

April 10, 1951

R. L. MELROSE
SECTIONAL PAD

2,548,547

Filed April 30, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

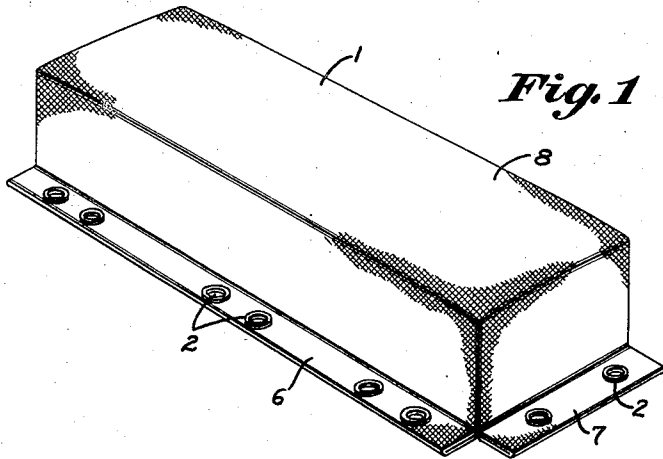


Fig. 1

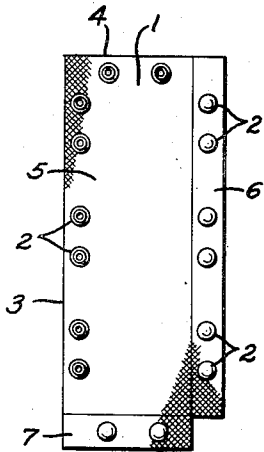


Fig. 2

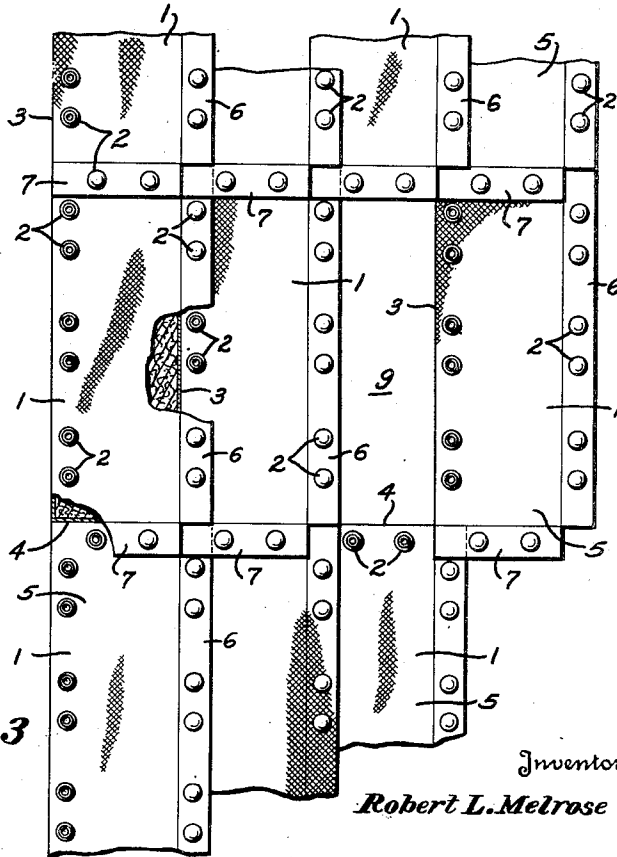


Fig. 3

Inventor
Robert L. Melrose

By Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence

ATTORNEYS

April 10, 1951

R. L. MELROSE
SECTIONAL PAD

2,548,547

Filed April 30, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 2

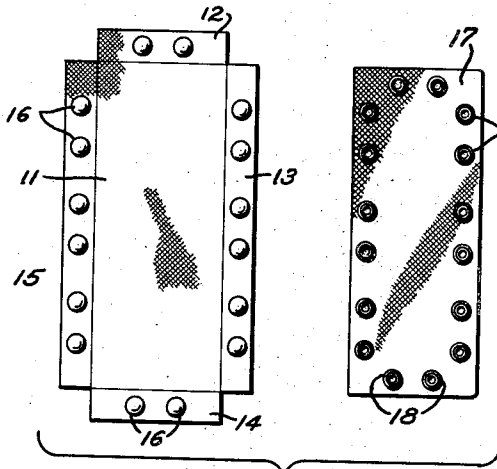
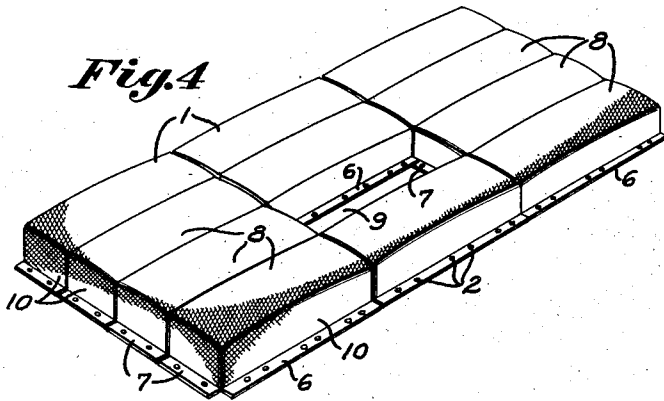


Fig. 5

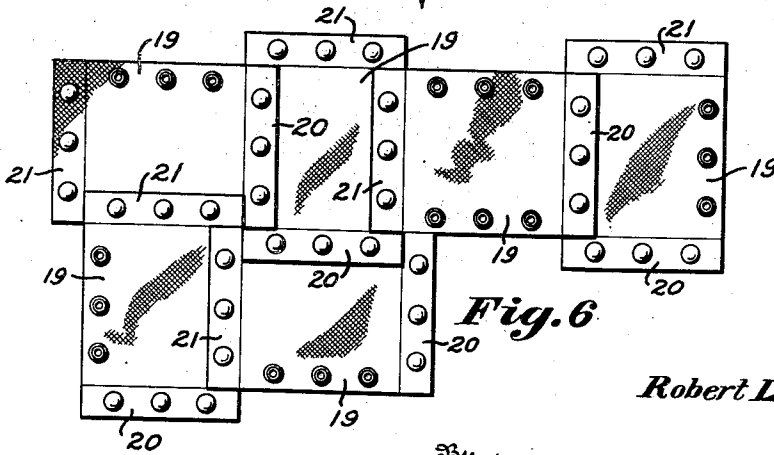


Fig. 6

Inventor

Robert L. Melrose

Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,548,547

SECTIONAL PAD

Robert L. Melrose, Coral Gables, Fla.

Application April 30, 1948, Serial No. 24,264

1 Claim. (Cl. 5-357)

1

This invention relates to pads for use on beds and the like. More specifically, it relates to adjustable pads which are formed of detachable sectional units.

The medical art has long been faced with the problem of providing suitable supports for bed-ridden patients, without causing the severe frictional irritations known as bed-sores. Another difficulty has been the propping up of portions of the body, such as limbs, in such a manner as to provide adequate and comfortable support without at the same time subjecting the affected areas to any pressure.

The object of this invention is to provide pads which give adequate and comfortable support to a reclining individual, but which eliminate undesirable pressure on any given portion of the body.

Another object is to provide pads for use on beds and the like which may readily be formed into any desired configuration, depending upon the specific conditions of use.

Still another object is to provide pads formed of relatively small, detachable units which may be grouped and re-grouped in any desired fashion.

Still another object is to provide pads for beds and the like, which are relatively inexpensive to make and are economical to use, since they may be repeatedly readjusted to meet the requirements of succeeding individuals.

Other objects and advantages will be obvious throughout the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a sectional unit of a preferred embodiment of my pad;

Figure 2 is a bottom plan view of the sectional unit in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a bottom plan view showing a group of the units shown in Figures 1 and 2 joined together;

Figure 4 is a perspective view showing the top surface of a group of joined units shown in Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of two units showing a modification of my invention; and

Figure 6 is a bottom plan view of a group of assembled units showing another modification.

The pads of my invention are formed by the lateral juxtaposition of a number of sectional units. For standard use, each section, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, is preferably made in the form of a rectangular block 1, having six, substantially flat surfaces. The sectional blocks are pro-

2

vided with detachable fastening means, such as snap fastener elements 2, for the purpose of interlocking the abutting sections on all four sides, as shown in Figure 3. Snap fastener elements 2 are peripherally arranged along two adjacent edges 3 and 4 of the bottom face 5 of the sectional block. The other two adjacent edges of the top face are provided with projecting flaps 6 and 7 upon which are positioned snap fastening elements 2. When the sections, which are of similar shape and size, are laterally juxtaposed, as shown in Figure 3, flap 6 overlaps edge 3 of the adjacent section and is attached thereto by means of the complementary fastener elements. Similarly, flap 7 overlaps edge 4 of the adjacent section and is attached thereto by means of the snap fasteners. By providing fastening elements adjacent all sides of the sectional units, any number of sections can thus be securely interlocked to form a pad of any desired shape and size. After the sectional units are interlocked, the pad is preferably inverted for actual use, as shown in Figure 4, so that the smooth faces 8 of the sections form the top surface of the pad. In this way any irritating contact with the fastening means is avoided. Unattached fastening means along the outlying edges 10 of the pad will in no way interfere with the functioning of the pad. However, if desired, peripheral sectional units may be provided without fastening means along the outlying edges.

When it is necessary to prevent frictional irritation on a particular region of the body of a reclining individual, sections of the pad beneath the affected area are omitted, leaving an open space 9. The surrounding sections of the pad provide adequate support for the body, while at the same time the frictional irritations which cause and aggravate such afflictions as bed-sores, are avoided. The arrangement of the sectional units may be varied to meet the changing condition of the patient. Similarly, when it is desired to prop up an afflicted limb, such as an arm or leg, without at the same time exerting pressure on a particular portion of the limb, a pad may be arranged with sectional units omitted at the proper places. Since the propping units are interlocked with surrounding units of the pad, there is no danger that the propping units will shift under the limb.

The construction of the sectional unit, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, namely, one having fastening means peripherally arranged along two adjacent edges of the bottom face and other fastening means on flaps extending from the other

two adjacent edges, is particularly advantageous, inasmuch as such units will interlock with other units of similar construction so that only one standard type of sectional unit is necessary. However, the pads of my invention may be readily built from sectional blocks having different arrangements of the flaps and fastening means.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 5, sectional unit 11 is provided with flaps 12, 13, 14, 15 which extend from the peripheral edges of the top surface of the block. Snap fastening elements 16 are arranged along these flaps. Sectional unit 17 is provided along the peripheral edges of its top surface with snap fastening elements 18 which cooperate with the fastening elements secured to the flaps extending from laterally abutting flapped units, as shown. This arrangement requires the use of two standard units.

The embodiment illustrated in Figure 6 shows cooperating sectional units 19 each of which is provided with a pair of oppositely disposed flaps 20 and 21. For square units as shown, only one standard unit is required. However, for differently shaped units, two standard sectional units may be necessary.

The sectional units may be filled with any suitable material, such as foamed rubber, kapok and the like. Similarly, any suitable material such as canvas, waterproofed sheeting, and the like, may be used for the casing. Although I have used for purposes of illustration, snap fastener interlocking means, it will be understood that other fastening means may be used, such as zippers, buttons and the like. It will also be obvious that any interlocking fastening arrangement may be employed which will permit interlocking with abutting units on all sides of each unit.

The size and shape of the sectional units may be varied. However, they should be of sufficiently

small size to permit the ready adjustment of the pads to meet individual requirements and to facilitate handling. For use with children, for example, it is advisable to employ smaller units than are used for adults.

The pads of my invention are particularly useful in hospitals and sick-rooms. The same pads can be used for different patients simply by rearranging the sectional units to meet individual needs. Since the pads thus lend themselves to repeated use and rearrangement, they are highly economical.

Although I have clearly described my invention with illustrative embodiments thereof, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many variations are possible within the scope of the following claim.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

A sectional pad comprising a plurality of block shaped units contiguously arranged, with their lower faces in a common plane, flaps underlying the interfacial cracks between adjacent units, permanently fixed at one side to a unit and detachably connected at the other side to an adjacent unit, said flaps flexibly connecting said units and permitting selective removal of any unit thereby forming a hole extending completely through said pad, said units being connected solely in the plane of their lower faces.

ROBERT L. MELROSE.

REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
195,850	Shepherd	Oct. 2, 1877
1,295,770	Lamont	Feb. 25, 1919
2,415,150	Stein	Feb. 4, 1947