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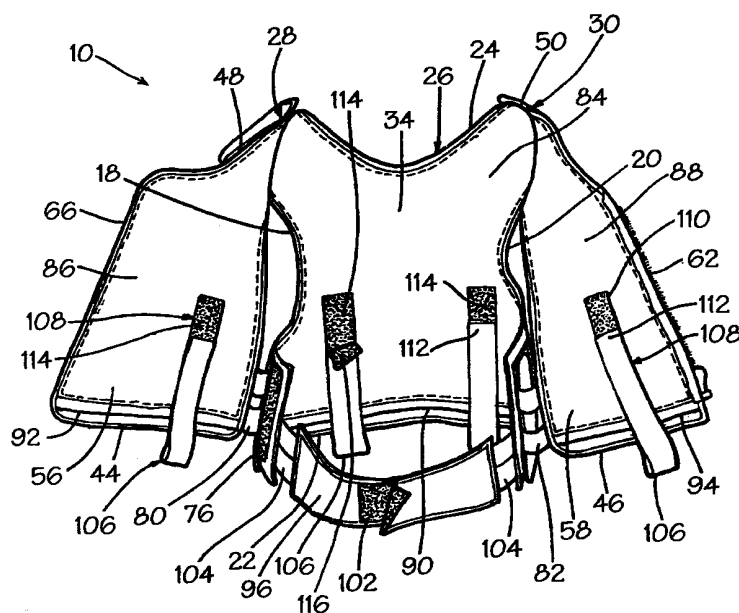
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): HIGH-MARK MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED [GB/GB]; 2 Moybrick Road, Dromara, County Down, BT25 2BT (GB).
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- Published:
— With international search report.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A GARMENT



(57) Abstract: A waistcoat (10) for use as part of a police or military uniform has a plurality of load-carrying loops (106) associated with the lower hem for distributing the weight of a carried load, such as an equipment belt, around the hem. The waistcoat also includes pouches (84, 86, 88) adapted to receive, in use, at least one protective member such as a plate of ballistic body armour, and a waist belt (96) for partially supporting the weight of the garment at the wearer's waist.

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25 January 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/01108

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F41H1/02 A41D13/00

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)

IPC 7 F41H A41D

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 730 301 A (SQUALE) 9 August 1996 (1996-08-09) page 2, line 5 - line 8 page 3, line 15 page 5, line 3; claim 6; figures 2,6 ---	1-3,5
A	US 5 060 314 A (LEWIS MICHAEL L) 29 October 1991 (1991-10-29) column 2, line 5 - line 11 column 6, line 1; figures 1,3 ---	1-4
A	US 5 754 982 A (GAINER C MORGAN) 26 May 1998 (1998-05-26) column 3, line 41 - line 43 column 5, line 19 column 5, line 37 - line 38 column 5, line 48; figures 1,5 --- -/--	1,5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"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

"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

"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

"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.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.11.00

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/01108

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 831 763 A (FOSTER) 30 March 1960 (1960-03-30) page 1, line 64 - line 65 page 2, line 86 - line 87 page 3, line 58; figures 1-3 ---	1,8,9
X	US 4 507 802 A (SMALL IRVIN L) 2 April 1985 (1985-04-02) column 2, line 50 - line 54 column 3, line 54 - line 56 column 4, line 6 column 5, line 5 - line 8; figures 3,6 ---	12,14-16
A	US 3 973 275 A (BLAUER MAURICE) 10 August 1976 (1976-08-10) column 1, line 23 column 3, line 38 - line 52 column 4, line 28 column 4, line 50; figures 2,3 -----	12-14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 00/01108

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-9, 12-16
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-9

A garment for a wearer's upper body, the garment having an in use lower hem which, when the garment is worn, substantially surrounds the wearer's body, the garment having load-carrying means associated with the lower hem for distributing the weight of a carried load around the hem.

2. Claims: 10-11

A garment for a wearer's upper body, the garment comprising support means for releasably embracing the wearer's torso so that a part of the torso other than the shoulders supports at least a part of the weight of the garment.

3. Claims: 12-16

A garment comprising a fastening interface at which the garment is releasably fastenable between an open and a closed state, and means for retaining a protective member between the garment and a wearer's body, wherein the retaining means is so arranged that the protective member extends across the fastening interface when the garment is in the closed state.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/01108

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
FR 2730301 A	09-08-1996	WO 9624816 A	15-08-1996
US 5060314 A	29-10-1991	NONE	
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US 3973275 A	10-08-1976	NONE	