T. YAMASHITA.

ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 13, 1915.

1,172,859.

Patented Feb. 22, 1916.

Fig. 1.

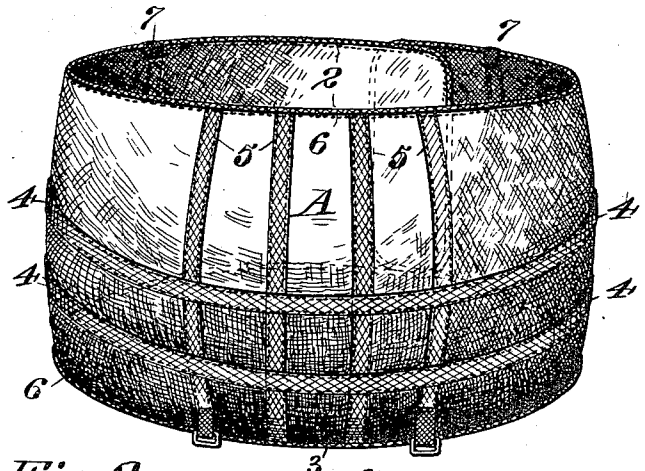


Fig. 2.

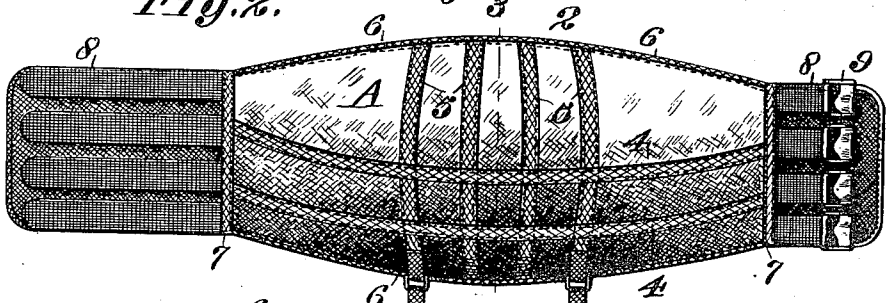
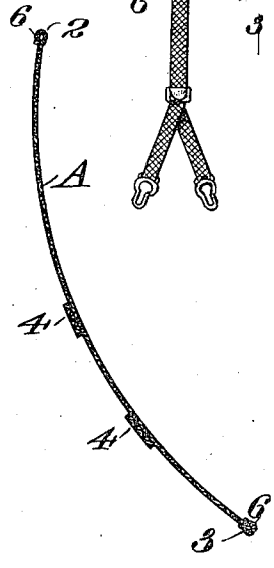


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

Charles Pickles

Thos Eastberg

INVENTOR

Tomi Yamashita,

BY Strong and Townsend

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TOMI YAMASHITA, OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

1,172,859. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 22, 1916.

Application filed September 13, 1915. Serial No. 50,349.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TOMI YAMASHITA, a subject of the Emperor of Japan, residing at Oakland, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Abdominal Supporters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to surgical and like appliances, and especially to a device for supporting the abdomen and its contents.

It consists of a soft, flexible fabric so cut that its upper and lower edges form curves of considerable convexity, and the intervening central portion is convexed outwardly so as to fit the protuberance of the abdomen. To the ends are fixed straps and buckles, or other fastenings, by which the structure is secured about the body. In order to strengthen the body piece and to retain its convex shape, I employ bands of inelastic tape following the convexity of the body piece and stitched through on both edges, one series extending from end to end and the other series substantially transverse, but curved to the shape of the body piece, as will be more fully explained by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1, is a perspective view of the supporter when closed; Fig. 2, is an elevation of the supporter distended; and Fig. 3, is an enlarged vertical cross section on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

As shown in the drawings, A is the body piece, formed of cotton flannel or other suitable woven material, and of sufficient length and width to inclose the abdomen. The upper and lower edges 2 and 3 are curved respectively upward and downward so that the width of this piece is greater in the center than at the ends.

In order to give this body piece the proper shape to fit the protuberance of the abdomen, I employ inelastic tapes 4, extending lengthwise of the main body, and other tapes 5 which extend transversely or vertically. These tapes are made longer than the length or width of the body piece and are stitched across it in curves which will allow the body to bulge outwardly in the central portion. The top and bottom edges are also bound by similar inelastic strips 6, which are made shorter than the actual length of these edges, thus drawing these edges in, and making them shorter than the central portion. The ends of the main body A are also provided with strips 7 of inelastic material to which the elastic straps 8 are fixed, these straps serving to secure the structure in place, by means of buckles or fastenings 9. The back is protected from these fastenings by extension of the main body A, beyond the attachment of the straps and upon which the buckles rest. I thus have a soft flexible body piece, capable of being shaped to a convex form, and retain it in that form by means of the inelastic frame formed of longitudinal and transverse tapes and surrounding strips or bindings, which insure the shape of the structure and a comfortable fit about the person, and a support which is especially useful for ladies who are *enceinte*.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

An abdominal supporter comprising a main body, spaced tapes extending longitudinally of the body and secured at their ends thereto, said tapes being spaced from the top and bottom edges of the body, spaced tapes extending transversely of the body and secured to the top and bottom sides of the body, said longitudinal and transverse tapes intersecting at the front of the body and defining a series of independent spaced substantially rectangular parts, with the points of intersection between the top, bottom and ends of the body, and means to secure the body in position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

TOMI YAMASHITA.

Witnesses:
JOHN H. HERRING,
W. W. HEALEY.