March 6, 1962 S. DAVYSO 3,023,433

BUOYANT BATHING AND SWIM SUIT

Filed June 10, 1958 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

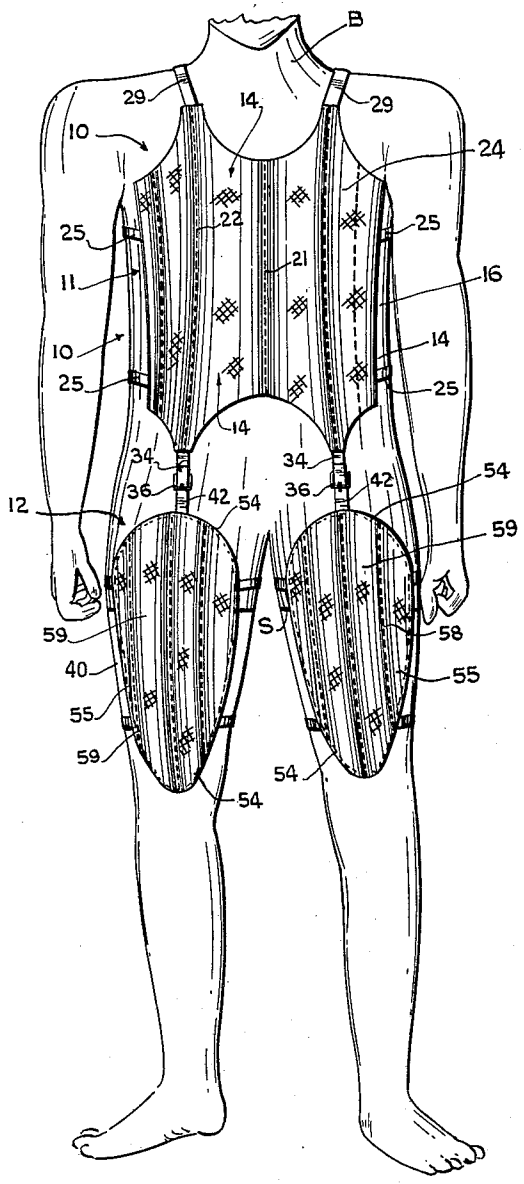


Fig. 1.

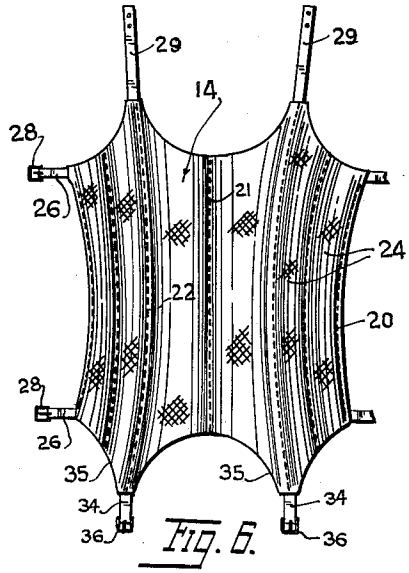


Fig. 6.

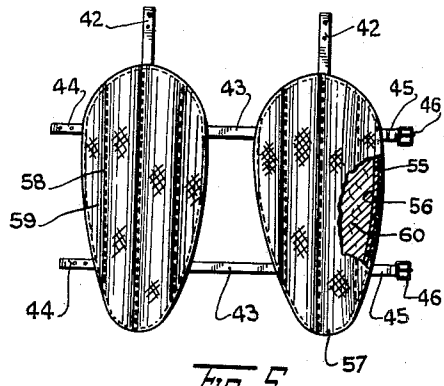


Fig. 5.

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BUOYANT BATHING AND SWIM SUIT

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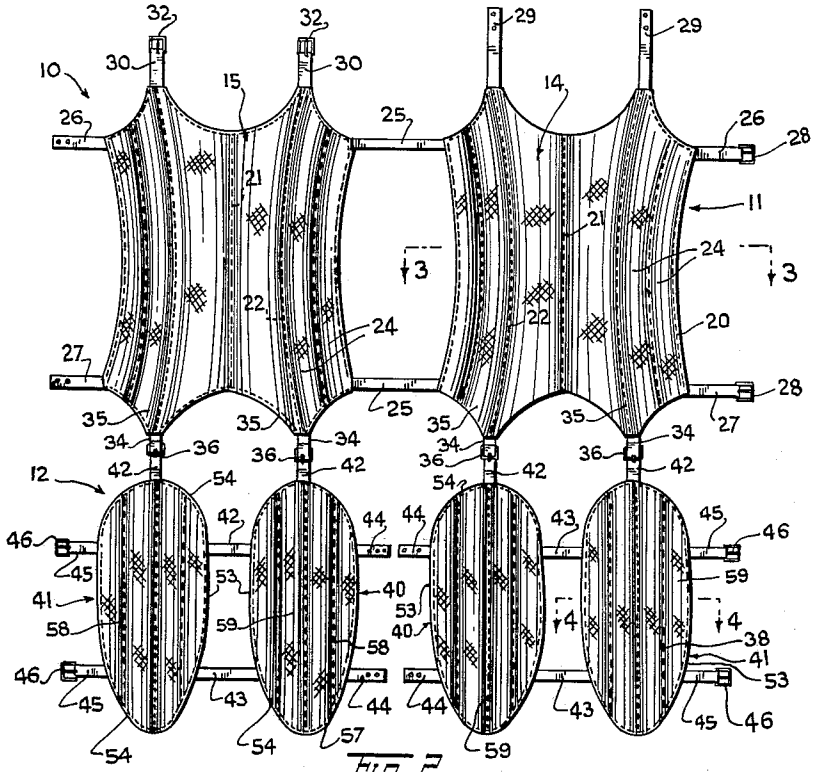


Fig. 2.

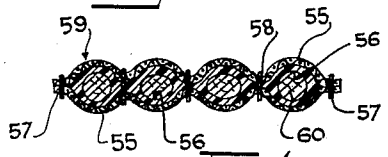


Fig. 4.

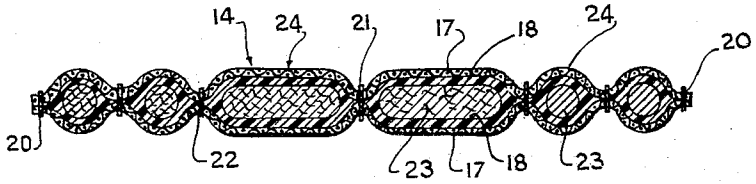


Fig. 3.

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BUOYANT BATHING AND SWIM SUIT

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1 Claim. (Cl. 9—336)

This invention relates to the art of bathing suits and particularly concerns a buoyant bathing suit.

A principal object of the invention is the provision of a comparatively simple, efficient, and durable bathing suit that is very buoyant when worn by a person while swimming or sporting in a body of water, and adapted to serve as a life preserver.

A further object is the provision of an efficient bathing suit in which new types of floaters or buoyant units are employed.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a novel construction for a buoyant unit which is flexible and light in weight and substantially non-sinkable.

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 claims 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:

FIG. 1 is an elevational view of the bathing suit embodying the invention as worn by a person.

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view of the bathing suit in spread out condition.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view taken on the plane of the line 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view taken on the plane of the line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a rear elevational veiw of the thigh covering portion of the bathing suit, parts being broken away.

FIG. 6 is a rear elevational view of the front torso covering portion of the bathing suit.

Referring to FIG. 1 of the drawings, there is shown a bathing suit **10** embodying the invention worn upon the body B of a person. The bathing suit is formed of an upper torso section **11** and a bottom thigh section **12**. The torso section **11** is composed of a front body portion **14** for covering the chest of the wearer and a rear body portion **15** for covering the back of the wearer.

The front and rear body portions are of substantially similar constructions and each body portion comprises a generally rectangular-shaped body **16**. The body consists of outer layers **17**, **17** of fabric material, each outer layer having a lining **18** of plastic or rubberized material. The fabric layers and linings are secured together along the margins thereof by a line of stitching **20**, and at the center thereof by a line of stitching **21**, and intermediate the center and side margins by lines of stitching **22**. The stitchings **21** and **22** extend from end to end of the body and with the marginal stitching form elongated tubular portions **24**. The central tubular portions **24** are wider than the remaining tubular portions. The elongated tubular portions **24** are tightly stuffed with a filling **23** of silk hair, or silk floss. This gives the body portion a padded or quilted effect.

The stuffing material **23** is preferably of silk hair or silk floss as this material has an extremely light weight consistency and has superior resiliency so that it resists knotting or bunching under long repeated impact or long continued pressure. In addition, the material is especially long lived. It does not become brittle and has a natural oily body which resists absorption of moisture. It will be understood that in place of the silk hair or silk floss any other suitable buoyant or non-sinkable material such as cork or fibrous material may be used.

The linings **18** are preferably made of polyethylene or vinyl plastic material which is substantially non-porous and resistant to the chemical action of salt and sea water.

The outer layers **17** are preferably made of resin-impregnated cotton or linen canvas to resist the effects of sun, wind, water and abrasion during use.

The front and rear torso body portions **14** and **15** are permanently fastened together in side-by-side relationship as shown in FIG. 2 by fabric tapes or straps **25** secured at the ends thereof to the top and bottom ends of adjacent sides of said portions by the stitching **20**, the tapes or straps being of sufficient length to span the side of the torso of the wearer. The top and bottom end edges of the body portions **14** and **15** comprise a plurality of tapered extensions, the lower extensions **35** extending to below the waist of the wearer. The opposite sides of the body portions **14** and **15** may be detachably secured to each other when the suit is being worn by fabric tapes or straps **26** and **27**, extending from the top and bottom ends of said sides of the body portions **14** and **15**, respectively, the tapes or straps on the side of one body portion carrying buckles **28**, such as the straps **26**, **27** on the side of the body portion **14**.

The top end edges of the body portions **14** and **15** are also detachably secured to each other, when the suit is being worn, by fabric shoulder tapes or straps **29** and **30**, respectively, extending from the top end edges thereof. The tapes or straps on one body portion, for instance, the straps **29** on body portion **14** are longer than the tapes **30** of the other body portion, while the tapes or straps **30** on body portion **15** are provided with buckles **32** to detachably secure the ends of the tapes or straps **29** and **30**.

Fabric tapes or straps **34** secured at one end to extensions **35** on the bottom end edge of each of the body portions **14** and **15** carry buckles **36** for detachably fastening the thigh section **11** presently to be described.

The thigh section **12** of the bathing suit is detachable from the torso section **11** and consists of two pairs of buoyant body portions, each pair consisting of a front body portion **40** and a rear body portion **41**. The buoyant body portions of each pair are secured together by fabric tapes or straps **43** secured at their ends to adjacent side edges of the buoyant body portions at the top and bottom ends thereof, forming a unitary structure. The tapes or straps **43** are of sufficient length to span the side of the thigh of the wearer when the suit is being worn. One buoyant body portion of each pair, for instance, the front body portion **40**, is provided with straps **44**, **44**, extending laterally from the top and bottom ends of its unattached side edge. The other body portion, for instance, the rear buoyant body portion **41** of each pair is provided with similar laterally extending straps **45**, **45**. The straps **45**, **45**, however, carry buckles **46**, **46** for detachably fastening the ends of the straps **44**, **44**, **45**, **45** together when the suit is being worn.

The buoyant body portions **40** and **41** are each of similar construction and each is of a construction similar to the construction of the body portions **14** and **15** of the torso section **11**, but of different configuration and of different dimensions, having straight side edges **53** and tapered ends **54** and being smaller in length and width. Each buoyant body portion **40** and **41** consists of outer layers **55**, **55** of fabric material similar to the layers **17**, **17**. Each layer **55** has a lining **56** of plastic or rubberized material. The fabric layers and linings are secured together along the margins thereof by a line of stitching **57**. Spaced lines of stitching **58** extending from end to end of the body portion and passing through the layers and lin-

ings divide the body portion into a number of elongated tubular portions **59**. Filling material **60** similar to the filling material **23** is stuffed into the tubular portions thereby giving the body portion a padded or quilted effect.

When the bathing suit is worn on the body of a person as shown in FIG. 1, the straps **29, 29** are engaged in buckles **32, 32** carried by straps **30, 30** so that the straps overlay the shoulders of the wearer. The straps **26, 27** are engaged in buckles **28** carried by straps **26, 27** so that the front and rear body portions **14** and **15**, respectively, are secured around the torso of the wearer. The straps **34, 42** extend down along the thighs of the wearer and when the straps **44, 44** are engaged in buckles **46, 46** carried by straps **45, 45**, the front and rear float members **40** and **41** are secured around the thighs of the wearer. The fabric straps and buckle constructions permit the suit to be fitted to the wearer. The suit fits snugly and leaves the arms and legs of the wearer unrestricted, for swimming and other sporting activities. If desired, the strap and buckle fastening devices may be replaced with snap fastener devices.

The bathing suit **10** is to be worn over a conventional bathing suit S indicated by dotted lines in FIG. 1. Thus, a person may wear a conventional bathing suit while on a beach and can put on the buoyant suit **10** with or without the thigh buoyant body portions **40** and **41** before going into the water. The torso body portions **14** and **15** and the thigh buoyant body portions **40** and **41** constitute floating devices which supplement the buoyant effect on the body of the wearer and aid in keeping the body of the wearer afloat on the water.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise construction herein disclosed and that various changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

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

A buoyant sectional bathing suit, comprising a torso section having front and rear body portions for fitting over the chest and back of a wearer, said portions being sufficiently long to extend from the wearer's shoulders to extensions below the waist of the wearer, a plurality of tapered extensions at upper and lower edges of said front and rear body portions, straps on adjacent lateral edges of the body portions securing the body portions together, further straps on other lateral edges of the body portions and on the tapered extensions at the upper edges for detachably securing the body portions to the wearer, a thigh section having front and rear leg portions for fitting in front of and behind legs of the wearer, straps detachably securing upper edges of the legs portions to the tapered extensions at the lower edges of the body portions, other straps on adjacent lateral edges of the front and rear leg portions securing the same together, and still other straps on lateral edges of the leg portions for detachably securing the same to legs of the wearer, said body and leg portions each including joined outer layers of fabric material, a lining of flexible, moistureproof plastic material between the outer layers, said lining and layers being stitched together to define a plurality of parallel closed compartments, and a filling of fibrous material in each of the compartments, each of the body and leg portions having a corrugated form at opposite sides thereof, rendering said portions flexible to conform to the shape of the wearer's body.

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