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E. GILBERT

2,028,060

PROTECTOR

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3 *Fig. 1.*

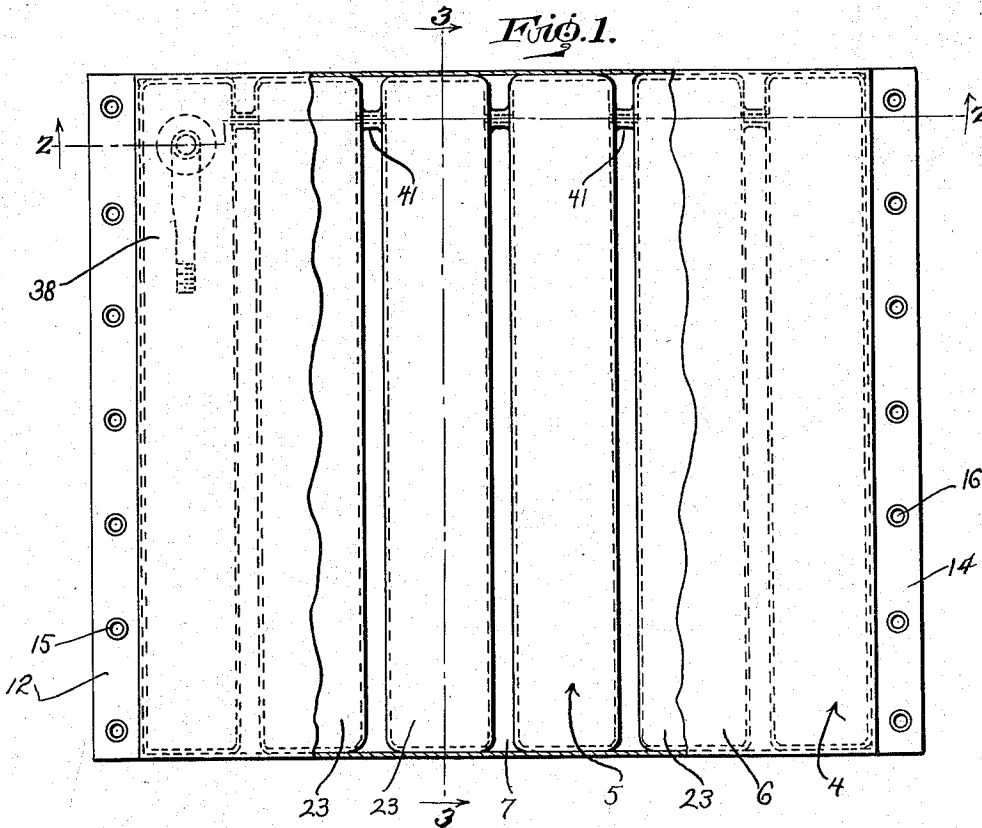


Fig. 2.

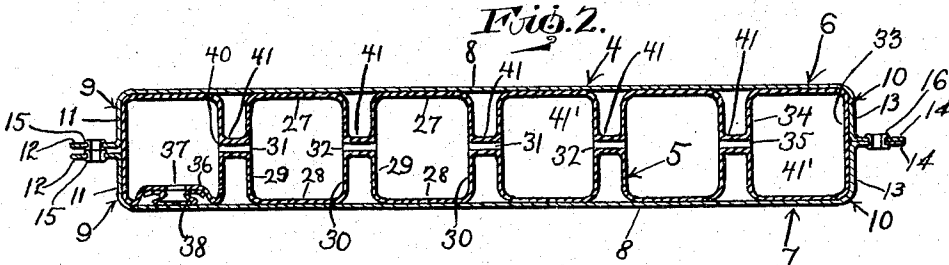
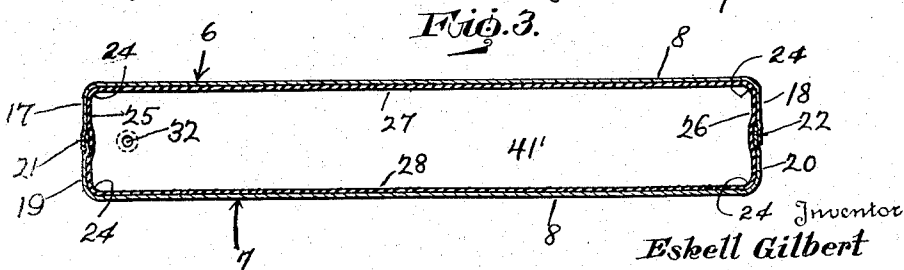


Fig. 3.



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4 Claims. (Cl. 47—23)

This invention relates to a protector designed primarily for use at playgrounds and parks, but it is to be understood that it may be employed in any connection for which it is found applicable, and the invention has for its object to provide, in a manner as hereinafter set forth, an article of the class referred to providing a protector against injury, to a child or adult from collision with a post, upright, tree trunk, stump, abutment or other obstacle to which the protector has been applied.

A further object of the invention is to provide, in a manner as hereinafter set forth, a protector of the air cushioned type having means to permit of it being readily connected, in encompassing relation to a post, upright, tree trunk, stump or other upstanding article to constitute a protecting means in case of collision.

Further objects of the invention are to provide, in a manner as hereinafter set forth, a protector for the purpose referred to which is simple in its construction, strong, durable, compact, readily assembled, of the inflatable air cushioned type, capable of being conveniently inflated when occasion requires, expeditiously connected in encompassing relation with respect to an upstanding obstacle, thoroughly efficient in its use, and inexpensive to manufacture.

To the above ends essentially and to others which may hereinafter appear, the invention consists of the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be more specifically described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein is shown an embodiment of the invention, but it is to be understood that changes, variations and modifications may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a top plan view, broken away, of the protector,

Figure 2 is a section on line 2—2 Figure 1, and

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 Figure 1.

The protector includes an outer element 4 constituting a casing or cover and an inner section 5 providing a pneumatic cushion, which when the device is set up is completely housed and retained in the element 4.

The element 4 is formed of a pair of oppositely disposed sections 6, 7 formed from any suitable durable fabric. Each of said sections includes an intermediate portion 8 and a pair of oppositely disposed angle-shaped end portions 9, 10 having inner and outer legs disposed at right

angles to each other. The inner and outer legs of each end portion 9 are designated at 11, 12 respectively. The inner and outer legs of each end portion 10 are designated 13, 14 respectively. The outer leg 12 of each end portion 9 is formed with a series of spaced grommets 15. The grommets 15 of one outer leg 12 abut and register with the grommets 15 of the other leg 12 whereby the said outer legs 12 are arranged in spaced relation. The outer legs 14 of the end portions 10 abut and are permanently secured together by a set of spaced grommets 16. The section 9 includes oppositely extending side portions 17, 18. The section 10 includes oppositely extended side portions 19, 20. The side portions 17, 18 overlap the side portions 19, 20 respectively. The side portions 17, 19 are secured together by stitching 21. The side portions 18, 20 are secured together by stitching 22. The construction of the element 4, as aforesaid provides a cover or casing closed at one end and at its sides and open at its other end.

The element 5 is formed from a body of resilient material preferably rubber. The element 5 comprises a series of spaced parallel oblong hollow inflatable members 23 of substantially rectangular cross section having rounded side corners 24. Each inner member 23 has closed squared end walls 25, 26, closed squared front and rear walls 27, 28 respectively and side walls 29, 30 formed in proximity to the end wall 25 with aligning openings 31, 32. One of the outer members 23 of said series is constructed similar to the inner members, with this exception, that the outer side wall 33 of such outer member is not formed with an opening. The opening in the inner side wall 34 of said outer member is indicated at 35 and aligns with the opening 32 in an inner member adjacent to the said outer member. The latter is positioned against the end portions 10 of the sections 6, 7. The other outer member 23 of said series is positioned against the said portion 9 of the sections 6, 7 and it is formed similar to the other members 23 with this exception, that its rear wall 36 is formed with an air supply opening 37 and has attached thereto an air filling valve structure 38 which registers with opening 37. The inner wall of the said other outer member 23 of said series has an opening 40 which aligns with the opening 31 in an inner member 23 adjacent to the said other outer member 23 of said series.

The members 23 are connected together by a series of short tubes or necks 41 connected there-

to and registering with the openings 31, 32, 35 and 40.

The members 23 provide element 5 with a series of communicating spaced pressure receiving chambers 41'.

After the element 5 has been inflated it is positioned in element 4. The element 5 is extended into element 4 from the open end of the latter. When element 5 is arranged in element 4 the valve structure 38 is interposed between the rear wall 36 of the outer member 23 and the section 7 of element 4.

The protector is connected in encompassing relation with respect to an upstanding obstruction by bringing the grommets 15 into registry with grommets 16 and a suitable tie member, not shown, is extended through the registering grommets whereby the legs 12, 14 are secured together. The grommets 15 or 16 may be used with a suitable coupling means not shown for connecting two or more protectors together.

What I claim is:

1. A protector comprising a flexible foldable casing including front and rear portions, side portions and end portions, each end portion being formed with a pair of outwardly directed opposed legs, spaced grommets anchoring the legs at one end of the casing together, a pair of sets of spaced grommets, each set being anchored to one of the legs at the other end of the casing, said sets of grommets being arranged in registry, and a foldable inflatable resilient element encompassed by and abutting the said portions of said casing, said element being formed of a series of spaced, parallel hollow members and tubular means communicating with and coupling said members together.

2. A protector comprising a flexible foldable casing including front and rear portions, side portions and end portions, each end portion being formed with a pair of outwardly directed opposed legs, spaced grommets anchoring the legs at one end of the casing together, a pair of sets of spaced grommets, each set being an-

chored to one of the legs at the other end of the casing, said sets of grommets being arranged in registry, and a foldable inflatable resilient element encompassed by and abutting the said portions of said casing, said element being formed of a series of spaced, parallel hollow members and tubular means communicating with and coupling said members together, said tubular means arranged between the transverse median and one end of each of said members, and said members providing said element with a series of spaced pressure receiving chambers.

3. A protector comprising a flexible foldable casing having an open end, a closed end and closed sides, front and rear, said casing at its closed end being formed with a set of spaced grommets, said casing being formed at its open end with a pair of sets of spaced grommets for registry, and a foldable inflatable element completely encompassed by and snugly engaging said casing, said element including a series of spaced, parallel communicating pressure receiving chambers, and the said several sets of grommets adapted to be brought into registry for receiving a coupling means for retaining the protector in folded position and to close the open end of the casing.

4. A protector comprising a flexible foldable casing having an open end, a closed end and closed sides, front and rear, said casing at its closed end being formed with a set of spaced grommets, said casing being formed at its open end with a pair of sets of spaced grommets for registry, and a foldable inflatable element completely encompassed by and snugly engaging said casing, said element including a series of spaced, parallel communicating pressure receiving chambers, and the said several sets of grommets adapted to be brought into registry for receiving a coupling means for retaining the protector in folded position and to close the open end of the casing, said chambers being disposed transversely of said casing.

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