

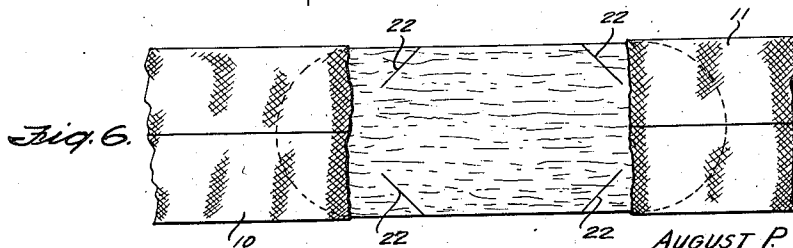
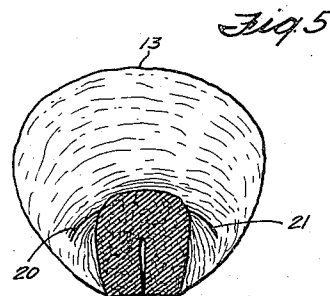
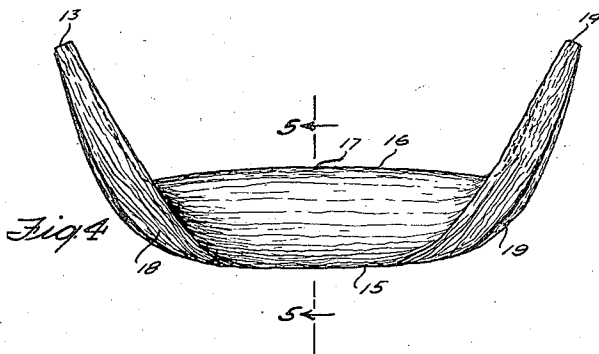
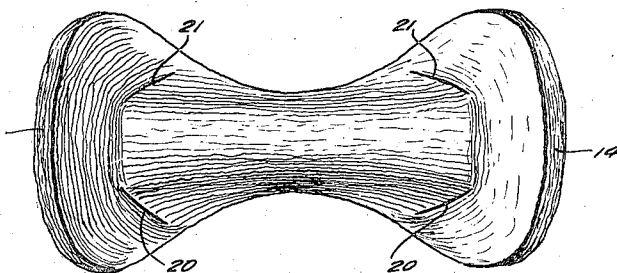
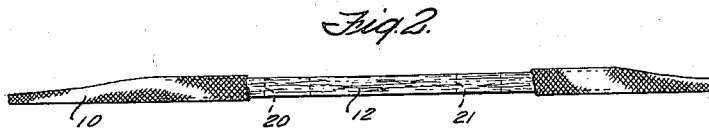
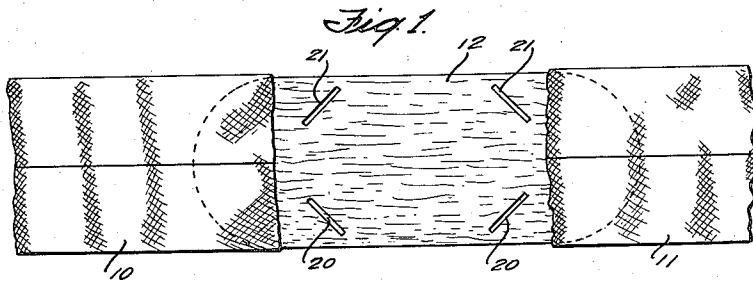
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A. P. JURGENSEN

2,064,431

CATAMENIAL BANDAGE

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INVENTOR.
AUGUST P. JURGENSEN
BY *Fisher, Claff, Sauer & Paul*

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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CATAMENIAL BANDAGE

August P. Jurgensen, New York, N. Y., assignor
to International Cellucotton Products Com-
pany, Chicago, Ill., a corporation of Delaware

Application September 29, 1934, Serial No. 746,128

2 Claims. (Cl. 128—290)

The invention relates to the construction of catamenial bandages and has its chief applica-
tion in connection with catamenial bandages of
the general type now made, in which the pad
element of the bandage is customarily construct-
ed as an integral unit of substantial length so
that the ends of the pad must necessarily be
bent upwardly in the front and at the rear when
the bandage is worn in order to conform to the
anatomy of the wearer.

Various attempts have been made to improve
the fit of such bandages in order to render the
same less conspicuous when worn, but so far as
I am aware such attempts have been mainly
directed toward the pointing or rounding or the
reduction in thickness of the end portions of
the pad element, without any special regard to
the intermediate or central portion of the pad
portion which when applied must necessarily as-
sume a folded shape.

I have found that in the case of the ordinary
napkin when it is applied, the central or inter-
mediate portion of the napkin, when so folded,
to fit the person of the wearer, should assume a
more or less curved or saddle shape, and in as-
suming said shape the central portion of the
napkin develops a wrinkle in addition to which
the marginal edges of the pad portion at the
ends of the folded and curved intermediate por-
tions tend to stick out laterally. These tenden-
cies not only result in discomfort to the wearer,
especially in the case of stout women, but they
also tend to make the napkin somewhat con-
spicuous.

I have discovered that these tendencies, and
these objections can be substantially or com-
pletely eliminated or corrected by preventing
the material of which the pad element is con-
structed from developing internal strains or
stresses due to its assumption of a folded and
curved saddle shape when it is applied. The
principal object therefore of the present inven-
tion is to use a napkin construction in which
the pad element of the napkin can be folded
and bent to the desired saddle shape without
the development of improper internal strains
or stresses, so that it will readily conform to the
desired shape and contour, and thereby avoid
discomfort and unsightly projections.

In the drawing accompanying this application,
Fig. 1 is a plan view of a napkin constructed
according to my invention, certain parts of the
gauze wrapper being shown removed in order to
illustrate the construction. Fig. 2 is a side ele-
vation of the napkin shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is
a plan view of the pad element of said napkin
showing the shape which it assumes when it is
actually applied to the person. Fig. 4 is a side
elevation of the pad element shown in Fig. 3.
Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig.

4, and Fig. 6 is a plan view similar to Fig. 1
but showing a slightly modified construction.

Referring to the drawing, #10 and #11 are
the ends of the gauze wrapper, by which ends
the napkin is secured to the wearer either to a
belt or to some article of clothing in the usual
manner. The number 12 represents the pad
element of the catamenial bandage, the inter-
mediate or central portion of which serves to
absorb the menstrual flow.

Said pad element #12 may be constructed of
such material as is usual or customary for that
purpose, for example a plurality of superposed
sheets of cellulose tissue, or one may use other
materials such as cellulose pulp or vegetable cot-
ton, or combinations of various materials as
desired.

By inspection of Fig. 4 it will be readily seen
that the distance from ends 13 and 14 of the
pad element, when in the applied position, is
considerably greater by way of the line 15 or
lower edge of the pad than it is by way of the
top surface 16 of the folded portion, so that if
the pad section 12 is of uniform cross section
throughout its length, in order to force the pad
element to assume the position shown in Figs.
3 and 4, the material of the pad must stretch
along the bottom edge 15 of the fold, or it must
be compressed along the upper edge or surface
16, or both of these results must occur. The
tendency therefore is for the upper surface 16
to develop a wrinkle, usually at the point marked
17 on Fig. 4, and the lower edges of the fold will
be pulled upwardly and necessarily to some ex-
tent outwardly at the corners 18 and 19.

I find that these tendencies can be practically
eliminated by a substantial weakening of the
cross section of the pad element in zones inter-
mediate the end portions and the intermediate
or central portion of the napkin, preferably at
about the point where the folded part of the
pad element joins the upwardly extending front
and rear end portions.

Such weakening of the cross section of the pad
at the desired zones can be effected in various
ways. However, I prefer to obtain this result by
making small slits or slots #20 in the pad ele-
ment, as indicated in Fig. 1. Such slots are pref-
erably obliquely arranged as shown, the angle
of obliquity and the length of slots or slits being
such that their inner ends are spaced slightly
more than one inch, or approximately one third
of the total width of the pad element. The outer
ends of the slits or slots extend almost to the
edge of the pad element so that at the outer ends
of the slots or slits there is a very narrow neck
#21, which is without any substantial tensile
strain, and readily stretches or gives way when
subjected to the tension which is incidental to
the application of the bandage.

The slots or slits #20, when arranged as shown, not only relieve the tensile or other strains in the material when the napkin is applied but also permit the end portions of the pad element to bend upwardly with and along the lines of said slots or slits.

In Fig. 6 of the drawing, where a modification is shown, I have illustrated said slits or slots as extending outwardly to the extreme lateral edges of the pad element, as indicated at #22.

I claim:

1. A catamenial bandage provided with an elongated absorbent pad or filler element which is provided adjacent each end with a pair of

slits, each slit extending from the vicinity of a lateral edge of the pad a substantial distance towards the longitudinal center and the adjacent end of the pad.

2. A catamenial bandage provided with an elongated absorbent pad or filler element which is provided adjacent each end with a pair of elongated, weakened zones, each zone extending from the vicinity of a lateral edge of the pad a substantial distance towards the longitudinal center of the adjacent end of the pad, said zones facilitating bending of the pad approximately to form-fitting shape.

AUGUST P. JURGENSEN.