

July 6, 1948.

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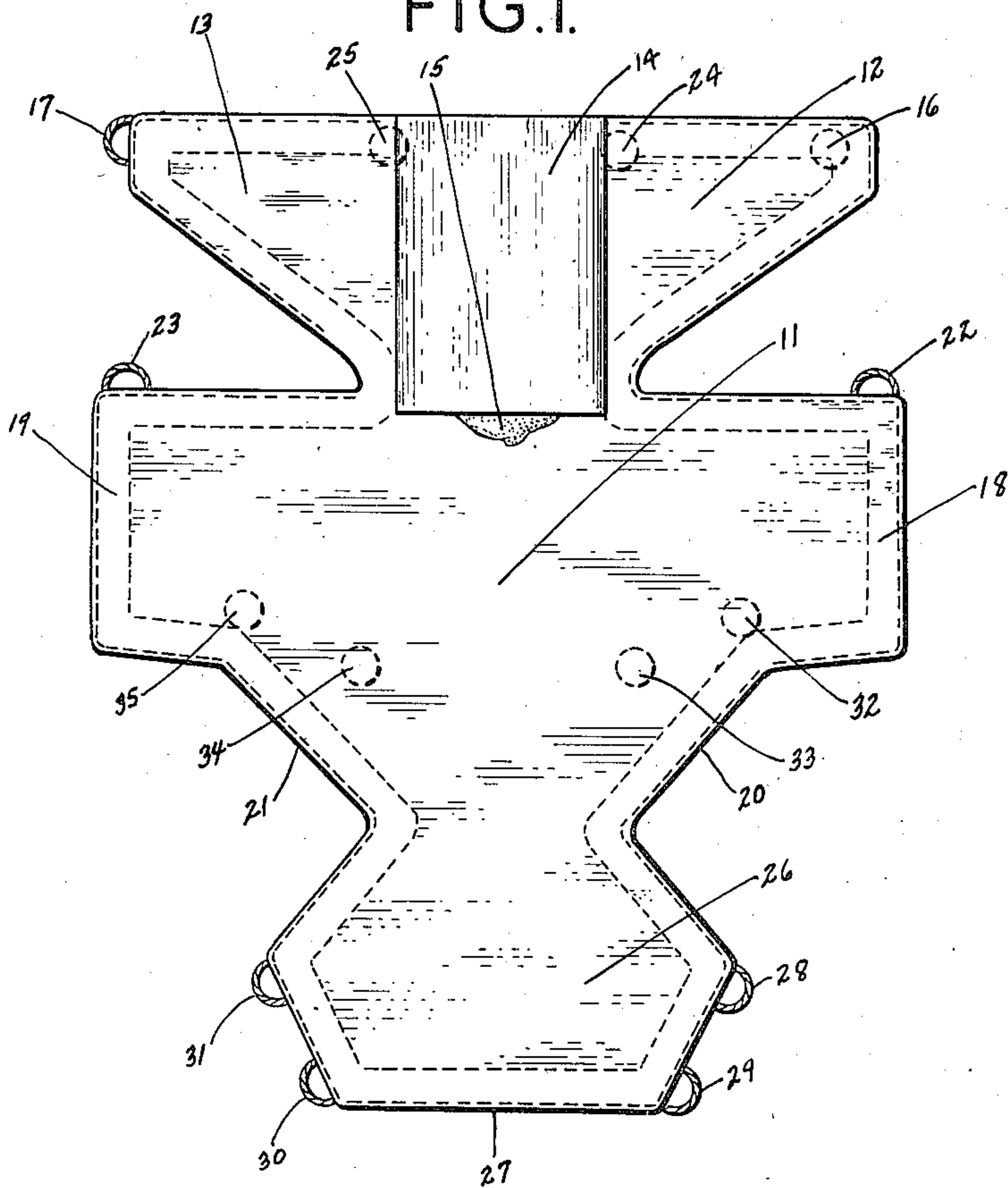
2,444,822

BOOTEE

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FIG. 1.



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FIG. 2.

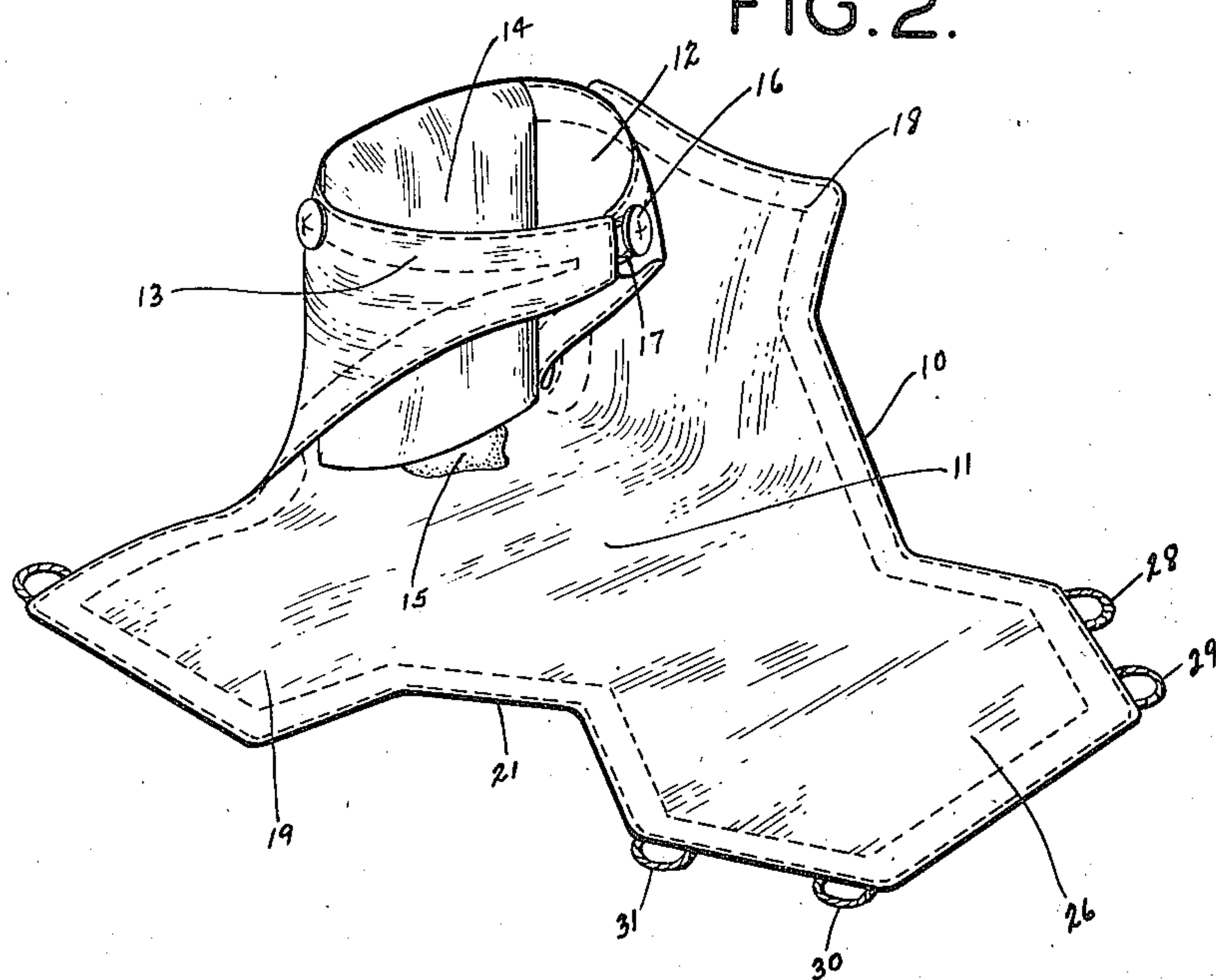
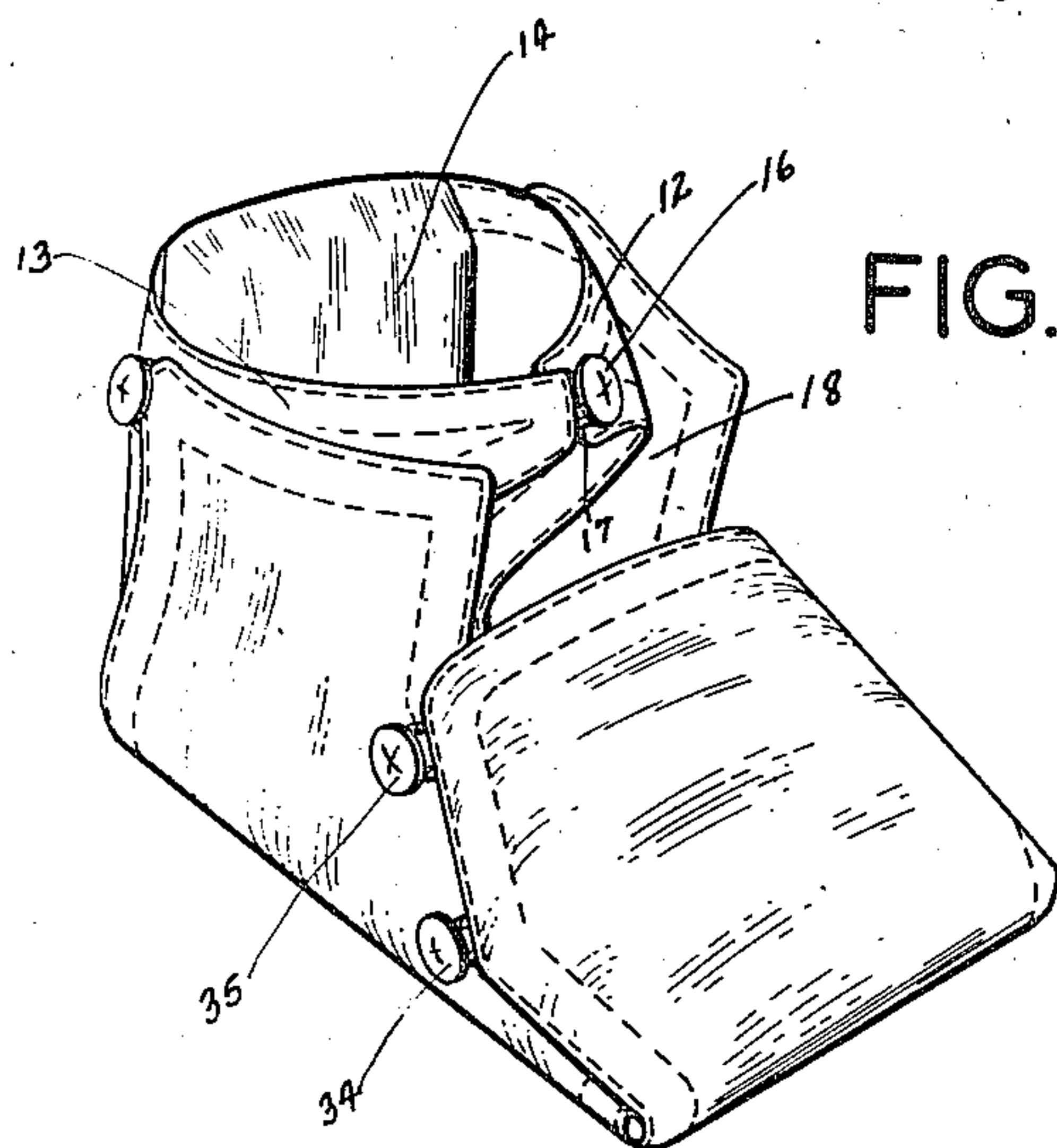


FIG. 3.



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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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BOOTEE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 36—11)

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This invention relates to improvements in footwear and it relates particularly to improved booties for babies.

An object of the invention is to provide booties which may be disassembled to facilitate washing and ironing thereof.

Another object of the invention is to provide simplified forms of booties which may be provided with removable padding for protecting the babies' heels.

Another object of the invention is to provide booties which can be attached securely to the babies' feet so that the booties cannot be dislodged by the baby.

In accordance with the present invention I have provided booties which comprise initially flat blanks of material such as, for example, fabric, pliable leather, or the like. Each blank may include a mid-portion adapted to form the sole of the bootie and suitable foldable flaps on the lateral edges and ends of the blank that may be folded around the foot to form the side portions, the heel and the toe of the bootie and an ankle strap by means of which the assembled bootie is secured to the foot. The flaps may be secured together in bootie form by means of buttons and loops or buttonholes on the flaps, or by other suitable fastening means such as laces, snaps or the like.

The heel covering portion of the blank may be provided with an inverted pocket adapted to receive cotton or other soft padding material for cushioning the heels and ankles of the infant.

When the booties become soiled, the flaps may be disconnected from each other in order to restore the bootie to its initially flat condition, and the padding removed from the pocket, thereby facilitating washing and ironing of the booties.

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference may be had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a typical form of blank from which a bootie may be formed, in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the blank partially folded and secured; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the blank completely folded and secured to form the bootie.

The form of the bootie illustrated is susceptible to considerable modification in the shape and dimensions of the parts and in the type of material from which it may be made. A preferred form consists of a blank made up of two layers of fabric which may or may not have a lining of soft material therebetween. The blank has a

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mid-portion 11 that forms the soft sole of the bootie. At the one end of the blank are a pair of similar oppositely projecting flaps 12 and 13 of generally right triangular shape having their bases connected to the mid-portion 11 of the blank and their right angularly related sides in alignment.

Connected to the blank between the bases of the triangular portions 12 and 13 is a rectangular strip of material 14 which is joined to the blank at its upper edge and its sides. The lower end of the strip 14 is not connected to the blank 10 so that a pocket is formed for receiving padding material 15, such as, for example, cotton fibers. The strip 14 and the underlying portion of the blank constitute the heel-covering portion of the bootie and the straps 12 and 13 are used to secure the assembled bootie to the infant's foot. One of the straps may be provided with a button 16 while the other has a loop or eye 17 for connecting the ends of the straps 12 and 13 around the ankle.

Immediately adjacent the ankle strap portions 12 and 13 and on opposite sides of the mid-portion 11 are a pair of generally rectangular in shape flap members 18 and 19 which have portions of their forward or lower edges 20 and 21 inclined forwardly and converging inwardly to form the sides of the bootie. Thus, when the flaps 18 and 19 and their inclined edges 20 and 21 are folded upwardly, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, these flaps cover the sides of the ankles, the sides of the arch and the toes.

The corners of the flaps 18 and 19 adjacent the ankle straps 12 and 13 are provided with loops 22 and 23 which receive the buttons 24 and 25, respectively, on the outside of the ankle straps 12 and 13.

The toe covering portion of the bootie may consist of a generally hexagonal flap 26, which extends outwardly from the inner ends of the converging edges 20 and 21, having an end 27 which is substantially parallel to the upper edge of the blank.

The outermost corners of the toe covering portion 26 may be provided with loops 28, 29, 30 and 31 which may receive the buttons 32, 33, 34 and 35, respectively, to complete the bootie, as shown in Fig. 3.

Before the bootie is to be placed on the infant's foot, the padding 15 is inserted in the pocket 14 and then the ankle strap is fastened by the button 16 and loop 17, as shown in Fig. 2. The sides are then attached by means of the buttons 24 and 25 and the loops 22 and 23. The end 26 is



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then folded upwardly and fastened with buttons 32, 33, 34 and 35 and loops 28, 29, 30 and 31, as shown in Fig. 3. If desired the sides and ends can be fastened first and then placed on the infant's foot and the ankle strap fastened last.

The bootee, thus formed, affords complete protection for the back, sole, sides and toes of the foot and is so arranged that the bootee cannot be kicked off by the infant because of the ankle straps 12 and 13. The padding 15 protects the back of the heel when the infant is lying down. When the bootee becomes dirty it can be laundered after removing the padding 15 and ironed flat.

These bootees are susceptible to considerable modification, for example, the parts which are illustrated as being angular in shape may be rounded or curved. Also, snap fasteners, zippers or other similar detachable fastening means may be used instead of buttons.

The appearance of the bootees may be modified considerably by utilizing various types of materials such as, for example, quilted, decorated or plain fabrics of various types, and they may be provided with bows and other ornaments as may be desired. Also, the material used as a lining may be of a different color or type than the material forming the outer covering of the bootees to produce novel effects. Therefore, the form of the invention described herein should be considered as illustrative of the invention and not as limiting the scope of the following claim.

I claim:

A blank of flexible material for a baby bootee comprising a generally rectangular mid-portion, laterally extending generally right triangular flaps having their bases connected to said blank mid-portion at opposite sides thereof and their right angularly related sides in alignment with one end of said blank, said flaps being adapted to form ankle straps converging upwardly for se-

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curement of their corners together at the front of the angle, a rectangular strip connected to said blank between the bases of said triangular flaps and joined to the blank at its sides and at said one end of the blank to form a pocket, cushioning material in said pocket, a second pair of flaps connected on opposite sides of said blank mid-portion substantially contiguous with said triangular flaps, said second pair of flaps having generally rectangular outer end portions and inwardly and forwardly converging edges on the sides farthest from said ankle strap flaps, a substantially hexagonal flap connected to said blank mid-portion adjacent to said converging edges, the end of the blank mid-portion between said converging edges forming one of the sides of said hexagonal flap, means for securing the corners of the triangular ankle flaps together, means for securing the rectangular ends of said second pair of flaps to said angle straps to form the sides of a bootee, and means for securing said hexagonal flap in substantially matching overlapping relationship to the inwardly and forwardly converging edges of said second pair of flaps to form the toe covering portion of said bootee.

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