

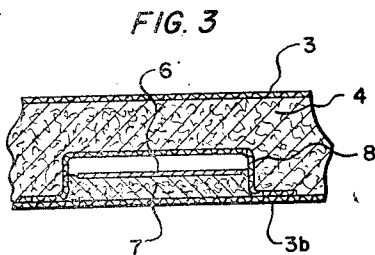
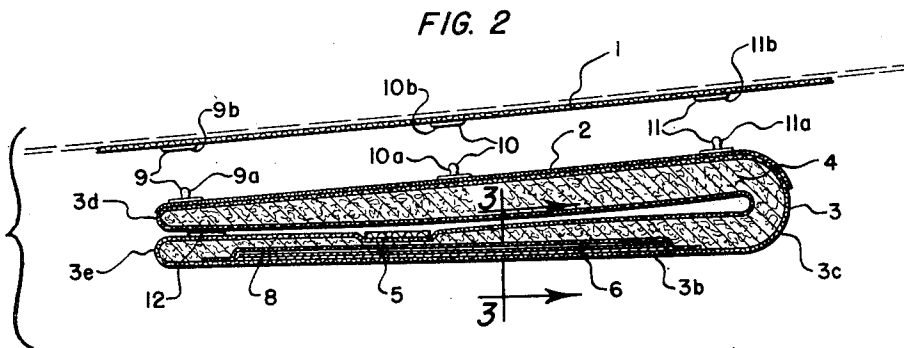
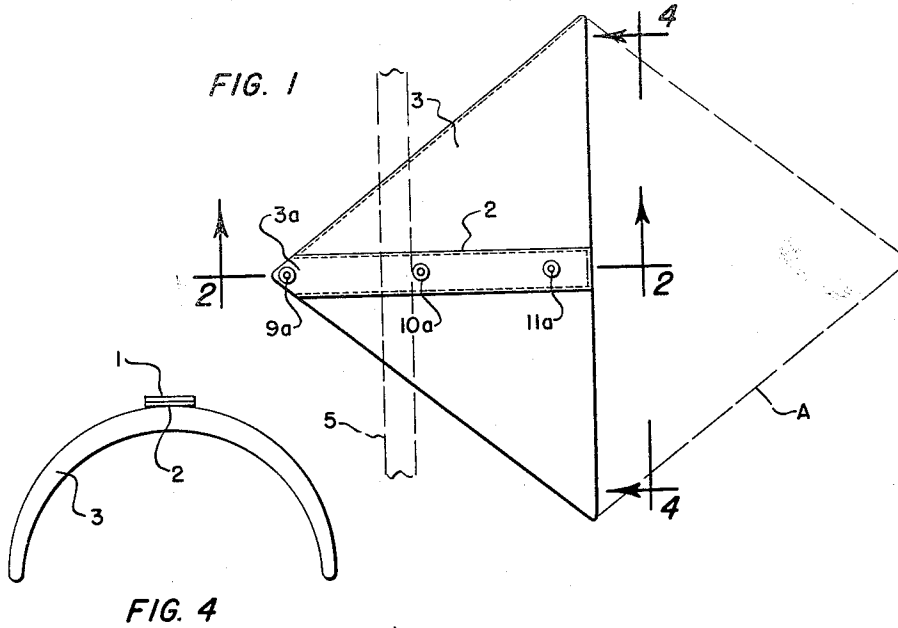
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SHOULDER PROTECTOR, STRAP HOLDER, AND SHOULDER PAD

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## SHOULDER PROTECTOR, STRAP HOLDER, AND SHOULDER PAD

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2--268)

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My invention relates to a shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad and the objects of my invention are:

First, to provide a shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad of this class which may be very readily removed and installed in a dress or other garment and which accurately maintains itself in proper position.

Second, to provide a shoulder protector, strap holder, and shoulder pad of this class having a novel folding structure adapted to permit the insertion of brassière shoulder straps therebetween providing a cushion beneath said shoulder strap whereby said straps do not recess themselves in the shoulder of the wearer.

Third, to provide a shoulder protector, strap holder, and shoulder pad of this class having a novel holding structure detachably connected with the inner side of the garment, adapted to receive shoulder straps intermediate the folding structure and having a substantially rigid member internally of the lower folded portion beneath the position of shoulder straps providing distribution of the pressure caused by such straps which prevents recessing of the straps in the wearer's shoulder.

Fourth, to provide a shoulder protector, strap holder, and shoulder pad of this class in which the folding structure thereof provides for the accurate maintenance of the pad's shape and also provides for the support of shoulder straps without recessing the upper shoulder pad portion.

Fifth, to provide a shoulder pad of this class which protects the wearer's shoulders against injury from the recessing of shoulder straps into the shoulders of the wearer and promote comfort to persons who necessarily wear their shoulder straps very tight, and

Sixth, to provide a shoulder protector strap holder and shoulder pad of this class which is very simple and economical of construction, efficient in use and which will not readily deteriorate or become damaged.

With these and other objects in view as will appear hereinafter, my invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts and portions as will be hereinafter described in detail as particularly set forth in the appended claims reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the characters of reference thereon forming part of this application in which:

Figure 1 is a top or plan view of my shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad in flat position.

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Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view thereof showing the garment connection strap in relative position to the shoulder pad.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken from the line 3—3 of Figure 2, and

Figure 4 is an end elevational view of my shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad in curved position.

Similar characters of reference refer to similar parts and portions throughout the several views of the drawing.

The pad connection strips 1 and 2, pad envelope 3, padding 4, shoulder strap 5, plate 6, padding 7, plate retaining strip 8 and the fasteners 9, 10, 11, and 12 constitute the principal parts and portions of my shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad.

The pad connection strips 1 and 2 are removably secured together by the fasteners 9, 10, 11 which are provided with male and female portions 9a, 9b, 10a, 10b, 11a and 11b respectively. These pad connection strips 1 and 2 are of flexible fabric material. The pad connection strip 1 is adapted to be secured on the inner side of a garment at the shoulder portion thereof. Strip 2 is fixed to the pad envelope 3 which is a folded envelope having padding 4 therein. As shown in Figure 1 by dash lines A the pad when in unfolded position is substantially the shape of a trapezoid and when in folded position as shown in Figure 2 of the drawing the apex portions 3a are held together by means of a fastener 12 which is similar to the hereinbefore described fasteners 9 to 11 inclusive. The shoulder strap 5 is interposed between the folded portion of my shoulder pad and rests on the upper side of the lowermost folded portion above the plate 6 which is retained in fixed relationship with the bottom 3b of the envelope 3 by means of the retainer strip 8 all as shown best in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawing. Below this plate 6 is the padding 7 which is also retained by the plate retainer strip 8 shown best in Figure 3 of the drawing.

The operation of my shoulder protector, strap holder and shoulder pad is substantially as follows:

My shoulder pad is fixed to the inner side of a garment shoulder by means of the fasteners 9, 10, and 11 in connection with the strip 1 which is sewed or otherwise secured to the garment itself, and the pad is maintained at its folded portion 3c substantially flush with the wearer's shoulder. As shown in Figure 4 of the drawing the pad is curved at the folded portion 3c and is shaped to substantially conform with the upper

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portion of the wearer's shoulders. The shoulder strap 5 for supporting brassières or other garments rests intermediate the upper and lower folded portions 3d and 3e and bears above the plate 6 which is a semi-rigid plate arranged parallel to the length of the wearer's shoulder evenly distributing the load imposed by the strap 5 over a considerable area of the wearer's shoulder and preventing the strap 5 from recessing the wearer's shoulder or causing any injury. The padding 7 beneath the plate 6 provides a soft bearing for the distribution of the weight by the plate 6 on the wearer's shoulder. It will be noted that the entire pad may be removed by disconnecting the fasteners 9, 10, and 11 and may be placed in another garment when changing clothes. It will be noted that the fastener 12 must be disengaged for placement or removal of the strap 5 in the position as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

Though I have shown and described a particular construction, combination and arrangement of parts and portions, I do not wish to be limited to this particular construction, combination and arrangement but desire to include in the scope of my invention the construction, combination and arrangement substantially as set forth in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a shoulder pad, a folded pad comprising upper and lower folds, said lower fold having a narrow, flat, semi-rigid plate rigidly secured therein extending substantially across said lower fold, said plate to be worn substantially parallel to the length of the wearer's shoulder, said pad receiving a shoulder strap between said folds and bearing on said plate.

2. In a shoulder pad, a folded pad comprising upper and lower folds, said lower fold having a narrow, flat, semi-rigid plate rigidly secured therein extending substantially across said lower fold, said plate to be worn substantially parallel to the length of the wearer's shoulder, said folds being locally separable to receive a shoulder strap between said folds and bearing on said plate, connecting means for supporting said pad in a garment shoulder comprising a first strip secured to the uppermost fold of said pad, a second strip secured to the upper inner portion of a garment, and fasteners for fixing the said first strip to said second strip.

3. In a shoulder protector, a strap holder and shoulder pad, a pad envelope having padding

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therein being folded at its diagonal medial line providing superimposed upper and lower folds, the folded edge of said pad disposed at the outermost portion of a wearer's shoulder, said folds being locally separable to receive a strap interposed between said folds of said pad to bear upon the upper side of the lowermost fold, a substantially rigid narrow plate extending across a median line of said folds, said plate to be worn parallel to the length of the wearer's shoulder and being located within said lowermost fold, padding secured to and below said plate and located within the confines of said lowermost fold of said pad.

4. In a shoulder protector, a strap holder and shoulder pad, a pad envelope having padding therein being folded at its diagonal medial line providing superimposed upper and lower folds, the folded edge of said pad disposed at the outermost portion of a wearer's shoulder, a strap interposed between the said folds of said pad and bearing upon the upper side of the lowermost fold, a substantially rigid plate in said lowermost fold having padding below the same and within the confines of the area of said folds of said pad, and a plate retainer strip located above said plate, and being sewed to the lowermost portion of said pad and adapted to hold said plate in position.

5. In a shoulder protector, a strap holder and shoulder pad, a pad envelope having padding therein being folded at its diagonal medial line providing superimposed upper and lower folds, the folded edge of said pad disposed at the outermost portion of a wearer's shoulder, a strap interposed between the said folds and bearing upon the upper side of the lowermost fold, a substantially rigid plate in said lowermost fold having padding below the same and within the confines of the area of said folds of said pad, a plate retainer strip above said plate, and being sewed to the lowermost portion of said pad and adapted to hold said plate in position, and a fastener securing the ends of said folds of said pad together.

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