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COMBINATION CRIB SHEET AND MATTRESS PROTECTOR

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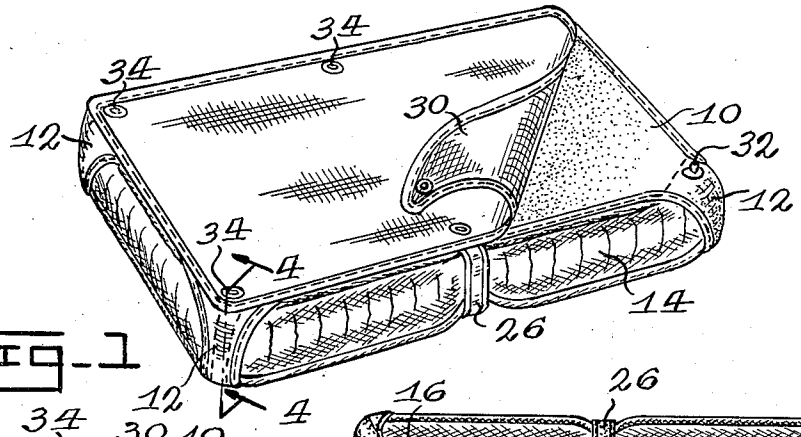


Fig. 1

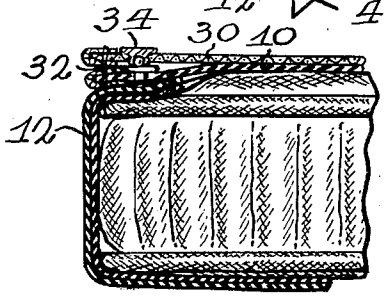


Fig. 4

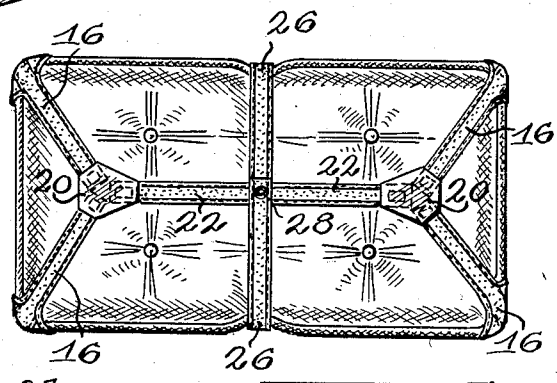


Fig. 2

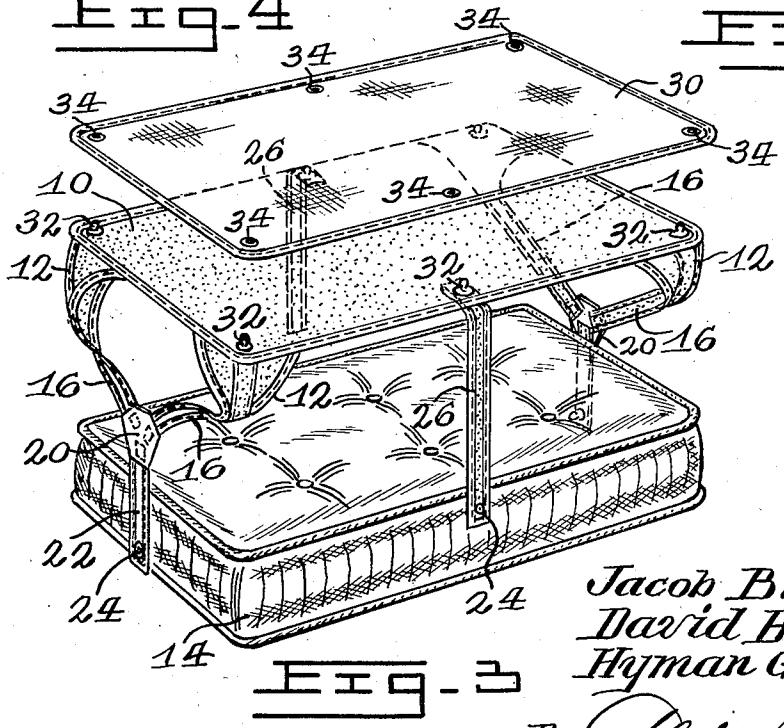


Fig. 3

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COMBINATION CRIB SHEET AND MATTRESS PROTECTOR

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3 Claims. (Cl. 5—354)

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Introduction

The present invention relates to mattress protectors and more specifically to mattress protectors employed in infants' bedding.

In order to protect the mattress on an infant's bed or crib the usual practice is to place a waterproof sheet directly on top of the mattress and a second fabric cover sheet on top of the waterproof sheet to form the undercover of the bedding. Generally the waterproof sheets employed are of rubberized fabric, rubber, plastic, or other flexible water impervious material, and they are usually of a size large enough to enable the sheet to be tucked under on all sides of the mattress between the mattress and the spring of the crib together with the upper fabric sheet.

This arrangement however, is not entirely satisfactory, for example, if the covers are not tucked securely under the mattress the normal movements of an infant often tend to displace both the upper and lower covers. Further, when it is necessary to replace the upper cover sheet both sheets have to be removed, and the mattress lifted from the spring so that a fresh cover sheet can be retucked beneath the mattress together with the waterproof undercover.

The present invention aims to provide a simple practical solution to these problems, by providing a waterproof undercover that includes anchoring means adapted to retain it securely in place on a crib mattress, and in combination with this waterproof undercover a pre-shrunk fabric upper cover or crib sheet that is retained securely and smoothly in place by detachable fastening means so that it can be easily and quickly changed when necessary.

Applicant's development

Accordingly, the invention is a combination upper crib sheet and lower waterproof crib mattress cover that includes anchoring means whereby the lower mattress cover is secured in position on a mattress, and detachable fastening means between the crib sheet and mattress cover adapting the crib sheet to be removed or attached without displacement of the mattress cover and anchoring means.

More specifically, a preferred construction of a combination crib sheet and mattress cover according to the invention includes as a mattress

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protector or lower cover a sheet of flexible waterproof material of a sufficient size to completely cover the upper surface of a crib mattress. This lower cover includes shaped corner pieces secured at each corner of the sheet so as to form downwardly extending pocketlike members that are adapted to overlap the corners of the mattress. Anchoring straps are secured to the lower sheet so as to be attached to the free ends of the corner pieces and these anchoring straps are adapted to pass beneath the mattress where they are joined centrally by detachable fasteners so as to retain the lower sheet securely against longitudinal and lateral displacement on the mattress.

In the preferred arrangement the anchoring straps that are attached to each end of the sheet adjacent the corner pieces are arranged so that one strap is secured to each corner and each pair of straps at each end are joined centrally to a gusset piece so as to form with a third portion of strapping a Y-shaped strap arrangement at each end of the lower cover sheet. This anchor strap arrangement holds the corner pieces of the lower sheet snugly in position about the corners of the mattress and a further pair of anchor straps are attached centrally of the lower sheet, one adjacent each side, so as to retain the middle portion of the sheet firmly in position. Suitable fastening elements are provided on the free ends of the anchor straps so that they can be joined centrally beneath the mattress.

The upper cover or crib sheet of the combination is substantially the same size as the lower sheet and is held in place on the lower sheet by detachable fastening elements attached to the respective covers, for example, dome or snap fasteners. These are arranged so that a plurality of fastener halves are secured in spaced apart relationship to the lower sheet adjacent each anchoring strap with their engaging fans upwards and the corresponding halves are secured to the upper crib sheet with their engaging fans downwards so that the upper sheet can be snapped securely and smoothly in place on top of the lower waterproof sheet. As the upper crib sheet, in normal use, will be subject to frequent washings, it is a prime importance that the fabric employed for this purpose be preshrunk, so that the respective fastening elements on the upper and lower sheets will re-

main in register. It is also contemplated in this respect that the fastener halves might be replaced by buttons and button holes or that other similar fastening means might be employed.

With the present arrangement the lower waterproof cover sheet can be easily and securely anchored to the mattress so as to provide the protection required, and the upper cover sheet can easily and quickly be removed without displacement of the lower sheet or the anchoring means.

Having thus generally described the nature of the invention, particular reference will be made to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view in perspective elevation of a preferred form of crib sheet and mattress cover constructed according to the invention, as it may be secured to the mattress of a crib.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the underside of the construction shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a diagrammatic exploded view of the combination crib sheet and mattress cover illustrated in Figure 1 illustrating in more detail the relative positions of the respective covers and the arrangement of the anchoring straps.

Figure 4 is a section of Figure 1 along the lines 4—4 to further illustrate the construction thereof.

In the construction illustrated the under cover 10 forming the mattress protector consists of a substantially rectangular sheet of flexible waterproof material that is bound at the marginal edges and is of a sufficient size to completely cover at least the upper surface of a crib mattress. This lower cover 10 includes substantially triangular shaped corner pieces 12 secured adjacent each corner so as to provide downwardly extending pocketlike members that are adapted to engage and overlap the corners of a mattress 14 when the sheet 10 is secured in position.

Anchoring straps 16 are secured to the sheet 10 and to the free ends of the corner pieces 12 and these straps are joined centrally to gusset pieces 20 at each end of the sheet. A further section of strapping 22 is secured to each of the gussets 20 so as to form with the straps 16 a Y-shaped anchor strap arranged. Fastening elements 24 are provided on the free ends of the strap portions 22 so that they can be joined centrally beneath the mattress 14 to retain the ends of the sheet 10 from longitudinal and lateral displacement. A further pair of anchoring straps 26 are secured to the marginal edge of the sheet 10, one at each side and located substantially centrally of the sheet, and fastening elements 28 are provided on these straps so that they can be joined centrally beneath the mattress 14 to retain the centre portion of the sheet 10 securely in place.

The upper sheet 30 is also of a substantially rectangular shape with the marginal edges bound in a similar manner to the undersheet 10 and is preferably substantially the same size as the undersheet.

This upper sheet 30 is secured in place on the lower sheet 10 by the engagement of fastening elements 32 and 34 which in the construction illustrated consist of dome fasteners. These are located in spaced apart relationship on both sheets and are preferably positioned so that one of the fastener elements 32 is secured to the lower sheet 10 adjacent the juncture of each of the anchoring straps 16, 26 with this sheet. This provides extra strength to these fasteners as they are inserted through a double thickness of material, namely the strap 16 or 26 and the material of the sheet 10 as is shown in section in Figure 4. The upper fastening elements 34 are secured to the upper sheet 30 so as to register with the elements 32 so that the upper cover sheet 30 is retained smoothly and securely in place when the undersheet 10 is anchored to the mattress 14.

With this arrangement it will be seen that the lower waterproof sheet 10 covers the mattress completely and consequently prevents any soiling of the latter. The upper sheet 30 which is of cotton, wool, or other suitable pre-shrunk fabric can be quickly and easily changed without disturbing the anchoring arrangement that secures the sheet 10 in position. The use of pre-shrunk material has been found to be essential in the upper crib sheet as it is necessary that the fastening elements on the upper and lower sheets will remain in register after the upper sheet has been subject to frequent washings as will be encountered in normal use.

A further feature of the present invention is that the size of both sheets is greatly reduced from the normal size required as no extra material is needed to tuck under the mattress to hold the sheets in position. This presents a considerable saving in the material used to form the upper and lower covering sheets and also makes the changing and washing of the upper crib sheet when soiled, a comparatively simple matter.

We claim:

1. A combination crib sheet and mattress protector comprising a lower waterproof sheet of a size and shape adapted at least to cover the upper surface of a crib mattress, a pre-shrunk fabric upper sheet of substantially equal area to said lower sheet, said lower sheet including shaped extensions adjacent each corner to constitute pocket-like members adapted to overlap the corners of said mattress, anchoring straps attached to said lower sheet adjacent said pocket members adapted to pass beneath said mattress to retain said lower sheet in register with said mattress, fastening elements arranged in spaced apart relationship along the marginal edges of said lower sheet, and corresponding fastening elements arranged in register along the marginal edges of said upper sheet, whereby said lower sheet is retained in position on said mattress by said anchor straps and said upper and lower sheets are retained in register by the engagement of said respective fastening elements.

2. A combination crib sheet and mattress protector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anchoring straps at each end of the lower sheets are joined centrally to a gusset piece and a further anchoring strap portion is attached to each gusset piece so as to provide a Y-shaped anchor strap arrangement at each end of the lower sheet, fastening elements secured on each of the free ends of the Y-shaped anchor strap arrangements, whereby the Y-shaped anchor strap arrangements are adapted to be joined centrally beneath the mattress to retain the lower sheet securely against longitudinal and lateral displacement.

3. A combination crib sheet and mattress protector comprising a lower waterproof sheet of a size and shape adapted at least to cover the upper surface of a crib mattress, a pre-shrunk fabric upper sheet of substantially equal area to said lower sheet, said lower sheet including shaped extensions adjacent each corner to constitute pocket-like members adapted to overlap the corners of said mattress, anchoring straps attached to said lower sheet adjacent each end

adapted to pass beneath said mattress to retain said lower sheet in register with said mattress, fastening elments arranged in spaced apart relationship along the marginal edges of said lower sheet, and corresponding fastening elements arranged in register along the marginal edges of said upper sheet, whereby said lower sheet is retained in position on said mattress by said anchor straps and said upper and lower sheets are retained in register by the engagement of said respective fastening elements.

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