S. PENKSA.

BATHING SUIT.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 24, 1916.

1,208,198. Patented Dec. 12, 1916.

Fig. 1.

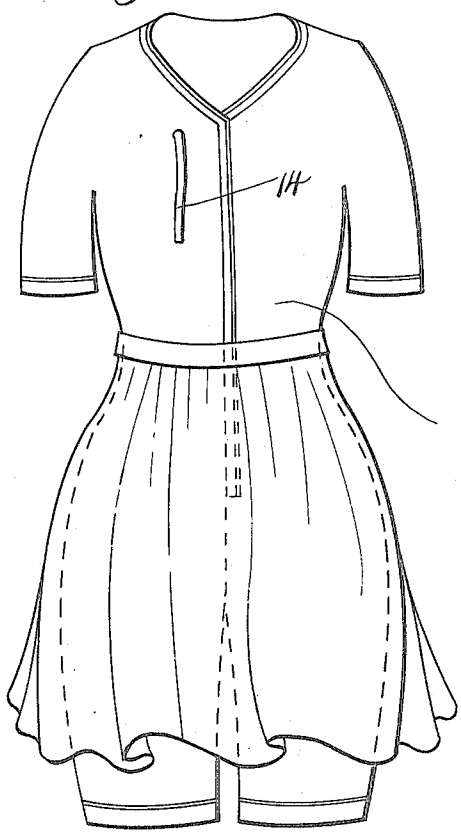


Fig. 3.

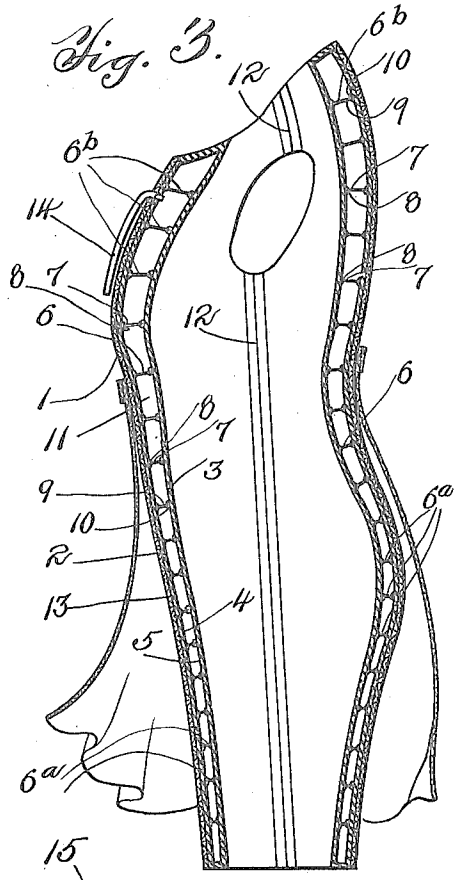


Fig. 2.

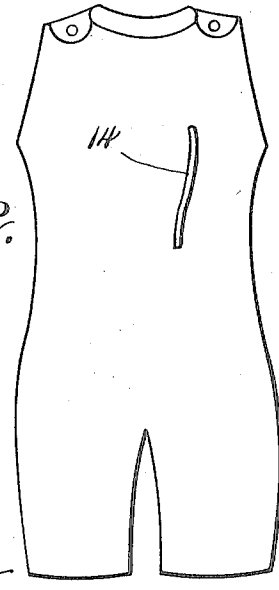
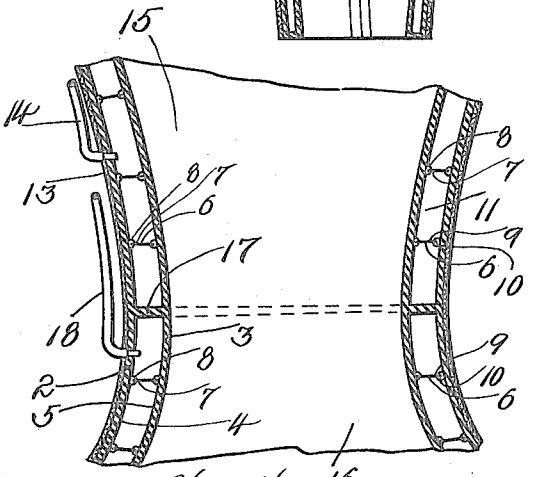


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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BATHING-SUIT.

1,208,198. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 12, 1916.

Application filed February 24, 1916. Serial No. 80,270.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STINEY PENKSA, a citizen of the United States, residing at Glen White, in the county of Raleigh and State of West Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bathing-Suits, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a buoyant bathing suit and has for its object to provide a bathing suit that will float the wearer upon water.

Another object of the invention is to provide an air inflated bathing suit.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a bathing suit which may be worn either inflated or collapsed and having means whereby it may be quickly and readily inflated.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an inflatable bathing suit having means whereby a greater amount of air may be directed to one part of the suit than to another part thereof whereby the position of the wearer in the water may be regulated.

With the above and other objects in view, I have invented the device illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevational view of my improved bathing suit as being constructed and worn by a female, Fig. 2 is a similar view of a man's suit, Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a fragmental sectional view of a modified form of the invention.

Like reference characters indicate like parts throughout the specification and in the views in the drawings in which 1, indicates a lady's suit constructed of two layers 2 and 3, of water proof material, the inner surfaces 4 and 5 of which are held in relative spaced apart relation when the suit is inflated by means of the tufters or cords 6, the ends 7 of which are fixed to the fasteners 8 on the outer layer 2 and the ends 9 of which are fixed to the fasteners 10 on the inner layer 3. These cords 6 are graduated in length from the lower end of the suit where the shortest cords 6^a are located to the upper end of the suit where the largest cords 6^b are located. This arrangement provides for a greater amount of air in the upper part of the suit so that the wearer may assume either an inclining or vertical position in the water, according to the amount of air forced into the space 11, between the layers 2 and 3. All seams 12 are sewed directly together, thus permitting a neat fit. The suit when inflated has a tufted appearance but if desired, this may be overcome by the provision of the outer layer 13 of goods of any desirable material, the seams of which may be sewed in with the seams 12.

An inflating tube 14 is provided and so positioned that the wearer may inflate the suit after it has been put on, thus making it easy and comfortable to dress in and also making provision for wearing the suit part of the time without being inflated and then inflating it if desired or found necessary. For instance, if the suit is used collapsed or uninflated and the wearer found himself in such a predicament that he required means other than his own physical efforts to keep him afloat, he could quickly inflate the suit with a few puffs of breath into the tube 14.

The layers are preferably only from one fourth to one half an inch apart and only a small quantity of air will be required to inflate the device and sustain the wearer. When only partly filled with air which will come to the top, the wearer will be held in a vertical position in the water but if entirely inflated, the air being distributed throughout the length of the suit, the wearer will be normally held in an inclined position.

In Fig. 4, I show a slight modification of the invention in which the upper part 15 of the suit is separated horizontally from the lower part 16 by means of the division wall 17 and a separate tube 18 is provided to inflate the lower part of the suit. Both of the tubes 14 and 17 are provided with valves of the usual kind for this purpose and not herein illustrated.

While this bathing suit is designed especially for amusement and pleasure, it is also adaptable for a life saving suit for persons traveling on the water, as the material from which it is made is preferably thin waterproof silk. When collapsed, the suit may be folded compactly in a very small space. The suit, of course, can be made of any suitable material.

Having now described my invention, that which I claim to be new and desire to procure by Letters Patent is:

1. A suit having air tight inflatable walls

and an outer covering sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof.

2. A common bathing suit having an inflatable lining, the walls of which taper apart from bottom to top and graduated connections for said walls.

3. A common bathing suit having an inflatable lining, the walls of which taper apart from bottom to top and graduated connections for said walls, said suit forming a skirt and bodice.

4. A common bathing suit having an inflatable lining, the walls of which taper apart from bottom to top and graduated connections for said walls, said suit forming a skirt and bodice and means whereby either of said sections may be inflated.

5. A suit having air tight inflatable walls, said walls being inclined apart from the bottom up and an outer covering for the suit sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof.

6. A suit having air tight inflatable walls, said walls being inclined apart from the bottom up and an outer covering for the suit sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof, said walls being of thin material.

7. A suit having air tight inflatable walls, said walls being inclined apart from the bottom up and an outer covering for the suit sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof, said walls being of thin material and means for separating the space between said walls.

8. A suit having air tight inflatable walls, said walls being inclined apart from the bottom up and an outer covering for the suit sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof, said walls being of thin material and means for separating the space between said walls to upper and lower reservoirs.

9. A suit having air tight inflatable walls, said walls being inclined apart from the bottom up and an outer covering for the suit sewed to said walls at the junctures thereof, said walls being of thin material and means for separating the space between said walls to upper and lower reservoirs and independent means for inflating the upper and lower reservoirs.

10. A suit having air tight inflatable walls and an outer covering sewed to said walls at the juncture thereof, said suit being divided into upper and lower air compartments.

11. A suit having air tight inflatable walls and an outer covering sewed to said walls at the juncture thereof, said suit being divided into upper and lower air compartments and independent means for inflating said compartments.

12. A bathing suit having an inflatable lining the walls of which taper apart from bottom to top and graduated connections for said walls, said lining being divided into separate compartments.

13. A bathing suit having an inflatable lining the walls of which taper apart from bottom to top and graduated connections for said walls, said lining being divided into separate compartments and independent means for inflating said compartments.

14. An inflatable life saving suit divided into upper and lower compartments, the walls of one compartment being farther apart than the walls of the other compartment, said last being the lower compartment, independent means for inflating said compartments and an outer covering for said compartments.

15. An inflatable life saving suit divided into upper and lower compartments, the walls of one compartment being farther apart than the walls of the other compartment, said last being the lower compartment, independent means for inflating said compartments and an outer covering for said compartments resembling an ordinary bathing suit.

16. An inflatable life saving suit divided into upper and lower compartments, the walls of one compartment being farther apart than the walls of the other compartment, said last being the lower compartment, independent means for inflating said compartments, an outer covering for said compartments resembling an ordinary bathing suit, said covering being sewed into the seams of said compartments.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

STINEY PENKSA.

Witnesses:
L. R. Browning,
A. A. Potts.