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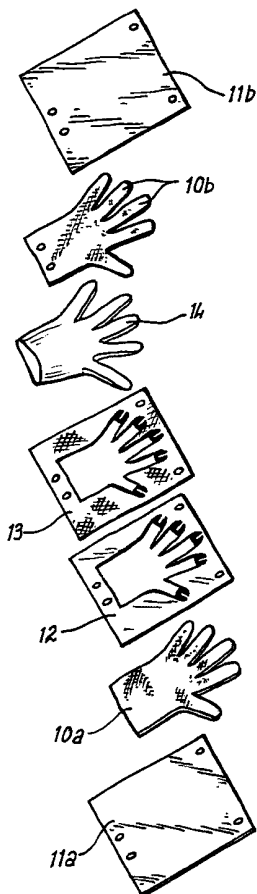
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO FABRIC BONDING

(57) Abstract: A method for making a shaped object is disclosed. A mould (14) is disposed between two layers of fabric (10a, 10b), with joining layer (12) layer therebetween. The upper fabric layer (10b) has a greater surface area than the lower layer (10a), so that the final garment has a natural curvature. Further embodiments respectively describe how garment inserts may be joined by a vacuum draw-down process (figure 10) and by the use of adhesive cups (figure 12).



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 01/01496

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A41D1/00 B29C65/02 B32B31/12 B29C65/42
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A41D B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 123 119 A (DUBE ROLAND E) 23 June 1992 (1992-06-23)	1,6-8
Y	column 3, line 43 - line 56; figure 2 ---	2-5
X	US 3 132 348 A (M. A. FRENKEL ET AL) 12 May 1964 (1964-05-12)	1,6
A	column 2, line 6 - line 35; figures 2,3 ---	2,3,8
X	US 4 645 629 A (STERN BRETT) 24 February 1987 (1987-02-24)	1,6
A	abstract; figures 2,3,7 column 1, line 30 - line 48 column 6, line 25 - line 32 ---	8
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 July 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 01/01496

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	FR 1 292 520 A (RIEGEL TEXTILE CORPORATION) 28 September 1962 (1962-09-28) page 2, left-hand column, line 19 - line 28; claim 2; figure 1 ---	2,3
A	CH 213 471 A (PERSSON ERIC SIGFRID) 15 February 1941 (1941-02-15) figures 9,10 ---	2,3
Y	US 2 577 284 A (E. M. STEINLE) 4 December 1951 (1951-12-04) column 4, line 49 - line 57; figure 13 ---	4
Y	WO 99 64240 A (GALLAGHER JOSEPH E JR ;LITELINER LLC (US); MCGRAW JOHN J (US)) 16 December 1999 (1999-12-16) cited in the application	5
A	abstract; claim 1; figure 1 -----	7,8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 01/01496

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-8

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-8

A method for progressively applying a sheet of material against a mould.

2. Claims: 9-33

A method for joining two superposed layers of a composite garment.

3. Claims: 34-45

A method of joining sheet materials which cannot readily be joined.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No PCT/GB 01/01496
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Patent document cited in search report	A	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5123119	A	23-06-1992	NONE	
US 3132348	A	12-05-1964	CH 406102 A GB 940602 A	31-01-1966 30-10-1963
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