June 11, 1957 S. H. KAY 2,794,982

INFANT'S KNEE PAD

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Fig. 1.

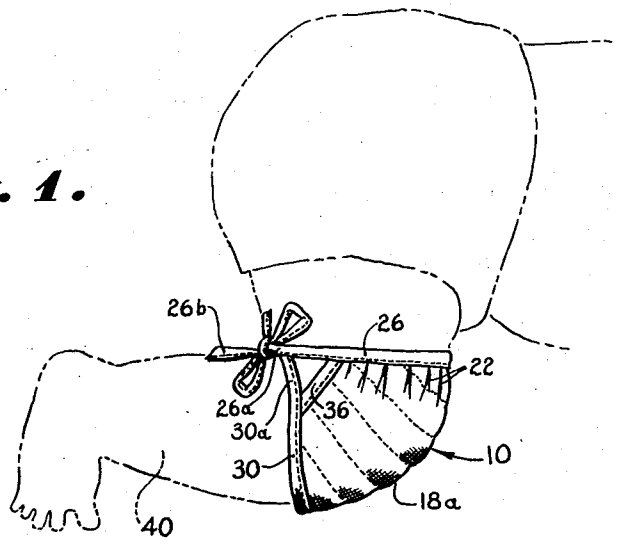


Fig. 2.

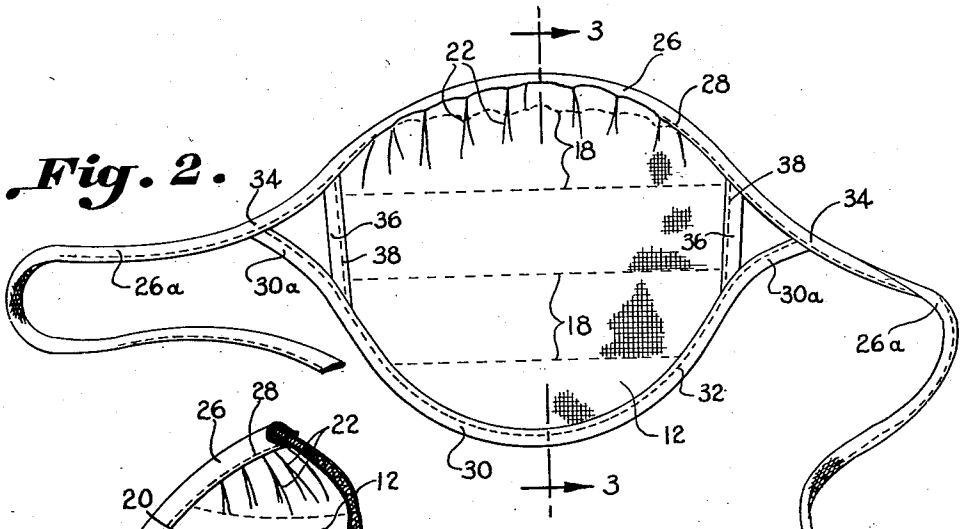
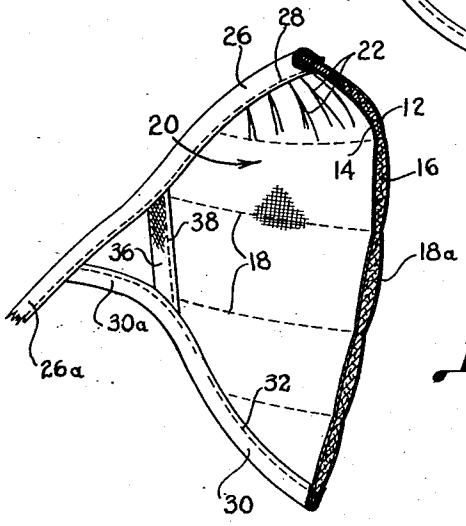


Fig. 3.



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INFANT'S KNEE PAD

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1 Claim. (Cl. 2—24)

This invention relates to infant's accessories and more especially to a knee pad or guard particularly adapted to cover the knees of an infant when crawling.

When children are in the crawling stages it is a major problem to keep them clean, particularly their knees. The frequent washing of the child's knees and the articles of clothing covering the knees, such as creepers, is quite a chore for the busy mother. Children at this stage of development are not careful where they crawl and there are constant dangers from splinters and any other sharp objects which may be encountered. Also, the child has a tendency to squirm out of any article of clothing that tends to confine his body or limbs. It is necessary that a knee pad for such a child be inexpensively constructed of washable material because of the hard wear which will be accorded the knee pad and that it be soft and flexible yet adequately padded to protect the tender skin of a baby's knees and be so secured that the infant cannot readily remove the article. A number of attempts have been made to satisfy the above requirements but have resulted in the development of crude devices, usually employing elastic, for the purpose of holding the pad to the child's leg.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a knee pad which may be easily constructed of textile material and readily secured to the leg of a crawling infant either directly on the knee or over creepers or overalls which will fit snugly against the knee and will offer adequate protection therefor.

Another object of this invention is to produce an inexpensive knee pad for an infant which may be constructed from scraps from other textile operations by comparatively unskilled labor and which will conform to the shape of an infant's knee when in crawling position making it peculiarly suited to this purpose, without the use of elastic.

I accomplish these and other objects of my invention by providing a knee pad for a crawling infant consisting essentially of a substantially elliptically shaped portion constructed of at least two thicknesses of textile material, padding stitched into place between said thicknesses to form a thick protective portion, gathers at the upper portion of the elliptically shaped portion forming a concave surface conforming to the knee portion of an infant's leg when bent as is normally the case when crawling, a first seam binder following the contours of the upper portion of said elliptically shaped portion and projecting laterally therefrom to form straps, a second seam binder following the contour of the lower elliptically shaped portion and extending laterally to intersect and be joined to said straps and intermediate seam binder portions between said first and second seam binders thus defining an opening on either side of the elliptical portion of equivalent triangular configuration whereby, when the straps are fastened behind the infant's knee, the upper, lower and intermediate portions defined by said seam binders will be pulled snugly about the infant's knees.

While some of the objects have been stated above others will become apparent to those skilled in the art relating to children's accessories when the specification is read in connection with the accompanying drawing in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation showing my improved knee pad attached to the knee of a crawling infant,

Fig. 2 is an enlarged elevation of the knee pad and,

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along the line 3—3 in Fig. 2.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, the numeral **10** broadly designates a substantially elliptically shaped portion adapted to cover the knee portion of the leg of the crawling infant. Fig. 3 shows that the elliptical body or knee pad portion **10** is constructed of at least two thicknesses of fabric, the outside portion being designated at **12** and the inside portion at **14**. Suitable padding **16**, shown in the drawing as being constructed of cotton batting, is provided and is shown suitably secured in place as by stitches **18**, which provide a quilted effect. If desired this padding could be constructed of any suitable material such as several thicknesses of cloth.

A concave portion broadly designated at **20** in Fig. 3 is formed in the elliptical body portion **10** to conform to the shape of an infant's knee when in the position normally adapted to crawling. It will be noted that a number of gathers **22** are taken along the upper edge portion of the body portion **10** and hence the amount of curvature of the concave portion **20** is especially pronounced in the upper part of the body portion **10** as will be particularly noted in Figs. 1 and 3 so as to particularly conform the body portion to the shape of the knee. If desired pleats or some other suitable means may be employed for this purpose.

A seam binder **26** is shown following the contour of the upper edge of the elliptical portion **10** and suitably secured thereto as by stitches **28**. These stitches **28** also secure the gathers **22** which are confined by the seam binder **26**. It will be noted that the seam binder **26** follows the contour of the upper edge only on the upper portion of the elliptical body portion **10** and projects laterally and downwardly at an angle of about 30° with the horizontal when laid out flat.

A second seam binder **30** is shown secured to the lower edge of the body portion **10** as by stitches **32** and follows the contour of the lower portion and projects laterally as at **30***a* to intersect with the first mentioned seam binder **26** as at **34**. The seam binder **30** is secured to the seam binder **26** as by the stitching **28** which also secures the seam binder **26** together to form straps **26***a*. Intermediate seam binders **36** are suitably secured to the side edges of the intermediate portion of the body portion **10** as by stitches **38** in order to cooperate with the first seam binder **26** and the second seam binder **30** to confine the padding **16** and to protect the edges of the body portion **10**. These intermediate seam binders **36** together with the seam binders **26** and **30** define an opening on either side of the elliptical body portion **10** of substantially triangular configuration.

Fig. 1 shows the entire knee pad assembly positioned on the knee portion of the leg **40** of an infant. It will be noted that the calf and thigh portions of the leg **40** form a substantially right angle. It will also be noted that the strap may be secured in any convenient manner as by the bow **26***b*. If desired buckles or any suitable fastening means may be employed as found to be most expedient.

It will also be noted that the body portion **10** is constructed of any suitable material preferably textile so that it will slide easily on the floor or play pen. Gathers may be easily formed at the top and stitched into place at the same time that the seam binder is positioned thereon.

By forming these gathers in the top a concave portion is produced in the body portion of the knee pad which will conform almost exactly to the shape of an infant's knee in crawling position. The upper seam binder being extended to form straps, as described and shown, pulls the upper portion snugly around the infant's leg and at the same time the bottom and intermediate portions are also pulled snugly around the leg by virtue of the particular placement of the seam lower binder as described so as to extend beyond the body portion before intersecting the upper seam binder. If desired the body portion could be constructed of a thick material which would offer adequate protection and the gathers placed in the upper portion thereof.

While a preferred embodiment of my invention has been described using specific terms, such description is for illustrative purposes only, and it is to be understood that changes and variations may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as defined by the appended claim.

I claim as my invention:

A knee pad for a crawling infant comprising a substantially elliptically shaped portion constructed of at least two thicknesses of washable textile material, padding

stitched into place between said thicknesses, a plurality of gathers at the upper portion of the elliptically shaped portion forming a concave portion adapted to conform to the knee portion of an infant's leg when bent as is normally the case when crawling, a seam binder following the contour of the upper portion of said elliptically shaped portion and projecting laterally to form straps, a second seam binder following the contour of the lower portion and extending laterally to intersect and be joined to said straps and intermediate seam binder portions between said first and second seam binders defining an opening on either side of the elliptically shaped portion of equivalent triangular configuration whereby, when the straps are fastened behind an infant's knee the upper, lower and intermediate portions of said elliptical portions will be pulled snugly about the infant's knees.

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