

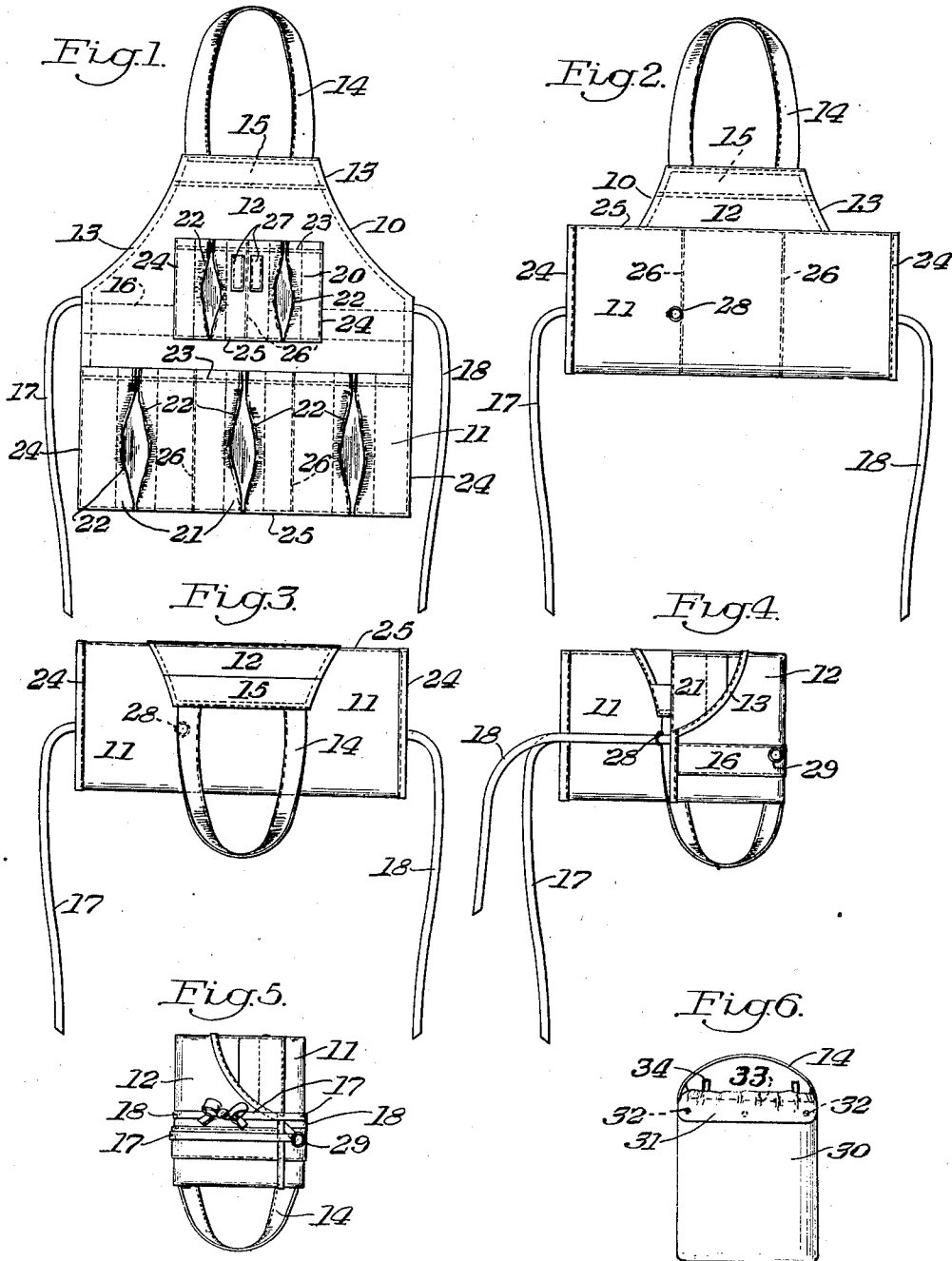
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KIT APRON

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KIT APRON

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1 Claim. (Cl. 224—5)

This invention relates generally to apparel and more particularly to a kit apron or garment protector, and the method of making and folding the same.

This apron may be advantageously used as a kit to contain tools or supply units for workmen, and it is particularly useful as a first aid casualty kit for storing, carrying and dispensing bandages, antiseptics, surgical implements and supplies.

The principal object of this invention is the provision of an apron which is convenient for storing, carrying and dispensing the supplies of workmen.

Another object is in the method of constructing the apron and the pockets sewed thereon.

Another object is in the method of folding the apron into kit form so that the neck strap serves as a carrying handle.

Another object is the provision of a case for containing the folded kit and which permits the use of the neck strap as the carrying handle for the enclosed kit.

Other objects and advantages appear in the following description and claim.

In the accompanying drawing a practical embodiment illustrating the principles of this invention is shown wherein:

Fig. 1 is a view of the open apron.

Fig. 2 is a view illustrating the first step of folding the apron by turning up the lower portion thereof.

Fig. 3 is a view illustrating the second step of folding the apron by turning down the top portion thereof.

Fig. 4 is a view illustrating the third step of folding the apron by turning in one side thereof.

Fig. 5 is a view illustrating the kit apron completely folded and tied.

Fig. 6 is a view illustrating the apron enclosed in a container or case.

Referring to the drawing, the apron 10 may be made up of any suitable fabric, such as canvas, denim, white duck, celanese, rubberized cloth, or other waterproof protective materials. The latter material may be impervious to poison gas and thus provide an extra protection to materials contained in the kit.

The apron has a skirt portion 11 and a bib portion 12. The sides of the bib portion are preferably arcuately cut on the bias, as indicated at 13, to fit the person of the wearer in front of the arms. A neck strap 14 is secured at its ends to the top of the bib 12. This neck strap also serves as a handle which is described hereinafter.

A chest band 15 and a belly band 16 may be

secured to the back of the apron to reinforce the fabric at the neck and the waist line. The chest band encloses a stiffener such as a piece of light flexible metal, wood, bone or the like to keep the ends of the neck strap 14 in spaced relation. Right and left apron strings 17 and 18 are secured to the upper portion of the skirt 11 on or adjacent to the ends of the belly band 16.

The apron is preferably provided with two rows of patch pockets 20 and 21. The upper row of pockets 20 is secured to bib 12 and may extend to the bottom of the belly band 16. The lower row of pockets 21 is secured to the skirt 11 of the apron and extend upwardly from the bottom of the skirt with their mouths or openings spaced from the upper row of pockets. Two pockets are shown in the upper row and three are shown in the lower row. The pockets in the lower row are preferably larger than the pockets in the upper row. It will be noted that the intermediate pocket in the lower row is substantially the same width as both of the pockets in the upper row and also the top of the bib.

Each row of pockets is formed from a single piece of material. This material is folded at the center of each pocket into opposing vertical pleats 22 which are sewed along the top of the material, as indicated at 23. The material is then sewed along both sides 24 and along the bottom 25 to the apron. The material is also sewed to the apron intermediate of the pleats, as indicated at 26, to form the individual pockets in each row. Thus the material at the mouth or opening of each pocket is made taut across the front by the stitching 23 but the pockets may expand intermediate the top and bottom thereof due to the vertical pleats 22, as indicated in Fig. 1.

Small open bottom loops or pockets 27 may be provided on the upper row of pockets for carrying pencils, thermometers, scissors, scalpel or the like.

When the apron is properly folded it becomes a kit that is easily stored or carried. The first step in folding the apron is illustrated in Fig. 2 wherein the skirt is folded along a medial line between the two rows of pockets with the pockets on the skirt 11 covering the pockets on the bib 12.

The neck strap 14 and the upper portion of the bib 12 are then folded down over the back of the skirt 11, as shown in Fig. 3, forming a rectangular pack. The left side of the apron is then folded over the top of the bib 12, as illustrated in Fig. 4. A ring 28 or other suitable catch member is secured to the back of the skirt to threadably receive the apron string 18. The right side of the apron is then folded over the left side en-

closing the string 18 as shown in Fig. 5. A second ring 29 is secured to the back of the apron on the left side in the vicinity of the belly band 16, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Either apron string may be threaded through this ring to permit them to encircle the kit in opposite directions so that they may be tied, as indicated in Fig. 5.

In folding the apron in thirds it is possible to retain the neck strap 14 in the center of the pack. Thus when it is used as a carrying handle it supports the kit from the center of the load. The folding of the apron in thirds also demonstrates the advantage of having three pockets in the lower row and two smaller pockets in the upper row which are substantially the same width as the center pocket in the lower row. Thus when folded in kit form the two small pockets and the intermediate pocket are on one side of the neck strap and the two outer pockets of the lower row are on the other side, which balances the kit and the top of the bib is placed approximately at the center of gravity of the load.

A closure member or bag 30 having the general shape of the folded kit when loaded with supplies may be provided to receive the kit, as illustrated in Fig. 6. A flap 31 is provided on the bag and may be folded through the neck strap and secured to the front by the snaps shown at 32 to completely enclose the kit, keeping it dry and clean. A stiffening member 33, such as a light piece of flexible metal, wood, bone or the like may be sewed or otherwise secured across the under side of the flap 31 to retain the shape of the top of the bag, causing the neck strap to extend laterally at either side from the flap to provide a complete enclosure of the kit, keeping it free from dust and moisture. This reinforcing member can be supplied with hooks or snaps 34 for securing the enclosed kit to a field service belt or the like. When used in this manner the handle or neck strap 14 may be packed temporarily within the bag.

When the apron is properly fitted out with supplies such as that required by a doctor or first aid worker and is folded as shown and described, the kit naturally assumes bulk and weight. When carried by the handle or neck strap the weight of the kit suspended from the top of the bib pulls the folds tighter, thereby drawing the mouths of the pockets more closely

shut preventing the contents from spilling therefrom. It will be noted that each fold increases the sealing effect of the pocket openings and when the strings are tied tightly the belly band is drawn taut, further insuring closure of the pockets. When the wearer unties the kit and inserts the head through the neck strap, the apron will fall to its open position without spilling any of the contents from the pockets. This is advantageous because the kit apron lends itself to quick application when needed.

I claim:

A kit apron to be folded and carried while filled with articles, and comprising a skirt, open-top pockets carried by the center and side portions of the skirt, a bib extending from the skirt, a neck loop secured at its ends to the top of the bib, said ends aligned substantially with the side edges of the center pocket of the skirt, at least one open-top pocket carried by the bib and spaced upwardly from the center pocket of the skirt and centered relatively thereto, the distance from the top of the pocket on the bib to the top of the pockets on the skirt being substantially the same as the distance from the top of the pockets on the skirt to the bottom of the skirt, a tie secured to each side of the skirt, said skirt being folded up on a line coincident with the top of the pockets on the skirt against the front of the bib to close the skirt pockets, the upper portion of the bib being folded down on a line coincident with the top of the pocket on the bib over the back of the skirt to close the bib pocket, with the neck loop extending beyond the fold of the skirt, and the sides of the skirt carrying the outer skirt pockets being folded one on the other over the neck loop and the center portion of the skirt, the side pockets of the skirt being positioned on the opposite side of the neck loop from the center pocket of the skirt and the pocket of the bib to balance the kit, each of the spaced sides of the neck loop extending from the center of the kit being adjacent the line of one of the last mentioned folds, guide means on the back of the skirt for the tie of the inner of the two folded sides of the skirt to prevent displacement of the latter, and the ties encircling the kit and secured to prevent unfolding of the latter, the weight of the articles in the pockets of the kit increasing the compactness of the kit when carried by the neck loop.

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