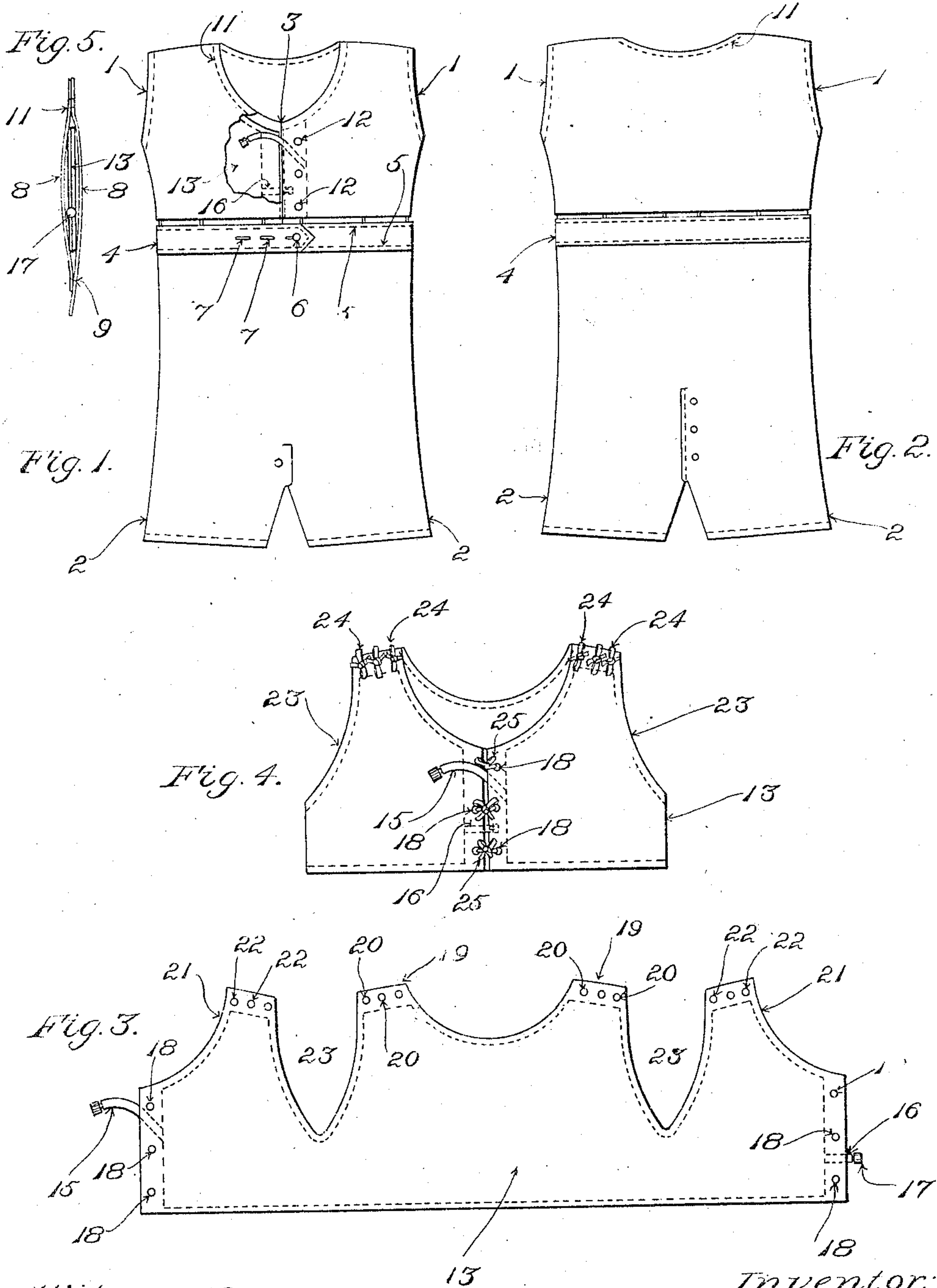


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 BUOYANT BATHING SUIT.  
 APPLICATION FILED MAY 25, 1907.

944,782.

Patented Dec. 28, 1909



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PATRICK J. GRIFFIN, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BUOYANT BATHING-SUIT.

944,782.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PATRICK J. GRIFFIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Buoyant Bathing-Suits, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 The invention comprises, essentially, a garment composed of two thicknesses of cloth or other suitable material, one inside the other but disconnected from each other around the body and over the shoulders, and an air-bag contained between the said two thicknesses, passing around the body, and having arm-holes and upward extensions that pass (also between the said two thicknesses) over the shoulders.

20 When the garment is donned by the wearer, with the air-bag in place, and inflated, and the fastenings secured, the buoyancy of the air-bag will sustain the wearer when the latter is immersed in water.

25 The invention is illustrated in the drawings in which latter,—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a bathing suit having my invention embodied in connection therewith, a portion of the outer thickness at the front being broken away to show the air-bag. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation thereof. Fig. 3 shows the air-bag, separately, extended out flat, on a somewhat larger scale than Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 4 shows the same with its meeting edges approximated and laced together as they are in use. Fig. 5 shows the edges of the two thicknesses of cloth and the intervening air-bag, at the left hand side of the front opening of the body-portion of the garment, and illustrates the separation of such thicknesses from each other, and the position occupied by the air-bag between them.

45 The drawings show a so-called single-piece bathing suit of a kind worn by men, and comprising a combined shirt and trunks.

At 1, 1, are the arm-holes; at 2, 2, are the short legs; and at 3, Fig. 1, is the front opening extending down from the upper edge of the garment at the neck to near the waist.

55 At 4 is a belt, extending around the body of the garment, and preferably attached securely thereto by stitches 5, 5, etc. The ends of the said belt are buttoned or buckled together in the use of the garment. A button

6 is shown in the drawings, and two or more button-holes 7, 7, to enable the belt to be made to fit as tightly as may be desired.

The body-portion of the garment is composed of two thicknesses 8, 8, as low as the belt, where they are secured together by a line of stitching 9. Fig. 5. As previously stated, the said thicknesses are disconnected from each other around the body of the garment and over the shoulders. They are secured together by lines of stitches around the respective arm-holes, as indicated by dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2 and also by a line of stitches 11 around the neck. Both thicknesses are open in front, from the neck as far down as may be advisable for convenience in putting the garment on the wearer, or removing the same, and the meeting edges of each thickness overlap with each other and are furnished with buttons 12, 12. Fig. 1, and buttonholes for the purpose of fastening them together in closed condition.

The air-bag, 13, shown separately in Figs. 3 and 4, is formed of suitable air-tight and waterproof sheet material, preferably, though not necessarily in all cases, sheet rubber. It may be formed of one single piece, folded or doubled upon itself at the bottom of the bag, or of two separate halves, the marginal portions of the two thicknesses being securely united together in either case.

At 15 is a pipe through which air may be blown into the interior of the air-bag, such pipe being provided in practice with a suitable check-valve (not necessary to be shown) to prevent outflow, and being secured in place by having its attaching end inserted between the two thicknesses at one end of the air-bag, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

At 16 is a short pipe having an outlet valve, 17, the said pipe 16 being secured in place between the two thicknesses at the other end of the air-bag.

The respective ends of the air-bag are formed with lacing holes 18, 18.

At 19, 19, are the rear shoulder extensions, provided with lacing holes 20, 20. Fig. 3, and at 21, 21, are the front shoulder extensions, provided with the lacing holes 22, 22. Between the two extensions of each pair are formed the arm-holes 23, 23, Figs. 3 and 4.

The separation of the two thicknesses of the body portion of the garment from each other enables the garment to contain the air-bag between such thicknesses. The dis-



connection of the said thicknesses from each other at each side of the opening at the front enables the deflected air-bag to be inserted end-first between such thicknesses at one side of the opening and drawn around within the space between the thicknesses. By inserting the hands into the space occupied by the air-bag the shoulder-  
 10 portions of the air-bag may be adjusted into place, and the front and rear extensions may be joined together over the shoulders (between the thicknesses as aforesaid) by tapes or cords 24, 24, Fig. 4 passing through the lacing holes 20, 20, 22, 22.

15 When the garment has been donned by the wearer, the edges of the inner thickness of cloth at the opposite sides of the vertical body-opening are drawn together and buttoned up. Then the meeting ends of the  
 20 air-bag are secured together by the lacing tapes or cords 25, 25, as in Fig. 4, passed through the lacing holes 18, 18. After the air-bag has been inflated the meeting edges of the outer thickness of cloth are buttoned  
 25 together, and the belt 4 is buttoned or otherwise fastened.

The belt may advantageously be arranged to pass around the middle of the body of the wearer just below the ribs of the latter,  
 30 in order that by its engagement with the projecting portions of the latter the air-bag and garment may be prevented from working upward, thereby obviating pressure at the crotch.

35 The opening at the front of the garment enables the air-bag, in a deflated condition, to be withdrawn from the inferior space of the garment after the lacings at the front and at the shoulders have been undone,  
 40 whenever necessary, as for instance when it is desired to wash the garment.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A buoyant garment composed of two thicknesses of material separated from each  
 45 other around the body and over the shoulders, with an opening and having arm-holes, and an inflatable air-bag adapted to be inserted between said thicknesses at said opening or withdrawn thereat, extending around  
 50 the body below the said arm-holes, and having upward extensions at opposite sides of each arm-hole, separated from each other at their upper ends and thereby adapted to be passed upward or withdrawn downward  
 55 between the said thicknesses at front and rear, respectively, of the garment, and fas-

tenings for disconnectibly uniting the said upper ends of each pair of extensions.

2. A buoyant garment composed of two thicknesses of material disconnected from  
 60 each other around the body and over the shoulders, with an opening and having arm-holes, and an inflatable air-bag adapted to be inserted between such thicknesses at said opening or withdrawn thereat, extending  
 65 around the body below the said arm-holes, and having upward extensions at opposite sides of said arm-holes, separated from each other at their upper ends and thereby adapted to be passed upward or withdrawn down-  
 70 ward between the said thicknesses at front and rear, respectively, of the garment, and fastenings for disconnectibly uniting the said upper ends of each pair of extensions, and a belt passing around the middle of the  
 75 body of the wearer.

3. A buoyant garment composed of two thicknesses of material separated from each other around the body and over the shoulders, with an opening and having arm-holes,  
 80 and an inflatable air-bag adapted to be inserted between such thicknesses at the said opening and withdrawn thereat, extending around the body below the said arm-holes, and having upward extensions at opposite  
 85 sides of each arm-hole, separated from each other at their upper ends and thereby adapted to be passed upward or withdrawn downward between the said thicknesses at front and rear, respectively, of the garment, and  
 90 having its ends also provided with lacing-holes, and lacings by which the meeting ends of the shoulder extensions are secured together over the shoulders, and by which the ends of the air-bag are joined together.  
 95

4. A buoyant garment composed of two thicknesses of material united so as to form between them a pocket extending entirely around the body, with an opening, and an inflatable air-bag adapted to be inserted be-  
 100 tween such thicknesses at the said opening and withdrawn thereat, and extending around the body, and detachable means to secure the two ends of the said air-bag directly together.  
 105

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PATRICK J. GRIFFIN.

Witnesses:

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 EDITH J. ANDERSON.