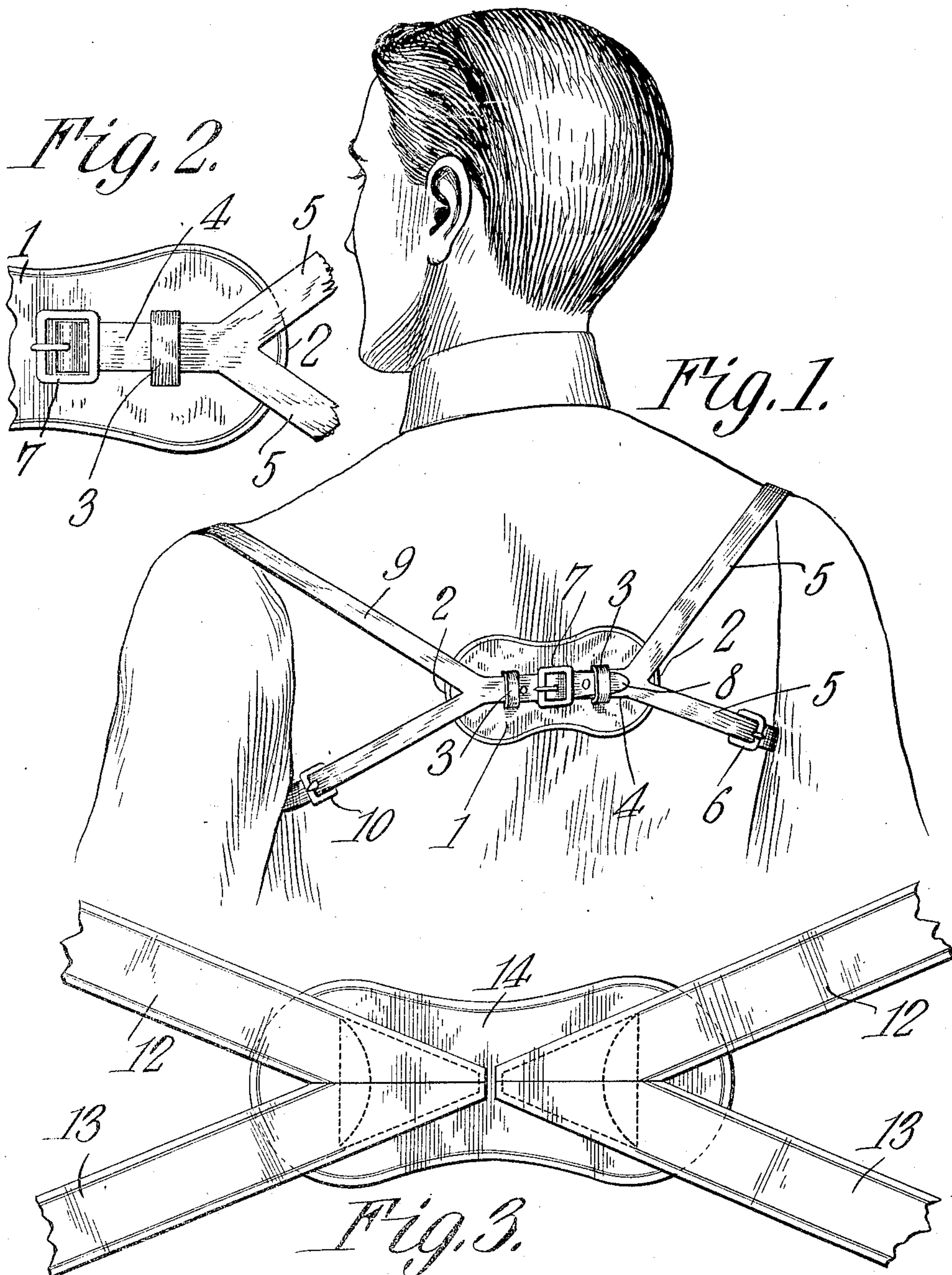


No. 877,560.

PATENTED JAN. 28, 1908.

G. T. FOLTZ.
SHOULDER BRACE.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 5, 1907.



WITNESSES:

E. W. Stewart,
Herbert D. Lawson.

George T. Foltz, INVENTOR.
By *C. A. Snow & Co.*
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE T. FOLTZ, OF WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA.

SHOULDER-BRACE.

No. 877,560.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 28, 1908.

Application filed March 5, 1907. Serial No. 360,631.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE T. FOLTZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wytheville, in the county of Wythe, and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Shoulder-Brace, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shoulder braces and its object is to provide a simple and inexpensive device of this character which is light and durable in construction and which can be easily placed in position.

A still further object is to provide a shoulder brace having means whereby the straps are prevented from pinching the wearer.

Shoulder braces such as have heretofore been constructed of separate shoulder receiving loops have been found objectionable because the adjoining or small ends of the loops often pinch the wearer when the brace is shifted by the movement of the shoulders.

It is the principal object of the invention to overcome this objectionable result without materially adding to the size of the brace or to the cost thereof.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings is shown the preferred form of the invention.

In said drawings: Figure 1 is a view showing the shoulder brace applied; Fig. 2 is a view of a portion of the pad and showing the adjoining portion of the loop which is secured thereto; and Fig. 3 is a view of the pad and the adjoining portions of the loops of a modified form of brace.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 1 is a pad formed of leather or other suitable material, the same being preferably in the form of a strip having rounded ends as shown at 2. Secured to or formed with this pad at opposite sides of the center thereof are retaining straps 3 which extend transversely thereacross. Extending under one of these straps is a tongue 4 formed with or secured to shoulder straps 5 which are disposed at an acute angle and the end of the pad normally projects beyond the inner or adjoining edges of these straps so as to prevent the clothing or flesh of the wearer from becoming wedged within the angle formed by the straps. One strap 5 is longer than the

other and is designed to extend over and under the shoulder of the wearer and to engage a buckle 6 which is secured to the other strap. A buckle 7 is fastened to the tongue 4 and is designed to engage a tongue 8 extending from a forked strap, the upper member 9 of which is similar to the upper strap 5 and is designed to engage a buckle 10 upon the lower strap member 9 which is similar to the corresponding strap 5. This tongue 8 projects under and is retained by one of the straps 3. The end portion of pad 1 is designed to extend beyond the fork of this strap 9 when the same is in any of the positions to which it may be adjusted. It is to be understood that the tongues 4 and 8 can be easily slipped out of the straps 3 when it is desired to clean the parts or to store them in a small compass.

In using the brace the tongue 8 is secured to buckle 7 and the straps 5 and 9 are disengaged from their buckles 6 and 10 respectively. Said straps are then fastened around the shoulders of the wearer and drawn tightly so as to exert a backward pull thereon. The brace can be very easily removed after it has been adjusted to the wearer simply by withdrawing the tongue 8 from buckle 7, after which the loops can be separately slipped off of the arms. By reversing this operation the brace can be quickly placed in position. Although the forked straps are secured to the pad solely by the straps 3 the end portions of the pad are so proportioned that the forks will at no time project therebeyond where they can pinch the clothing or flesh of the wearer. By constructing a brace in the manner described the same will positively hold the shoulders in desired position and can not become accidentally displaced.

Instead of forming the brace of loops which can be adjusted in relation to each other and separately removed the same may be constructed as shown in Fig. 3 wherein the upper straps 12 and the lower straps 13 of the two loops are all secured to the pad 14 by stitches or in any other preferred manner. The two loops are thus held positively connected. In this construction the pad 14 extends beyond the forks of the loops so as to prevent them from pinching the wearer.

Although the preferred forms of the invention have been set forth in the foregoing description it is to be understood that various

modifications may be made therein without sacrificing the advantages thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A brace comprising a pad having enlarged end portions, straps connected to each end portion of the pad and disposed at an acute angle to each other, said straps being adjustably connected, the end portions of the pad extending under and beyond the angles produced by the straps.

2. A brace comprising a pad, loops mounted upon the end portions thereof, and an adjustable connection between the loops.

3. A brace comprising a pad, an adjustable loop extending from each end portion thereof, and an adjustable connection between the loops, said pad constituting means

to prevent the loops from pinching at their inner portions.

4. A brace comprising a pad, retaining straps thereon, oppositely extending loops, a tongue upon each loop and detachably retained upon the pad by one of the straps, and an adjustable connection between the tongues, said pad constituting means for preventing pinching by the loops.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE T. FOLTZ.

Witnesses:

J. ROSS COLHOUN,
HERBERT D. LAWSON.