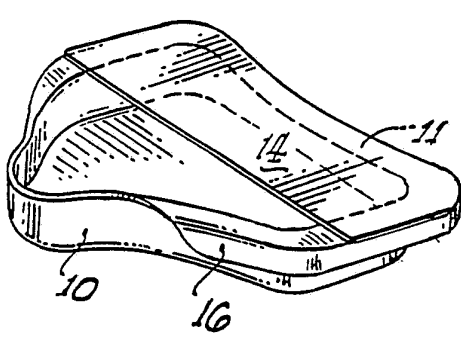


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : A61G 9/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/20792 (43) International Publication Date: 28 October 1993 (28.10.93)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/03126 (22) International Filing Date: 17 April 1992 (17.04.92) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: CHURCH, Judith, A. [US/US]; 12 Briarglen, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US). (74) Agent: EPSTEIN, Saul; 14558 Deervale Pl., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 (US). (81) Designated States: CA, JP, 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: BEDPAN  (57) Abstract A bedpan for use by bedridden patients which includes a shallow pan (10) appropriately shaped to fit under a patient's buttocks. The top of the pan is partially covered with a flexible sheet (14) which holds the patient's weight and provides a significantly improved comfort as compared with the prior art hard surfaced top.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	FR	France	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GB	United Kingdom	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	IT	Italy	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	JP	Japan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SK	Slovak Republic
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LJ	Liechtenstein	SN	Senegal
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SU	Soviet Union
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
DK	Denmark	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
ES	Spain	MN	Mongolia	VN	Viet Nam
FI	Finland				

BEDPAN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 This invention relates to bedpans for use by hospital patients or other bedridden persons.

2. Prior Art

10 A traditional bedpan for use by bedridden patients is comprised of a shallow hard plastic or metal open topped pan having a relatively wide rim on which the patient rests during use. While the rim is generally contoured, or even in some cases padded so as to reduce patient discomfort, at best, prior art bedpans are uncomfortable and disagreeable to use. Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a bedpan which is substantially more
15 comfortable for the patient than prior art bedpans.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is comprised of a shallow pan of appropriate shape having a relatively narrow top rim and is preferably molded from a hard plastic material. Instead of
5 the usual wide rim for bearing the weight of the patient which is found in prior art bedpans, the present invention provides a sheet of flexible plastic or rubberlike material across a portion of the top opening on which the patient rests his or her hips. The plastic hip support readily
10 conforms to the shape of the patient's body and provides a relatively large support area for the patient so that his or her comfort is substantially enhanced.

A more complete understanding of the invention can be
15 had from the following detailed description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a bedpan according to the present invention.

5 FIGURE 2 is a top plan view of the invention.

FIGURE 3 is a left side view of the invention.

FIGURE 4 is a rear view of the invention.

10

FIGURE 5 is a cross sectional view taken at 5-5 of FIGURE 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invented bedpan is preferably molded from a hard plastic material, but can be fabricated from metal if desired. The pan portion 10 is relatively shallow and includes a relatively narrow flat lip 11 at the back and in the other areas of the pan which will come into contact with a patient's body. The pan is relatively wide where the patient's hips and upper buttocks area is supported (12) but narrows down in the area 13 so that the patient's thighs will be outside the pan. The body area at the top of the patient's thigh just below the buttocks rests on lip 11.

The lip 11 at the rear of the bedpan is contoured downward as can be seen in Figure 4 to generally fit the contour of a patient's body at the hips. A sheet of flexible plastic or rubberlike material, i.e., an elastomer, 14 is stretched tightly across the top of the pan 10 and is sealed to the lip 11. The sheet 14 extends sufficiently over the open top of the pan so that the majority of a patient's weight can be supported thereby, and relatively little need be supported on the rim 11. By providing a large flexible area to support the patient's hips and top portion of the buttocks, namely sheet 14, comfort is substantially enhanced. The attachment of sheet 14 to lip 11 can be accomplished either by heat sealing or by use of an adhesive. Corner 15, the intersection of sheet 14 with the pan proper should either be sharp in the area covered by the sheet, or if radiused, should be filled with some filler material so that no crevice remains where foreign matter can lodge.

Lip 11 in the presently preferred embodiment disclosed herein is shown extending outward from the pan, however, an alternate construction with the lip extending inward is also possible, as also is a lipless construction wherein the sheet 14 is sealed to the pan 10 on the vertical

construction, sheet 14 may be a molded piece having a downwardly extending periphery which can be attached to the sidewall of pan 10.

5 The turned down edge 16 is an optional feature which is useful for grasping the bedpan to position it under the patient, or for carrying. It may or may not extend into the area 13, as desired.

10 What has been described is a novel bedpan for use by bedridden persons which is much more comfortable than prior art bedpans. Various modifications within the spirit of the invention will no doubt occur to those skilled in the art and such are intended to be covered hereby. The proportions of the various elements in the preferred embodiment disclosed are shown for illustrative purposes
15 only and are not meant to be limitations of the invention, the scope of which is to be measured solely by the following claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A bedpan comprising:

(a) a shallow open topped pan having a bottom and a surrounding sidewall; and

5 (b) flexible weight supporting sheet means conformable to the shape of a patient's body attached to said pan for supporting the patient's hips and upper buttocks area and for spreading the load of the patient's body, said flexible sheet covering a portion of the open top of said pan, at least a portion of the
10 supporting area of said flexible sheet being spaced from the bottom and sidewalls of said pan.

2. A bedpan as recited in claim 1 where said flexible sheet is attached to a substantially horizontal lip on said sidewall of said pan at the top thereof.

3. A bedpan as recited in claim 2 wherein said lip extends outward of said pan.

4. A bedpan as recited in claim 7 wherein the top of said sidewall has a downwardly curved region to roughly conform with the curvature of a patient's back area in the region of his or her hips.

5. A bedpan as recited in claim 4 where said flexible sheet is attached to a substantially horizontal lip on said sidewall of said pan at the top thereof.

6. A bedpan as recited in claim 5 wherein said lip extends outward of said pan.

7. A bedpan comprising:

(a) a shallow open topped pan having a bottom and a surrounding sidewall; and

5 (b) means for supporting a patient's hips and upper buttocks attached to said pan at the open top of said pan, said means comprising a flexible sheet covering a portion of the open top of said pan, substantially all of the weight of the patient being supported by said sheet and coupled to said pan through tension in
10 said sheet.

8. A bedpan as recited in claim 7 where said flexible sheet is attached to a substantially horizontal lip on said sidewall of said pan at the top thereof.

9. A bedpan as recited in claim 8 wherein said lip extends outward of said pan.

10. A bedpan as recited in claim 7 wherein the top of said sidewall has a downwardly curved region to roughly conform with the curvature of a patient's back area in the region of his or her hips.

11. A bedpan as recited in claim 10 where said flexible sheet is attached to a substantially horizontal lip on said sidewall of said pan at the top thereof.

12. A bedpan as recited in claim 11 wherein said lip extends outward of said pan.

13. A bedpan as recited in claim 7 where said sheet is fabricated from an elastomer.

1/1

Fig. 1.

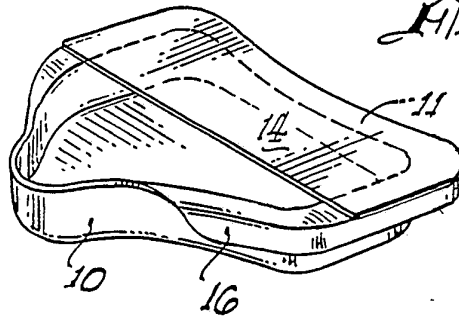


Fig. 5.

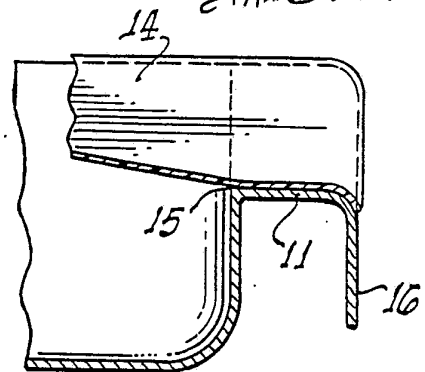


Fig. 2.

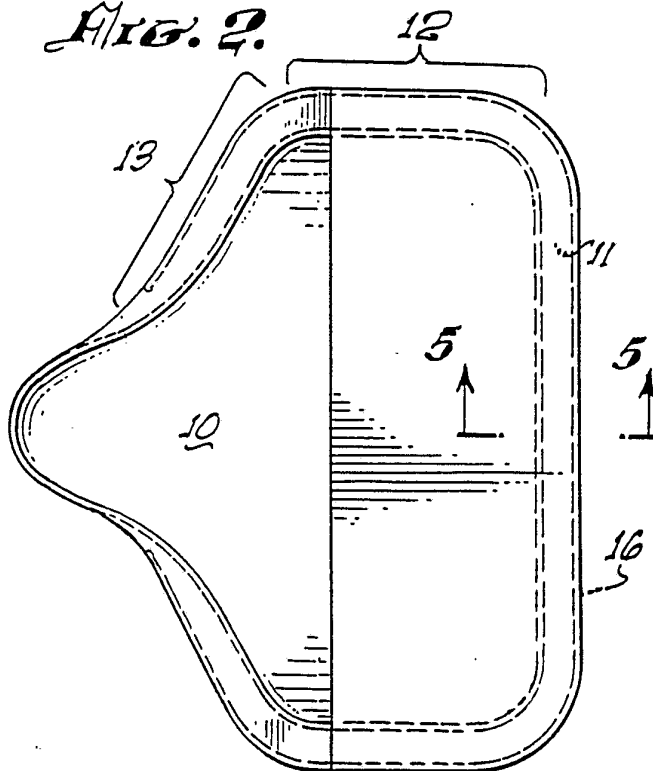


Fig. 4.

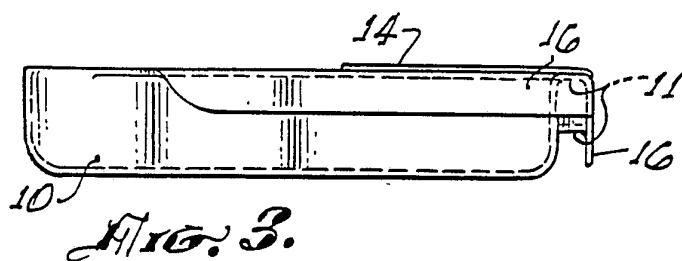
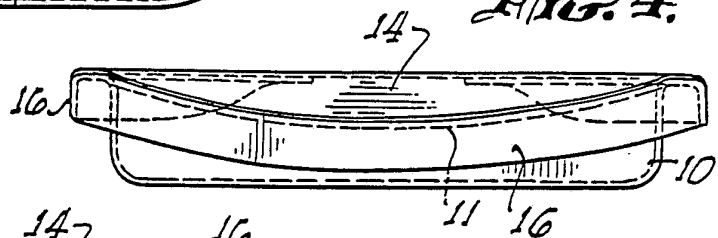


Fig. 3.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US92/03126

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :A61G 9/00

US CL :4/456

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. : 4/450-455 AND 457

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	GB,A, 0,322,738 (Rees) 10 December 1929.	1,2,7,8,13
A	GB,A, 0,014,322 (Jones) 11 September 1890.	
A	GB,A, 0,013,374 (Houghton) 1 July 1901.	
X	GB,A, 2,136,289 (Bini et al) 19 September 1984 See entire document.	
A	US,A, 0,884,842 (Nelson) 14 April 1908.	
A	US,A, 1,169,101 (Hogen) 18 January 1916.	
A	US,A, 1,499,161 (Farnsworth) 24 June 1924.	
A	US,A, 1,888,423 (Comper) 11 November 1932.	
A	US,A, 2,139,273 (Jones et al) 6 December 1938.	
A	US,A, 2,359,830 (Decket) 10 October 1944.	



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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 SEPTEMBER 1992

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 OCT 1992

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. NOT APPLICABLE

Authorized officer

CHARLES E. PHILLIPS

Telephone No. (703) 308-1515

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US92/03126

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US,A, 2,611,903 (Wekemen) 30 September 1952.	
A	US,A, 2,886,827 (Washington) 19 May 1959.	
A	US,A, 4,368,548 (Glass) 18 January 1983.	
A	US,A, 3,084,348 (Parker et al) 9 April 1963.	