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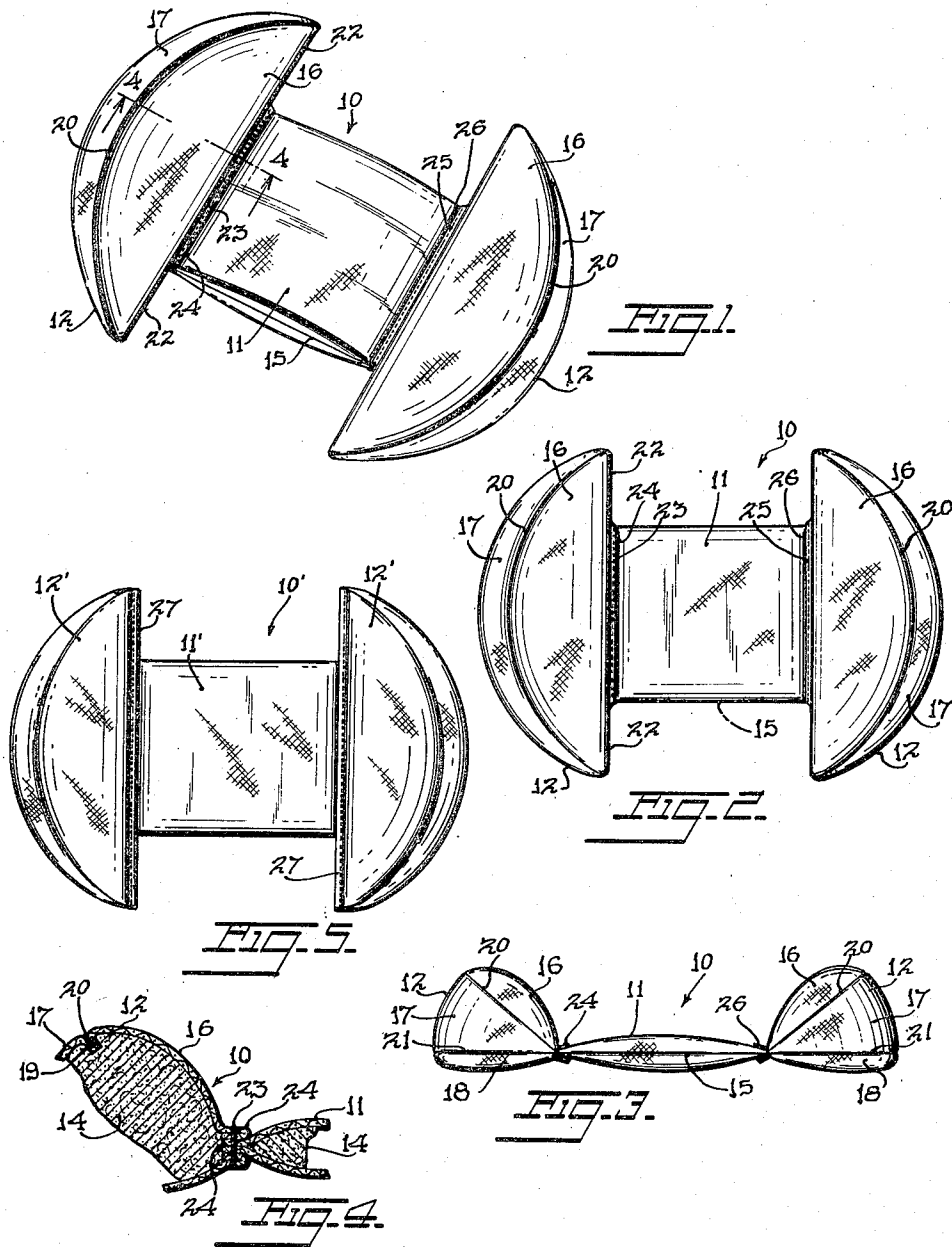
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PREGNANCY ABDOMINAL PILLOW AND CASING

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2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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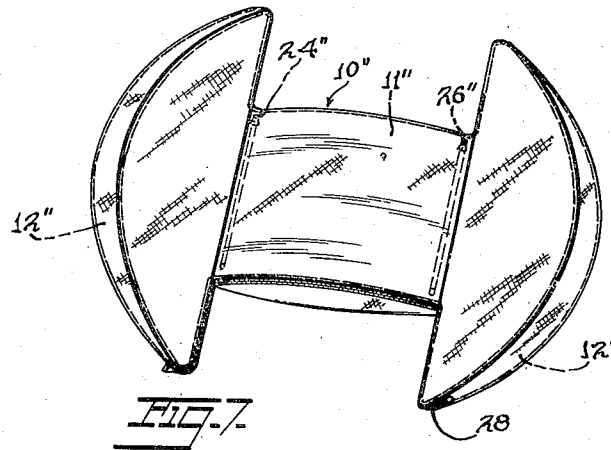
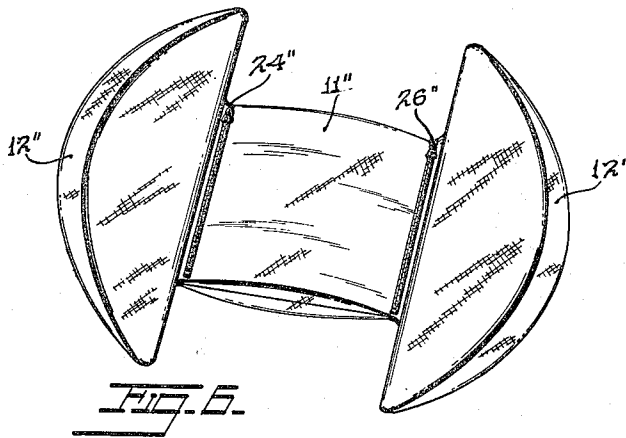
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PREGNANCY ABDOMINAL PILLOW AND CASING

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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PREGNANCY ABDOMINAL PILLOW AND CASING

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1 Claim. (Cl. 5—338)

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The subject of this invention is a new and useful article of manufacture, in the nature of a body pillow and outer pillow casing for a patient while at home or in the hospital and lying in bed prior to giving birth to a child.

The new pillow, as preferably made, comprises a central section, to be laid under the expectant mother at the region of the small of the back and a pair of wing sections shaped to alleviate discomfort by presenting elevated portions to give support to the side walls of the stomach and against which the patient may more or less pressingly place the distended abdomen at either of the sides thereof by shifting her body as she lies supine or almost wholly or partially on one side of her body.

The new pillow is relatively slightly filled and with a material such as featherdown, kapok, etc., or any other suitable material, and its outer covering would be protected by the pillow casing similarly constructed of suitable covering material.

The new pillow is so arranged that with the weight of the patient's body at its heaviest part resting on the central section, that section thereby will be anchored so that the side wings will always be in a proper position to give support to the side walls of the stomach and relief from discomfort even while the patient is lying flat or almost flat on her back. Relaxation and sleeping of expectant mothers are facilitated, with consequent benefit to the nervous system and the general physiological condition of the patient, so vitally important during the last few months of pregnancy.

For further comprehension of the invention, and of the objects and advantages thereof, reference will be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, and to the appended claim in which the various novel features of the invention are more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawings forming a material part of this disclosure:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a now favored embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a top plan view thereof.

Fig. 3 shows the body pillow in end elevation.

Fig. 4 is, on a somewhat enlarged scale, a transverse section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 illustrates a modification.

Fig. 6 is a bottom perspective view of the body pillow in modified form.

Fig. 7 is a bottom perspective view of the body pillow and outer washable pillow case with the desired opening means.

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Referring to the drawings in detail, the body pillow as a whole is marked 10.

The same comprises three main portions, one of which is the central section 11 for underlying the torso of the patient in the region of the small of the back, and the other two of which are like outlying portions or side wings 12, 12.

Said central section 11 need be merely of relatively small thickness. One of its purposes is to interpose between the mattress of the bed and the back of the patient a specially soft cushioning means, while another of its main purposes is to have it act as a structural link between the wings 12, 12, to maintain the latter properly at both sides of the distended abdomen, and so that from time to time one wing or the other may be used to alleviate discomfort on turning of the patient's torso to rest one side of the abdomen or the other mainly against or over a selected wing 12. Always the weight of the patient's body, concentrated on the central section 11, maintains both the wings properly in place.

Each wing 12 projects in opposite directions beyond the central section 11, to provide a body pillow which in plan is H-shaped.

The wings 12 are of considerably greater thickness than the central section 11, with the maximum thickness of each of said wings in line with the center line of said central section.

Desirably, as shown, each wing 12 rises to maximum thickness away from the central section 11, and tapers off in thickness toward its ends above and below the central section. Thus, while the central section 11 is substantially of pad-like uniform thickness all over, the main part of its area, each wing 12 is convexly rounded at its top both longitudinally and laterally thereof.

As here shown the casing for the entire pillow 10 is comprised of three separate sub-casings, one for each of the three sections 11 and 12, 12; with each sub-casing separately stuffed with the filler 14, the latter preferably of the kind already mentioned. The casing material may be any suitably flexible one, as, for instance, a textile fabric.

The sub-casing for the central section 11 may be made of a single piece of casing material substantially rectangular in shape and of varying size to accommodate either small, medium or larger size needs, whereas the sub-casings 12, 12 may remain standard. The casing material is folded along its center line parallel with the direction in which said sub-casing 11 is to extend between the sub-casings for the sections 12, 12;

and its matched sides perpendicular with said center line are stitched together along their entire lengths.

Said piece of material as thus folded and stitched is inside out. Turning sub-casing 11 right side out will reveal the stitching shown at 15 and the unstitched edge parallel to the folded edge.

The sub-casing for each section 12 is made up of three more or less crescentiform pieces of material 16, 17, and 18, preferably the same material as used for the sub-casing for the section 11.

In the case of the sub-casing for a section 12, the piece 17 along one entire edge thereof is stitched, as by the stitching indicated at 19 in Fig. 4, to the piece 16 along one edge thereof, to provide in said sub-casing when turned inside out the seam 20.

Also the piece 16, along the entirety of the other edge thereof, is similarly stitched to the piece 18 along one edge thereof, to provide in the sub-casing when turned inside out the seam 21.

Also, two end lengths of the other edge of the piece 16 are stitched to two end lengths of the other edge of the piece 18, by stitching similar to that shown at 19 in Fig. 4, to provide in the sub-casing when turned inside out the two seams 22.

The central gaps between the two seams 22 on the sub-casing for a section 12 provide openings through which the filler 14 may be stuffed to the desired amount into said sub-casing.

The sub-casing for the central section 11, having been stuffed to the desired amount by way of its open end with the filler 14, is inserted at one of its ends into said central gap of the stuffed sub-casing for one of the sections 12. The edge portions of the latter sub-casing marginal to both sides of its gap are infolded, and a single line of stitching 23 is applied to couple these two sub-casings by a seam 24 (Fig. 4) which also serves to partition off the interiors of the sub-casings thus coupled.

The other end of the casing for the central section 11 having been inserted into said central gap of the sub-casing for the other section 12, the edge portions of the latter sub-casing marginal to both sides of the gap are infolded, and a single line of stitching 25 is applied to couple these two sub-casings by the seam 26 similar to the seam 24.

The casing construction may be variously modified.

For instance, referring to the modified body pillow 10' shown in Fig. 5, the sub-casings for the two wing sections 12', 12' may be turned inside out before applying the stitching which as above provides the seam lengths 22 at the inner side of each such sub-casing. Then, an end of the stuffed sub-casing for the central section 11' may be properly inserted into the stuffed sub-casing for a section 12', and merely one stitching 27 may be applied from end to end of the latter sub-casing, first merely to lock directly together the infolded marginal portions of the pieces of said sub-casing corresponding to the pieces 16 and 18, up to the point where the inserted end of the sub-casing for the section 11' is reached, and then to establish a seam length exactly like the seam 24 as shown in Fig. 4, and then, beyond

the sub-casing last mentioned, again merely to lock directly together the infolded marginal portions of said pieces corresponding to the pieces 16 and 18.

The particular shapings of the pillow portions 11 and 12, 12 as herein shown and described may be variously changed within the scope of the invention. The pillow as a whole will be made in sizes small, medium and large, according to the normal body measurements.

The casing may be made of the usual pillow ticking, in which case a washable pillow case, shaped to enclose the portions 11 and 12, 12 of the body pillow, may be used.

In Fig. 6 a modified form of connection for the central casing section 11' and the two wing sections 12', 12' is shown, which includes slide fasteners 24' and 26' for closing openings extended along the connected edges of the sections so that when the slide fasteners are opened additional stuffing can be placed within the sections 11' and 12'. The washable outer pillow case 10' see Fig. 7, encloses the pillow of Fig. 6 and has an opening along one end thereof closed by a slide fastener 28 so that the pillow can be placed within and removed from the outer casing 10'.

While we have illustrated and described the preferred embodiments of our invention, it is to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise constructions herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

An abdominal pillow for use during pregnancy, comprising a stuffed rectangular central pillow section, a pair of crescent-shaped outlying sections having spaced upper and lower outer edges, said outlying sections being of greater average thickness than the central section and connected along their inner edges to the outer edges of said central section to form a generally H-shaped outline in plan, each of said outlying sections having a rounded outer wall connecting its respective upper and lower outer edges, said connected sections on adjacent faces thereof being formed with openings through which said sections may receive additional stuffing, and slide fasteners secured to the material of said sections defining said openings for closing the same.

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