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PROTECTIVE LIFE-SAVING VEST AND BUOYANT COLLAR

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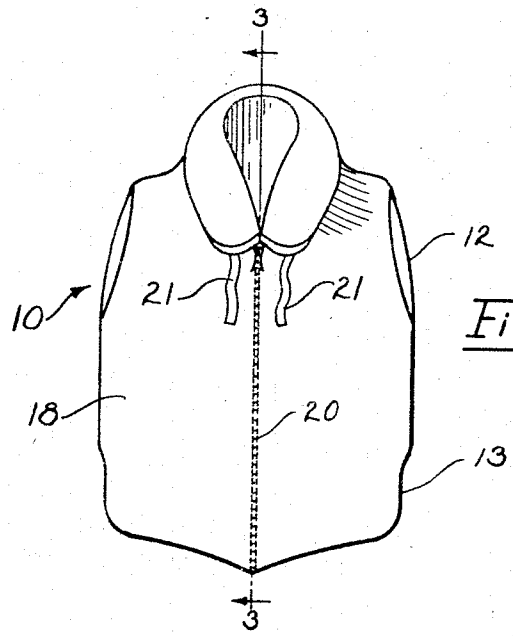


Fig. 1

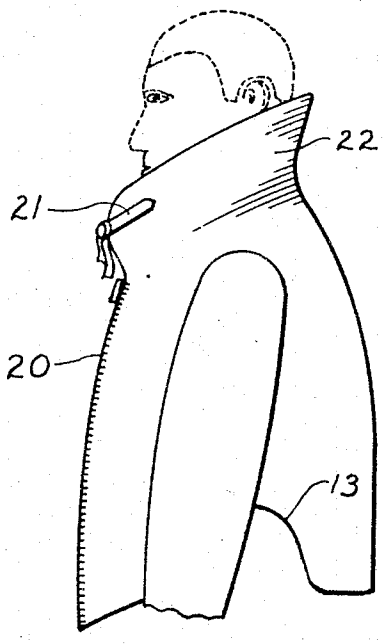


Fig. 2

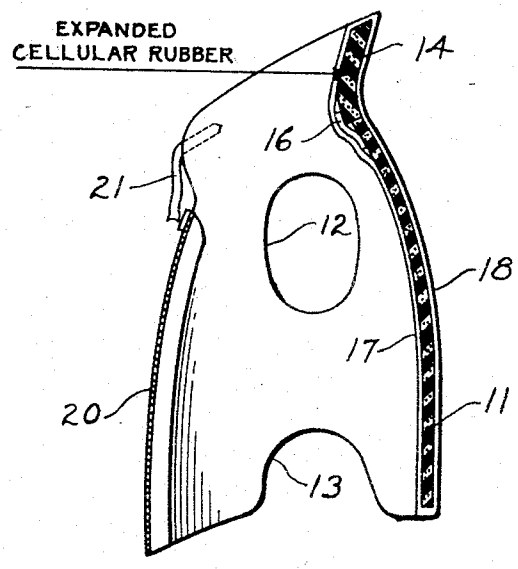


Fig. 3

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PROTECTIVE LIFESAVING VEST AND BUOYANT COLLAR

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Application February 17, 1941, Serial No. 379,370

1 Claim. (Cl. 9—20)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

This invention relates to a protective life-saving vest and buoyant collar and has for an object to provide a buoyant and protective vest and collar especially designed to furnish protection to the personnel of lifeboats or similar craft.

A further object of this invention is to provide a vest which both absorbs shock and vibration without hampering the movements of the wearer while in the boat, but also affords buoyancy should the wearer fall or be knocked overboard, due to an accident to the craft or otherwise and, in addition, automatically keeps the wearer's nostrils and mouth above the water so that he can continue to breathe even though he should be unconscious as a result of an accident to the craft. In addition, the vest furnishes warmth and protection against the wind, does not absorb water or spray and is soft, light and flexible.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and illustrated in the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front plan view of the vest per se;

Figure 2 is a side plan view of the vest shown in operative position on a wearer; and

Figure 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Figure 1.

There is shown at 10 the vest of this invention consisting principally of an interlining that is shock and vibration absorbent, as well as being soft, light and flexible and, in addition, is buoyant so that the vest will act as a life preserver should the wearer fall overboard for any reason whatsoever.

One example of a material that has all these desirable characteristics is expanded cellular rubber and such material is provided as an interlining 11 for the vest 10 having armholes 12 and hip cut-aways 13 formed therein. The interlining 11 extends upwardly to the neckline and at the neckline a collar interlining 14 of similar but heavier material is secured thereto by an inner vulcanizing strip 16. An inner covering 17 and an outer covering 18 of suitable material, such as duck, drill, gaberdine, or the like, is provided about the joined interlining 11 and 14, being suitably secured around the edges thereof. Along the front lining, a separable fastener 20 is provided for fastening the body of the vest 10 about the trunk of the wearer, while a pair of strap members 21 secured to the front ends of the collar section formed by the thicker interlining 14 form a fastening means for holding the collar in upturned position as shown at 22 in Figure 2. When the straps 21 are left unfastened, the collar will lie down about the shoulders as shown in Figure 1. Due to the softness and flexibility of the interlining 14, the wearer is not hampered in his movements even when the collar is turned up in the position shown in Figure 2, and when the collar is fastened in this position the head of the wearer will automatically be kept with his nose above the water line should he accidentally fall overboard.

Other modifications and changes in the proportions and arrangements of the parts may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the nature of the invention, within the scope of what is hereinafter claimed.

The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government of the United States of America for governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties thereon or therefor.

Having thus set forth and disclosed the nature of this invention, what is claimed is:

A vest comprising a vest body made of a sheet of soft, flexible, light and buoyant form-retaining material, said sheet having armholes and hip cut-aways provided therein, and a collar of similar but thicker material secured along the neckline of the vest, said sheet of material providing an interlining for said vest and a covering on the inner and outer faces of said interlining, said material comprising expanded cellular rubber, a vulcanizing strip securing the expanded cellular rubber material of the body of the vest to the thicker expanded cellular rubber material of said collar, and a separable fastener secured to said outer covering for holding said vest in position on the wearer.

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