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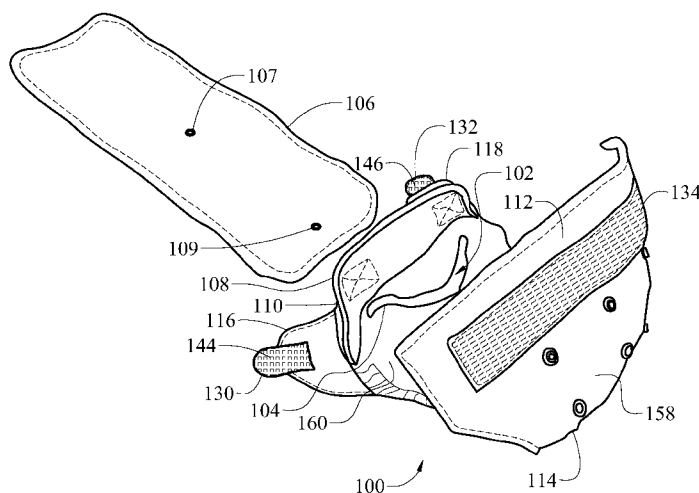
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(57) Abstract: According to various aspects, exemplary embodiments are provided of reusable diapers. In one exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes an inner layer configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body and an outer layer configured to be substantially liquid-impervious. At least one pocket is defined generally by a space between the inner and outer layers. The at least one pocket is configured to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein. The diaper also includes at least one slit in the inner layer that provides access into the space between the inner and outer layers defining the at least one pocket. At least one flap is provided that is positionable in an open configuration in which the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket, and a closed configuration in which the at least one flap substantially covers the at least one slit.

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REUSABLE DIAPERS

FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to reusable diapers.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The statements in this background section merely provide background information related to the present disclosure and may not constitute prior art.

[0003] Absorbent articles, such as disposable diapers, training pants, or incontinence pads, generally have an absorbent core intended for single use only. Once the absorbent core component is saturated with bodily discharges, such as urine, the entire absorbent article is usually discarded. Oftentimes, parts of a disposable diaper or training pants could be reused. But with the unitary construction, they are nevertheless discarded along with the saturated absorbent cores. In addition to the added cost and waste associated with discarding such products, it is often inconvenient to acquire and store quantities of such disposable absorbent articles.

SUMMARY

[0004] According to various aspects, exemplary embodiments are provided of reusable diapers. In one exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes an inner layer configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body and an outer layer configured to be substantially liquid-impervious. At least one pocket is defined generally by a space between the inner and outer layers. The at least one pocket is configured to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein. The diaper also includes at least one slit in the inner layer that provides access into the space between the inner and outer layers defining the at least one pocket. At least one flap is provided that is positionable in an open configuration or a closed position. When the at least one flap is in the open configuration, the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket. In the closed configuration, however, the at least one flap substantially covers the at least one slit and

inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and at least one liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the at least one pocket.

[0005] In another exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes first and second waist portions. The first waist portion includes corner regions that are releasably attachable to the second waist portion. The corner regions are resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion.

[0006] In another exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, and a crotch portion. The reusable diaper further includes at least a three-by-three array of snap members along the forward portion that allows selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper. The array includes at least a first row of at least three spaced-apart snap members vertically spaced from and aligned with corresponding snap members in at least two other rows of the array.

[0007] Further aspects and features of the present disclosure will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. In addition, any one or more aspects of the present disclosure may be implemented individually or in any combination with any one or more of the other aspects of the present disclosure. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

DRAWINGS

[0008] The drawings described herein are for illustration purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure in any way.

[0009] FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a reusable diaper having a pocket opening and a flap according to exemplary embodiments, wherein the flap is shown in an opened configuration in which the opening into

the pocket is exposed to allow a liquid-absorbent to be positioned within the pocket;

[0010] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the reusable diaper shown in FIG. 1, wherein the flap is shown in the closed configuration in which the flap substantially covers the opening into the pocket and inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and the liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the pocket;

[0011] FIG. 3 is a front perspective view of the reusable diaper shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, wherein the top row of snap members have been snapped into the corresponding snap members in the middle row thereby reducing the diaper's functional rise or crotch length;

[0012] FIG. 4 is an inner view of the reusable diaper shown in FIGS. 1 through 3;

[0013] FIG. 5 is an inner view of the reusable diaper shown in FIG. 4, wherein tabs have been releasably attached to the flap with hook-and-loop fasteners; and

[0014] FIG. 6 is an outer view of the reusable diaper shown in FIGS. 1 through 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The following description is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the present disclosure, application, or uses.

[0016] According to various aspects, exemplary embodiments are provided of reusable diapers. In one exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes an inner layer configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body and an outer layer configured to be substantially liquid-impervious. At least one pocket is defined generally by a space between the inner and outer layers. The at least one pocket is configured to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein. The diaper also includes at least one slit in the inner layer that provides access into the space between the inner and outer layers defining the at least one pocket. At least one flap is provided that is positionable in an open configuration or a closed position. When the at least one flap is in the open configuration, the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket. In the closed configuration, however, the at least one flap substantially covers the at least one slit and

inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and at least one liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the at least one pocket. When closed, the at least one flap may also inhibit the inadvertent or accidental removal of the at least one liquid-absorbent insert from the at least one pocket.

[0017] In another exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes first and second waist portions. The first waist portion includes corner regions that are releasably attachable to the second waist portion. The corner regions may be resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability to the diaper's functional waist size as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion.

[0018] In another exemplary embodiment, a reusable diaper generally includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, and a crotch portion. The reusable diaper further includes at least a three-by-three array of snap members along the forward portion that allows selective adjustment to the diaper's functional rise or crotch length. The array includes at least a first row of at least three spaced-apart snap members (e.g., plastic male snap members, plastic female snap members, combinations thereof, etc.). The snaps in the first row are vertically spaced from and aligned with corresponding snap members (e.g., plastic female snap members, plastic male snap members, combinations thereof, etc.) in at least two other rows of the array. For example, snap members in a first or top row can be snapped together with the corresponding snap members in the second or middle row to decrease the diaper's functional rise or crotch length. Or, for example, the snap members of the top row can be snapped together with the corresponding snap members in a third or bottom row to even further decrease the diaper's functional rise or crotch length. Advantageously, having at least three columns of snaps may provide a more snug and precise fit to the diaper wearer, for example, by reducing the extent to which the crotch portion hangs down below the wearer. For example, the three-by-three arrangement can eliminate or at least reduce the bulge in the middle front of the diaper that typically occurs when there are only two columns of snaps due to the fabric bulging out between the two snaps. The three-by-three snap arrangement may enable the diaper to be more of a one-size fits all cloth

diaper. Alternative embodiments may include more or less than three rows of snaps, more or less than three columns of snaps, and/or different connector members besides snaps.

[0019] In some embodiments, a reusable diaper may include at least one inner liner or layer. The at least one inner layer can be configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body generally towards the at least one liquid-absorbent insert within the at least one pocket. The reusable diaper may further comprise at least one outer layer or liner along at least an outer portion of the reusable diaper. The at least one outer layer can be substantially liquid-impervious to thereby resist wicking of moisture through the at least one outer layer. In some preferred embodiments, the outer layer is formed of polyester, and the inner layer is formed of suede cloth. Alternatively, other suitable materials may be used for the inner and/or outer layers.

[0020] In some embodiments, there may be provided a plurality of replacement liquid-absorbent inserts. In such embodiments, an existing liquid-absorbent insert may be removed from a pocket after the insert has become saturated. One of the replacement inserts can be positioned within the pocket after the diaper has been washed or laundered.

[0021] Other embodiments of a reusable diaper may include a first waist portion having corner regions with tabs releasably attachable to a second waist portion. The corner regions may be resiliently stretchable to permit some adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions. In some embodiments, the corner regions may be formed from 95% polyester and 5% Lycra. Alternatively, the corner regions may be formed using other suitable materials. The tabs may also be releasably attachable to an interior portion of the diaper (e.g., to a back side of a flap, etc.) for retaining the corner regions and tabs within the interior of the reusable diaper. A wide range of attachment means may be used for releasably attaching the tabs to the second waist region and/or to an interior portion of the diaper, such as hook-and-loop fasteners, snaps, buttons, adhesives, combinations thereof, etc.

[0022] Referring now to FIGS. 1 through 6, there is shown an exemplary embodiment of a reusable diaper 100 embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. As shown, the reusable diaper 100 includes

a first waist portion or region 110, a second waist portion or region 112, and a crotch portion or region 114 disposed generally between the first and second waist portions 110, 112. The first waist portion 110 includes corner regions 116 and 118. The second waist portion 112 includes corner regions 120 and 122.

[0023] As shown in FIG. 2, the contours of the corner regions 116, 118, 120, 122 and crotch portion 114 cooperatively define leg openings 124 and 126. For example, leg opening 124 is cooperatively defined by the curve extending from the first waist portion's corner region 116 along the crotch portion 114 to the second waist portion's corner region 120. In addition, the other leg opening 126 is defined by the curve extending from the first waist portion's corner region 118 along the crotch portion 114 to the second waist portion's corner region 122. In this illustrated embodiment, the leg openings 124 and 126 may further comprise elastic disposed adjacent the periphery of the leg openings 124 and 126, for example, to help draw and hold the diaper 100 against the wearer's legs.

[0024] With continued reference to FIG. 1, the reusable diaper 100 includes a pocket 102 defined generally by the space between the diaper's outer layer 158 and inner layer 160. The diaper 100 also include an opening or slit 104 in the inner layer 160 that allows access into the pocket 102. The reusable diaper 100 further includes a flap 108 positionable in either an open configuration (FIGS. 1 and 4) or a closed configuration (FIGS. 2 and 5).

[0025] When the flap 108 is in the open configuration, the slit 104 is exposed and allows access into the pocket 102. In the closed configuration, however, the flap 108 substantially covers the slit 104 and inhibits contact between the skin or clothes of the diaper wearer and the liquid-absorbent insert 106 positioned within the pocket 102. Additionally, closing the flap 108 may also inhibit the inadvertent or accidental removal of the insert 106 from the pocket 102. In alternative embodiments, a suitable attachment means may be employed for releasably retaining the flap in the closed position, such as hook-and-loop fasteners, snaps, adhesives, buttons, clasps, magnets, combinations thereof, etc.

[0026] The flap 108 may be formed from a wide variety of materials. In some preferred embodiments, the flap 108 is formed from one or more

fabric materials, such as suede cloth, etc. In such embodiments, the flap 108 and the inner layer 160 may be formed from the same materials. Alternatively, the flap 108 and inner layer 160 may be formed from different materials.

[0027] The flap 108 may be attached to the reusable diaper 100 using a wide variety of attachment methods, such as stitching, sewing, adhesive attachment, integrally formed, etc. In some preferred embodiments, the flap 108 is attached to the inner layer 160 along the diaper's rear portion by stitching or sewing. In such embodiments, the flap 108 and opening 104 into the pocket 102 are not readily accessible by the diaper wearer.

[0028] As shown in FIG. 1, a liquid-absorbent insert 106 can be received within the pocket 102 via the slit 104. The insert 106 is preferably configured to absorb and store liquids therein. The insert 106 may comprise one or more of microfibers, hemp, hydrocolloid materials, or any other suitable material configured to absorb and store liquids therein.

[0029] In this particular embodiment, the insert 106 is shown with snap members 107 and 109. These snap members 107, 109 can be snapped together or unsnapped to thereby allow selective adjustment to the length of the insert 106. For example, the snap member 107 can be snapped together with the snap member 109 to decrease the insert's length. Or, for example, the snap members 107 and 109 can be unsnapped to increase the insert's length. This lengthwise adjustability can allow the insert 106 to more precisely fit within the pocket 102, for example, when the functional rise or crotch length of the diaper is changed by way of the array of snaps 180 (as described in more detail below). Alternative embodiments may include an insert having more or less snaps and/or snaps in other arrangements to accommodate lengthwise adjustability to the insert. Further embodiments may include an insert having a wide range of other suitable fastening systems besides snaps, such as adhesives, buttons, clasps, Velcro® hook and loop closures, magnets, elastic straps, adjustable straps, combinations thereof, etc.

[0030] In the illustrated embodiment, the pocket 104 is defined generally by the space between the diaper's outer layer 158 and inner layer 160. The pocket's periphery or perimeter is defined to extend generally from about the first waist portion 110 along the first and second edge portions 154, 156 of the crotch region 114 to about the second waist portion 112. Stitching

(or other suitable means) may be used to secure the perimeter or periphery of the pocket 102. For example, the illustrated embodiment has the pocket periphery formed generally by the same stitching used to attach the outer and inner layers 160, 158 to each other.

[0031] A wide range of suitable materials may be used for the inner and outer layers 160, 158. The inner layer 160 is preferably configured to wick moisture generally away from the diaper wearer towards the insert 106 within the pocket 102. The outer layer 158 is preferably configured to be substantially liquid-impervious to thereby resist wicking of moisture through the outer layer 158. In one preferred embodiment, the outer layer 158 is formed of polyester, and the inner layer 160 is formed of suede cloth. Alternatively, other suitable materials may be used for the inner liner and/or outer layers 160, 158.

[0032] Accordingly, the reusable diaper 100 may be put on a wearer with the inner layer 160 positioned against the skin of the wearer. In which case, the inner layer 160 can wick moisture (e.g., bodily discharge, urine, sweat, etc.) through the inner layer 160 to the liquid-absorbent insert 106 within the pocket 102. When the insert 106 has become saturated, the insert 106 may be removed and then washed or laundered along with or separately from the diaper 100. After the diaper 100 and insert 106 have been satisfactorily washed and dried, the insert 106 may be repositioned within the pocket 102 of the diaper 100. At which point, the diaper 100 may be reused.

[0033] In some preferred embodiments, the first waist portion's corner regions 116 and 118 are resiliently stretchable. This feature allows at least some adjustability to the diaper's functional waist size as defined by the first and second waist portions 110 and 112 when the first waist portion 110 is releasably attached to the second waist portion 112. In some embodiments, the corner regions may be formed from 95% polyester and 5% Lycra. Alternatively, the corner regions may be formed using other suitable materials.

[0034] With reference to FIG. 2, the reusable diaper 100 includes tabs 130, 132 associated with the first waist portion 110. In addition to stretchable corner regions, some embodiments also configure the tabs 130, 132 to be resiliently elastic or stretchable. This, in turn, can permit further adjustability to the diaper's functional waist size. In yet other embodiments,

only the tabs 130 and 132 are resiliently elastic or stretchable. In further embodiments, however, the tabs 130, 132 may be essentially inelastic or stretchable.

[0035] The tabs 130, 132 may include respective hook-and-loop fastener portions 144, 146, which, in turn, are releasably attachable to corresponding hook-and-loop fastener portions of the second waist portion 112. As shown in FIG. 2, the second waist portion 112 includes an elongate strip 134 having hook-and-loop fasteners portions extending along the length thereof. Accordingly, the hook-and-loop fastener portions 144, 146 of the tabs 130, 132, respectively, can be releasably attachable at different locations along the elongate strip 134, which allows the first waist portion 110 to be adjustably secured to the second waist portion 112 when positioned around a wearer of the reusable diaper 100.

[0036] Having resiliently elastic or stretchable corner regions 116, 118 (and/or tabs 130, 132 in some embodiments) with the ability to stretch can allow for tailoring of the diaper's functional waist size to the wearer's actual waist size. For example, the diaper's functional waist size may be selectively tailored for the wearer by stretching the corner regions 116, 118, and then releasably attaching the tabs 130, 132 to the elongate strip 134 at particular attachment locations along the length of the elongate strip 134. In this exemplary manner, the diaper's functional waist size can be selectively adjusted, for example, to provide a relatively snug fit about the waist of the wearer (e.g., infant, toddler, adult, etc.), and preferably without being too uncomfortably tight about the wearer's thighs. Alternative embodiments may include other suitable means for allowing selective adjustment to the functional or operational waist size of the reusable diaper. In addition, other suitable fastening systems may also be employed for releasably attaching the diaper's first and second waist portions to each other, such as different hook-and-loop fastener arrangements (e.g., two or more spaced-apart discrete patches along the second waist portion instead of a single elongate strip, etc.), adhesives, snaps, buttons, clasps, Velcro® hook and loop closures, magnets, combinations thereof, etc.

[0037] In some embodiments, the tabs 130, 132 may be releasably attachable to an interior portion of the diaper for retaining the corner regions

and tabs within the interior of the reusable diaper. As shown in FIG. 2, the tabs 130, 132 include hook-and-loop fastener portions 144, 146 releasably attachable to corresponding hook-and-loop fastener portions 178 of the flap 108. Releasably attaching the tabs 130 and 132 to the flap 108 by way of the hook-and-loop fastener portions 144, 146, 178 (FIG. 5) helps retain the tabs 130 and 132 and corner regions 116 and 118 within an interior of the diaper 100. This, in turn, may help to prevent or at least reduce snagging of the tabs 130, 132 when the reusable diaper 100 is being washed or laundered. Alternatively, a wide range of other attachment means may be used for releasably attaching the tabs 130, 132 to an interior portion of the diaper, such as hook-and-loop fasteners, snaps, buttons, adhesives, combinations thereof, etc.

[0038] In some embodiments, the tabs 130, 132 may be releasably attachable to each other. For example, one of the tabs 130 or 132 may have a forward surface with hook-and-loop fasteners that are releasably attachable to hook-and-loop fasteners on a rearward surface of the other tab 130 or 132. Alternatively, other suitable fastening means can be employed to implement this feature.

[0039] With reference to FIG. 6, the reusable diaper 100 includes snaps that allow for customization or adjustment to the diaper's functional rise or crotch length. This feature may help create an even better or snugger fit to the diaper wearer. For example, the snaps can allow for a reduction in the diaper's functional rise or crotch length so as to reduce the extent to which the crotch portion 114 hangs down below the wearer.

[0040] As shown in FIG. 6, the diaper 100 includes a three-by-three array 180 of snap members. The snap members comprising the three-by-three array 180 are horizontally arranged and aligned in the three rows and vertically arranged and aligned in the three columns. Advantageously, having at least three columns may provide a more snug and precise fit to the diaper wearer, for example, by reducing the extent to which the crotch portion hangs down below the wearer. The three-by-three arrangement can eliminate or at least reduce the bulge in the middle front of the diaper that typically occurs when there are only two columns of snaps due to the fabric bulging out

between the two snaps. The three-by-three snap arrangement may enable the diaper to be more of a one-size fits all cloth diaper.

[0041] In the illustrated embodiment, the first row includes three spaced-apart male snap members 182. The second or middle row includes three spaced-apart female snap members 184. The third row includes three-spaced apart female snap members 186. The male snap members 182 can be snapped together with either the female snap members 184 of the second row, or the female snap members 186 of the third row. For example, the male snap members 182 in the first row can be snapped together with the corresponding female snap members 184 in the second or middle row to decrease the diaper's functional rise or crotch length. To decrease the diaper's functional rise and crotch length to an even greater extent, the male snap members 182 of the first row may instead be snapped together with the corresponding female snap members 186 in the third row. Accordingly, these snap options thus provide three different configurations for the diaper 100. That is, the functional rise or crotch length of the reusable diaper 100 can be changed by selectively choosing whether to engage the male snap members 182 with the female snap members 184 or the female snap members 186, or by simply choosing to do neither.

[0042] In some preferred embodiments, the snap members 182, 184, 186 are plastic. Alternatively, the snap members can be formed from other materials, which are preferably relatively lightweight and durable to withstand repeated laundry cycles.

[0043] In alternative embodiments, a reusable diaper may include more or less snap options and/or snap members in other arrangements than what is shown in FIG. 6. For example, another embodiment may include two rows of male snap members with only one row of female snap members. As another example embodiment, a diaper may include a row having both male and female snap members. Additional examples include diapers having more or less than three rows of snap members and/or more or less than three columns of snap members. Still further embodiments may include a wide range of other suitable fastening systems besides snaps, such as adhesives, buttons, clasps, Velcro® hook and loop closures, magnets, elastic straps, adjustable straps, combinations thereof, etc.

[0044] In some embodiments, a reusable diaper may also include a foldable front portion along the second waist portion. This foldable front portion may be folded down, for example, to help keep the umbilical area of the diaper wearer clean.

[0045] Other aspects of the present disclosure relate to methods. In one exemplary embodiment, a method generally includes positioning at least one liquid-absorbent insert through at least one slit or opening into at least one pocket of a reusable diaper. The method may further include closing at least one flap to substantially cover the at least one slit or opening, whereby the at least one flap inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and the at least one liquid-absorbent insert and/or inhibits the inadvertent removal of the at least one liquid-absorbent insert from the at least one pocket.

[0046] In some embodiments, the method may include opening the at least one flap to thereby expose the at least one slit or opening and allow access to the at least one pocket. The method may include removing at least one liquid-absorbent insert from the at least one pocket out through the at least one slit or opening. After laundering or washing the diaper, at least one replacement liquid-absorbent insert may be positioned through the at least one slit into the at least one pocket. As another example, a method may include removing the reusable diaper from a wearer before opening the at least one flap, removing the at least one liquid-absorbent insert, washing or laundering the diaper and the liquid-absorbent insert, and positioning the liquid-absorbent insert within the pocket.

[0047] In some embodiments, a method may further comprise selectively adjusting a functional waist size of the reusable diaper to a wearer, by stretching corner regions of a first waist portion of the reusable diaper, and then releasably attaching tabs associated with the corner regions to a second waist portion of the reusable diaper. In some preferred embodiments, the tabs may be releasably attached to the second waist portion by using hook-and-loop fasteners. Additional embodiments, however, may alternatively comprise snaps, buttons, adhesives, magnets, combinations thereof, etc.

[0048] Certain terminology is used herein for purposes of reference only, and thus is not intended to be limiting. For example, terms such as “upper”, “lower”, “above”, and “below” refer to directions in the drawings to

which reference is made. Terms such as “front”, “back”, “rear”, “bottom” and “side”, describe the orientation of portions of the component within a consistent but arbitrary frame of reference which is made clear by reference to the text and the associated drawings describing the component under discussion. Such terminology may include the words specifically mentioned above, derivatives thereof, and words of similar import. Similarly, the terms “first”, “second” and other such numerical terms referring to structures do not imply a sequence or order unless clearly indicated by the context.

[0049] When introducing elements or features and the exemplary embodiments, the articles “a”, “an”, “the” and “said” are intended to mean that there are one or more of such elements or features. The terms “comprising”, “including” and “having” are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements or features other than those specifically noted. It is further to be understood that the method steps, processes, and operations described herein are not to be construed as necessarily requiring their performance in the particular order discussed or illustrated, unless specifically identified as an order or performance. It is also to be understood that additional or alternative steps may be employed.

[0050] The description of the disclosure is merely exemplary in nature and, thus, variations that do not depart from the gist of the disclosure are intended to be within the scope of the disclosure. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reusable diaper comprising an inner layer configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body, an outer layer configured to be substantially liquid-impervious, at least one pocket defined generally by a space between the inner and outer layers and configured to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein, at least one slit in the inner layer that provides access into the space between the inner and outer layers defining the at least one pocket, and at least one flap positionable in an open configuration in which the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket, and a closed configuration in which the at least one flap substantially covers the at least one slit and inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and at least one liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the at least one pocket.

2. The reusable diaper of claim 1, further comprising first and second waist portions, the first waist portion having corner regions releasably attachable to the second waist portion, the corner regions resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion.

3. The reusable diaper of claim 1, further comprising first and second waist portions, the first waist portion having corner regions with tabs releasably attachable to the second waist portion, at least one or more of the corner regions and tabs being resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion.

4. The reusable diaper of claim 3, further comprising hook-and-loop fasteners for releasably attaching the tabs to the second waist portion.

5. The reusable diaper of claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting a functional waist size of the reusable diaper.

6. The reusable diaper of claim 1, wherein the reusable diaper includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, a crotch portion, and at least a three-by-three array of snap members along the forward portion that allows selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper, the array including at least a first row of at least three spaced-apart snap members vertically spaced from and aligned with corresponding snap members in at least two other rows of the array.

7. The reusable diaper of claim 6, further comprising at least one liquid-absorbent insert configured to be removably positioned through the at least one slit into the at least one pocket, the at least one liquid-absorbent insert having lengthwise adjustability for more precisely fitting within the at least one pocket at the different functional rises of the reusable diaper.

8. The reusable diaper of claim 1, wherein the reusable diaper includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, a crotch portion, and a plurality of connector members spaced apart from one another along the forward portion, the connector members selectively engagable to thereby allow selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper.

9. The reusable diaper of claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting a functional rise of the reusable diaper.

10. The reusable diaper of claim 1, further comprising at least one liquid-absorbent insert configured to be removably positioned through the at least one slit into the at least one pocket.

11. The reusable diaper of claim 1, wherein the reusable diaper includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, and a crotch portion, wherein the at least one slit extends transversely along the rearward portion, and

wherein the at least one flap is attached to the inner layer transversely along the rearward portion.

12. The reusable diaper of claim 11, wherein the at least one flap includes a free lower edge portion, and an upper edge portion stitched to the inner layer along the rearward portion.

13. The reusable diaper of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is formed of polyester, and wherein the inner layer and the at least one flap are formed of suede cloth.

14. A reusable diaper comprising first and second waist portions, the first waist portion having corner regions releasably attachable to the second waist portion, the corner regions resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion.

15. The reusable diaper of claim 14, wherein the first waist portion's corner regions include tabs releasably attachable to the second waist portion.

16. The reusable diaper of claim 15, wherein the tabs are resiliently stretchable to thereby permit further adjustability to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the tabs of the first waist portion's corner regions are releasably attached to the second waist portion.

17. The reusable diaper of claim 15, further comprising hook-and-loop fasteners for releasably attaching the tabs to the second waist portion.

18. The reusable diaper of claim 17, wherein the second waist portion includes at least one elongate strip with at least one hook-and-loop portion extending at least partially along a length thereof, and wherein the tabs include corresponding hook-and-loop portions releasably attachable at

different locations along the at least one hook-and-loop portion of the at least one elongate strip, thereby allowing selective adjustment to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the tabs are releasably attached to the at least one elongate strip.

19. The reusable diaper of claim 14, wherein the reusable diaper includes a forward portion, a rearward portion, a crotch portion, and a plurality of snap members along the forward portion that allows selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper.

20. The reusable diaper of claim 19, further comprising at least one pocket sized to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein, at least one slit providing access into the at least one pocket, and at least one flap positionable in an open configuration in which the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket, and a closed configuration in which the at least one flap substantially covers the at least one slit and inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and at least one liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the at least one pocket.

21. The reusable diaper of claim 14, wherein the corner regions of the first waist portion are formed of polyester and lycra.

22. A reusable diaper comprising a forward portion, a rearward portion, a crotch portion, and at least a three-by-three array of snap members along the forward portion that allows selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper, the array including at least a first row of at least three spaced-apart snap members vertically spaced from and aligned with corresponding snap members in at least two other rows of the array.

23. A reusable diaper comprising:
- an inner layer configured to wick moisture from the diaper wearer's body;
 - an outer layer configured to be substantially liquid-impervious;
 - a forward portion having at least a three-by-three array of snap members that allows selective adjustment to the functional rise of the reusable diaper, the array including at least a first row of at least three spaced-apart snap members vertically spaced from and aligned with corresponding snap members in at least two other rows of the array;
 - a rearward portion;
 - a crotch portion disposed generally between the forward and rearward portions;
 - first and second waist portions, the first waist portion having corner regions with tabs releasably attachable to the second waist portion, at least one or more of the corner regions and tabs being resiliently stretchable to permit at least some adjustability of the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the first waist portion is releasably attached to the second waist portion;
 - at least one pocket sized to receive at least one liquid-absorbent insert therein, and defined generally by a space between the inner and outer layers;
 - at least one slit in the inner layer along the rearward portion that allows access into the at least one pocket; and
 - at least one fabric flap having a free lower edge portion, and an upper edge portion stitched to the inner layer along the rearward portion, the at least one fabric flap positionable in an open configuration in which the at least one slit is exposed and allows access into the at least one pocket, and a closed configuration in which the at least one fabric flap substantially covers the at least one slit and inhibits contact between the diaper wearer and at least one liquid-absorbent insert positioned within the at least one pocket.

24. The reusable diaper of claim 23, further comprising at least one liquid-absorbent insert configured to be removably positioned through the at least one slit into the at least one pocket, the at least one liquid-absorbent insert having lengthwise adjustability for more precisely fitting within the at least one pocket at the different functional rises of the reusable diaper.

25. The reusable diaper of claim 23, wherein the second waist portion includes at least one elongate strip with at least one hook-and-loop portion extending at least partially along a length thereof, and wherein the tabs include corresponding hook-and-loop portions releasably attachable at different locations along the at least one hook-and-loop portion of the at least one elongate strip, thereby allowing selective adjustment to the functional waist size of the reusable diaper as defined by the first and second waist portions when the tabs are releasably attached to the at least one elongate strip.

26. The reusable diaper of claim 23, wherein the corner regions of the first waist portion are formed of polyester and lycra, wherein the outer layer is formed of polyester, and wherein the inner layer and at least one fabric flap are formed of suede cloth.

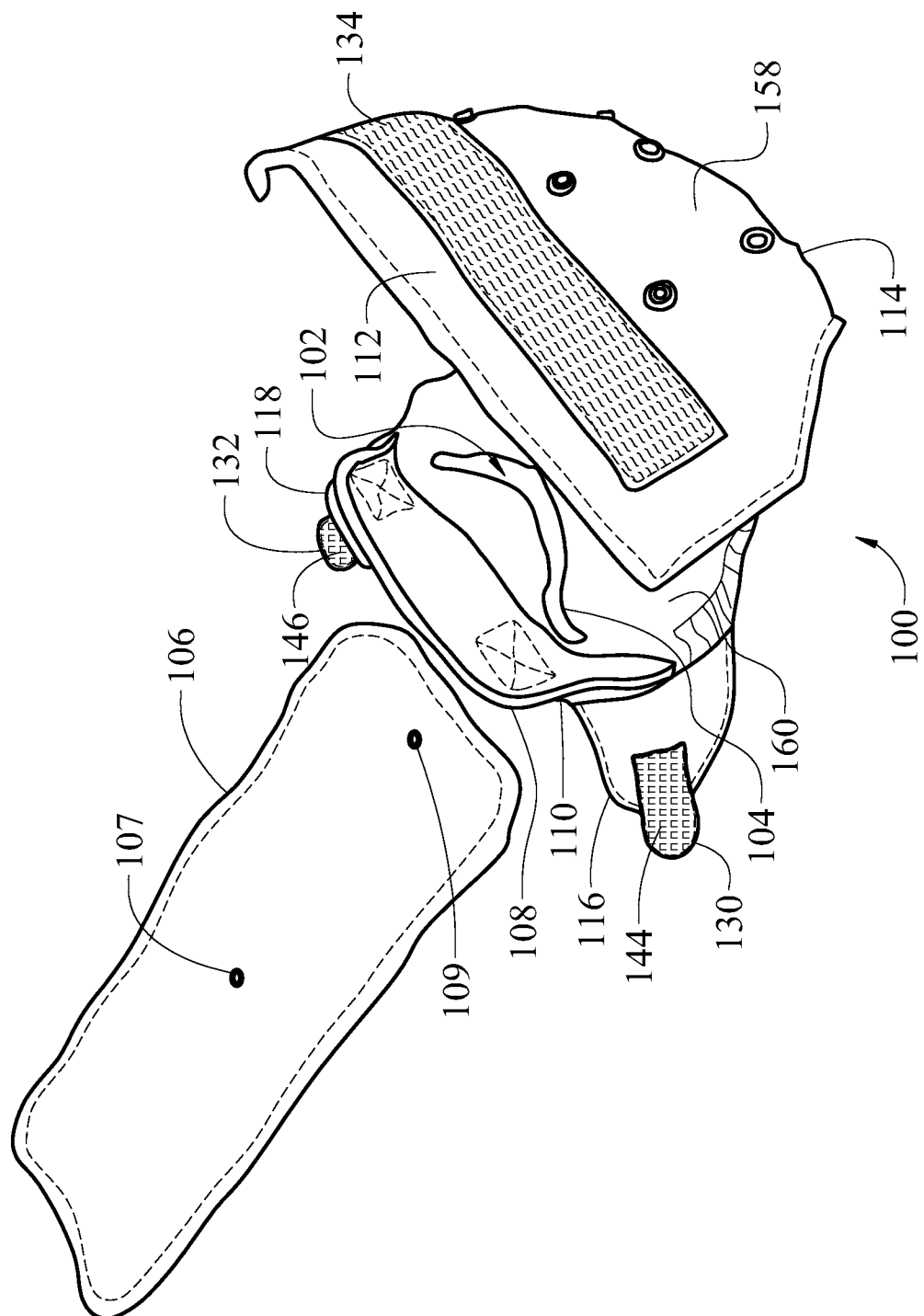


Fig. 1

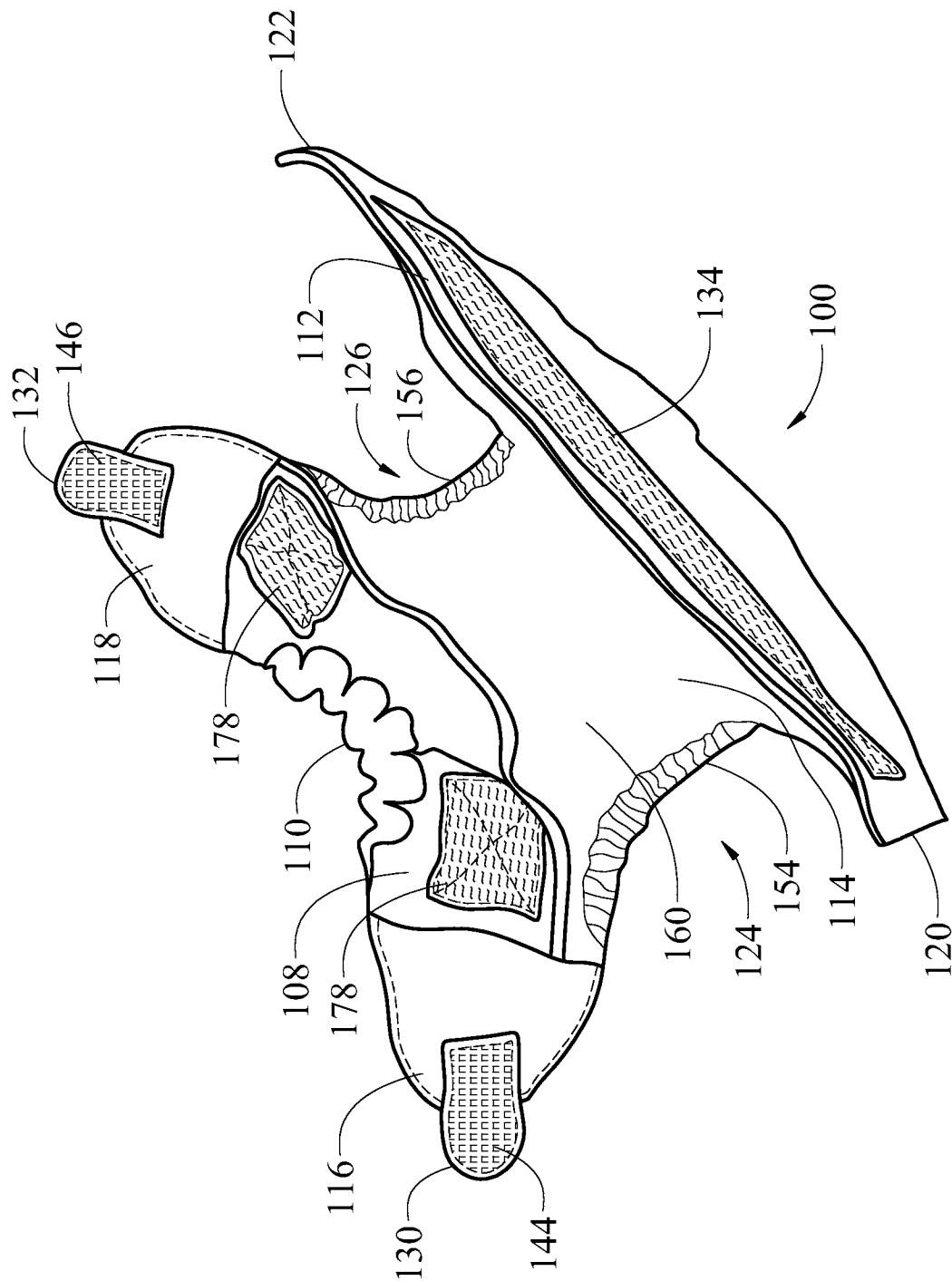


Fig. 2

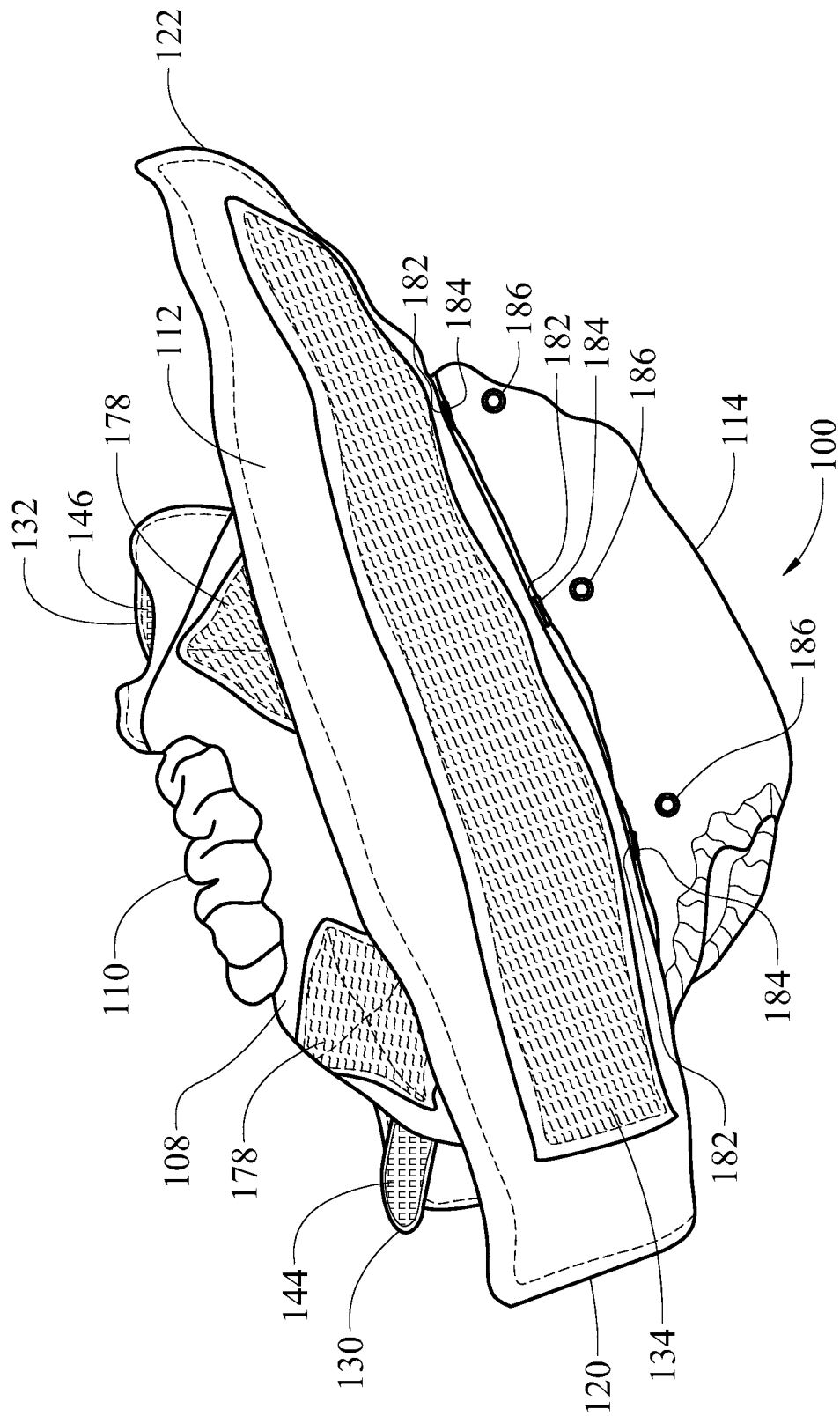


Fig. 3

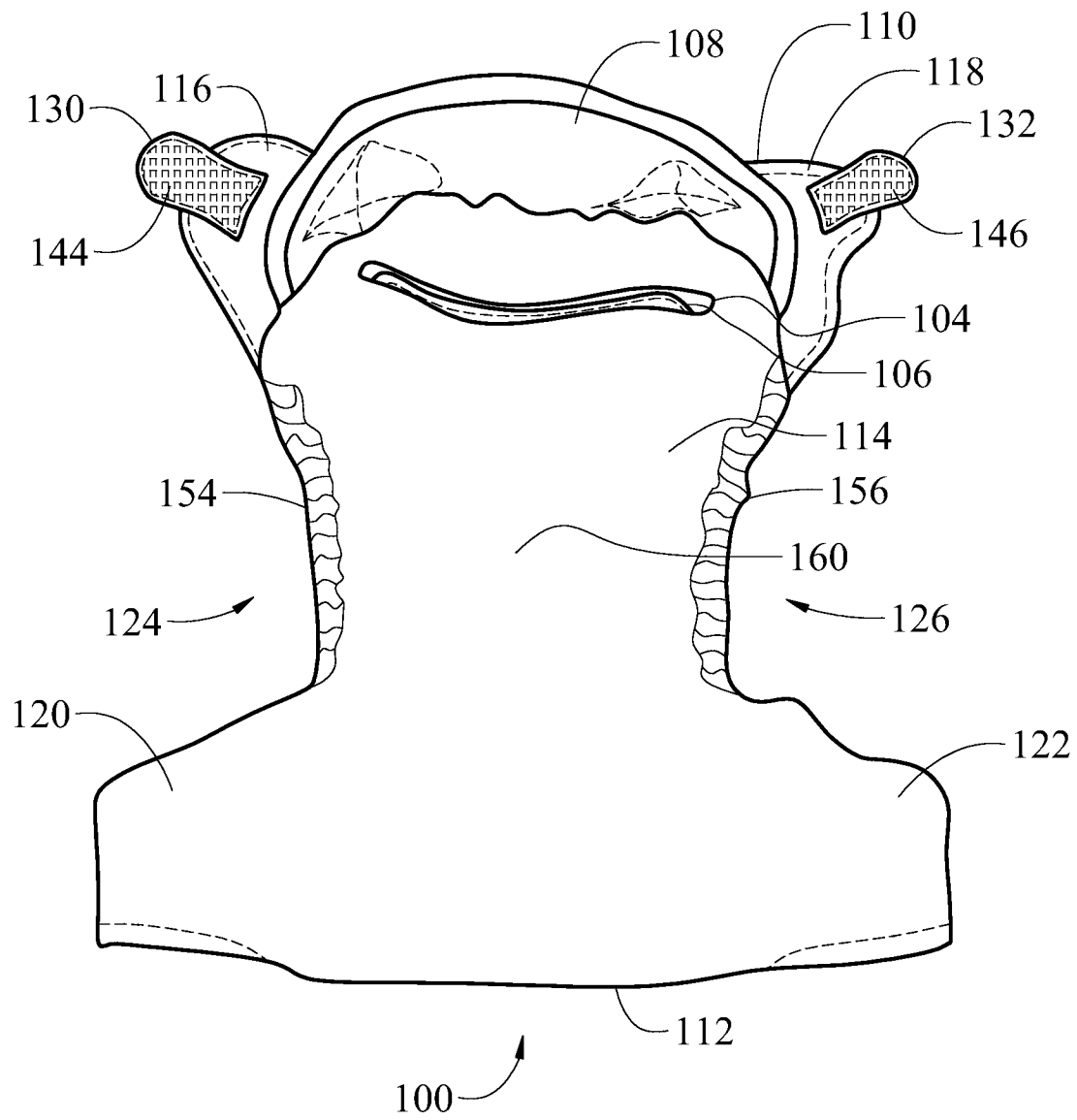


Fig. 4

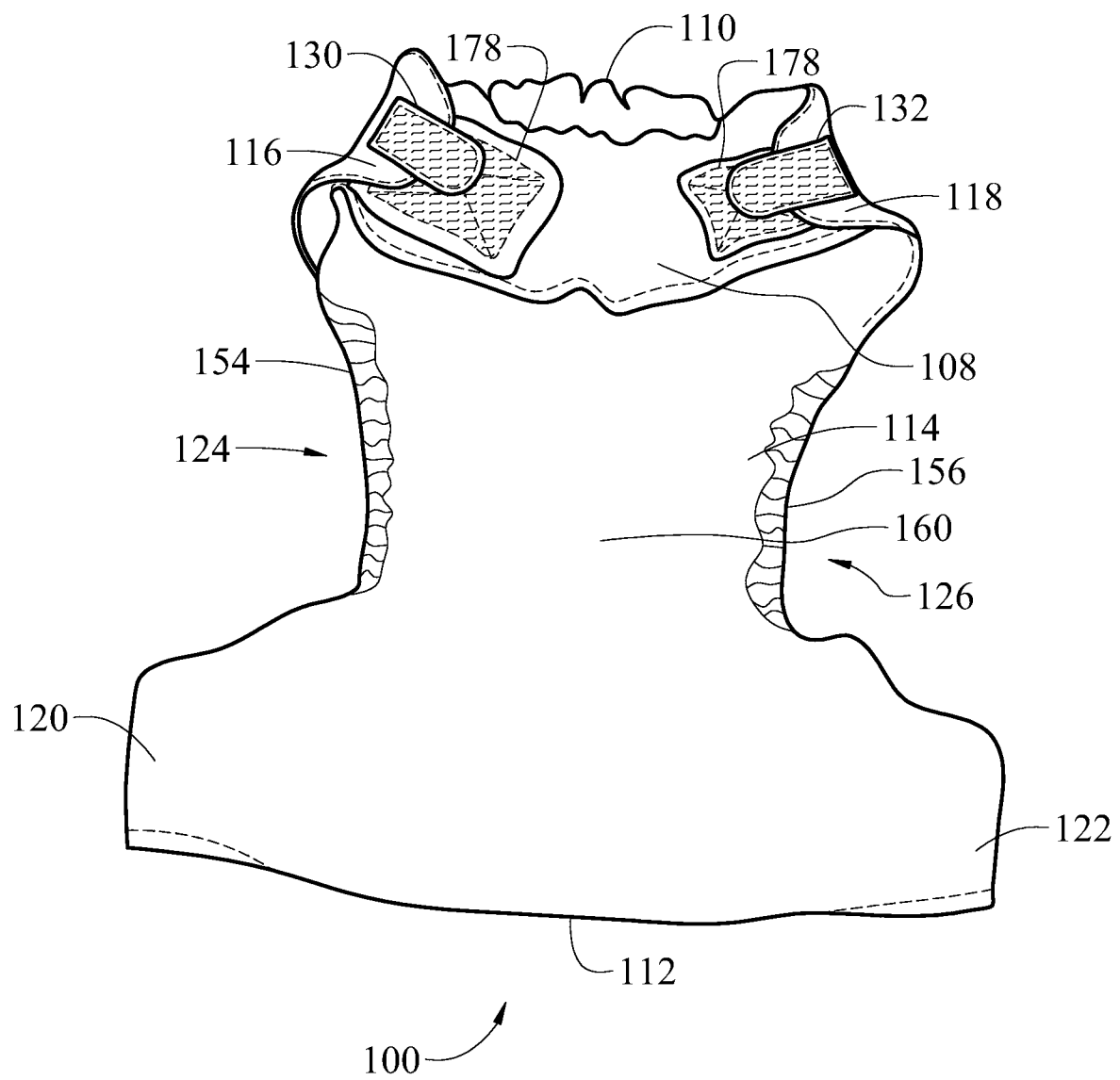


Fig. 5

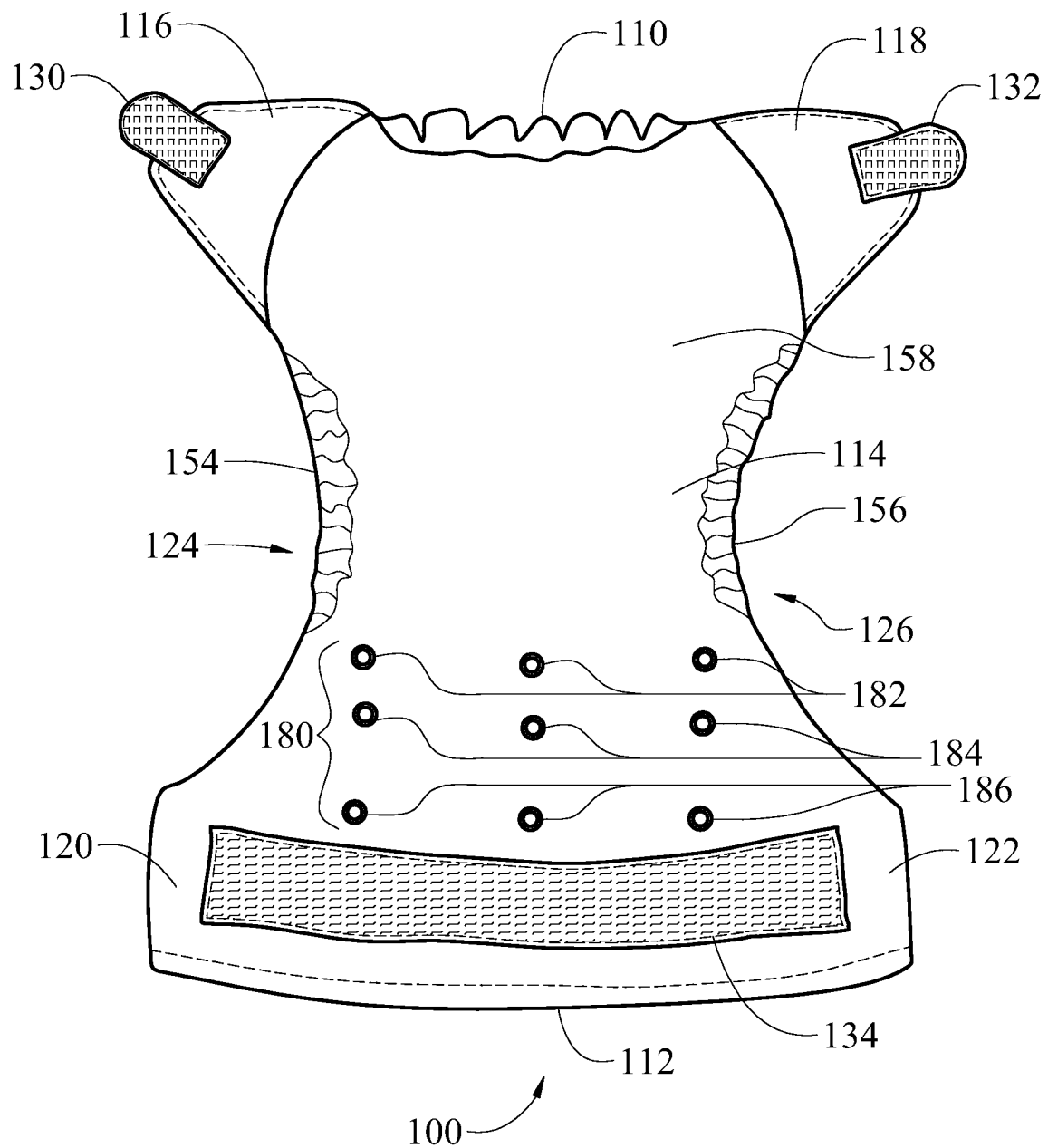


Fig. 6