Feb. 2, 1932. A. TUBIOLO 1,843,527

SWIMMING JACKET

Filed Jan. 17, 1930

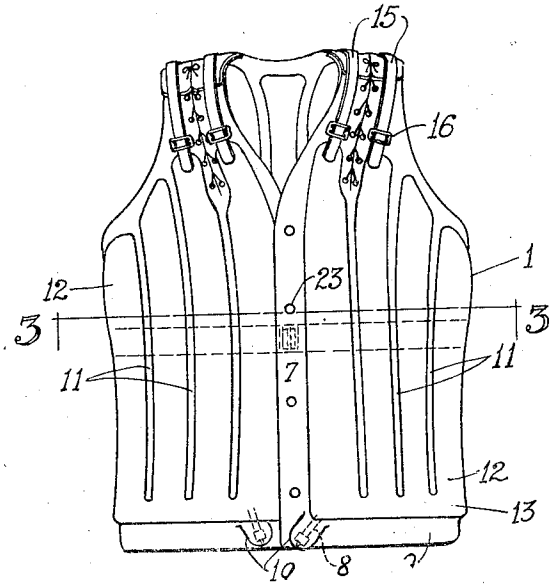


Fig. 1

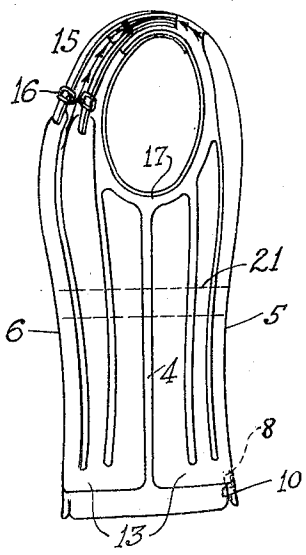


Fig. 2

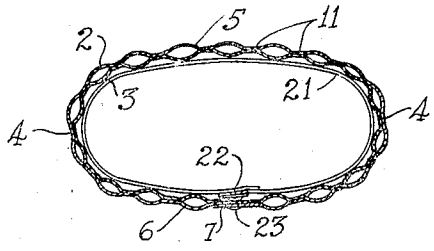


Fig. 3

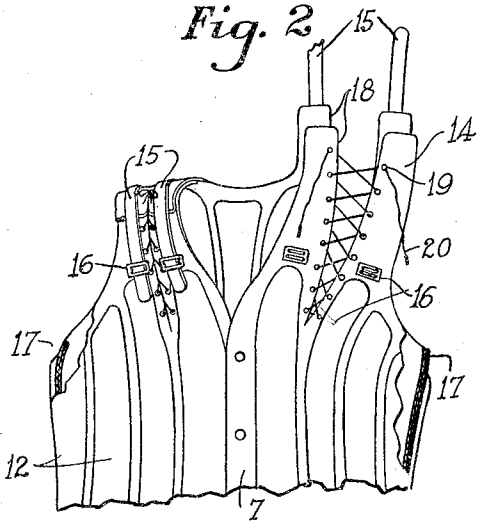


Fig. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SWIMMING JACKET

Application filed January 17, 1930. Serial No. 421,521.

This invention relates to improvements in inflatable garments adapted particularly to be worn by swimmers and when in use will serve to assist in supporting the wearer in a swimming position in the water for an indefinite period.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide an inflatable garment or swimming jacket which may be readily applied to the body of the wearer and wherein the garment is of such construction that it may be adjusted to snugly fit the wearer so as to provide for free and unobstructed body movement on the part of the user.

Another object lies in the provision of a garment of this character wherein the upper portions of the garment overlying the shoulder of the wearer are so formed that the garment may be adjusted in length, if desired, and also adjusted to properly fit the shape or type of neck and shoulders of the user.

A further object of the invention resides in forming a garment of this nature with several inflated sections which are wholly distinct and independent from each other, so as to avoid deflation of the entire member upon the puncture or rupture of any one section.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the novel features of construction, combination of elements and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the garment comprising the present invention,

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof,

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 1, and

Figure 4 is a detail view showing more in detail the shoulder strap adjustment of the garment.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates the improved swimming garment or jacket in its entirety. The jacket is preferably formed of soft flexible rubber sheets but may of course be made of any suitable water-tight and air-tight material. The jacket may be cut in any desired shape so that it will properly fit around the upper portion of the human body, and is provided with openings for the neck and arms. In this connection use is made of two layers of material, the numeral 2 representing the outer layer and the numeral 3 the inner layer of the material of which the jacket is composed. The layers 2 and 3 are joined at the edges or contour of the garment or any of its apertures by vulcanizing or cementing the edges of the layers so as to produce within the garment an air receiving compartment. This compartment is preferbly divided into three independent sections by joining the rubber sheets at the sides of the garment as indicated at 4 in Figure 2 of the drawings. Thus the back side of the garment forms one air receiving section and the front 6 thereof, due to the separable front edges 7 of the garment, forms the other two air receiving sections. Air may be blown into these sections by means of valve tubes 8 communicating with each of the air sections and arranged at the lower edges 9 and between the inner and outer layers 2 and 3. By positioning the valve inlets between the layers the same will be protected from injury and will be out of the way during the use of the garment. Access to the valves is had through rubber flaps 10 covering the opening of the pockets in which the tubes are positioned.

Each of the front and rear sections of the garment may be formed with vertically arranged seams or joints 11 by vulcanizing or cementing together the two layers of material. The seams 11 which are spaced from each other form air receiving flutes or corrugations 12 which, due to their vertical arrangement, offer diminished resistance to the free movement of the swimmer when positioned in a body of water. It will be noted by referring to the drawings that the seams 11 joining the upper edges of the garment are spaced from the lower edges 9, thus providing passages 13 which connect all of the flutes of each of said sections. Due to the seams 11 the garment is greatly reinforced and prevented from bulging out at any one point and by the equal distribution of air to substantially all parts of the garment the user may occupy the customary horizontal position employed

by swimmers when engaging in swimming operations.

The present invention refers particularly to the construction of the upper portion of the garment and wherein the garment or jacket is so formed that it will snugly fit around the neck and arms of the user and also may be adjusted to jacket length and to conform with the shape of the neck and shoulders of the wearer. To this end, the portions 14 which are adapted to overlie the shoulders of the user of the garment and which portions may be called the shoulder straps, are each formed separable and have their meeting ends overlying each other a distance to the front and back of the shoulders. The shoulder straps 14, which are preferably formed and cut from the material from which the garment is made, are provided with fastening straps 15 and buckles 16 of common construction, by which the overlying portions 14 may be adjusted so as to enlarge or contract the arms and neck opening of the garment or to increase or decrease the effective length of the jacket or garment. It will be noted that each of the shoulder straps 14, which are of considerable width, is provided with two fastening straps arranged along the outer and inner edges of the shoulder straps 14, the purpose of the two straps being that the inner edges nearest the neck opening or the outer edges of the portion 14 may be drawn up more or less so as to fit square or slanting shoulders as the case may be. This adjustment is highly essential in that it permits the garment to closely conform with the upper body portions of the wearer giving the garment a neat and well fitting appearance. It will be understood that either buckles and straps or snap fasteners may be used to effect this adjustment.

In order to form a better fit of the garment around the arm openings and particularly the lower portion thereof, the shoulder straps 14 are slit a distance longitudinally thereof and a wedge shaped section removed from each end of the strap as indicated by the spacing of the edges 18, as shown in Figure 4 of the drawings. The edges 18 are provided with eyelets 19 through which are trained lacing cords 20 and by which the edges are drawn together into meeting relationship as illustrated in Figure 1 and at the left of Figure 4. The drawing of the edges 18 together results in the rolling of the edge portions 17 inwardly towards the body of the user of the garment and thereby eliminates the sharp edge which would have a tendency to interfere with the free arm movement and cause uncomfort to the user. To prevent shifting of the garment during the use thereof, there is provided in the interior a belt 21 which may be adjusted by means of the fastening buckle 22 to securely hold the garment in place. The separable front edges 7 are also provided with buttons or snap fasteners 23 permitting the garment to be applied and removed and when in its applied position serves to securely and firmly hold the garment in its applied position on the body of the wearer.

In view of the foregoing it will be seen that the present invention provides a garment or swimming jacket which will closely fit the body of the wearer and which will be so constructed that when inflated it will retain the outline or configuration of the wearer so that it will not interfere, to any great extent, with the normal swimming movements of the user. The garment may be quickly applied or removed and possesses a substantial and durable construction well adapted for the strenuous service to which it is placed. The device not only aids the siwmmer but finds a great field of usefulness in diminishing loss of life due to drowning and related causes.

While I have described and illustrated what I consider to be the preferred form of the invention, nevertheless it will be understood that various changes may be made from time to time by those skilled in the art without departing from the principles and spirit of the invention as the latter has been set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A swimming jacket adapted to be worn about the body of the wearer and detachably fastened thereto, said jacket being formed of waterproof material and provided internally with an air receiving compartment, said jacket being formed with arm holes through which the arms of the wearer project, straps formed with said jacket and adapted to overlie the shoulders of the wearer, said straps being cut longitudinally thereof a distance extending down the front and back of the jacket and a portion of the material removed therefrom, and means formed with the opposite edges of the opening formed by the removal of the material to draw said edges together whereby the lower edges of the arm holes will be rolled inwardly towards the body of the wearer.

2. A swimming jacket adapted to be worn about the body of the wearer and detachably fastened thereto, said jacket being formed of waterproof material and provided internally with an air receiving compartment, said jacket being formed with holes through which the arms of the wearer project, straps formed with said jacket and adapted to overlie the shoulders of the wearer, said straps being divided transversely and centrally thereof and cut longitudinally thereof a distance extending down the front and back of the jacket and a portion of the material removed therefrom, the portion removed from each part of said straps being of triangular hape, and means formed with the opposite edges formed by the removal of the

material to draw said edges together whereby the lower edges of the armholes will be rolled inwardly towards the body of the wearer.

3. A swimming jacket adapted to be worn about the body of the wearer and detachably fastened thereto, said jacket being formed of waterproof material and provided internally with an air receiving compartment, said jacket being formed with holes through which the arms of the wearer project, straps formed with said jacket and adapted to overlie the shoulders of the wearer, said straps being cut longitudinally thereof a distance substantially the full length of said straps and a portion of the material removed therefrom, and adjustable means formed with the opposite edges of the opening formed by the removal of the material to draw said edges together to vary the effective width of said straps.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

ANTHONY TUBIOLO.