April 27, 1948. E. W. MILLER 2,440,666

BIB

Filed Feb. 18, 1946

FIG. 1.

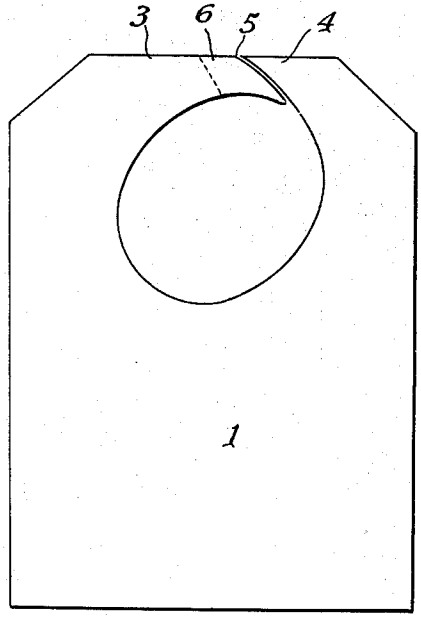



FIG. 2.

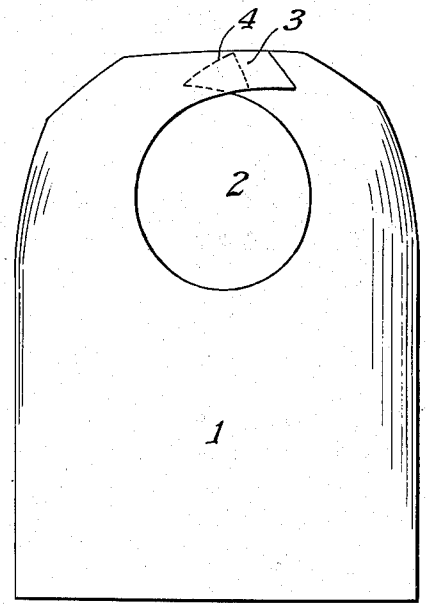
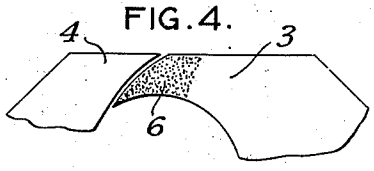



FIG. 4.



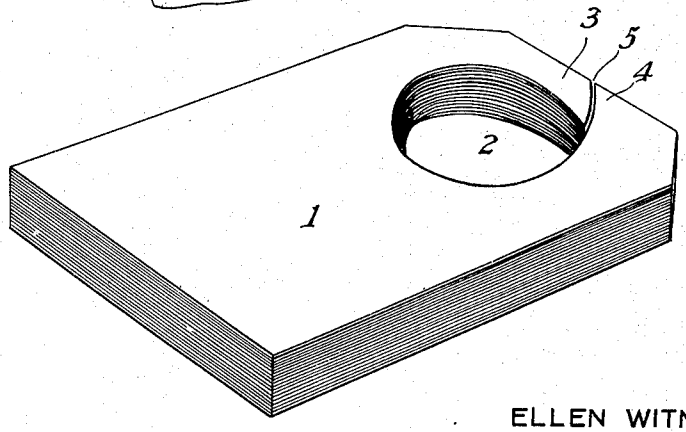




FIG. 3.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## BIB

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3 Claims. (Cl. 2—49)

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This invention relates to a paper bib of improved design. It is particularly directed to a bib made of an absorbent paper which is both soft and tough and which is especially adapted for use by small children and infants.

It is an object of my invention to provide an inexpensive paper bib which is easily attached to the user and which has a readily adjustable neck opening. A particular object is to provide a bib of the above characteristics made of absorbent paper, especially a soft, tough, absorbent paper. A further object is to provide a new article of manufacture comprising a pad of bibs.

Paper bibs possess the advantages of being economical, convenient and sanitary. They are economical and convenient in that they are of low cost and are disposed of after use without the customary laundering or cleaning. They are sanitary in that they are used but once and then discarded.

My invention is more fully described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the bib,

Fig. 2 is a view of the bib in closed position,

Fig. 3 shows one way in which the bibs may be secured together in pad form, and

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary view showing the underside of the top portion of the bib illustrated in Fig. 1.

Like numbers refer to like parts throughout the several views.

The bib is shown as having a body part 1 composed of paper. The shape of the body part is shown, for purposes of illustration only, as being generally rectangular. At one of the narrow ends of the bib an opening 2 is provided in order that the bib may be secured or attached to the neck of the wearer.

The opening 2, which is within the bib, is shown as being generally elliptical in shape and as extending diagonally and upwardly across a considerable portion of the upper part of the bib. Adjustable strap members 3 and 4 which are an integral part of the bib are formed by providing a slit 5 which extends from the upper part of the opening 2 to the top edge of the bib.

In use the bib is placed around the neck of the wearer, the opening 2 being adjusted as to size by means of the straps 3 and 4 to fit the neck of the wearer. The straps 3 and 4 may be secured to each other in a variety of ways. They can, for example, be pinned together or held together by a piece of adhesive material such as gummed paper or cellulose tape. One advantageous way is to secure the straps to each other by applying a suitable adhesive material to either side of at least one of the straps which

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enables them to be securely joined together. An adhesive material, such as glue or the like, for example, which forms a dry non-sticky coating which is moistened for use can be used. However any suitable adhesive can be used and I do not wish to restrict myself to glue. Either of the strap members 3 and 4 can be provided with such an adhesive coating. In the drawings the underside of strap 3 is so provided as clearly illustrated in Fig. 4, for example.

Fig. 1 shows a preferred form of the bib of my invention. The opening 2, however, need not be generally elliptical in shape as shown although this shape has been found to be highly satisfactory because if this shape opening is used when the straps 3 and 4 are joined to each other, a generally round opening (see Fig. 2) approximating the shape of the neck results. The slit 5 can be, for example, in the center or more nearly toward the center of the top edge of the bib so as to form strap members equal in length or more nearly so than shown or it can be somewhat to the right of that shown in Fig. 1. The type construction shown in the drawings, wherein one of the strap members is substantially longer than the other, has been found to be quite satisfactory. It is also to be noted that the bib illustrated in the drawings is not completely rectangular in shape since the upper corners have been cut away. These corners need not be cut away but a more desirable bib results if they are.

Fig. 3 illustrates a pad of bibs of the type shown in Fig. 1. The pad form provides a convenient means for dispensing the bibs as they can be readily removed singly or in greater quantities as needed without damage thereto. The side to be used to form the closed or sealed end of the pad is a matter of preferance. As shown in Fig. 3, the pad is sealed at its bottom edge by means of a suitable adhesive in conventional fashion. Other types of pads can be formed. Thus a pad can be formed, for example, by stapling the bibs together at one of the edges and providing perforations in the bibs, parallel and adjacent to the staples permitting the bibs to be removed without tearing. To illustrate, the bibs can be stapled together at their bottom edge and suitable perforations can be provided in the bibs adjacent and parallel to the staples which permit the bibs to be removed as desired without damage thereto. Where this latter form of pad is used the bib can be prepared from a sheet which is either slightly longer or wider than the bib, the extra length or width providing space in which to staple and perforate the bibs. In making pads the bibs should, of

course, be made from paper which does not objectionally stick or adhere to itself, that is the bibs should be readily separable from each other.

For use the bibs can also be properly folded in interlocking fashion and placed in a suitable container or dispenser whereby they can be withdrawn one at a time as needed. This manner of dispensing paper products (paper towels, cleaning tissues, etc., for example- is well known and further description is believed to be unnecessary.

The bib of my invention can be made from a wide variety of papers. Any paper that does not tear too readily and which is otherwise suitable can be used. Absorbency is not required although it is desirable. Similarly softness is not required although it is desirable. The paper should, of course, possess sufficient strength to make it useful for the purpose intended. While a number of papers that can be used to make the bib are indicated hereinafter it is believed that papers that can be used will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

As previously indicated the bib advantageously is made of an absorbent paper which is soft as well as tough. Suitable papers for making the bib include, for example, paper towelling materials. An absorbent paper which is softer but which is not as tough as those just indicated can be used if the bib is not subjected to much strain. Both the papers specifically mentioned are absorbent and soft within the meaning of those terms as used herein and in the claims. The paper towelling is likewise tough. Papers similar to one or the other of the above papers or intermediate in character also can be used as can papers which are non-absorbent or relatively non-absorbent.

Papers, such as absorbent papers, of insufficient strength to make really satisfactory bibs can be used, for example, by affixing thereto a tough paper, which may or may not be absorbent, as a backing material. Any other suitable backing material can be used but from a practical viewpoint only low cost materials are feasible. The suitability of any given material for use as a backing material, or of any paper that can be used to make the bib will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention is directed. The papers mentioned are illustrative and not limitative of those that can be used. The softer, the tougher, the more absorbent the paper that is used the better.

If desired, the bib can have decorative effects or patterns thereon rendering it more pleasing to the eye. When decorative effects are used they should not, of course, be such as to materially impair the utility of the bib.

The opening 2 can be lined with a soft material, such as paper or cloth, to reduce any possibility of irritation to the neck of the wearer to a minimum. Normally this added precaution is unnecessary as is evidenced by the fact that bibs, without the neck lining referred to, made of the towelling material first mentioned have been successfully tested on small children without any apparent discomfiture whatsoever to them. The neck lining when used can be affixed to the bib in any suitable manner as by stitching or gluing thereto.

The meanings of the terms soft, tough and absorbent, as used herein and in the claims, are believed to be clear. By tough is meant that the paper is strong or durable enough that it is not too readily torn when subjected to normal use



for the purpose intended. This is either obvious or readily determined as is the absorbency or non-absorbency of a paper. The term soft means that the paper is not harsh and does not feel harsh to the skin.

It will be understood that the bib shown and described herein is illustrative and not limitative of my invention as other modifications are possible. To illustrate, the opening 2 can be a different shape from that specifically shown in the drawings. It can be round, square, rectangular or other suitable shape, for example. I do not wish to be limited except as set forth in the claims.

What I claim as my invention and desire to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A paper bib comprising a sheet of paper having a neck opening generally elliptical in shape extending diagonally and upwardly across the upper part of the sheet and wholly within the sheet, a slit extending directly from a point in the upper part of the neck opening which is near the major axis of the neck opening to the top edge of the sheet and wherein the direction of said slit is toward the center of the top edge of the sheet, adjustable strap members formed by said slit whereby said neck opening can be adjusted to fit the neck of the wearer and an adhesive material affixed to at least one of said strap members whereby said strap members can be fastened to each other.

2. A paper bib comprising a sheet of soft, tough, absorbent paper having a neck opening generally elliptical in shape extending diagonally and upwardly across the upper part of the sheet and wholly within the sheet, a slit extending directly from a point in, the upper part of the neck opening which is near the major axis of the neck opening to the top edge of the sheet and wherein the direction of said slit is toward the center of the top edge of the sheet, adjustable strap members formed by said slit whereby said neck opening can be adjusted to fit the neck of the wearer and an adhesive material affixed to at least one of said strap members whereby said strap members can be fastened to each other.

3. A paper bib comprising a sheet of paper having a neck opening generally elliptical in shape extending across the upper part of the sheet and wholly within the sheet, a slit extending from the upper edge of the neck opening to the top edge of the sheet, wherein said slit extends from a point on the upper edge of the neck opening which is relatively near to the top edge of the sheet and wherein the direction of said slit is toward the center of the top edge of the sheet, adjustable strap members formed by said slit whereby said neck opening can be adjusted to fit the neck of the wearer and means whereby the adjustable strap members can be fastened to each other.

ELLEN WITMER MILLER.


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