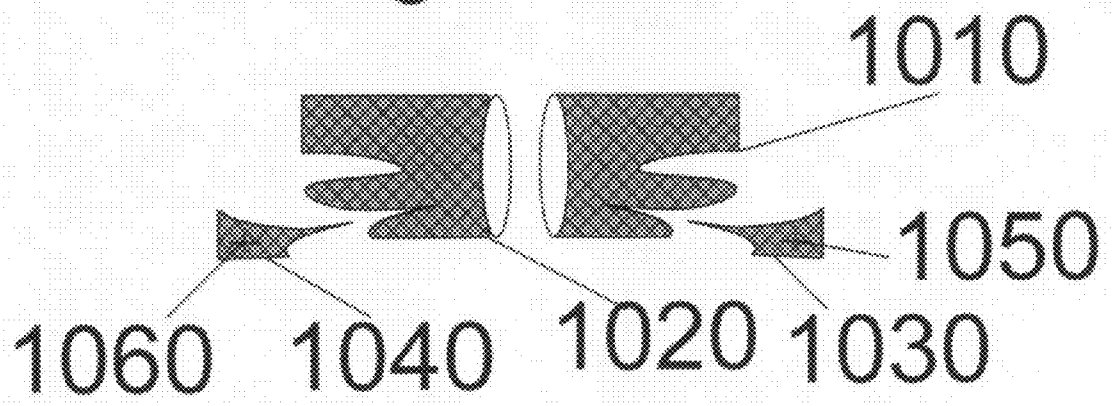
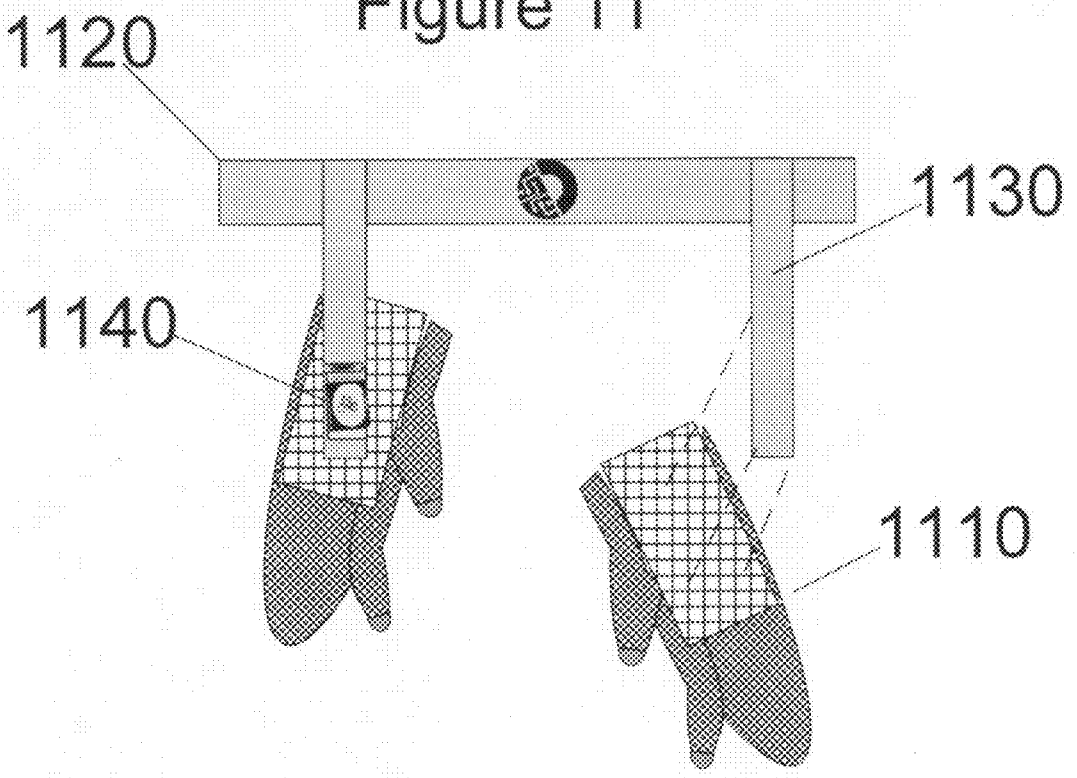


Figure 11



# PERSONAL APPAREL GARMENT PARTICULARLY FOR HEALTH CONSCIOUS THREE-FINGER-GLOVE HAND COVER PROPHYLACTICS

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** 1) Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The invention generally relates to the field of personal apparel particularly for health conscious hand cover prophylactics.

**[0003]** 2) Description of Prior Art

**[0004]** Various designs for hand coverings are known in the art which are made by folding a piece of material and securing the same along its edges. Generally, the art provides for the formation of a mitt consisting of a thumb portion and a main portion which houses the other fingers of the user.

**[0005]** Topping, U.S. Pat. No. 83,800 defines a mitten which is formed from a piece of material consisting of front and back portions with separate parts for the thumb. In forming the mitten, one of the thumb parts is folded into a position to adjoin the other thumb part.

**[0006]** Hollenback, U.S. Pat. No. 1,417,323 defines a similar arrangement in which one of the thumb parts is preliminarily folded so that when the front and back portions of the mitten are placed into overlying relation, the thumb parts will be in position to be sewn together to form the thumb covering of the mitten.

**[0007]** Madnick, U.S. Pat. No. 3,377,627 defines a method of making a hand covering having a curved palm. This covering relies on the use of two separate pieces to form the covering.

**[0008]** Hagstrom, U.S. Pat. No. 2,632,172 discloses a hand covering which requires several parts in the assembly thereof.

**[0009]** Secter U.S. Pat. No. 4,411,026 generically defines a hand covering comprising a blank of material including front and back portions secured together along the edges to form an enclosure. The front and back portions include respective radial projections extending laterally with a hollow thumb covering projecting from the front and back.

**[0010]** Fazio, U.S. Pat. No. 4,938,515 defines a napkin formed into a mitten-like gripper for protecting the hand from soiling and heat while the hand firmly grips, for example, a hamburger.

**[0011]** Cano, U.S. Pat. No. 5,020,160 defines a protective, disposable hand covering or mitt of plastic or paper and of ambidextrous and somewhat oversized design, optionally with a flared cuff for routing liquid away.

**[0012]** Grinberg, U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,099 defines a disposable mitt body formed of front and back layers of plastic with a detachable section that extends from the back layer.

**[0013]** Waters, Jr. U.S. Pat. No. 5,878,439 defines a grip mitt comprising a back piece that has a forwardly claw configuration outline that forms a hand covering with two forward finger pockets and a rear opening for insertion of a hand of a person therein, allowing a thumb to be received within the thumb piece and two fingers to be received within each finger pocket.

**[0014]** Teaster, U.S. Pat. No. 5,987,645 defines a two-sided pocketed hand shield for protecting a hand from germs includes a continuous sheet of a flexible material having evenly-spaced weakened connections dividing the sheet into sections.

**[0015]** Suzuki, U.S. Pat. No. 6,145,128 describes a finger protector apparatus includes a thumb-receiver cup portion, a flexible hinge portion connected to the thumb-receiver cup portion, and a two-finger-receiver cup portion is connected to the flexible hinge portion. The finger protector apparatus of the invention can be worn by a person who wishes to pick up oily finger foods.

**[0016]** Harris, U.S. Pat. No. 6,367,081 defines a method and apparatus for protecting and improving the grip of hands with an abrasion-resistant material having an adhesive on one side affixed to a hand of a user, such that the palm of the hand is protected. The invention protects the hands from abrasion, while promoting grip and avoiding overheating and bunching.

**[0017]** Bignon et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,532,597 describes a glove for housework being made integrally of silicone material and possessing an ambidextrous shape.

**[0018]** Knapp U.S. Pat. No. 6,553,576 defines a gripping glove with attached laces that are capable of being tied together so the glove body can be tied to an object to be gripped.

**[0019]** Burnett et al. U.S. Pat. No. 7,117,536 defines a generally C-shaped hand protection grip enhancement with a finger receiving pocket and a thumb receiving pocket. The user's palm rest on a convex hinge formed by the body of the glove.

**[0020]** Bignon et al. U.S. Pat. No. 2003/0126669 describes a glove for housework. The glove being made of silicone material comprising a main pocket designed to receive four fingers and a secondary pocket designed to receive the thumb.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0021]** The invention generally relates to the field of personal apparel particularly for health conscious hand cover prophylactics. The core of the design is the three-finger-glove hand covers that help guard against unwanted hand contact with foreign surfaces. By invoking hand covers that can be easily slipped into and removed the wearers can insulate themselves from the most egregious offenders of public health. The wearer simple slips their hand into a hand cover, opens a door (or comes into contact with other contaminated objects) and then removes the hand cover when no longer needed thus avoiding skin contact with unhygienic surfaces. The left and right hand covers are retained for easy access by connecting them to an over-the-shoulder strap worn on the outside of normal apparel or by attaching them to temporary restraining mechanisms on an associated garment interface. This design enables the wearer to quickly put on and take off the entire garment while also providing the manufacturer and/or user the opportunity to embellish the appearance of the garment with logos, personalized patches, and/or decorative cloth patterns that appeal to particular target audiences. The design differs from the prior art of gloves and mittens in that the three-finger-glove hand covers prevent moisture intrusion while providing a non-slip grip surface and the added dexterity of independently articulated finger and thumb covers in a easily retained garment. The materials chosen to affect the appearance and utility of the garment vary depending on user preference and include rugged cloth for active wear, more delicate fabric for casual occasions, leather, man-made fabrics, and even fiber matting for infrequent or disposable use.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0022]** FIG. **1**: Multi-grip Scarf Embodiment depicts the core components

**[0023]** FIG. **2**: Fabric Cut-away Detail depicts the relationship of various material fabrics

**[0024]** FIG. **3**: Single Grip Scarf Embodiment depicts a simplified alternative version of the core components

**[0025]** FIG. **4**: Segmented Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components with various garment segments to provide functional and style flexibility

**[0026]** FIG. **5**: Collar Hood Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components with head protection hood, storage pouch, and shoulder straps for torso restraint

**[0027]** FIG. **6**: Collar Strap Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components with neck protective collar

**[0028]** FIG. **7**: The Shirt Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components with shirt sleeve torso restraint

**[0029]** FIG. **8**: Fiber Composite Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components made from disposable materials

**[0030]** FIG. **9**: Fiber Composite Embodiment Adjustment Mechanism depicts details of adjustment synch mechanism

**[0031]** FIG. **10**: Independent Fiber Composite Glove Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components made from disposable materials

**[0032]** FIG. **11**: Garment Stowage Embodiment depicts a simple belt garment with glove attachment straps

## DETAIL DESCRIPTION

**[0033]** The preferred embodiment is the Multi-grip Scarf embodiment which includes both the left and right hand covers cited in claim **1** attached to each other by a single over-the-shoulder band of material cited in claim **7** in the fashion of a muffler scarf. The combination of features includes left and right three-finger-gloves with the integral protective moisture barrier, dexterity fingertips, and elastic palm grip surface (Reference FIG. **2**: Fabric Cut-away Detail). The gloves are attached to each other via an over-the-shoulder strap garment (Reference FIG. **1**: Multi-grip Scarf Embodiment).

FIG. 1: Multi-Grip Scarf Embodiment, Depicts the Following Core Components:

**[0034]** Reference **110**: Right hand, three-finger-glove hand cover, palm side view.

**[0035]** Reference **111**: Right hand, three-finger-glove, palm side view hand opening cuff.

**[0036]** Reference **112**: Right hand, three-finger-glove thumb and index fingertip covers.

**[0037]** Reference **113**: Right hand, three-finger-glove durable elastic palm non-slip surface.

**[0038]** Reference **120**: Right hand, forearm section of Strap.

**[0039]** Reference **130**: Right hand, bicep section of Strap.

**[0040]** Reference **140**: Over the shoulder segment of Strap.

**[0041]** Reference **150**: Left hand, bicep section of Strap.

**[0042]** Reference **160**: Left hand, forearm section of Strap.

**[0043]** Reference **170**: Left hand, three-finger-glove hand cover, palm side.

**[0044]** Reference **171**: Left hand, three-finger-glove, palm side hand opening cuff.

**[0045]** Reference **172**: Left hand, three-finger-glove thumb and index fingertip covers.

**[0046]** Reference **173**: Left hand, three-finger-glove durable elastic palm non-slip surface.

**[0047]** Reference **180**: Multi-grip Scarf Embodiment back side view.

**[0048]** Both left and right three-finger-gloves are a modified mitten configuration specifically designed to provide a loose fit for ease of access and independently articulated thumb and index finger enclosures to enable the user to perform opposing thumb grip of objects and independent use of index finger for pointing at and manipulating objects (Reference **110**: Right hand three-finger-glove hand cover, Reference **170**: Left hand three-finger-glove hand cover). All embodiments of the invention include the core three-finger glove component.

**[0049]** Both left and right three-finger-gloves include independently articulated thumb and index finger enclosures with elastic finger tip covers that provide a durable non-slip surface for pointing at and manipulating objects (Reference **112**: Right hand three-finger-glove thumb and index finger tip covers, Reference **172**: Left hand three-finger-glove thumb and index finger tip covers). The finger and thumb tip materials provide electronically resistive and capacitive characteristics to facilitate use with touch sensitive devices. All embodiments of the invention include the core finger and thumb tip elastic covers.

**[0050]** Both left and right three-finger-gloves include an elastic material applied to the exterior palm-side fabric to provide a textured, durable, non-slip surface for grasping of objects (Reference **113**: Right hand three-finger-glove durable elastic palm non-slip surface, Reference **173**: Left hand three-finger-glove durable elastic palm non-slip surface). The textured surface extends along the palm-side length of the fingers and thumb to increase grip surface coverage. All embodiments of the invention include the core component of textured palm and finger grip surfaces.

**[0051]** The three-finger-glove exterior utility surface is made of a durable flexible fabric that retains the shape and structure of the articulated index finger, thumb, three finger pouch, hand compartment and entry cuff (Ref. FIG. **2**). A moisture barrier is sandwiched between the exterior and interior lining of the three-finger-glove to prevent the intrusion of liquid and biological contaminates. All embodiments of the invention include the core moisture barrier construction. The three-finger-glove interior lining is a soft hypoallergenic material for contact with the user's skin.

**[0052]** FIG. **2**: Fabric Cut-Away Detail Depicts the Relationship of Various Material Components:

**[0053]** Reference **210**: Durable textured elastic material affixed to exterior palm grip, finger body, and finger tip surfaces to provide a durable non-slip grip

**[0054]** Reference **220**: Three-finger-glove durable flexible exterior utility fabric

**[0055]** Reference **230**: Moisture proof barrier sandwiched between to exterior and interior lining fabrics

**[0056]** Reference **240**: Three-finger-glove interior lining fabric

## DESCRIPTION OF ADDITIONAL OR ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

**[0057]** The Single-Grip Scarf embodiment includes a single left or right three-finger-glove hand cover cited in claim **1**, dependant on user preference. The hand cover is

attached to an over the shoulder band of fabric cited in claim **7** in the fashion of a muffler scarf. The Single-Grip Scarf Embodiment (Reference FIG. **3**) depicts a simplified alternative version of the core components. The left handed version only is shown for clarity but the embodiment also applies to the right handed version. The Single-Grip Scarf Embodiment combines the utility of the three-finger-glove with the fashionable appearance of a casual muffler-scarf. The user can easily don the garment and call the glove, either right or left depending on user preference, into action for single handed tasks such as dragging wheeled luggage or opening doors and so forth.

FIG. 3: Single-Grip Scarf Embodiment:

**[0058]** Reference **310**: Single-Grip Scarf Embodiment includes a single over-the-shoulder piece of fabric

**[0059]** Reference **320**: Left hand three-finger-glove, palm side with hand opening cuff

**[0060]** Reference **330**: Left hand three-finger-glove thumb and index fingertip covers

**[0061]** Reference **340**: Left hand three-finger-glove durable elastic palm non-slip surface

**[0062]** The Segmented Embodiment is an alternative version of the core components with the over-the-shoulder garment consisting of various detachable segments that provide for user preference flexibility of utility and fashion (Reference FIG. **4**). The Shoulder Segment can be attached to the left and right Arm Segments via attachment mechanisms. The Shoulder Segment to Arm Segment Attachment Mechanism supports arm length adjustment and Arm Segment replacement for maintenance or fashion preference. The Arm Segments also support optional inclusion of utility pockets in the bicep, forearm, and hand-back locations. Both the right and left three-finger-gloves are attached via an attachment mechanism to support maintenance and fashion preference replacement.

FIG. **4**: Segmented Embodiment, Depicts an Alternative Version of the Core Components with the Over-the-Shoulder Garment Segmented to Provide for Flexible Utility and Fashion Preferences:

**[0063]** Reference **410**: Shoulder Segment

**[0064]** Reference **412**: Left Arm Segment (includes hand-back, forearm, and bicep sections)

**[0065]** Reference **114**: Right Arm Segment (includes hand-back, forearm, and bicep sections)

**[0066]** Reference **420**: Left Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism

**[0067]** Reference **430**: Right Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism

**[0068]** Reference **440**: Left Arm Segment Attachment Mechanism. Left arm only shown for clarity, also applies to right Arm Segment

**[0069]** Reference **450**: Left arm bicep pocket shown for clarity, also applies to right arm

**[0070]** Reference **460**: Right forearm pocket shown for clarity, also applies to left arm

**[0071]** Reference **470**: Left hand-back pocket shown for clarity, also applies to right hand

**[0072]** Reference **480**: Left hand three-finger-glove shown for clarity, also applies to right hand

**[0073]** Reference **482**: Left hand three-finger-glove Attachment Mechanism shown for clarity, also applies to right hand

**[0074]** Reference **490**: Right hand palm view shown for reference

**[0075]** The Collar Hood Embodiment extends the Shoulder Segment of the garment to include an alternative version of the core components (Reference FIG. **5**) with a head protective hood, shoulder segment pocket storage pouch, and shoulder straps for torso restraint. The Shoulder Segment retains the ability to attach the left and right Arm Segments via attachment mechanisms. The Shoulder Segment pocket can include a flap, zipper, snap, or button closure mechanisms and be used either as a general utility pocket or for hood storage. The head protection hood can either be permanently exposed for fashion and utility or alternately folded into and stored in the collar pocket. The optional torso restraint straps are provided to assure that the garment remains in place during violent user activity. The torso straps can alternatively be permanently attached to the Shoulder Segment or affixed via attachment mechanisms that support versatile use and storage. The torso straps include self attachment mechanisms that support fastening around arms or chest to assure the garment is retained during user activities. All embodiments of the invention support the attachment of personalized patches, logos, or print designs on the pockets, strap, or hood of the garment.

FIG. **5**: Collar Hood Embodiment, Depicts an Alternative Version of the Core Invention with Head Protection Hood, Storage Pouch, and Shoulder Straps for Torso Restraint:

**[0076]** Reference **510**: Shoulder segment (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0077]** Reference **512**: Shoulder segment pocket

**[0078]** Reference **520**: Right side shoulder segment attachment mechanism (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0079]** Reference **530**: Left side shoulder segment attachment mechanism (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0080]** Reference **540**: Head protection hood

**[0081]** Reference **550**: Right side torso restraint strap

**[0082]** Reference **560**: Left side torso restraint strap

**[0083]** Reference **570**: Personalized patch adornment on strap/pocket

**[0084]** Reference **580**: Logo adornment on hood/pocket

**[0085]** The Collar Strap embodiment refines the Shoulder Segment strap to include a collar for fashion and/or as a weather barrier. The Shoulder Segment of the garment thus includes a Collar Strap Embodiment (Reference FIG. **6**) alternative version of the core components with a user's neck protective collar. The Shoulder Segment garment retains the ability to attach the left and right arm segments via attachment mechanisms. The collar functions as both a weather barrier and fashion alternative and can optionally be integrated with hood storage as in the Collar Hood Embodiment (Reference FIG. **5**). The Collar Strap embodiment refines the collar strap to include a pocket integrated into the collar for user utility. The collar pocket can utilize any cover flap, snaps, buttons, or zipper for closing devices.

FIG. **6**: Collar Strap Embodiment, Depicts an Alternative Version of the Core Invention with Neck Protection Collar:

**[0086]** Reference **610** Shoulder segment (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0087]** Reference **620** Neck protection collar of various sizes, shapes, and fabrics for style and functionality preferences

**[0088]** Reference **630**: Right side shoulder segment attachment mechanism (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0089]** Reference **640**: Left side shoulder segment attachment mechanism (note: arm segments not shown for clarity)

**[0090]** The Shirt embodiment of the Shoulder Segment is an alternative configuration that incorporates a shirt type garment of any length or style that includes Arm Segment attachment mechanisms. The shirt embodiment enables the user to utilize the hand covers and Arm Segments while retain the appearance and convenience of the shirt or jacket type garment. The Shirt Embodiment depicts an alternative version of the core components with shirt sleeve acting to provide torso restraint (Reference FIG. **7**). The Shoulder Segment garment retains the ability to attach the left and right arm segments via attachment mechanisms. The shirt length, style, and utility of the garment are personal preference and material selection items accommodated by the design.

FIG. 7: Shirt Embodiment:

**[0091]** Reference **710**: Shoulder segment shirt torso restraint mechanism of various sizes, shapes, and fabrics for style and functionality preferences

**[0092]** Reference **720**: Left side arm segment (shown for clarity)

**[0093]** Reference **730**: Right side arm segment (shown for clarity)

**[0094]** The Fiber Composite embodiment is an alternative design utilizing plastic impregnated fiber matting such as paper or felt fiber batting that is intended for occasional or disposable use while still retaining the three-finger-glove configuration, moisture barrier, palm grip surface, finger tip covers, and the hand cover entry cuff. The objective of the fiber design is to fabricate the entire glove and over-the-shoulder strap from a single piece of fabric that is folded and bonded to itself to increase durability. The fabric should be made of recycled/biodegradable materials where possible. The Fiber Composite embodiment can be dispensed from a machine or package containing multiple copies of the garment. The Fiber Composite embodiment includes an Adjuster Mechanism that utilizes scrap material cut from the thumb and index finger articulation process and is shaped and perforated to facilitate use as an adjustment synch. The adjustment mechanism enables the user to vary the length of the over-the-shoulder strap by pushing unneeded strap material through perforated slots and collecting it on the other side thus shortening the overall length of the garment. The Fiber Composite Embodiment is an alternative version of the core components made from disposable/recycled materials (Reference FIG. **8**). The Fiber Composite Embodiment retains the palm and fingertip grip surfaces as well as the moisture barrier capability while being constructed of low cost paper/felt materials. The palm grip surface is permanently bonded to the garment fabric allowing for a hand insertion pocket. A single or multiple pieces of material is cut, folded, and bonded to provide a durable over-the-shoulder scarf garment with a three-finger-glove hand cover at both ends.

FIG. 8: Fiber Composite Embodiment:

**[0095]** Reference **810**: Palm side view of complete unit (not folded)

**[0096]** Reference **820**: Palm side view, Palm grip surface

**[0097]** Reference **830**: Palm side view fold lines

**[0098]** Reference **840**: Palms side view cut lines

**[0099]** Reference **850**: Back side view fully folded

**[0100]** Reference **860**: Back side view bonding lines

**[0101]** Reference **870**: Adjustment mechanism cut from scrap material

**[0102]** The scrap material cut from the index finger and thumb articulation process of the hand pouches are used to make a synch mechanism consisting of a perforated wafer cut from the material that supports insertion of the over-the-shoulder strap in such a way that the overall length of the strap can be shortened for user preference (Ref. FIG. **9**).

FIG. **9**: Fiber Composite Embodiment Adjustment Mechanism Depicts an Alternative Version of the Core Component Adjustment Mechanism Made from Disposable/Recycled Materials:

**[0103]** Reference **910**: Wafer of material cut from hand cover scrap

**[0104]** Reference **920**: Perforation lines cut into material to enable insertion of strap material

**[0105]** Reference **930**: Portion of strap material shown partially inserted through wafer perforations

**[0106]** The Independent Fiber Composite Glove Embodiment is an alternative version of the core components made from disposable/recycled materials (Reference FIG. **10**). The Independent Fiber Composite Glove Embodiment retains the palm and fingertip grip surfaces as well as the moisture barrier capability while being constructed of low cost paper/felt materials. The palm grip surface is permanently bonded to the garment fabric allowing for a hand insertion pocket. A single or multiple pieces of materials is cut, folded, and bonded to provide independent durable three-finger-glove garments that can be carried either as a single left-or-right glove or as a left-and-right glove pair depending on user preference. The gloves can be constructed with single sided palm grip surface or in ambidextrous fashion with dual sided palm grip surface. The glove pair can be carried together by inserting a portion of the glove material through a perforated opening in the scrap material left by the finger/thumb articulation process in a similar fashion as described in FIG. **9**.

FIG. 10: Independent Fiber Composite Glove Embodiment:

**[0107]** Reference **1010**: Palm side view of right hand glove

**[0108]** Reference **1020**: Palm side view of left hand glove

**[0109]** Reference **1030**: Scrap of material liberated from right hand finger/thumb articulation

**[0110]** Reference **1040**: Scrap of material liberated from left hand finger/thumb articulation

**[0111]** Reference **1050**: Perforation cuts in scrap of material liberated from right hand glove

**[0112]** Reference **1060**: Perforation cuts in scrap of material liberated from right hand glove

**[0113]** The Garment Stowage embodiment enables the user to temporarily affix both left and right or a single left or right three-finger-glove hand cover to a waist, torso, or leg fitted garment. The glove with its associated quick release strap-to-hand cover attachment mechanism can then be quickly accessed for use and returned to the garment attachment point while not in use. The Garment Stowage Embodiment (Ref. FIG. **11**) shows both left and right three-finger-glove hand covers with associated quick release strap to hand cover attachments that are temporarily affixed to a strap hanging

from a simple belt type garment. The belt can be of any waist, torso, or leg fitting garment that serves the purpose of providing an appropriate hand cover attachment interface. The glove can then be quickly attached and removed from the interface point for use and returned to the garment attachment point when no longer needed. The option of retaining a single glove or both gloves on a single interface point on the garment is also envisioned by this embodiment. The option of providing personalized features such as pocket, patches, or logos is also retained in this embodiment.

FIG. **11**: Garment Stowage Embodiment, Depicts an Alternative Version of the Core Components with a Simple Waist Fitting Belt with Dangling Straps and Both Left and Right Three-Finger-Gloves Attached:

**[0114]** Reference **1110**: Three-finger-glove with quick release attachment mechanism

**[0115]** Reference **1120**: Waist fitting belt

**[0116]** Reference **1130**: Hand cover attachment interface strap

**[0117]** Reference **1140**: Garment personalization pocket

**[0118]** All cited embodiments can be printed with patterns, logos, or patches to appeal to fashion or publicity applications. The external surfaces of the garments can be utilized for the application of printed patterns that exploit the garment shape and/or function (e.g. cartoon hand or claw prints that might appeal to youthful users or public service notices that can be distributed at social events or in emergency situations). The external surfaces of the strap, collar, and hood portions of the garment can be exploited for commercial advertisement, logo, or social affiliation patch placement.

REFERENCES CITED

**[0119]** None

**1**) Left and right hand covers configured as three-finger-gloves connected together by way of a utility garment. Each hand cover includes separately articulated thumb covering and index finger covering with the remaining fingers in a single mitten like covering. The three-finger-glove hand covers include a moisture proof barrier between the user's skin and exposure to external contaminants. The user can thus grip objects with the opposing thumb and use the index finger to point and press on objects separately from the remaining fingers without coming into contact with foreign contaminants. The hand body of the glove adjoins and supports the finger covers and terminates as an easy access cuff opening. The three-finger-glove hand covers can optionally be attached to, or integrated with, any of several garment embodiments.

**2**) The hand cover access cuff is specifically sized and shaped to enable the user to easily pull on and remove the hand covers cited in claim **1**. The cuff form is supported by interface banding and fabric structure to enable the user to easily access the inner structure of the glove.

**3**) Fingertips Guards are affixed to the exterior of the thumb and index finger covers of each glove. The exterior of the articulated thumb and index fingertips of the hand cover cited in claim **1** are augmented with a durable elastic material to provide non-slip surfaces that assures accurate thumb and index finger manipulation of objects. The Fingertip Guard material includes a resistive/capacitive characteristic to support user interface with touch-screen technologies.

**4**) The exterior surface of the three-finger-glove hand cover palm grips are augmented with a durable elastic material to provide a non-slip surface. The palm grip surface and the surface of the finger flexor length of the hand covers cited in claim **1** are affixed with a durable elastic material that is textured to provide a non-slip surface that assures a firm grip of objects and mechanically insulates the glove body fabric from direct contact with the objects.

**5**) A moisture proof barrier prevents liquids from soaking through the three-finger-glove hand covers. The hand covers cited in claim **1** are made of multiple layers of flexible fabric with a durable utility surface on the exterior and a soft interior lining with a moisture proof barrier sandwiched between to guard against chemical and biological intrusion. The hand covers are constructed of materials that remain flexible in all weather conditions.

**6**) The three-finger-glove interior lining is made of soft materials to provide user comfort and ease of fit. The interior lining material of the three-finger-glove hand covers cited in claim **1** are made of a soft, pliable, hypoallergenic material for wearer comfort and ease of employment.

**7**) The left and right three-finger-glove hand covers cited in claim **1** are constructed such that they can be attached to a Strap of various fashions and materials that is sized to be draped over the user's shoulders while in use. The Strap length is sized to position the three-finger-glove hand covers in alignment with the user's normal posture hand position. The Strap consists of the left and right Arm Segments and an over the Shoulder Segment that combine to make up a single garment of various design and utility dependant on user preference. The Strap can be a simple cord or band that includes the left and right arm segments and the shoulder segment in a single piece of fabric or it can be separate segments with pockets or other clothing like attributes. The Strap is made of a durable non-stretchy material such as woven cloth, leather, man-made fabrics, or fiber composites.

**8**) The Hand-Cover to Strap Attachment Mechanism provides for the hand cover removal and attachment for maintenance purposes. The left and right individual three-finger-glove hand covers cited in claim **1** can be attached to the strap cited in claim **7** by an Attachment Mechanism such as a synch, buckle, or self adhering patch that enables the glove to be affixed to the Strap to form a single garment. The Attachment Mechanism provides for the individual hand covers to be attached to the Strap cited in claim **7** or alternatively attached to any garment fitted with an appropriate attachment interface. The hand cover Attachment Mechanism can thereby be attached to a coat, shirt, belt, or other garment via the mechanism and removed only when needed. The Attachment Mechanism on the hand covers thereby provides the capability to attach them to each other or any other appropriately configured stationary object for easy stowage, transport, and access.

**9**) The left and right Arm Segments of the Strap sited in claim **7** each include a hand back section with hand cover Attachment Mechanism interface cited in claim **8**, a forearm section, and a bicep section. Each of these garment sections can be separate pieces of fabric to facilitate function or style options or a single integrated piece of fabric. The Arm Segments are made of a durable non-stretchy material such as cloth, leather, man-made fabrics, or fiber composites.

**10**) The Shoulder Segment is a band of fabric that extends over the shoulder of the user and attaches to the Arm Segments cited in claim **9** to form the Strap cited in claim **7**. The Shoulder Segment is made of a durable non-stretchy material such as cloth, leather, man-made fabrics, or fiber composites.

**11**) The Arm Segment to Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism provides for the joining of the Arm Segments cited in claim **9** to the Shoulder Segment cited in claim **10** into a Strap cited in claim **7**. The Arm Segment to Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism enables the user to adjust the length of the Arm Segment by looping through and attaching to a synch, buckle, or self adhering patch. The Arm Segment to Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism also serves to enable the left and right Arm Segments to be attached to each other directly thus bypassing the Shoulder Segment if desired by the user.

**12**) The Arm Segment Attachment Mechanism is fitted to the Shoulder Segment cited in claim **10** and works in conjunction with the Arm Segment to Shoulder Segment Attachment Mechanism cited in claim **11** to join the garment segments together into a single Strap cited in claim **7**.

**13**) Arm Segment Pockets are incorporated into the Arm Segment material cited in claim **9** and include a plurality of pockets integrated with the back of the hand cover section, forearm section, and bicep section of the garment. These general utility pockets can utilize any of several closing devices including cover flaps, snaps, buttons, or zippers.

**14**) The Torso Attachment System secures the Shoulder Segment cited in claim **10** to the user during violent activity. The Torso Attachment System can be any of several style or utility options from simple arm bands, to chest harness, or sleeved garments of various designs and fashions that serve to secure the Shoulder Segment to the wearer's torso.

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