United States Patent

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[54] **FLEXIBLE SUPPORT FOR A NURSING BOTTLE**
1 Claim, 2 Drawing Figs.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **224/5;** 248/102
[51] **Int. Cl.** **A61j 9/06**
[50] **Field of Search** ..... 248/102; 224/1.1, 5, 5—23

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ABSTRACT: A nursing bottle holder to support a nursing bottle that is to be placed about an infant's neck to retain the bottle in a position that is most accessible for nursing, comprised of a flexible strap with one end adjustable to grip the neck of the nursing bottle and the other end adjustable to fit the infant's neck and retain the nursing bottle in a proper accessible position in front of the infant and with a pivotally supported snap spring to join both ends together.

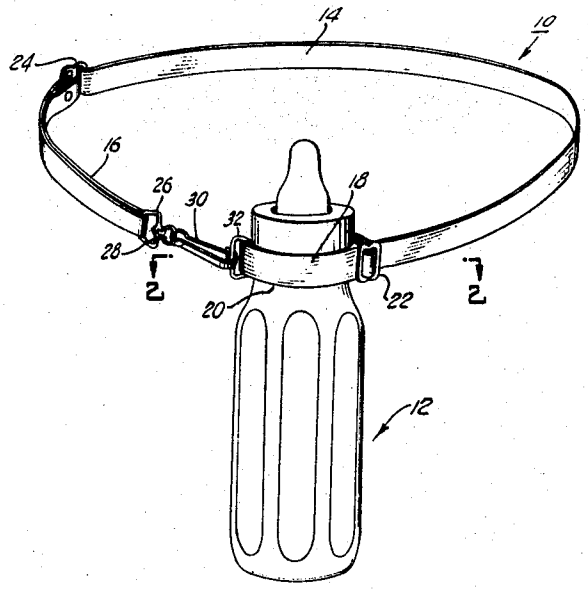


Fig. 1.

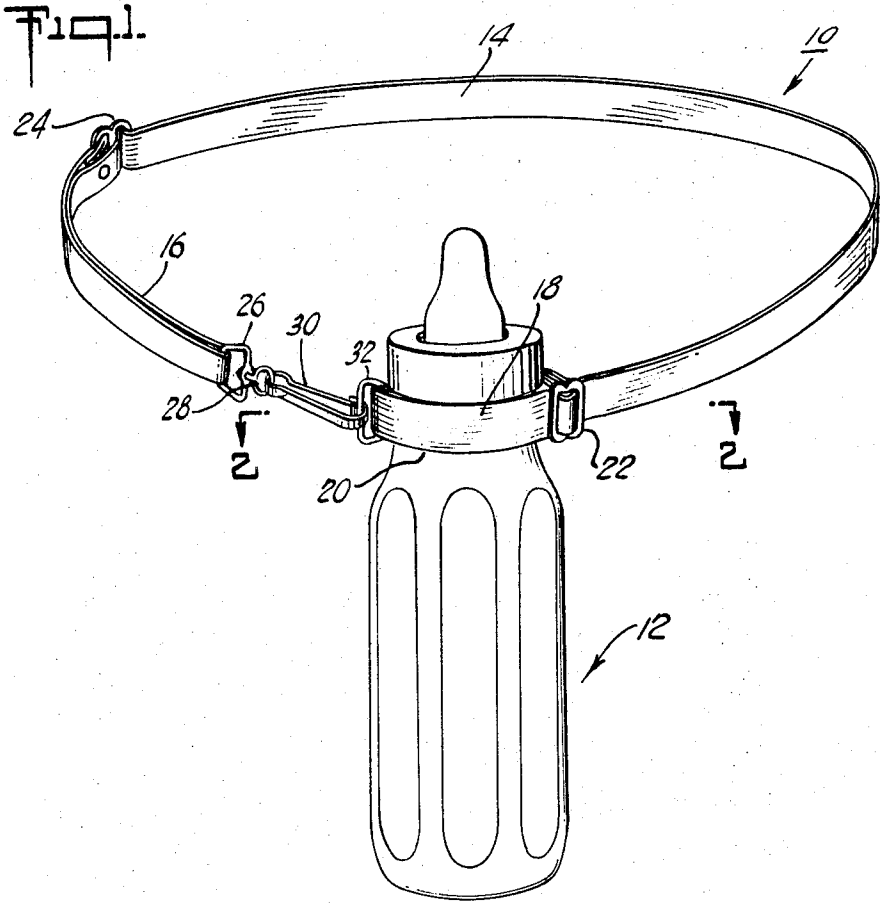
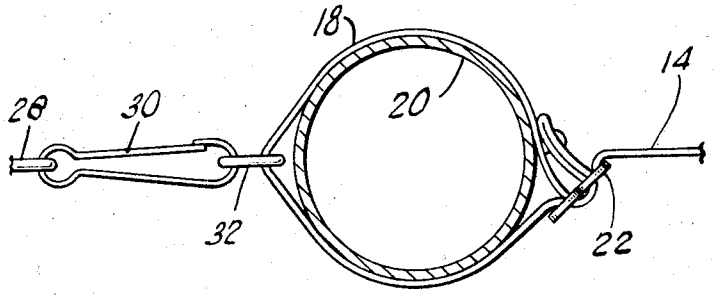


Fig. 2.



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FLEXIBLE SUPPORT FOR A NURSING BOTTLE

This invention relates to a means of supporting a nursing bottle about an infant's neck for feeding and more particularly a means of flexibly suspending a nursing bottle in a manner convenient to the infant for feeding.

Supports for baby bottles are not new but most of those found are for mounting around the mother's neck so that she may free her hands for other uses, or the bottle support is for mounting in a crib or carriage. However although these bottle supports are helpful for a bottle nursing baby, there comes a time in the growth of the baby that the majority of the nursing is not while being held or being attended. The baby becomes an infant with certain natural intelligence or normal responses and learns to grasp the nursing bottle and feed him or herself. In this early stage the infant cannot be expected to retain and support the bottle but if the bottle is suspended about the infant's neck and readily accessible for the infant to simply move and guide the nipple to the mouth, nursing results without aid. This type of nursing is not intended for the very young but rather it is intended for the infant when the hands are beginning to be used intelligently and from that point on until the infant is weaned from a bottle.

It is an object of this invention to provide a means of supporting a nursing bottle suspended from the neck of an infant for feeding.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a flexible supporting means for supporting a nursing bottle suspended from the neck of an infant in a readily accessible position for feeding.

It is a still further object of this invention to provide a flexible strap with one end adjustable to grip the neck of a nursing bottle and the other end adjustable to pass around the infant's neck and be connected to the bottle by a pivotally supported spring snap.

Further objects of this invention shall be apparent by reference to the accompanying detailed description and the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the nursing bottle and its supporting strap, and

FIG. 2 is a plan view partially in cross section taken on line 2–2 of FIG. 1.

Referring to the drawings there is illustrated a combination nursing bottle and supporting means **10** which includes a flexible and a pliable strap **14** that is used to support a nursing bottle **12**. The manner in which the strap is attached to the nursing bottle **12** is as follows: one end is formed as a loop **18**. The end of the strap is provided with a slide buckle **22**, slide buckle **22** is the adjustable type so that the loop **18** may be positioned about the neck **20** of the nursing bottle **12** and the slide buckle **22** adjusted to tighten the strap about the neck **20** of the bottle. Also within loop **18** there is a fastening link **32** that is also slideable in loop **18**. At the opposite end of the main portion of the strap **14**, there is also a loop **16** formed with a similar slide buckle **24** affixed at the end of the strap,

the portion **14** passing through the slide buckle and through a link **26** so that the end **16** may be adjusted to any desired length. The link **26** is a rectangular-shaped link, one side of which supports a pivotal ring **28**, the ring in turn supporting a spring snap **30** being the means of attaching the loose end of strap **14** to the jump ring **32** which is attached to the end **18** of strap **14**. The nursing bottle and strap are combined as stated above by affixing the loop **18** of strap **14** about the neck **20** of the bottle and the strap **14** is placed about the neck of an infant and the snap **30** is snapped upon jump ring **32** to thus support bottle **12** in front of the infant and loop **16** may be adjusted to position the bottle in a reasonable position for the infant to be able to grasp the bottle for feeding when desired. It is apparent that with the pivotally supported spring snap **30**, the strap **14** will not be twisted and may be retained in a comfortable flat position about the infant's neck without irritation or annoyance. It is also apparent that the strap is easily disconnected by an adult but will not be disconnected by the infant. The strap is also easily cleaned to be sanitary at all times. To insure maximum safety to the infant using this strap nursing bottle holder, the jump ring **32** is designed and constructed to separate and release the strap under excessive tension.

Although a particular type of nursing bottle **12** has been illustrated, any type of nursing bottle may be utilized and the loop **18** may be adjustable fitted to the particular nursing bottle. It is also to be understood that strap **14** may be of any desired material as long as it is flexible and pliable but retains the desired adjustment without stretching to release bottle **12** from its adjusted holding relation. It is also to be further understood that although a particular type of spring snap has been illustrated, other fastening means may be used as long as the pivotal spring snap is provided without departing from the spirit of this invention and this invention shall be limited only by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A support for nursing bottles comprising a flexible, pliable suspension strap having one end adapted to encircle the neck of a bottle to retain said bottle and the other end of said strap provided with an adjustable loop, a spring snap slidably affixed to the adjustable loop end, a slide buckle mounted on the strap intermediate its ends but adjacent the said one end that is used to form a tight fitting loop around the neck of a nursing bottle, a ring slidably mounted on said strap within the tight fitting loop of said strap that fits around the neck of said bottle, a second slide buckle mounted on the strap intermediate its ends but adjacent said other end for forming said adjustable loop so as to fit about an infant's neck, means to pivotally connect said spring snap to said adjustable loop end, wherein said spring snap is connected to said slideably mounted ring to form an individually fitted and adjustable support for said nursing bottle so that when said strap becomes twisted or entangled, said strap may be detached and all tension released.