March 4, 1947. B. MOLLER 2,416,800

HAND COVERING CUFF FOR BABIES

Filed July 24, 1944

Fig. 1.

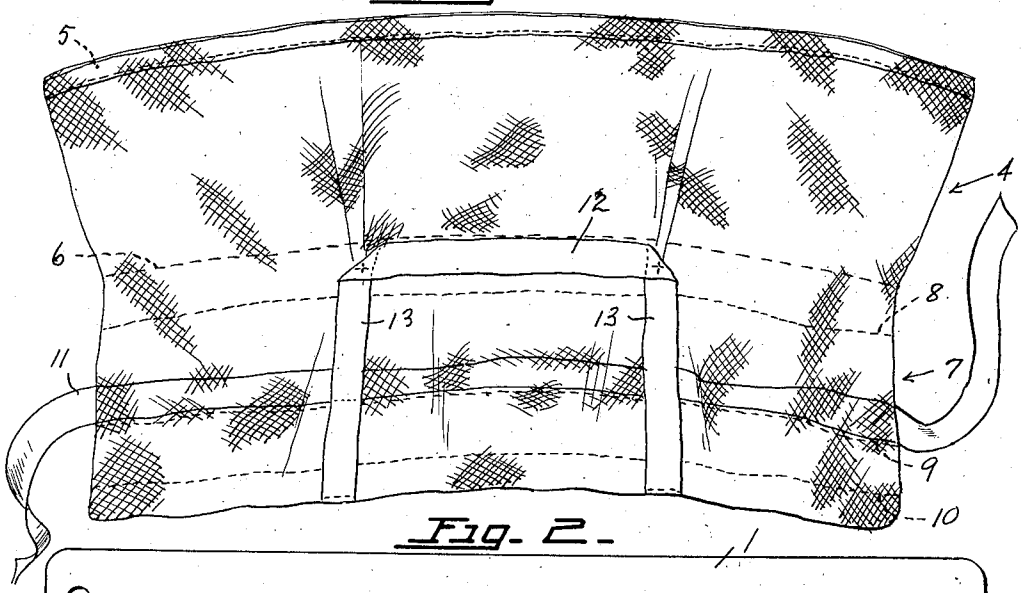


Fig. 2.

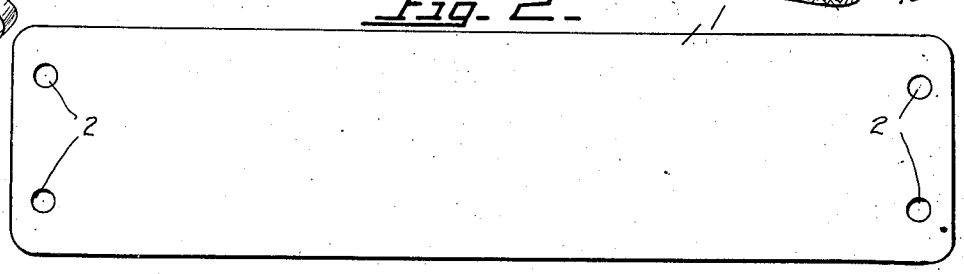


Fig. 3.

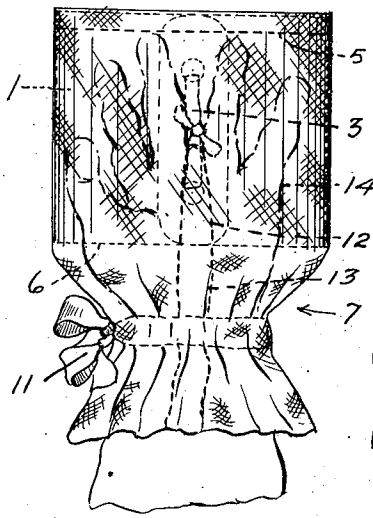


Fig. 5.

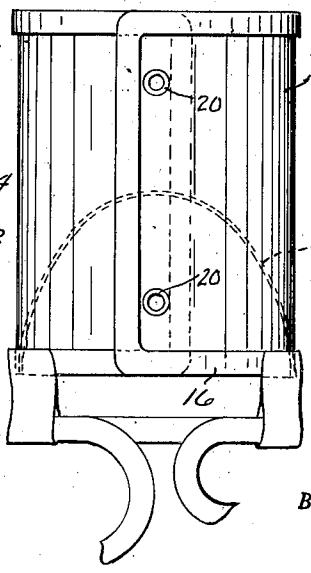
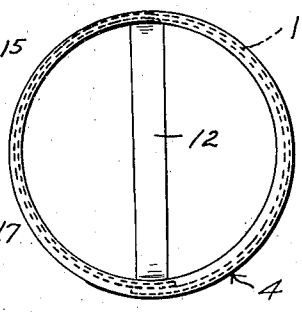


Fig. 4.



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Patented Mar. 4, 1947 2,416,800

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,416,800

HAND COVERING CUFF FOR BABIES

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Application July 24, 1944, Serial No. 546,261

5 Claims. (Cl. 128—133)

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This invention relates to a hand covering cuff adapted to fit over the hand of a baby for preventing the latter from sucking its fingers.

One of the objects of this invention is the provision of an improved hand cuff of substantially the same type disclosed in my Reissue United States Letters Patent No. Re. 20,858, September 13, 1938, but which improved cuff is provided with means adapted to cooperate with the hand to be enclosed therein for centering the cuff on the hand and for positively insuring against any chance of the baby sliding the cuff to a position where it might gain access to the fingers within the cuff, all without injury to the baby irrespective of the vigor of its efforts.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a hand cuff that is lighter in weight than heretofore, and which cuff insures full ventilation through the cuff from its opposite ends.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of a transparent, flexible hand cuff of transparent sheet material that is provided with a slip-cover of open work fabric, such as netting or other lace-like material, and which cover may be quickly and easily laundered and is provided with means for centering the cuff on the hand of a baby and for holding the cuff from being slipped wristward from over the fingers.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the drawings and description annexed hereto.

In the past I have found certain instances where a preference is expressed for a hand cuff that is lighter in weight than that disclosed in my patent heretofore mentioned, while in some other instances the mothers or nurses fail to secure the cuffs properly at the wrist and the babies finally manage to push the cuffs wristward sufficiently to get one or more fingers into their mouths. In solving these problems I have in no way restricted the movement of the hands of the baby wearing the cuffs as would occur were one or more loops to connect the thumb or any other finger to the cuff, or were any hand securing member so positioned that the baby's fingers could in any manner become entangled therewith. Also I have not closed the outer end of the cuff so as to preclude the baby from handling a rattle or other object. Finger restricting elements, loops, and structure interrupting free ventilation and structure preventing the baby from grasping a rattle or the like, are objectionable from the physical or health standpoint and one of the objects of this invention is the provision of a structure that affords all of the desirable features while avoiding the objectionable ones.

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In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of the slip cover for the cuff removed from the latter and as seen from the inner side of said cover that is adapted to be inside the cuff.

Fig. 2 is an elevational view of the strip of transparent material that is adapted to form the tubular cuff.

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the assembled hand cuff on the hand of a baby.

Fig. 4 is an end view of the cuff assembly of Fig. 3, minus the hand.

Fig. 5 is an elevational view of a cuff of the type shown in my said reissue patent having the cuff positioning means of this invention thereon.

In detail, the stiff cuff portion of the invention as disclosed in Figs. 2, 3 and 4 comprises an elongated strip 1 of transparent, flexible, sheet material, such as one of the non-flammable plastic materials. This strip may be formed at each of its opposite ends with a pair of perforations 2. When the strip is bowed to cylindrical or tubular form as seen in Figs. 3, 4, in which the said ends are in overlapping relation, the said pairs of openings will be in registration so that a ribbon 3 (Fig. 3), tape, or the like, may be threaded through the registering pairs of openings and tied for holding the said ends in overlapping relation.

For the strip 1 of Fig. 2, I provide a slip cover, generally designated 4 (Fig. 1) which cover may be formed from a rectangular piece of relatively open work fabric folded along a central line on itself. A cloth tape 5 may be first sewed to said piece along the fold line so as the latter will extend longitudinally of said tape centrally thereof. This tape is to form a protective covering for an edge of the tubular cuff, as will later be explained, and as seen in Fig. 3.

A line of stitching 6 parallel with tape 5 and spaced from the latter substantially the width of strip 1 provides a passageway between stitching 6 and tape 5 for the strip 1. The latter may thus be thrust endwise into said passageway whereby the fabric of the slip cover will enclose the strip.

The piece of overfolded fabric 4 forming the slip cover will project a substantial distance from stitches 6 to provide a wrist portion generally designated 7. The double layer of material in this wrist portion may be stitched together by spaced rows of stitches 8, 9, 10 that are parallel with the row of stitches 6, thereby providing several passageways for a draw ribbon 11 that is adapted to draw the wrist portion around the wrist of the baby's hand and to be tied around the wrist for securing the cuff 1 in position (Fig. 3). The rib-

bon may be in the nearest passageway to the cuff 1 for a very young baby, and may be shifted to one of the others as the baby's growth requires it.

An elongated member 12, which may be a cloth tape, or ribbon (Fig. 1) is secured at its ends to the slip cover at points adjacent the row of stitches 6, and extensions 13 from said ends may extend transversely of the rows of stitches 8, 9 for securement to the edge of the slip cover adjacent stitches 10. This member 12 will extend from side to side of the tubular cuff transversely of its axis (Fig. 4) so as to preferably lie between the middle and ring finger of the hand 14 (Fig. 3) that is within the cuff 1 when the latter has its ends tied together by the ribbon 3 and is within the passageway provided therefor within the slip cover.

When the cuff is positioned so that its outer edge is a sufficient distance outward of the fingers of hand 14 to be inaccessible to the mouth of the baby, the member 12 will extend over the palm and back of the hand (Fig. 3) toward the wrist edge of the cuff and it will engage the hand at the roots of the fingers at opposite sides thereof thus centering the cuff on the hand and preventing any wristward movement of the cuff irrespective of the efforts of the baby to reach its mouth with its fingers. The ribbon 11 need be only sufficiently tight to prevent the cuff from being drawn off the hand.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the baby can handle a rattle or the like, with its hand. Also the cuff may be relatively short, or much shorter than heretofore, therefore much lighter in weight.

If desired, a longer cuff 15, such as shown in Fig. 5, may be used, or where protective edging 16 is sewed to the cuff and no slip cover is used, an elongated member 17 corresponding generally to member 12 of Fig. 4 may be sewed at its ends to said edging 16 or directly to the cuff itself. It will function the same as the member 12.

When the slip cover 4 becomes soiled, all that is required is to slip the adjoining ends of the cover away from the ribbon 3 so as to expose the latter. This ribbon 3 may then be untied and the slip cover may quickly be removed from the cuff 1 and laundered and then replaced. Of course, other fastening means than ribbon 3 may be employed, but the ribbon or the like, is preferable inasmuch as it is easily replaced if worn, and by the construction I have shown there is no metal required. Therefore there is no corrosion, or likelihood of sharp edges, or any of the other disadvantages inherent in the use of metal.

The cuff of Fig. 5 shows the use of staples 20, inasmuch as this cuff may be permanently secured in tubular form.

Insofar as the material of the slip cover is concerned, this may be open work material such as netting, or curtain material. Preferably it is not so closely woven as to obscure seeing of the hand or to obstruct ventilation at the wrist. It is quite pertinent to note, however, that this material ordinarily also affords sufficient protection to the baby against injury from the edges of the cuff, although the protective tape 5 is preferably provided at the outer edge of the cuff inasmuch as this is the edge most susceptible to wear and to the attacks of the baby.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. An open ended generally tubular relatively rigid hand covering cuff adapted to encircle the hand of a baby with the edge at one of the open ends thereof extending beyond the ends of the fingers of such hand, means adapted to cooperate with such hand for securing said cuff against slipping wristward from over the hand and for centering the cuff relative to such hand comprising a flexible elongated member extending transversely of the central axis of said cuff and positioned for extending between an adjacent pair of the fingers of such hand one of which is the middle finger; means connecting said member with said cuff.

2. An open ended generally tubular relatively rigid hand covering cuff adapted to encircle the hand of a baby with the edge at one of the open ends thereof extending beyond the ends of the fingers of such hand, means adapted to cooperate with such hand for securing said cuff against slipping wristward from over the hand and for centering the cuff relative to such hand comprising a flexible elongated member extending transversely of the central axis of said cuff and positioned for extending between an adjacent pair of the fingers of such hand one of which is the middle finger, a slip cover enclosing said cuff, and said member being secured to said slip cover.

3. An open ended generally tubular relatively rigid hand covering cuff adapted to encircle the hand of a baby with the edge at one of the open ends thereof extending beyond the ends of the fingers of such hand, means adapted to cooperate with such hand for securing said cuff against slipping wristward from over the hand and for centering the cuff relative to such hand comprising a flexible elongated member extending transversely of the central axis of said cuff and positioned for extending between an adjacent pair of the fingers of such hand one of which is the middle finger, a slip cover enclosing said cuff provided with an extension adapted to extend from one end of said cuff and over the wrist of the hand to be enclosed in said cuff, said members being secured at its ends to said cover, and means carried by said extension for securing the said slip cover to said wrist for holding the cuff against movement in direction away from said wrist.

4. An open ended generally tubular relatively rigid hand covering cuff adapted to encircle the hand of a baby with the edge at one of the open ends thereof extending beyond the ends of the fingers of such hand, means adapted to cooperate with such hand for securing said cuff against slipping wristward from over the hand and for centering the cuff relative to such hand comprising a flexible elongated member extending transversely of the central axis of said cuff and positioned for extending between an adjacent pair of the fingers of such hand one of which is the middle finger, a slip cover of relatively open work fabric enclosing said cuff, means removably securing said slip cover on said cuff, and a protective strip of fabric carried by said slip cover extending over the said edge of said cuff.

5. An open ended generally tubular relatively rigid hand covering cuff adapted to encircle the hand of a baby with the edge at one of the open ends thereof extending beyond the ends of the fingers of such hand, means adapted to cooperate with such hand for securing said cuff against slipping wristward from over the hand and for centering the cuff relative to such hand comprising a flexible strip extending transversely of the central axis of said cuff positioned for extending between an adjacent pair of the fingers of such hand one of which is the middle finger, means connecting said member with said cuff, a wrist encircling band outwardly of the wrist end of

said cuff for securing said cuff to said wrist, and means carried by said cuff for securing said band thereto at any one of various distances from said cuff whereby the said cuff is adapted for use on babies of different sizes.

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