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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/05415 (22) International Filing Date: 26 June 1992 (26.06.92) (71) Applicant: RUDKIN, William [US/US]; 27 Saunders Hollow Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 (US). (74) Agent: COHEN, Myron; Cohen, Pontani & Lieberman and Pavane, 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176 (US). (81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, KZ, UA, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE).		Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: TESTICLE SUPPORT GARMENT		
(57) Abstract The means comprises a support insert pad (11) protruding inward within the crotch portion of any men's garment (15) that is worn next to the skin. The support insert pad (11) is positioned to be behind the testicles of the male to provide a lifting and support platform for the testicles while allowing for the rest of the garment (15) to hold the genitals stable against the body. The shape of the insert support pad is in a crescent form (12, 13, 14) that fits the vacant area behind the user's scrotum.		

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TESTICLE SUPPORT GARMENT

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention pertains to testicle support means, and in particular to such testicle support means provided by wearing apparel, specifically wearing apparel that covers the crotch portion and passes between the legs of the user.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Testicle support is well known and a necessary function in athletic and medical situations. It is known in the art that a testicle support comprises two important processes. The first is to elevate or pull the user's testicles forward and out from between the user's legs and the second is to hold the testicles in place. The prior art uses these processes either individually or in conjunction.

Examples of these type devices include United States Patent No. 2,294,066 issued to Baehler on August 25, 1942 ("Baehler"), for a "Suspensory" and United States Patent No. 4,487,202 issued to Sachse on December 11, 1984 ("Sachse"), for "Testis Support For Elevating and Treating Diseased Testes and Epididymides". The general function of these references and a number of others in the art is to get behind and under the testes and scrotum, to move the testes forward and out from between the legs and to anchor the testes out of the way. The Baehler reference uses loops to accomplish this goal. However, these references are limited as to the garment they could be used with and also as to that it would be fairly uncomfortable to be used in everyday situations.

Clearly, it is desirable to have a testicle support means and a method of providing testicle support that can be used comfortably in all situations and with a number of different garments. It is the object of this invention, then to set forth a testicle support means which avoids the disadvantages and limitations, above-recited, which

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1 were obtained in prior testicle supports. It is
2 also the object of this invention to teach a
3 testicle support means that can be positioned or
4 sewn into any men's garments to be worn directly
5 next to the skin in the crotch area. Another object
6 of this invention is to teach a novel means of
7 contacting the perineum and the posterior portion of
8 the user's scrotum and testicles in order to provide
9 a means for testicle support.

10 It is also the object of this invention to
11 teach a method of providing testicle support that is
12 simple to use and that will enable the user to
13 comfortably maintain this support for extended
14 periods of time.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Particularly, it is the object of this invention to set forth a testicle support means, for use in men's garments worn next to the skin, comprising a male garment. The male garment comprises a first means for surrounding the lower trunk of the user's body, a second means for surrounding at least part of each of the user's legs separately, and a connection means. The connection means comprises fabric material for covering the crotch portion of the user and for connecting the first means and the second means. The connection means has a pad support means which comprises a crescent-shaped form of flexible material attached to the connection means for contacting the perineum and the posterior portion of the user's scrotum. The crescent-shaped form has a center section and the crescent-shaped form has twin end sections. The crescent-shaped form further has a center section with a thicker cross-sectional dimension, and twin end sections having a thinner cross-sectional dimension.

Further objects of this invention will become more apparent by reference to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an frontal view of the novel testicle support means;

Fig. 2 is a side view thereof;

Fig. 3 is a top view thereof;

Fig. 4 is a bottom view thereof;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the novel support means in position in men's briefs;

Fig. 6 is a side perspective view of the novel support means in position behind the user's scrotum in men's briefs; and

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view of the novel support means in position in long leg apparel.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

As shown in the Figures, the testicle support means 10 comprises an insert 11 that is formed in a crescent or winged shape. The insert 11 has a thickened center section 12 and twin end sections 13 and 14. The insert is cut from a flexible foam material, or the like, to a predetermined shape. The insert 11 is then positioned in men's briefs 15, shorts, a swimsuit, or the like. The garment 15 has a trunk covering or encircling portion 16, having a front 30, a back 32, and two sides 34 and 36. A connection piece or crotch panel 18 connects the front and back of the trunk covering portion 16 and with sides 34 and 36, defines the leg covering portions 17 and 17a of the garment 15. The insert 11 is attached to the connection piece or crotch panel 18. The insert 11 is sewn or glued into position in the garment 15 in the crotch area 18, so that when the garment is worn the insert will be located behind the male's testicles, so that the small vacant area behind the testicles is filled by the insert 11. The insert 11 is adapted to straddle and be in contact with the posterior and lateral portions of the user's scrotum and testicles. The center section 12 of the insert 11 is aligned with the midsagittal plane of the user's body and the twin end sections 13 and 14 are tapered down from the center section 12 to be angled forward toward the front of the user's body and have sufficient length to be adjacent to the user's thighs. The insert 11 is positioned in the garment 15 so that it passes between the user's legs forward of the coronal plane of the user's body. This

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1 positioning allows the structure to elevate the
2 user's testicles forward and out from between the
3 legs thus allowing the apparel to hold the testicles
4 in place. A material covering is provided for the
5 insert 11 to facilitate the ease of attaching the
6 insert into the garment 15.

7 While I have described my invention in
8 connection with specific embodiments thereof, it is
9 clearly to be understood that this is done only by
10 way of example and not as a limitation to the scope
11 of my invention as set forth in the objects thereof
12 and in the appended claims.

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CLAIMS

1
2
3 1. A garment to be worn next to the skin
4 of a male user's testicles, said garment comprising:

5 a body portion for encircling said
6 user's body trunk, said body portion having a front,
7 a back and two sides;

8 a crotch panel extending between said
9 front and said back of said body portion for
10 connecting them, said crotch panel and the sides of
11 said body portion defining therebetween two leg
12 openings, each of said openings being defined by a
13 side edge of said crotch panel and the adjacent side
14 of said body portion;

15 a support means comprising a cushion
16 secured to said crotch panel in such a position and
17 extending in such a direction so that when worn by
18 said user, said cushion engages a portion of said
19 user's perineum and a portion of the rear of said
20 user's scrotum for positioning the user's testicles
21 away from a position between the user's legs.
22

23 2. The garment of claim 1, wherein said
24 crotch panel comprises a fabric or fabric-like
25 material.
26

27 3. The garment of claim 1, wherein said
28 support means is connected to said crotch panel by
29 adhesive.
30

31 4. The garment of claim 1, wherein said
32 support means is connected to said crotch panel by
33 a sewn seam.
34

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1 5. The garment of claim 1, further
2 comprising a covering material, wherein said cushion
3 is covered by said covering material.
4

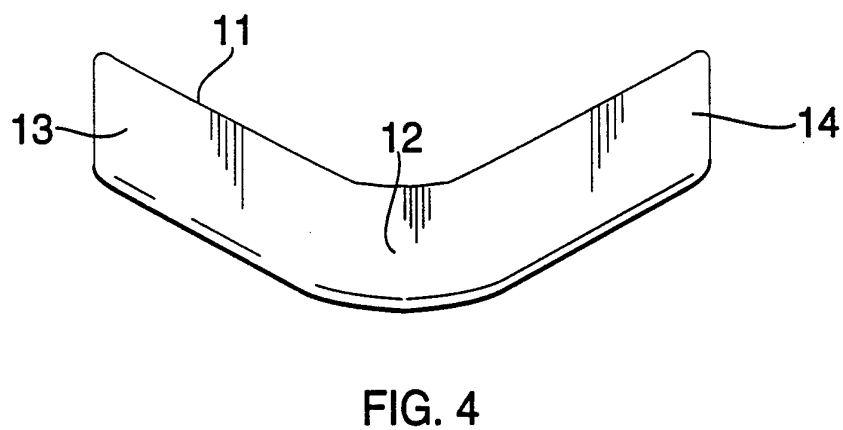
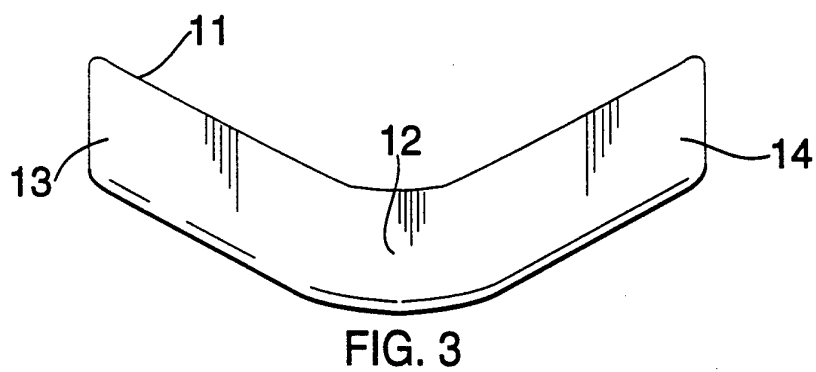
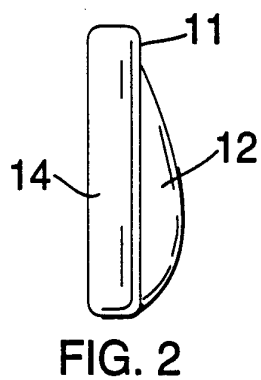
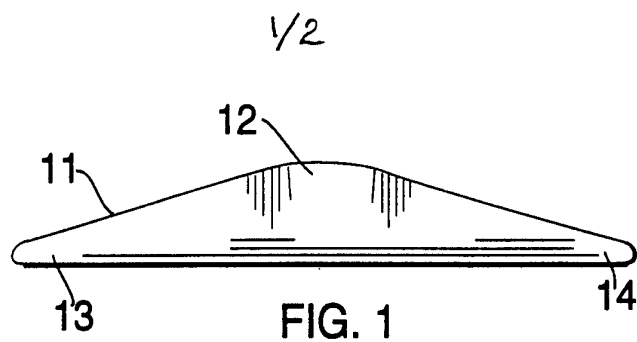
5 6. The garment of claim 1, wherein said
6 cushion is crescent-shaped.
7

8 7. The garment of claim 6, wherein said
9 crescent-shaped cushion includes a center section of
10 a given thickness and twin end sections of less
11 thickness than said center section.
12

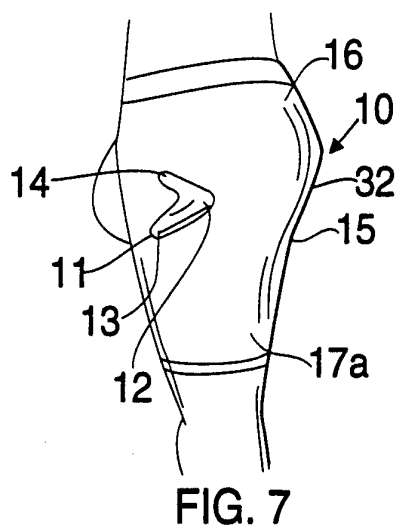
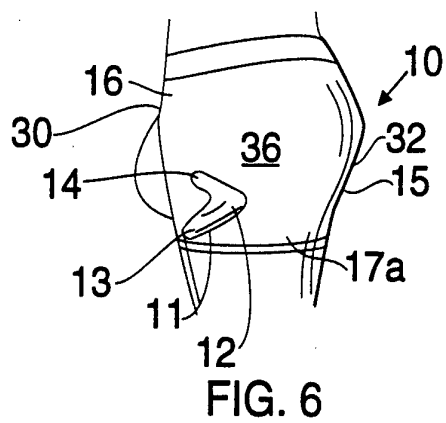
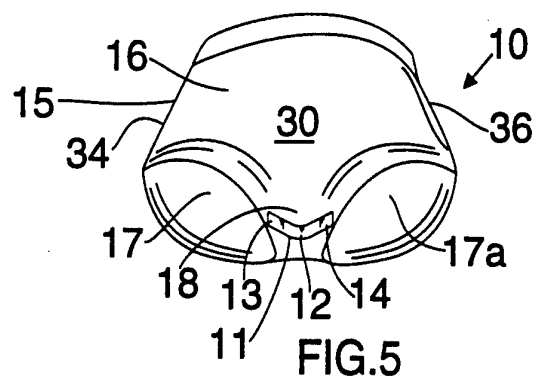
13 8. The garment of claim 6, wherein said
14 center section of said crescent-shaped cushion is
15 aligned with the midsagittal plane of said body
16 portion, said twin end sections are tapered in
17 thickness from said center section and are angled
18 forward from said center section toward the front of
19 said body portion and having sufficient length to be
20 adjacent to the user's legs.
21

22 9. The garment of claim 6, wherein said
23 crescent-shaped cushion is made of a flexible foam-
24 like material.
25

26 10. The garment of claim 8, wherein said
27 crescent-shaped cushion is a flexible foam-like
28 material.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US92/05415

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :A61F 5/40

US CL :602/70

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)

U.S. : 2/401, 403-405; 602/ ; 128/158-161,168

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 practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,955,088 (TERJESEN) 11 September 1990, See col. 2, lines 7-29.	1-2,4
A	US, A, 4,487,202 (SACHSE) 11 December 1984, See col. 2, lines 8-24.	6-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
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