

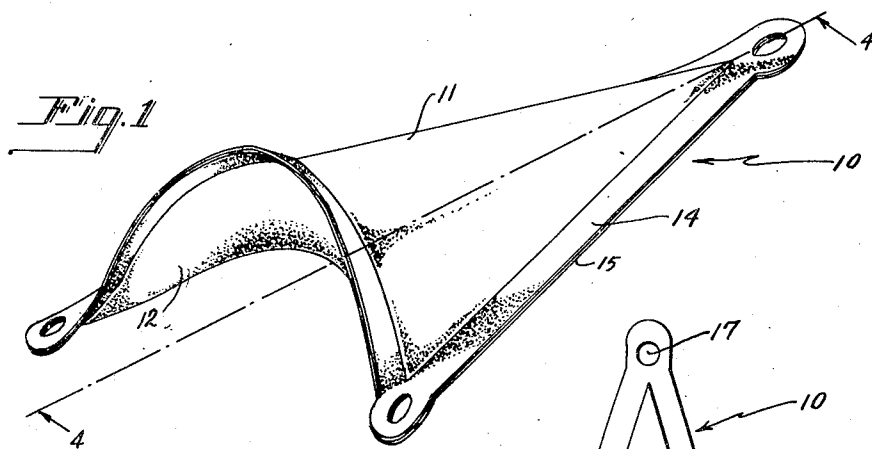
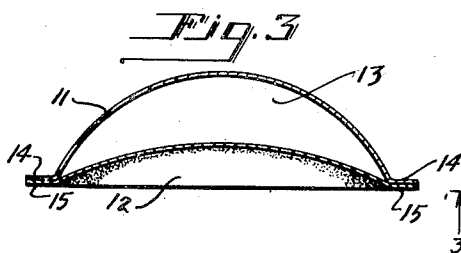
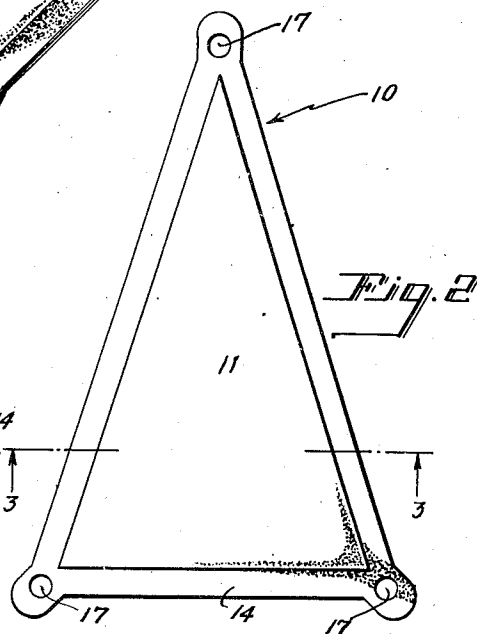
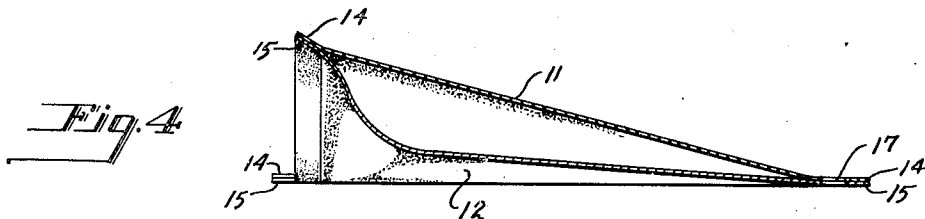
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SHOULDER PAD

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## SHOULDER PAD

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2 Claims. (Cl. 2—268)

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The present invention relates to a padded article and, more particularly, to a shoulder pad of the type used to build up the shoulders of a garment, or the like.

Shoulder pads of the character described, as at present obtained, generally comprise a shaped fabric covering containing a padding material therein, such as cotton, or the like. Such pads, particularly those used on ladies' dresses or blouses, which require frequent washings or dry cleanings, have the great and generally recognized disadvantages that they must be removed before each washing for the reasons that when wetted they will absorb great quantities of water and will not dry completely for a long time, and will also get out of shape. Their removal and reattachment present a hardship, particularly to those who are not skillful in needlework. Also, their inability to stand washing presents a problem of cleanliness and sanitation, especially in warm weather or in warm climates.

The present invention, therefore, is directed to the provision of shoulder pads of the character described which overcome all of the above disadvantages and which possess many other advantages and superiorities over similar articles heretofore used.

It is an object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which may be readily washed together with the garment to which they are attached and need not be removed before washing.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which are water impervious and will not absorb any water and will, therefore, not lose their shapes as a result of wetting.

It is another object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which are water repellent and will, therefore, shed all moisture and will become dry even before the garment itself.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which it is easy to clean and to keep clean and free of perspiration or the like.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a shoulder pad of the character described which is light of weight and comfortable and convenient to wear.

It is a still further object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which are easy and convenient to attach to a garment even for one not skillful at needlework.

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It is yet another object of the present invention to provide shoulder pads of the character described which may be easily and rapidly manufactured from readily available and low cost materials and which may be made by mass production methods, with a minimum of manual labor, and which are, therefore, economical to produce and use.

Generally stated, the objects of the present invention are attained by providing a shoulder pad having an outer covering of a water impervious material which is hermetically sealed to prevent seepage of water or moisture into the interior thereof.

Greater details of the construction of the shoulder pads of the present invention as well as additional advantages and superiorities thereof will become more readily apparent from the embodiment thereof shown in the accompanying drawing and from the description following. It is to be understood, however, that such embodiment is shown by way of illustration only, to make the principles and practice of the invention more readily comprehensible to those skilled in the art, and without any intent of limiting the invention to the specific details thereof shown.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a shoulder pad of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same;

Fig. 3 is a section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 4 is a section taken on line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Referring more particularly to the accompanying drawings, the shoulder pad of the present invention may comprise an outer cover or pocket, generally designated as 10, which may consist of a plurality of sections, such as the top section, 11, and the bottom section, 12. The sections 11 and 12 may be integral or separate.

The sections 11 and 12 may be formed of one or more sheets of water impervious or water shedding or repelling material, preferably of a flexible character and slightly elastic. Particularly suitable materials for the purpose are synthetic plastics, either of the thermoplastic type or of the thermosetting type, and preferably such as will have considerable heat resistance and will readily stand the heat that is attained in steam pressing of garments. Among such plastic and other materials may be mentioned polyvinyl chloride and other polyvinyl plastics, silicon rubber and natural and synthetic rubber.

The sections 11 and 12, may, if desired, be pre-shaped, as illustrated, and the lower or under

section, 12, may also be made of a thicker or stiffer variety of the material, to insure the retention of the desired shape of the finished article, as will hereinafter become clear.

The cover sections, 11 and 12, are so preshaped that when they are arranged in proper position over one another, there is a space, 13, between them, forming a pocket for padding or batting material or other material which will tend to keep the sections in spaced and separated relation.

To render the outer cover 10 hermetically sealed against the seepage of water into the space 13, the sections 11 and 12 are superposed with their respective edges 14 and 15 placed flat and parallel to one another and extending outwardly. The sections 11 and 12 are then secured or bonded hermetically to one another along the said edges.

When the sections 11 and 12 are formed of a hermoplastic material, such as of sheets of polyvinyl chloride or the like, the edges 14 and 15 may be welded or bonded together or fused by the application of heat, such as by electrically induced heat, forming a strong and secure union between the edges.

Where thermosetting plastic material is used, such as silicon rubber, a suitable cement may be employed to bond the edges hermetically to one another.

The bonded edges may be of substantial width, to provide a sufficiently wide, flat marginal edge in which may be formed a plurality of apertures, 17, for use in stitching or otherwise securing the pad to the garment or for receiving other attaching means thereon. Preferably, such apertures 17, or other attaching means may be formed at the several corners of the article, as illustrated.

The space 13, between the sections 11 and 12, may be filled with the conventional padding material, or, because of the imperviousness of the material described as suitable for use, which will not permit any fibres to penetrate therethrough to the exterior, glass wool may be used for the padding. Preferably, however, the shoulder pad may be pneumatic, being filled with air or gas under proper pressure. Such air or gas may be introduced into the pocket 13, in the process of assembly, by inserting therein a predetermined amount of the same, either in liquefied or solidified form, as solid or liquid carbon dioxide, immediately before sealing the same, or it may be introduced in any other manner that might suggest itself to those skilled in the art.

It will be readily apparent that the shoulder pads of the present invention may be readily and conveniently laundered, without danger of delayed drying or distortion from moistening and drying, and, therefore, without need for removal

and replacement for each laundering or dry cleaning.

It will also be readily apparent that the shoulder pads of the present invention are sanitary; are light and comfortable to wear; are economical to produce by mass production methods; and are easy and convenient to use.

This completes the description of one embodiment of the shoulder pads of the invention. Since it is obvious that many variations and modifications thereof may be made by anyone skilled in the art, in accordance with the principles of the invention and without the use of any inventive ingenuity, I desire to be protected for all such modifications and variations that may be made within the spirit of the invention and of the scope of the claims hereto appended.

What I claim is:

1. A shoulder pad of the character described, comprising a covering consisting of a plurality of sections of a synthetic plastic material preshaped to form a pocket of predetermined outline and capacity, said sections arranged to have their edges parallel to one another and extending outwardly to form a flange, said edges bonded to one another along their entire length to hermetically seal said pocket, padding material within said pocket and means on said flange whereby said shoulder pad may be secured to a garment.

2. A shoulder pad of the character described consisting of a covering comprising a plurality of sections of water impervious synthetic plastic material preshaped to form a pocket of predetermined outline and capacity, said sections arranged to have their edges parallel to one another and extending outwardly to form a flange, said edges bonded to one another along their entire length to hermetically seal the said pocket, a gaseous material under pressure within the said pocket to inflate the same and means on the said flange whereby said shoulder pad may be secured to a garment.

SIGMUND SAMETH.

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