Feb. 3, 1959 J. VAN VORST 2,871,491

SWIM TRAINER

Filed April 10, 1956

Fig. 1

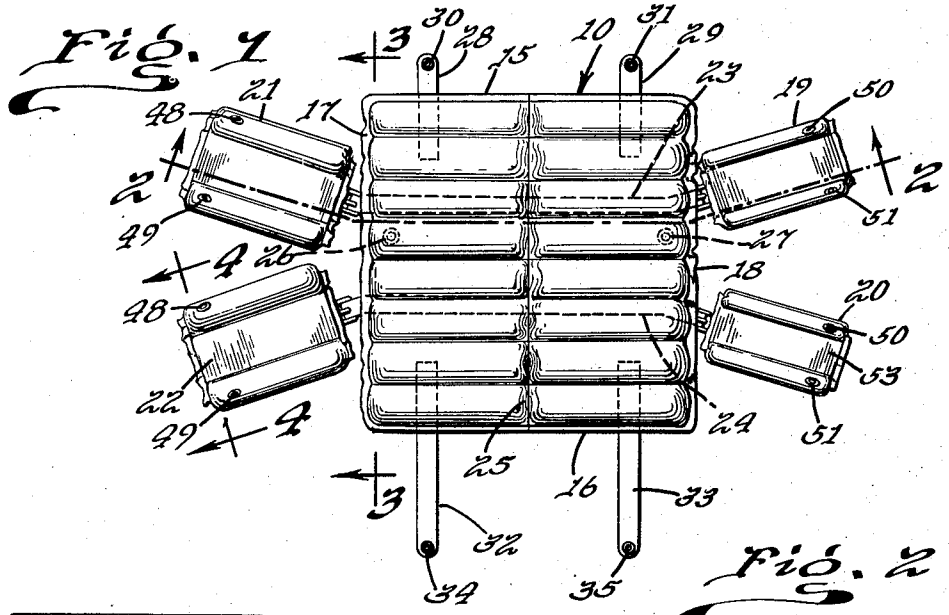


Fig. 2

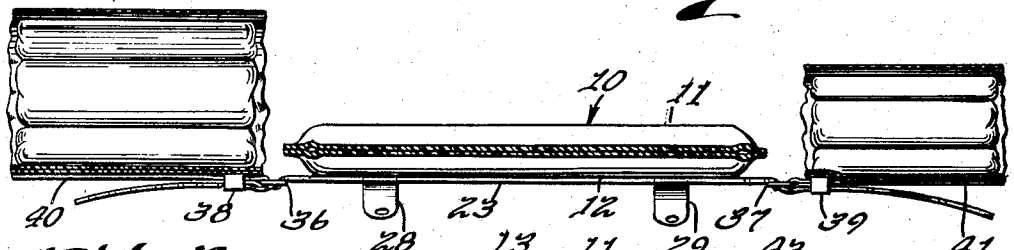


Fig. 3

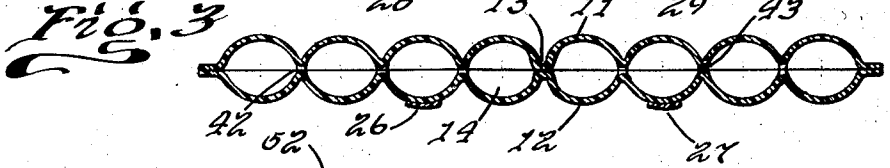
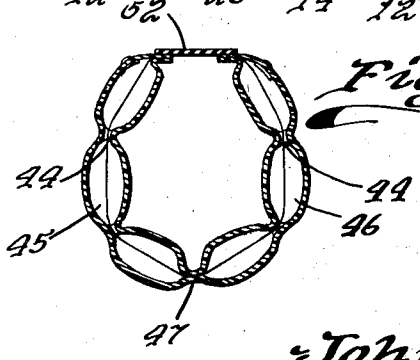


Fig. 4



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2,871,491

SWIM TRAINER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 9—17)

This invention relates to devices for training children to swim, and in particular includes a body float with inflatable arm and leg units connected to the body float straps and in which the body float is provided with straps for securing the device on the underside of the body.

The purpose of this invention is to provide a device for training a child to swim in which the body of the child is retained in a horizontal position whereby the arms and legs are free to pass through the motions of swimming.

Various types of buoyant devices have been provided for assisting children in swimming, however, with most devices of this type there is a possibility of the child freeing himself from the device or of the device becoming dislocated on the child making it possible for the head to be held in the water before rescue could be accomplished. With this though in mind this invention contemplates a device to be used for training children to swim in which the child is positioned upon a mat with the arms and legs retained in inflated sleeves whereby the child is retained in a horizontal position and wherein it is substantially impossible for the device to turn over.

The object of this invention is, therefore, to provide a swim training device in which a child is retained in a horizontal position and in which the body of a child is positioned upon a buoyant mat.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device for training children to swim in which the device is adapted to be fully inflated at the beginning of the swimming lessons and wherein after the child gains confidence air may be gradually drawn from the device whereby the child supports himself by swimming.

A further object of the invention is to provide a float for training children to swim in which the device is of a simple and economical construction.

With these and other objects and advantages in view the invention embodies a mat formed of tubes adapted to be inflated with the tubes separated providing independent sections as a precaution against air escaping from the device and arm and leg units also formed with inflated tubular sections and connected by a strap to the body portion or mat whereby with a child positioned on the mat and having his arms and legs extended through said arm and leg units the child is retained in a horizontal position upon the surface of water.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved swim trainer.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through the device taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1 with the parts shown on an enlarged scale.

Figure 3 is a cross section through the body supporting mat taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, also with the parts shown on an enlarged scale.

Figure 4 is a cross section through one of the leg units of the device also showing the parts on an enlarged scale.

Referring now to the drawing wherein like reference characters denote corresponding parts the improved device for use in training children to swim includes a body mat **10** formed with an upper layer of material **11** and a lower layer **12** with the layers connected at points **13** providing tubes **14** and with edges of the layers also connected providing flanges **15** and **16** at the sides and **17** and **18** at the ends, and arm units **19** and **20** extended from one end and leg units **21** and **22** extended from the opposite end, the units **19** and **21** being connected to the body mat with a continuous or unitary strap **23** and the units **20** and **22** being connected to the body mat with a continuous or unitary strap **24**.

The body mat **10** is formed in two sections with the sections divided by a continuous seam **25**, similar to the parts **13** and each section is provided with an inflating valve, a valve **26** being positioned in the section on one side and a similar valve **27** in the section on the opposite side.

The body mat is also provided with mounting straps **28** and **29** having fastening elements **30** and **31** therein extended from one side and corresponding straps **32** and **33** with fastening elements **34** and **35**, respectively therein extended from the opposite side.

The straps **23** and **24** are provided with buckles **36** and **37** and ends of the straps, extended through the buckles are retained in bands **38** and **39**. Similar buckles and bands are provided at the ends of the strap **24**. The leg units **21** and **22** are provided with short straps **40**, ends of which extend through the buckles **36** and bands **38** and the arm units **19** and **20** are provided with similar straps **41** that extend through the buckles **37** and bands **39**, as shown in Fig. 2.

The connections between the tubes of the body mat on one side of the center are connected with openings **42** whereby air circulates through the tubes of the section and the section on the opposite side is provided with similar openings **43**. The leg and arm units are provided with similar openings **44** whereby air circulates through the tubes **45** and **46** on opposite sides of the unit, each side of the arm and leg units being separated by solid connections **47** and each side being provided with inflating valves **48** and **49** in the leg units and similar valves **50** and **51** in the arm units.

Upper edges of the leg units are connected with webs **52** and upper edges of the arm units are connected with similar webs **53**.

By this means should any portion of the swim training device be punctured, torn, or broken there will be sufficient buoyancy in the remaining portions to support the body of a child in a horizontally disposed position.

With the device strapped upon the body of a child the body is retained in a horizontal position whereby the arm and leg movements may be practiced until perfect and as perfection is achieved air may be released from the units through the valves and after complete confidence is obtained the device may be deflated and eventually removed.

The parts may be made of rubberized fabric, plastic or other suitable material.

It will be understood that modifications, within the scope of the appended claim, may be made in the design and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

In a swimming device, a body mat embodying a plurality of inflatable tubes, there being openings establishing communication between the tubes of the body mat whereby air can circulate through the tubes, said body mat including a pair of sections divided by a continuous

seam, each of said sections being provided with an inflating valve, said body mat being provided with mounting straps having fastening elements thereon, arm units extended from one end of the body mat, leg units extended from the opposite end of the body mat, the units being connected to the body mat with unitary straps, the leg and arm units being provided with openings for the circulation therethrough of air, each side of the arm and leg units being separated by solid connections and each side being provided with inflating valves, upper edges of the leg units being connected with webs, and the upper edges of the arm units being also connected with webs.

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