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PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR CUSHIONS, MATTRESSES, AND THE LIKE

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

FIG. 1.

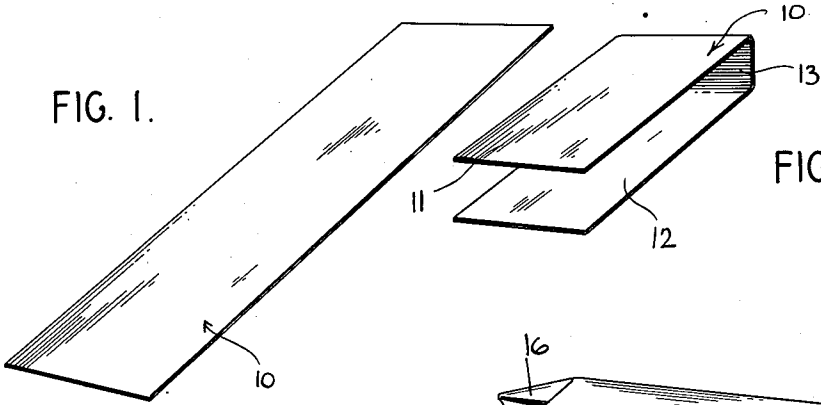


FIG. 2.

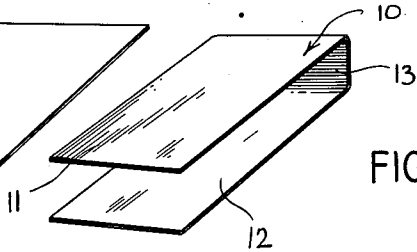


FIG. 3.

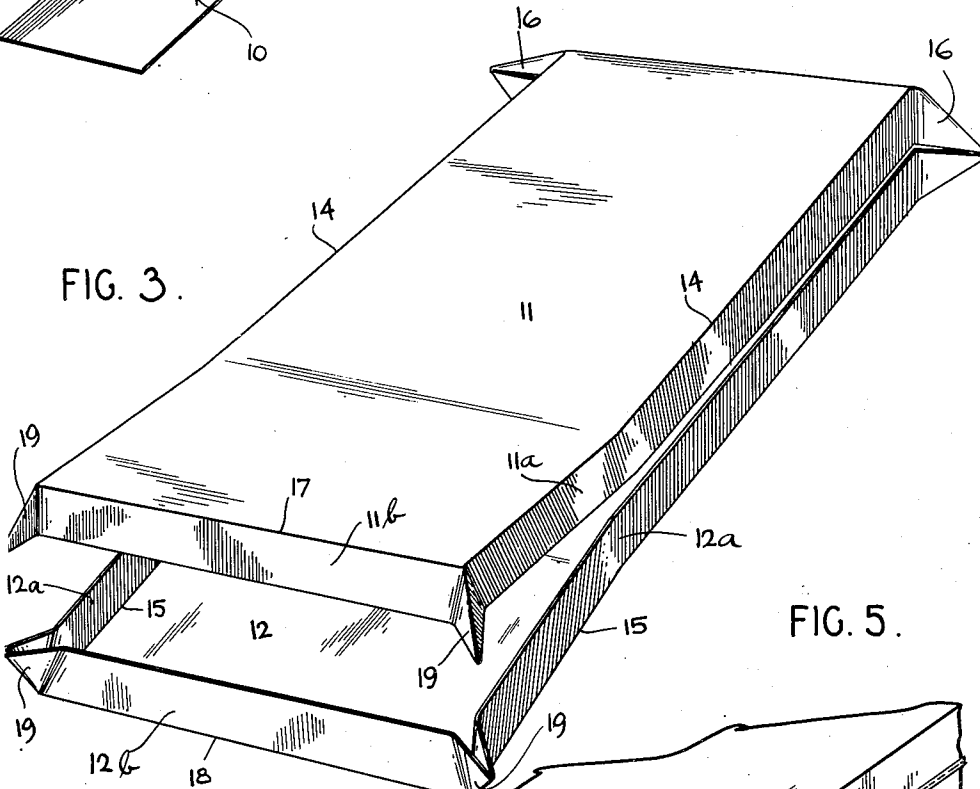
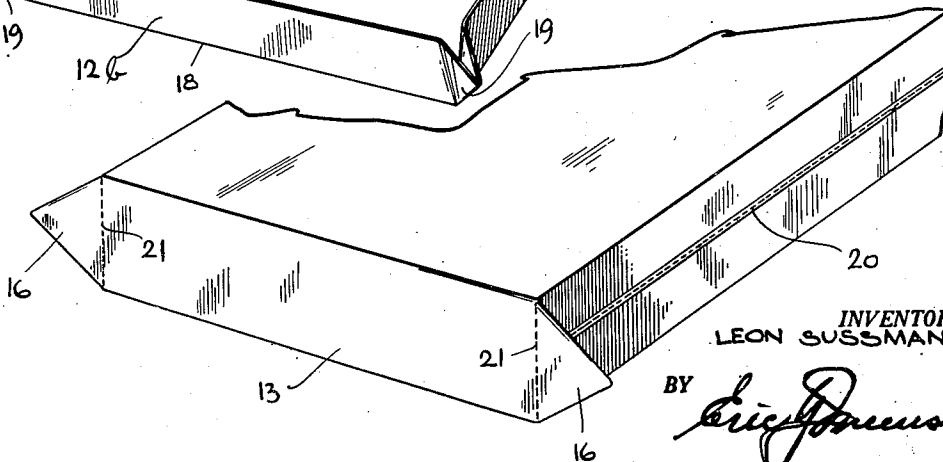


FIG. 5.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

FIG. 4.

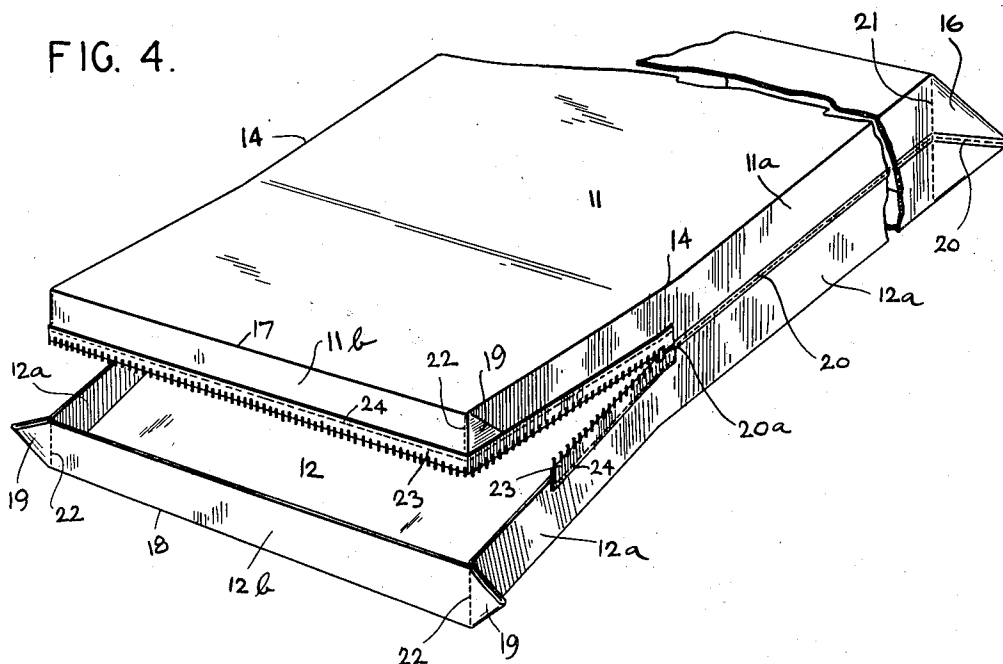


FIG. 6.

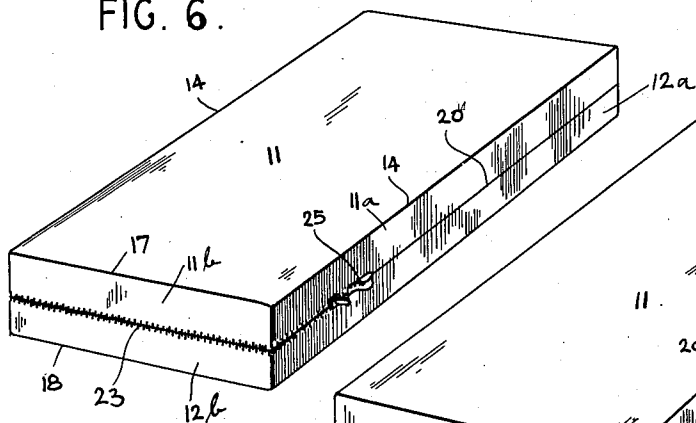
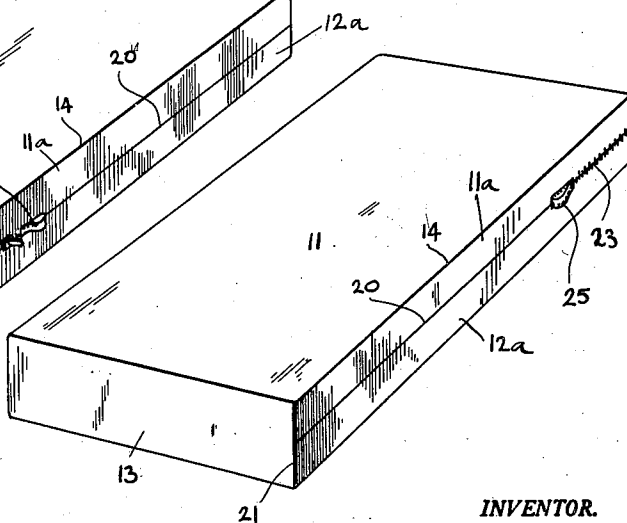


FIG. 7.



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3 Claims. (Cl. 5—354)

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This invention relates to improved protective coverings or jackets for articles such as cushions, mattresses and the like and to an improved method of making such coverings.

It is a primary object of the invention to provide a strong and durable protective covering of the character indicated which may be made from a single unitary blank of material in such a manner as to conform closely to the contour of the enclosed article in a neat fit and which is further characterized by having a minimum number of seams.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a protective covering of the character indicated which is formed in such a manner as to have its seams disposed intermediate the edges of the enclosed article rather than coincident with said edges, thereby greatly contributing to the strength and durability of the protective covering.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a protective covering of the character indicated which may be readily and inexpensively fabricated from a single unitary blank in a minimum number of operations and with no wastage of material.

The foregoing objects as well as additional objects and advantages inherent in the invention will be readily apparent in the course of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a rectangular blank of material from which the protective covering may be formed;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the first step in the formation of the protective covering;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view illustrating a further step in the formation of the covering;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view, partly broken away, illustrating a subsequent step in the formation of the covering;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view similar to Fig. 4, but looking toward the rear or closed end of the covering;

Fig. 6 is a front perspective view of the finished covering which has been inverted or turned inside out from its condition as illustrated in Fig. 4 and which has been applied about an article; and

Fig. 7 is a rear perspective view of the finished covering applied about an article.

Referring now to the drawings in greater detail and more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, reference

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numeral 10 indicates a blank of any suitable material from which the protective covering may be formed, the blank being of predetermined length and width depending upon the desired dimensions of the finished covering. Blank 10 is initially folded over longitudinally to define an upper panel 11, a lower panel 12 and an intermediate rear panel 13, as shown in Fig. 2. The side panels 11a and 12a of the covering are formed by bending or folding inwardly the lateral marginal edges of upper panel 11 and lower panel 12 along longitudinal lines 14 and 15 respectively, simultaneously forming the triangular rear tabs 16. Front panels 11b and 12b are formed by bending inwardly the front marginal edges of upper panel 11 and lower panel 12 along transverse lines 17 and 18 respectively, simultaneously forming the triangular front tabs 19, as shown in Fig. 3.

The contiguous edges of side panels 11a and 12a are next secured together by longitudinal lines of stitching or seams 20 which begin at the points 20a on opposite sides of the covering and spaced inwardly from the front of the covering in order to provide the covering with a closable mouth, as will be described more fully hereinbelow. The base of each triangular rear tab 16 is closed off by means of a vertical line of stitching 21 and the base of each triangular front tab 19 is closed off by means of a vertical line of stitching 22.

As clearly shown in Fig. 4, the protective covering is provided with a closable mouth or opening by means of which the covering may be applied about an article; the opening being defined by the contiguous unjoined edges of side panels 11a and 12a extending forwardly of point 20a and by the contiguous edges of front panels 11b and 12b. The cooperating halves of a slide fastener tape 23 may be secured along the opening of the covering, as shown in Fig. 4 by lines of stitching 24 which also serve to retain the triangular front tabs against respective upper and lower side panels 11a and 12a.

Following the attachment of slide fastener tape 23 the protective covering is preferably turned inside out so as not only to conceal raw edges and the longitudinal seams 20 but also to conceal the front and rear triangular tabs 19 and 16 respectively.

A number of considerable and significant advantages are inherent in the method and construction of the present invention. For example, rear panel 13 is integral and continuous with the lower and upper panels 11 and 12, no seams or

stitching being required at this portion of the protective covering. Furthermore, only a single pair of seams, i. e. the longitudinal seams 20, is actually required in the formation of the protective covering. It will be observed that seams 20 are disposed intermediate the upper and lower side edges of the protective covering rather than coincident with said edges, the latter arrangement being characteristic of conventional practice. Since most of the strain and wear usually occurs along the edges of the covering, the absence of seams thereat greatly contributes to the strength and durability of the covering. The formation of the covering from a single unitary blank in the manner described is inexpensive, expeditious and furthermore involves no wastage of material.

As may be readily seen in Figs. 6 and 7, holding tabs 25 may be secured to the protective covering adjacent the ends of the slide fastener tape 23 in order to facilitate the manipulation of the pull-slide, as well as aid in applying the cover to the mattress. It will be understood that fastening means other than the slide fastener tape 23 may be employed if desired.

Since certain additional modifications may be made in the article and method of the present invention without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the foregoing specification and shown in the accompanying drawings be interpreted merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. The method of forming a protective covering from a substantially rectangular unitary blank of material which comprises the steps of folding said blank longitudinally to define an upper panel, a rear panel and a lower panel, folding inwardly the longitudinal marginal sections of said upper and lower panels and simultaneously forming rear corner tab elements interconnecting said longitudinal marginal sections with said rear panel, stitching together the contiguous edges of said upper and lower longitudinal sections to define side panels, closing off the base of each rear tab element by a vertical line of stitching to define opposite extremities of said rear panel, folding inwardly the forward transverse marginal sections of said upper and lower panels and simultaneously forming front corner tab elements integral with and interconnecting said transverse and longitudinal marginal sections, and closing off the base of each front tab element by a vertical line of stitching.

2. A protective covering formed from a unitary blank of material, said covering having a top panel, a bottom panel, and a rear panel integral with the top and bottom panels, side panels de-

fined by longitudinal marginal sections of said top and bottom panels, the longitudinal marginal sections which form each of said side panels having their contiguous edges joined by stitching, rear triangular tab sections stitched transversely to the planes of the top and bottom panels, said tab sections being integral with and interconnecting said rear and side panels, a front panel comprising forward transverse marginal sections of the top and bottom panels, front triangular tab sections stitched transversely with respect to the planes of the top and bottom panels, said front tab sections being formed integral with and interconnecting said transverse and longitudinal marginal sections, the adjacent free edges of said forward transverse marginal sections being normally separated to define an opening into said covering, and fastening means cooperating between said free edges for closing said opening.

3. A protective covering formed from a unitary blank of material, said covering having a top panel, a bottom panel, and a rear panel integral with said top and bottom panels, side panels defined by longitudinal marginal sections of said top and bottom panels, rear triangular tab sections stitched transversely with respect to the planes of the top and bottom panels, said tab sections being integral with and interconnecting said rear and side panels, a fixed forward portion of the contiguous edges of said longitudinal marginal sections being normally separated, the remaining portion of said contiguous edges being joined by stitching, a front panel comprising forward transverse marginal sections of the top and bottom panels, front triangular tab sections stitched transversely with respect to the planes of the top and bottom panels, said front tab sections being integral with and interconnecting said transverse and longitudinal marginal sections, the adjacent free edges of said forward transverse marginal sections being normally separated and together with said separated forward portion of the contiguous edges of said longitudinal marginal sections defining an opening into said covering, and means for closing said opening.

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