



US00D437932S

(12) **United States Design Patent**  
**Ruman et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US D437,932 S**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*\* Feb. 20, 2001**

(54) **DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLE**

(75) Inventors: **Marcille Faye Ruman**, Oshkosh;  
**Robert Lee Popp**, Hortonville;  
**Kathleen Irene Ratliff**, Neenah, all of  
WI (US)

(73) Assignee: **Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc.**,  
Neenah, WI (US)

(\*\*) Term: **14 Years**

(21) Appl. No.: **29/116,120**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 28, 1999**

(51) **LOC (7) Cl.** ..... **24-02**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **D24/126**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... D24/124, 126;  
604/358, 359, 360, 361, 378, 384, 385.1,  
385.2; 2/400, 401, 402, 406, 407

(56) **References Cited**

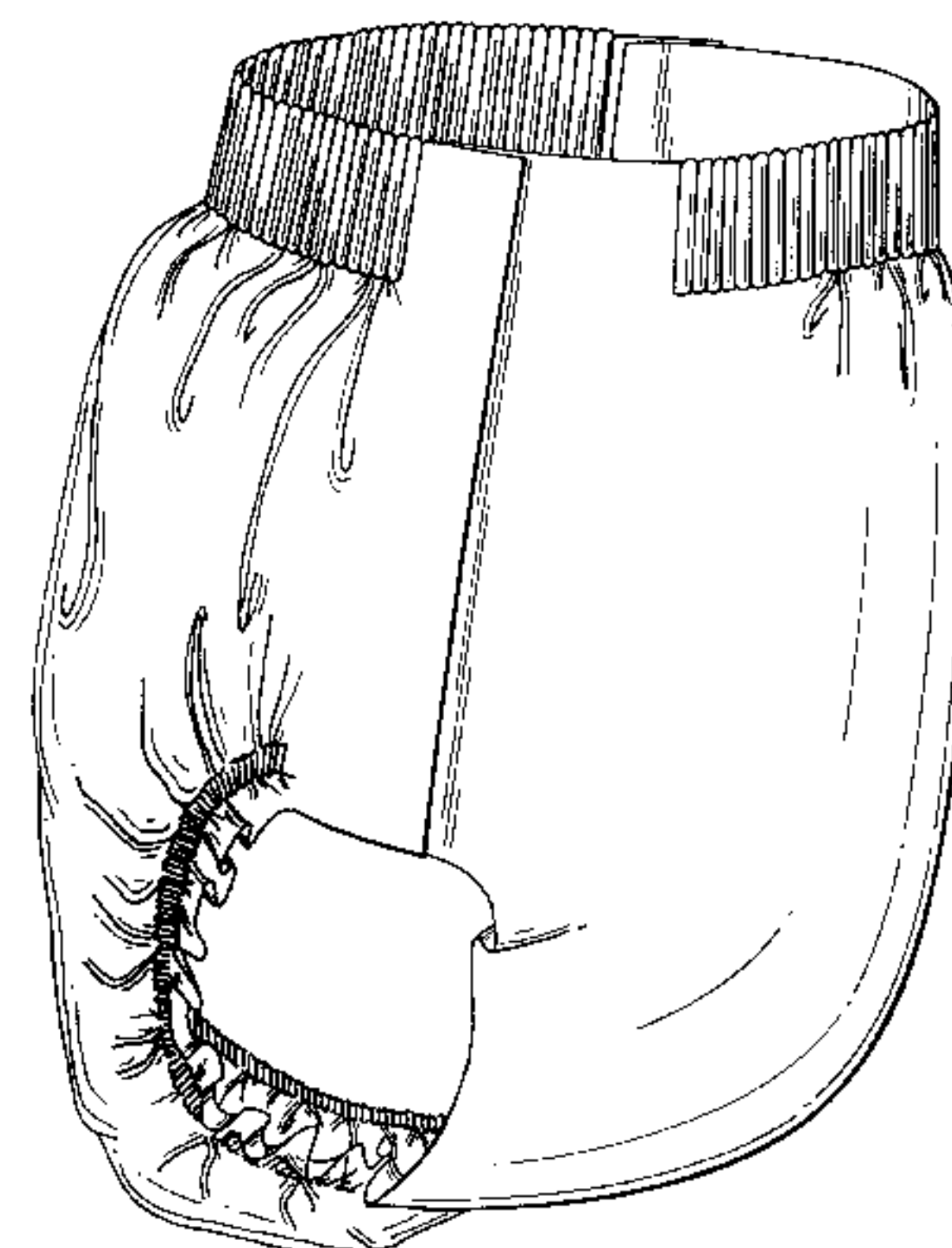
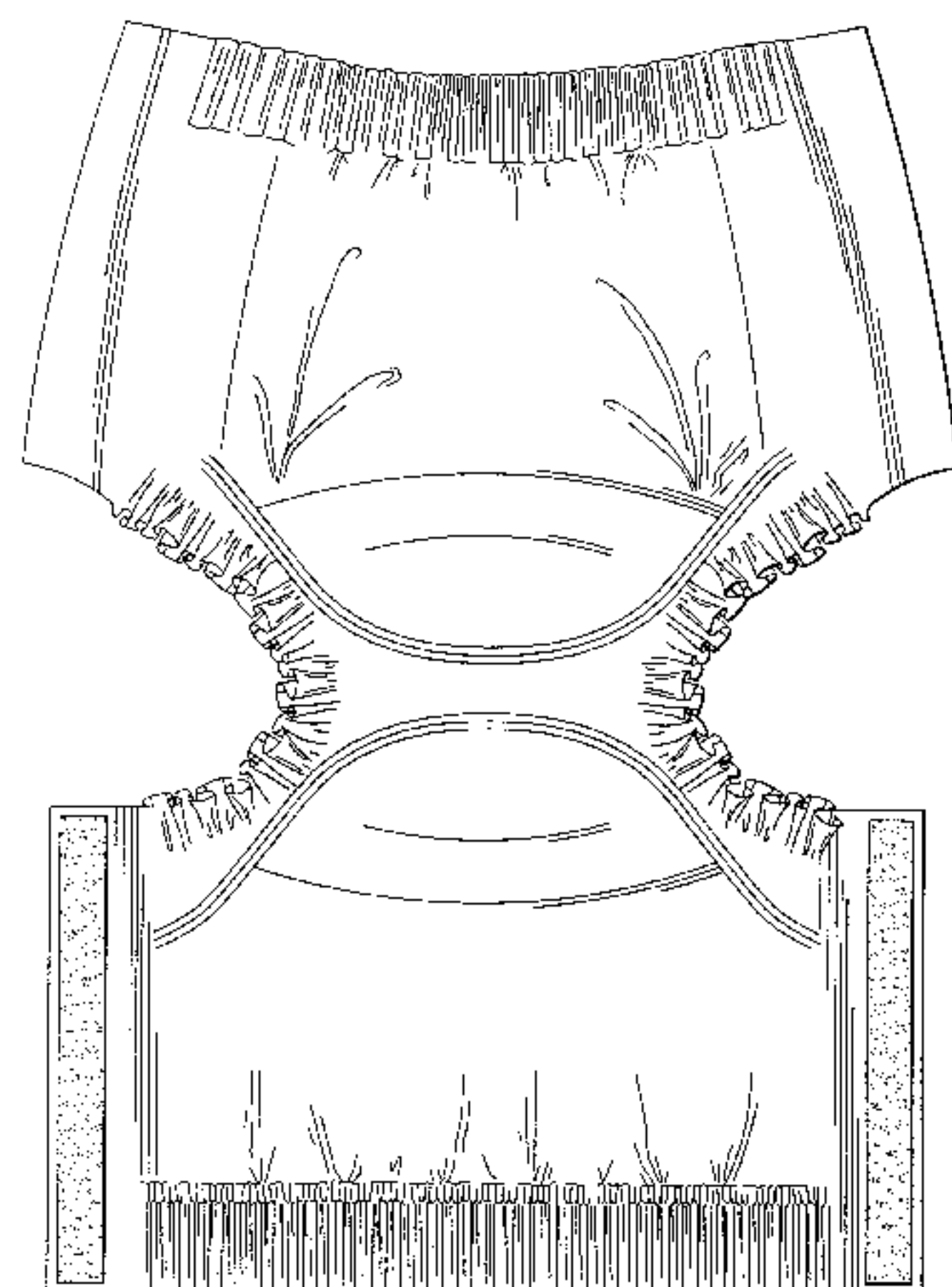
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

D. 331,969	*	12/1992	Hunt	.....	D24/126
D. 377,980	*	2/1997	Slingland	.....	D24/126
D. 379,226	*	5/1997	Kaczmarzyk et al.	.....	D24/126
D. 421,802	*	3/2000	Van Gompel et al.	.....	D24/126
D. 422,077	*	3/2000	Suprise et al.	.....	D24/126
D. 422,078	*	3/2000	Vukos et al.	.....	D24/126
3,039,466		6/1962	Wilson	.	
4,122,552		10/1978	Tedford	.	
4,145,763		3/1979	Abrams et al.	.	
4,205,679		6/1980	Repke et al.	.	
4,244,368		1/1981	Caradonna	.	
4,402,690		9/1983	Redfern	.	
4,560,381		12/1985	Southwell	.	
4,581,772		4/1986	Smith	.	
4,610,680		9/1986	LaFleur	.	
4,610,682		9/1986	Kopp	.	
4,615,695		10/1986	Cooper	.	
4,704,116		11/1987	Enloe	.	
4,743,239		5/1988	Cole	.	
4,756,709		7/1988	Stevens	.	
4,770,656		9/1988	Proxmire et al.	.	
4,771,483		9/1988	Hooreman et al.	.	

4,834,742		5/1989	Wilson et al.	.	
4,895,569		1/1990	Wilson et al.	.	
4,904,251	*	2/1990	Igaue et al.	.....	604/385.2
4,923,456		5/1990	Proxmire	.	
4,936,840		6/1990	Proxmire	.	
4,938,757		7/1990	Van Gompel et al.	.	
4,940,464	*	7/1990	Gompel et al.	.....	604/396
5,062,839		11/1991	Anderson	.	
5,087,253		2/1992	Cooper	.	
5,370,634	*	12/1994	Ando et al.	.....	604/396
5,401,275		3/1995	Flug et al.	.	
5,496,298		3/1996	Kuepper et al.	.	
5,531,732		7/1996	Wood	.	
5,546,608		8/1996	Russano	.	
5,591,155		1/1997	Nishikawa et al.	.	
5,624,420	*	4/1997	Bridges et al.	.....	604/365
5,693,038	*	12/1997	Suzuki et al.	.....	604/385.2
5,722,969	*	3/1998	Ito et al.	.....	604/390
5,749,866		5/1998	Roe et al.	.	
5,759,181		6/1998	Sayama et al.	.	
5,766,389		6/1998	Brandon et al.	.	
5,830,206		11/1998	Larsson	.	
5,843,068		12/1998	Allen et al.	.	
5,855,574		1/1999	Kling et al.	.	
5,858,012	*	1/1999	Yamaki et al.	.....	604/385.2
5,897,545		4/1999	Kline et al.	.	
5,911,713		6/1999	Yamada et al.	.	
6,022,430		2/2000	Blenke et al.	.	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2096672		11/1997	(CA)	.	
0 696 911 B1		1/1997	(EP)	.	
0 878 180 A2		11/1998	(EP)	.	
0 641 552 B1		12/1999	(EP)	.	
1 520 740		8/1978	(GB)	.	
2 303 045		2/1997	(GB)	.	
6-55623 U		8/1994	(JP)	.	
9-66071		3/1997	(JP)	.	
WO 95/27460					
A1		10/1995	(WO)	.	
WO 95/27462					
A1		10/1995	(WO)	.	
WO 97/46197					
A1		12/1997	(WO)	.	
WO 98/18421					
A1		5/1998	(WO)	.	



## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Exhibit A—Photographs of training pant sold by Kimberly-Clark Corporation under the tradename HUGGIES® PULL-UPS® Training Pants.

Exhibit B—Photographs of training pant sold by Kao Corporation in Japan under the tradename Merries Kids Torepants.

Exhibit C—Photographs of training pant sold by Paragon under the tradename Wal-Mart Dri-Bottoms Training Pants.

Exhibit D—Photographs of training pant sold by The Procter & Gamble Company under the tradename LUVS® Training Pants (unisex).

Exhibit E—Photographs of training pant sold by The Procter & Gamble Company in Japan under the tradename Pampers Sukusuku.

Exhibit F—Photographs of training pant sold by Uni-Charm Corporation in Japan under the tradename Torepan Man (Boys).

Exhibit G—Photographs of training pant sold by Uni-Charm Corporation in Japan under the tradename Torepan Man Step 2.

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Stella Reid

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Thomas M. Gage

(57)

## CLAIM

We claim the ornamental design for a disposable absorbent article, as shown and described.

## DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a plan view of one embodiment of a disposable absorbent article according to our new design, in a laid flat condition and showing the surface of the article that faces away from the wearer.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of another embodiment of the disposable absorbent article according to our new design, in a laid flat condition and showing the surface of the article that faces away from the wearer, wherein the phantom lines indicate an area which includes a pattern;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1, showing the surface of the article that faces the wearer when the absorbent article is worn.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1, with the refastenable fastening system shown engaged on both sides of the absorbent article.

FIG. 5 is a front elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a rear elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a right side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 8 is a left side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a top plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 10 is a bottom plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the disposable absorbent article according to our new design, with the fastening system shown engaged on both sides of the absorbent article.

FIG. 12 is a front elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 13 is a rear elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 14 is a right side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 15 is a left side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 16 is a top plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 17 is a bottom plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 10.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of the disposable absorbent article according to our new design, with the fastening system shown engaged on both sides of the absorbent article.

FIG. 19 is a front elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17.

FIG. 20 is a rear elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17.

FIG. 21 is a right side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17.

FIG. 22 is a left side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17.

FIG. 23 is a top plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17; and,

FIG. 24 is a bottom plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 17.

The broken line showing is for illustrative purposes only and forms no part of the claimed design.

**1 Claim, 24 Drawing Sheets**



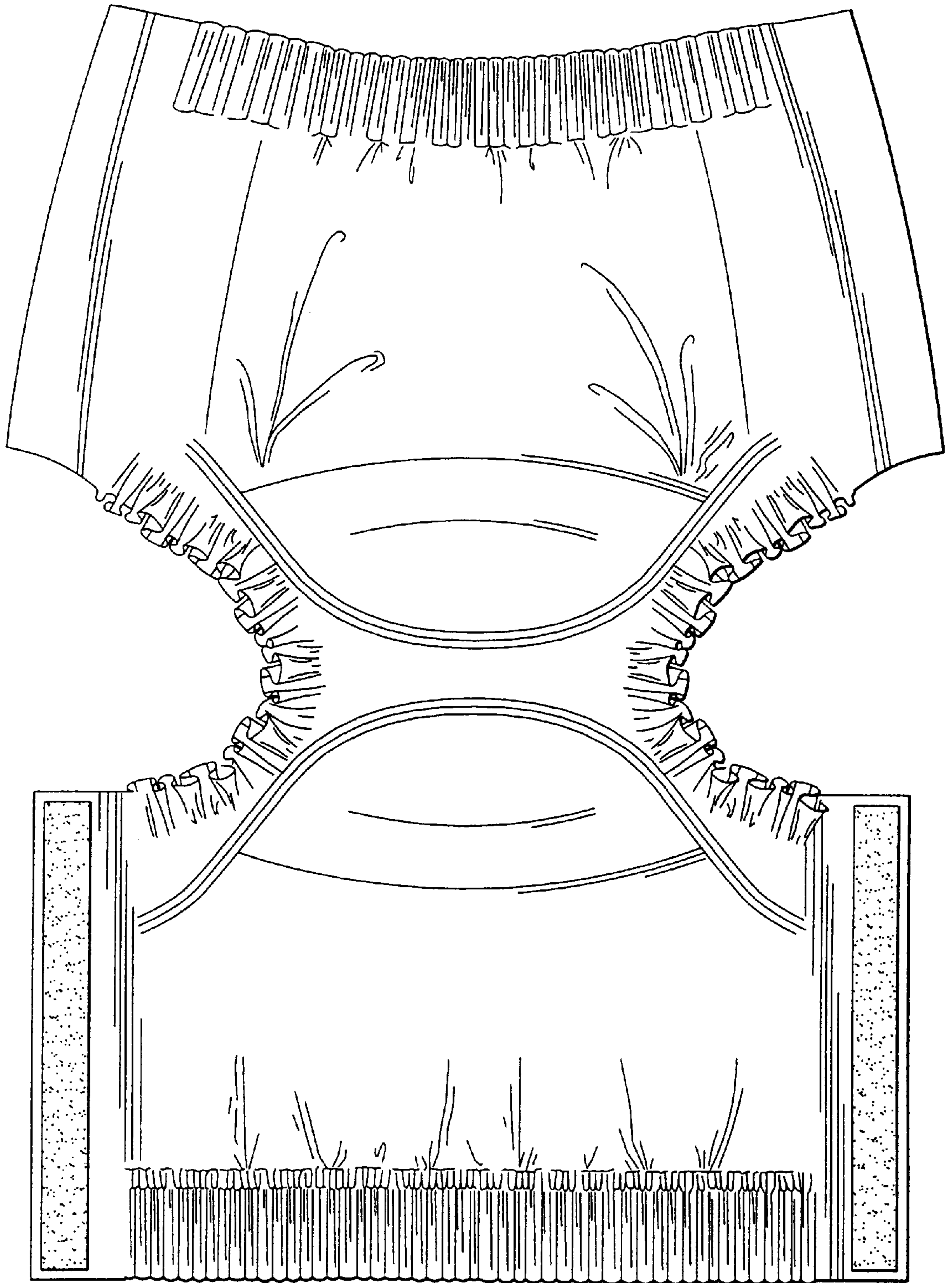


FIG. 1

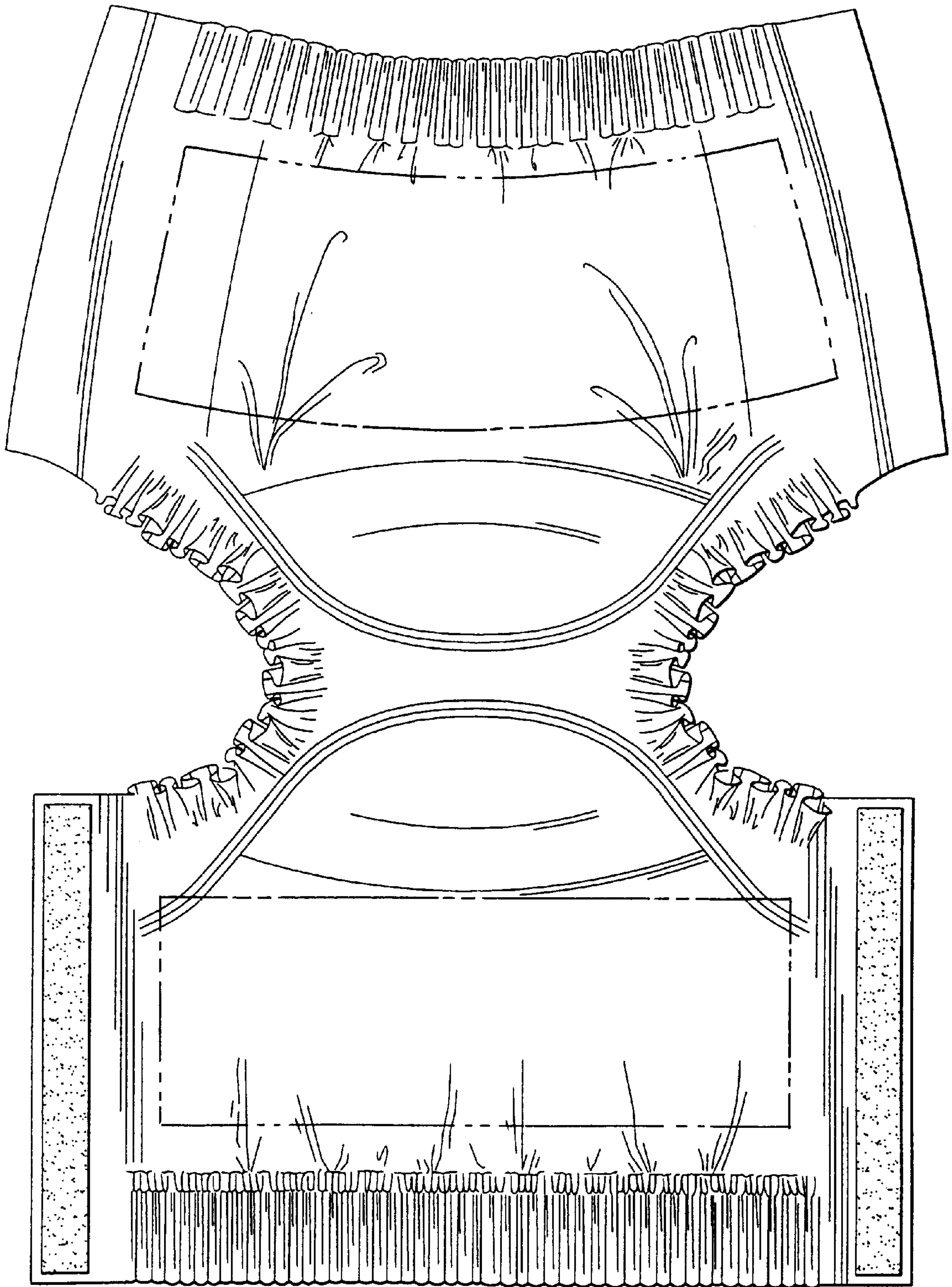


FIG. 2

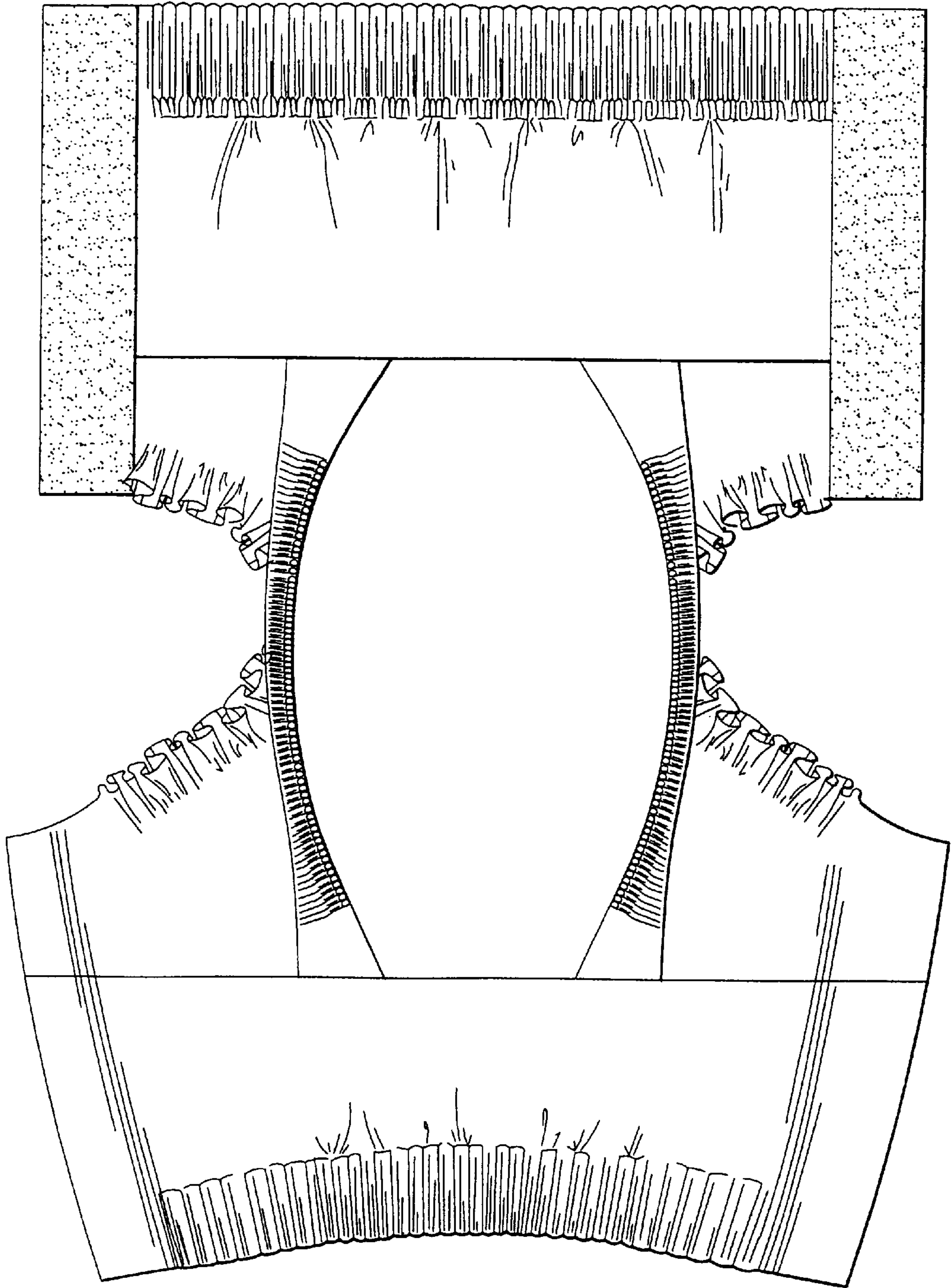


FIG. 3



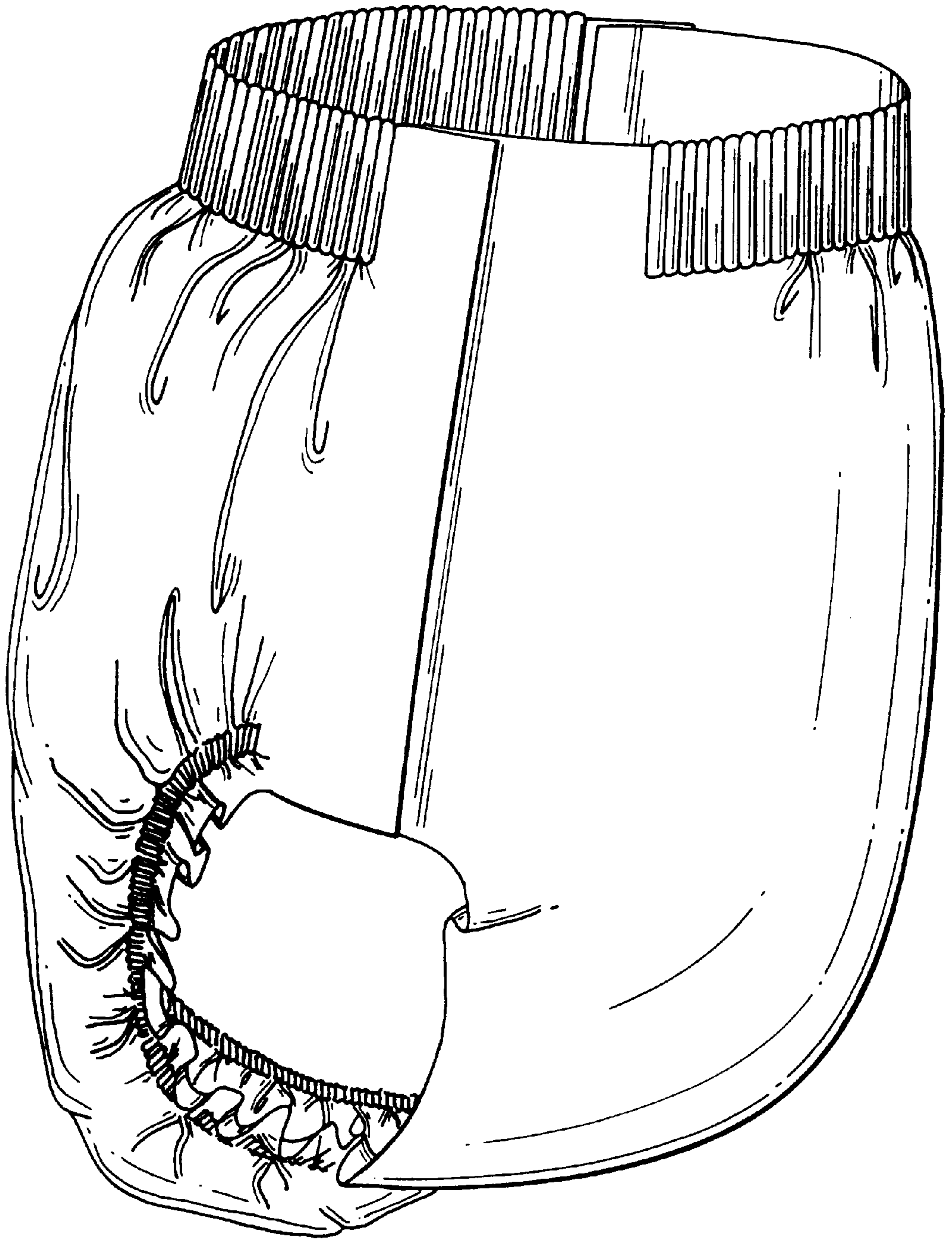


FIG. 4

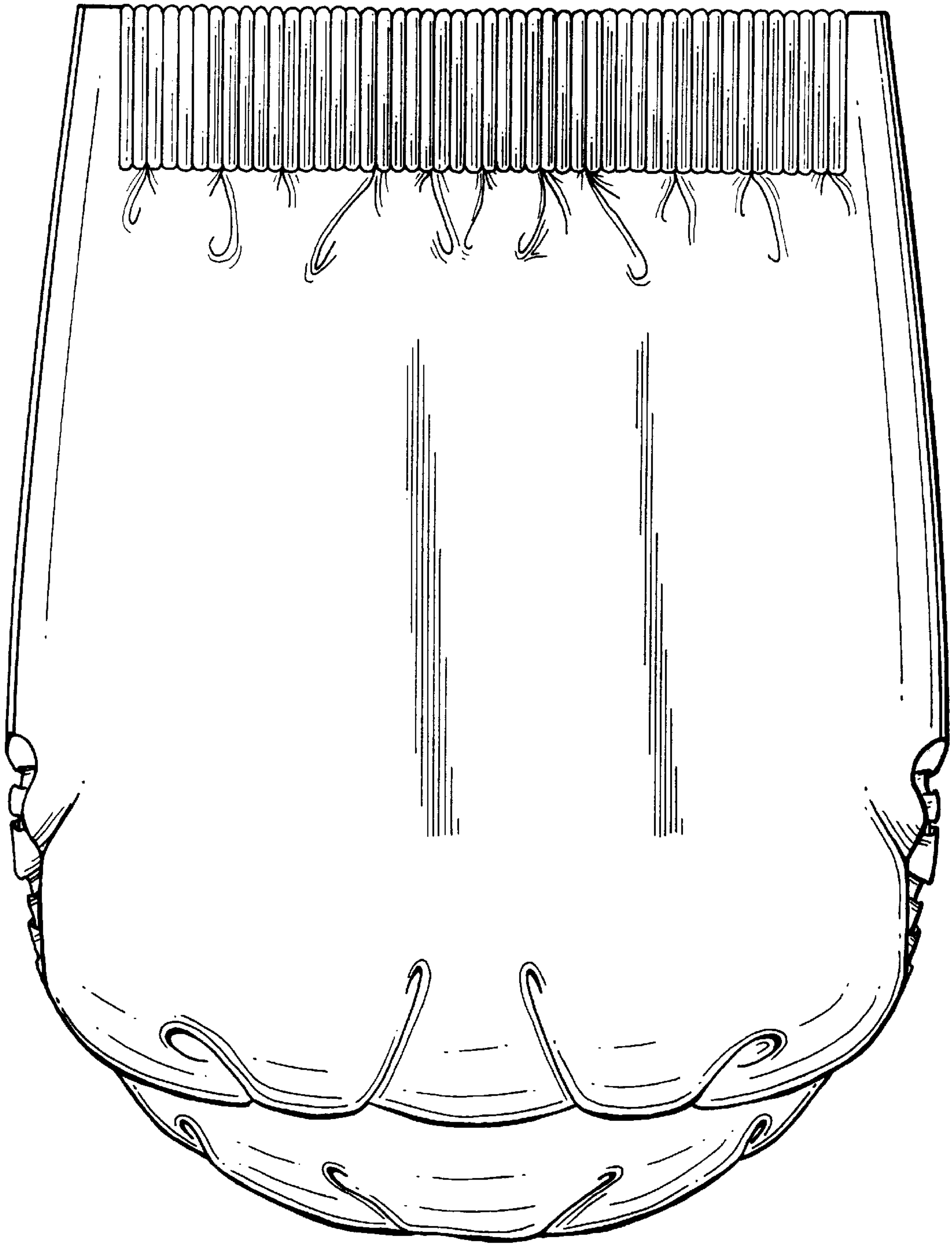


FIG. 5

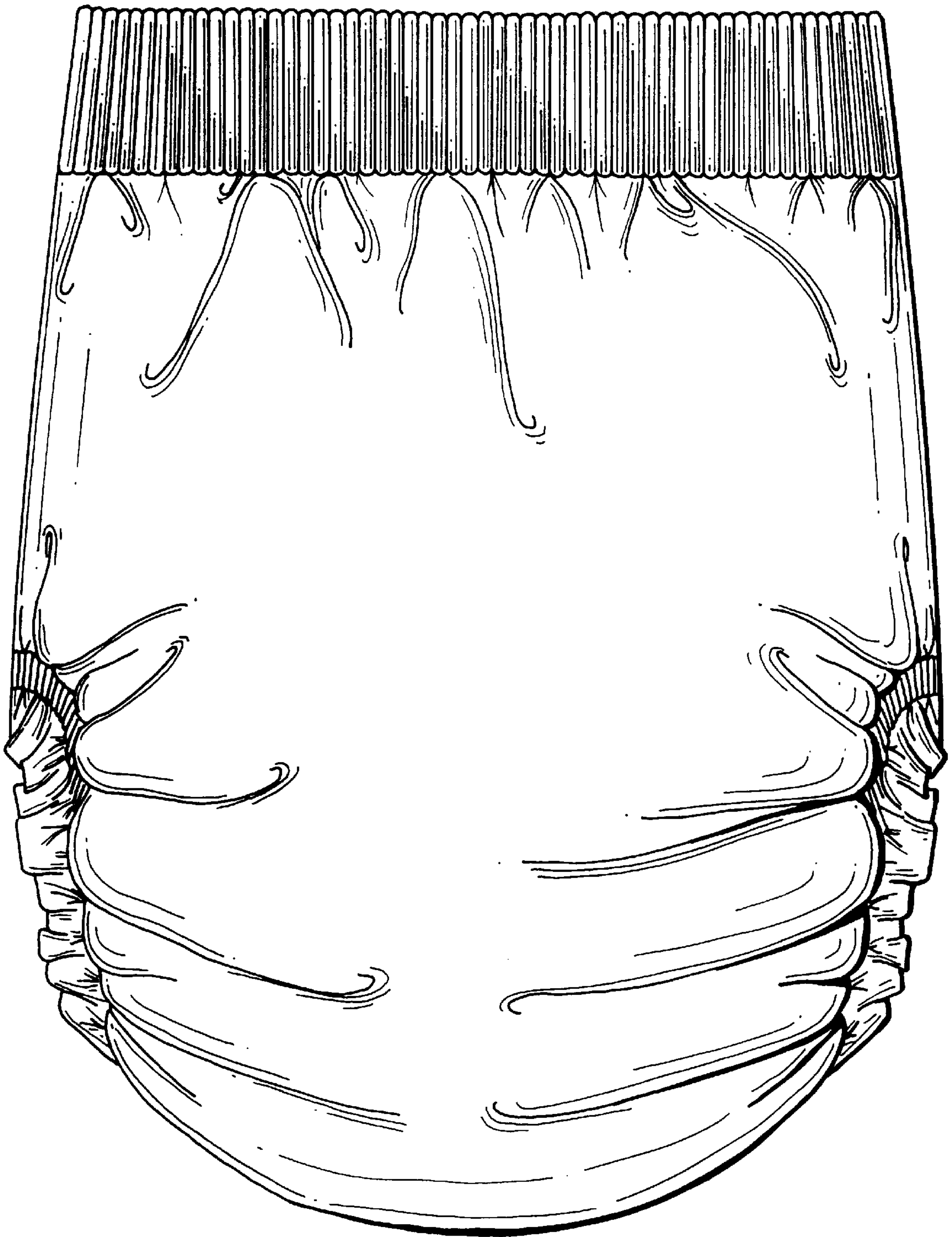


FIG. 6



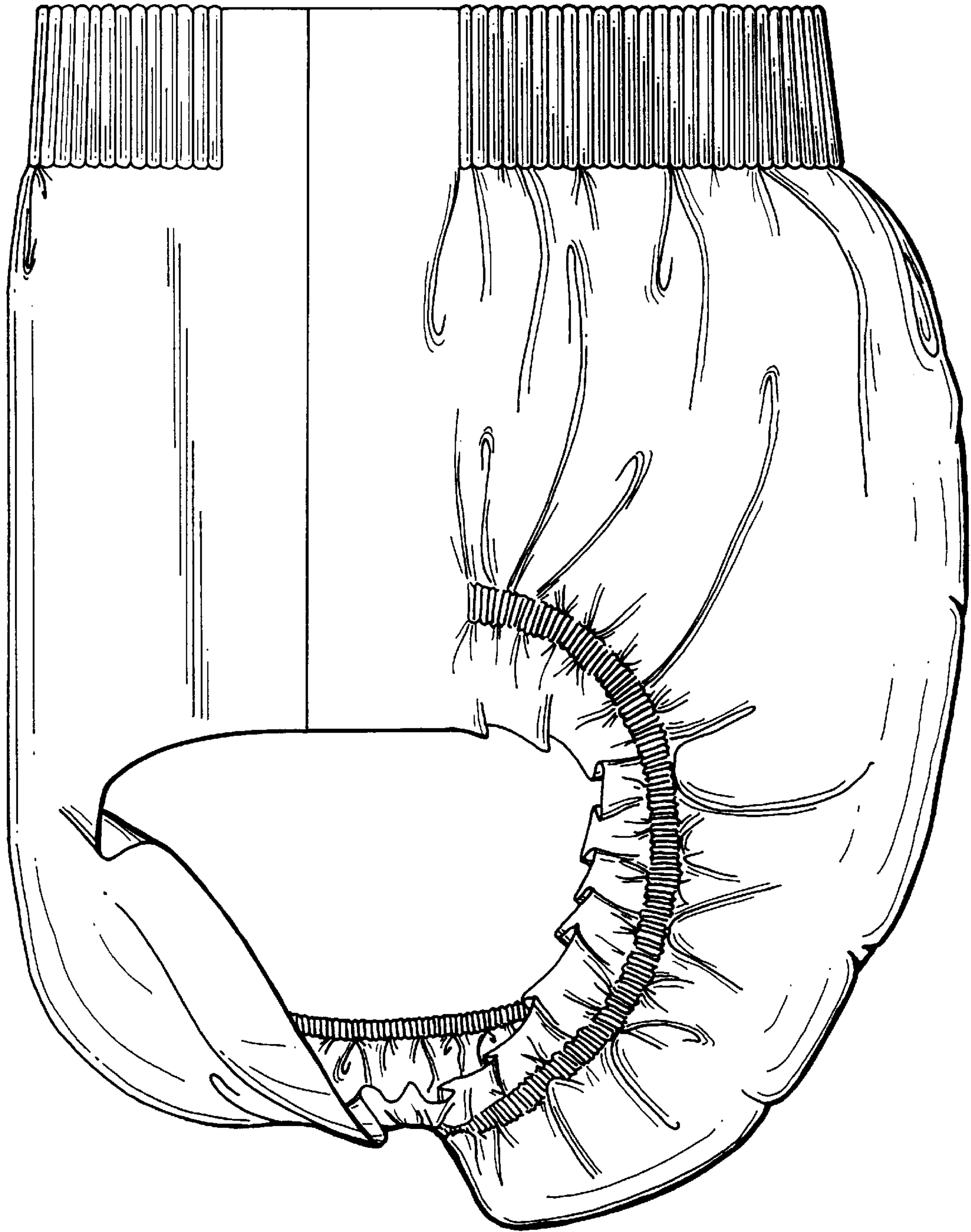


FIG. 7

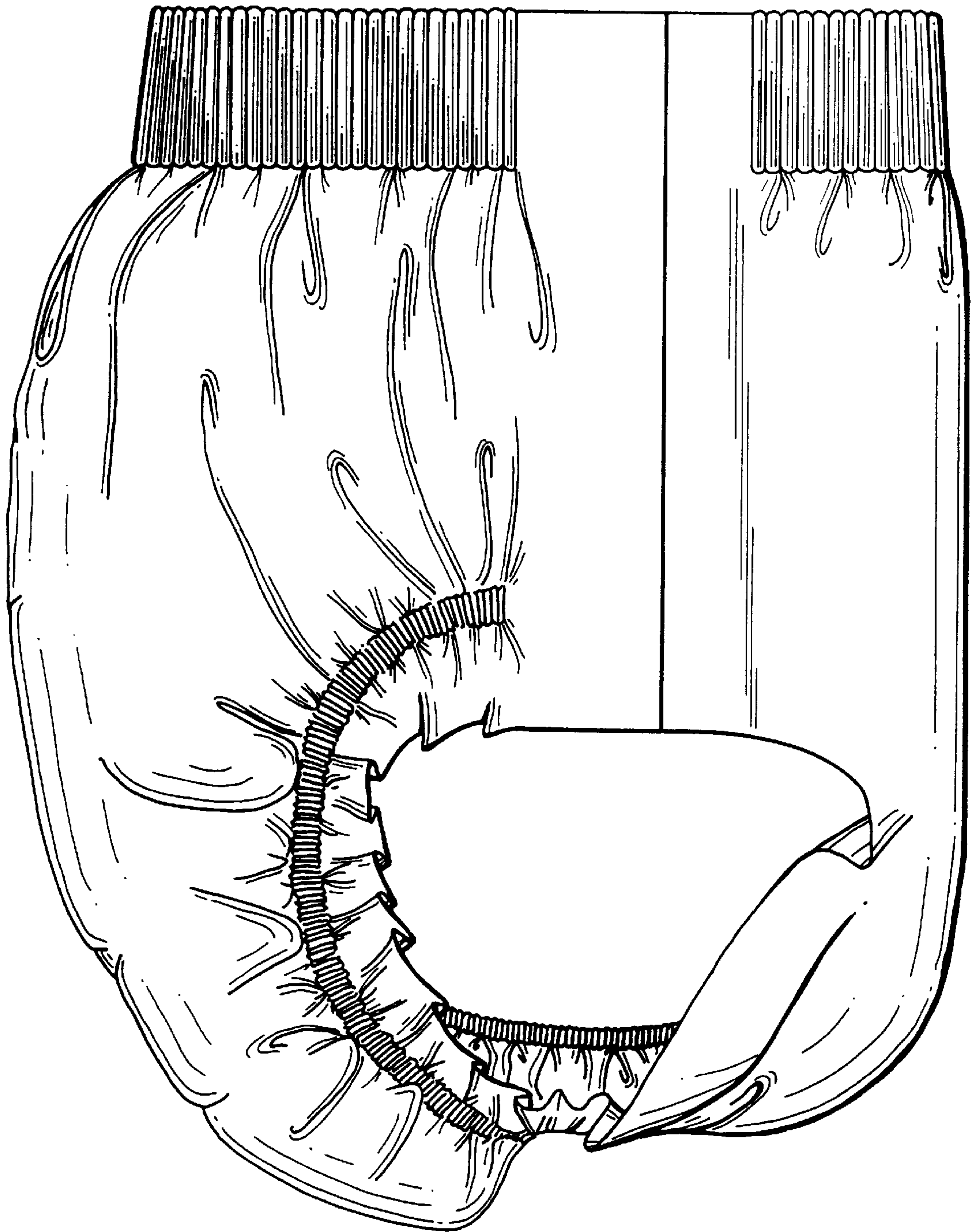


FIG. 8

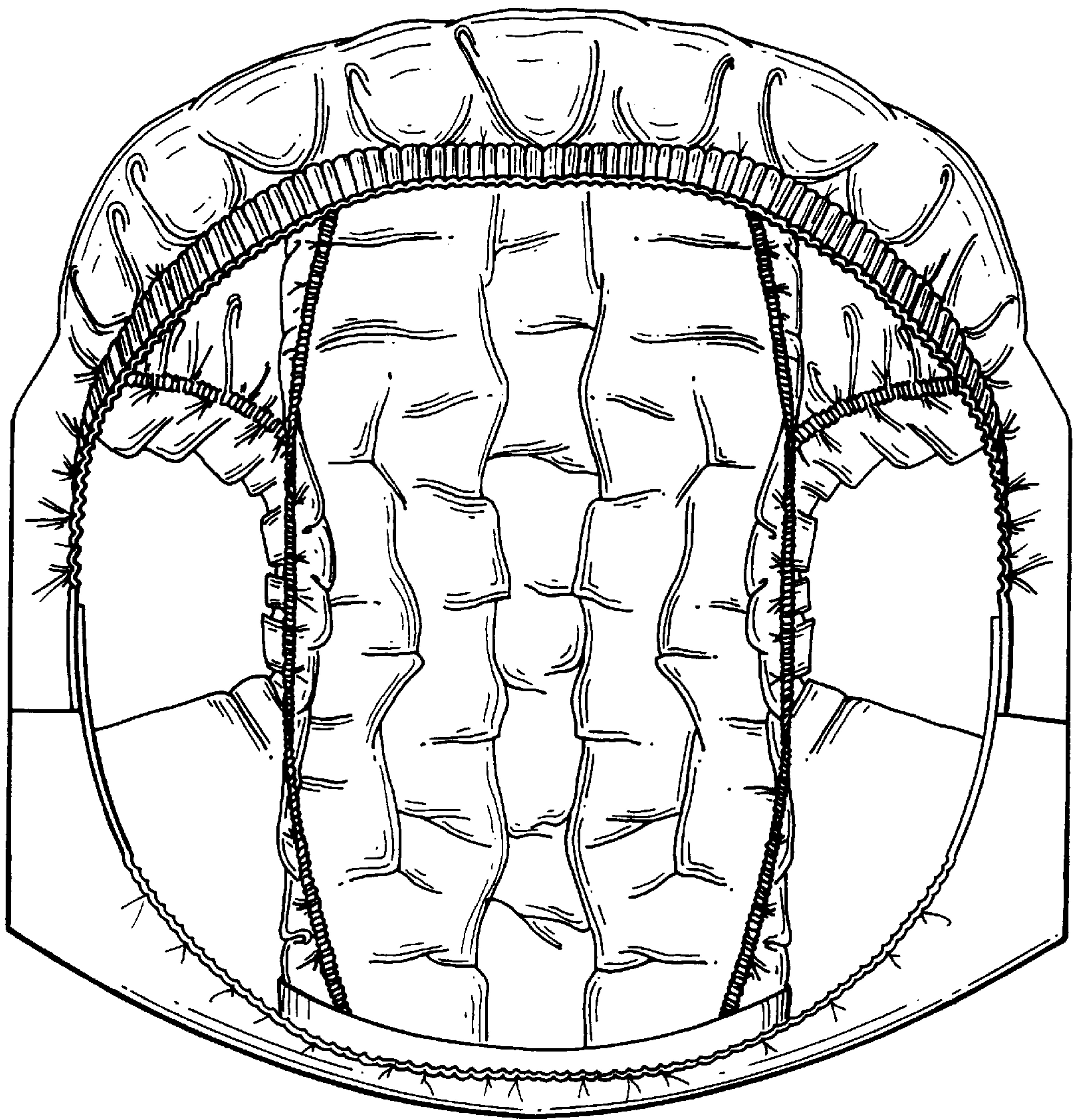


FIG. 9



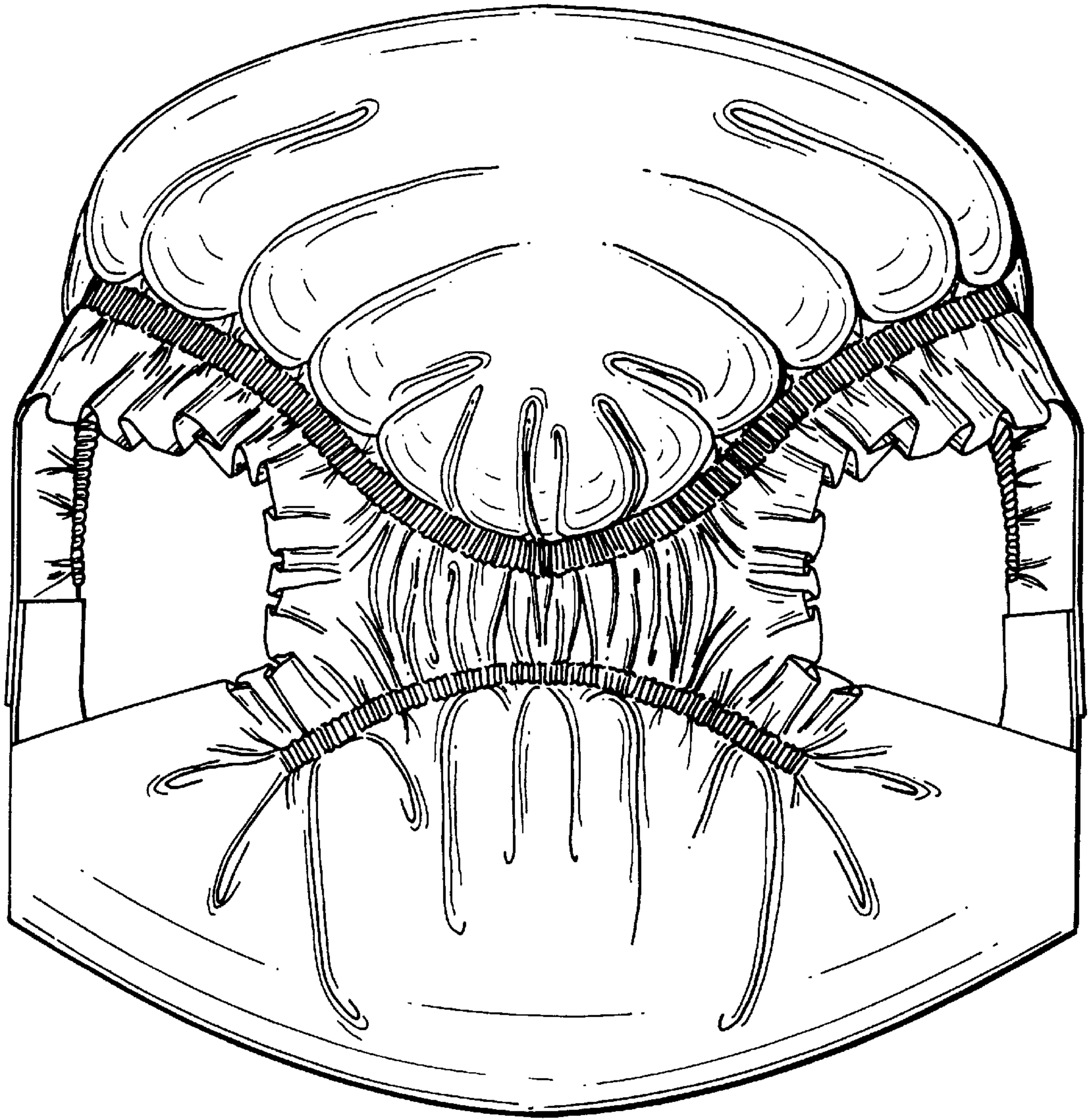


FIG. 10

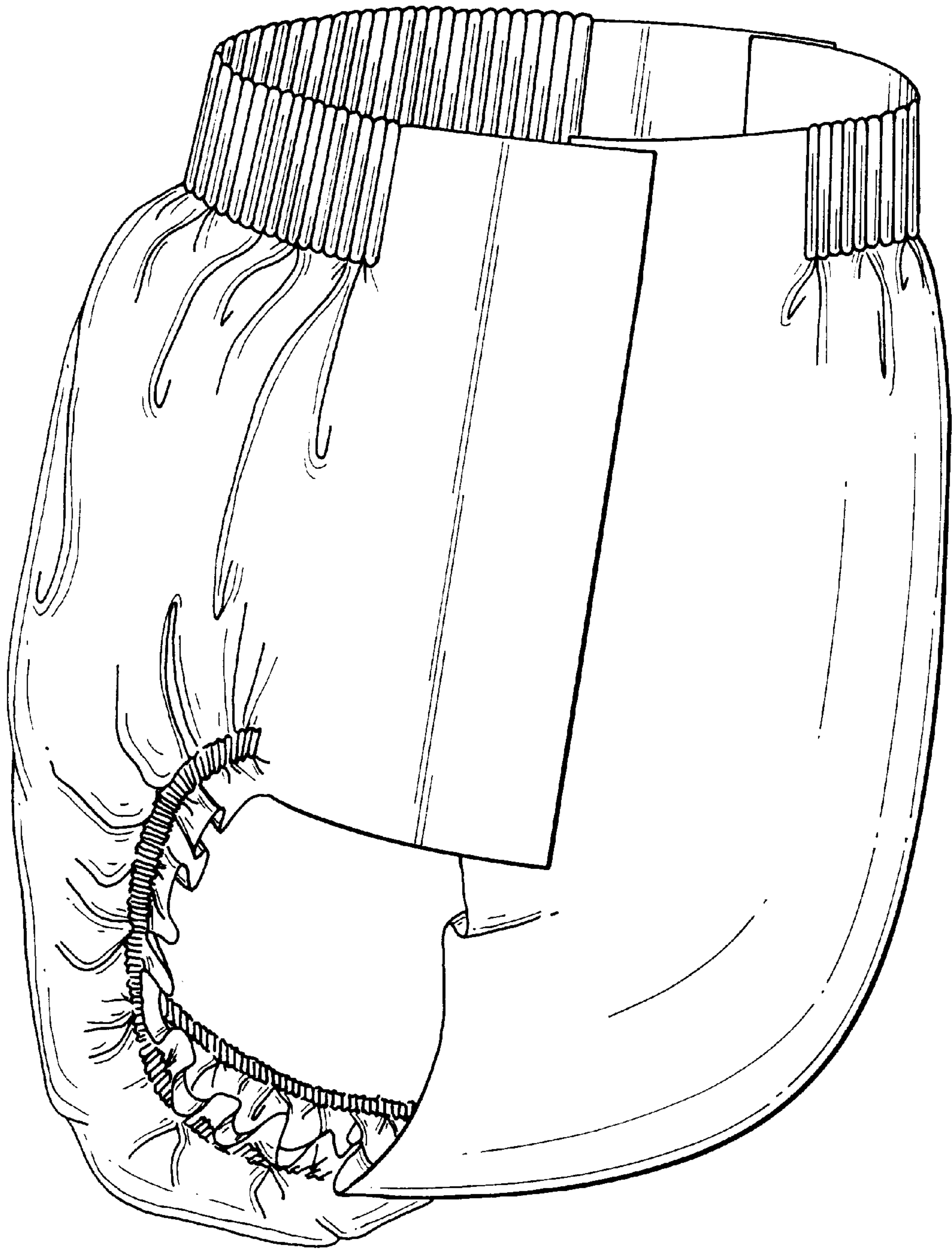


FIG. 11

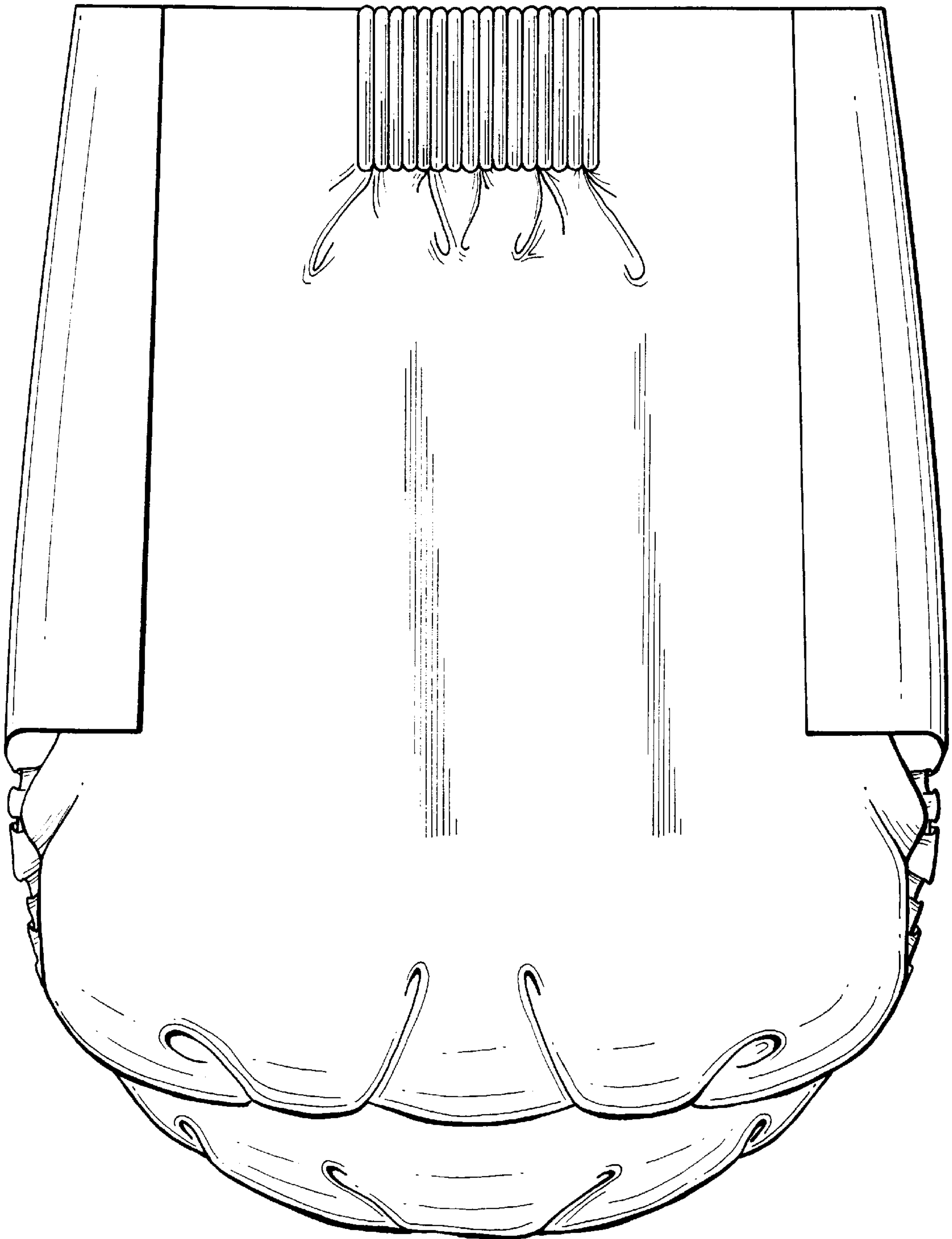


FIG. 12



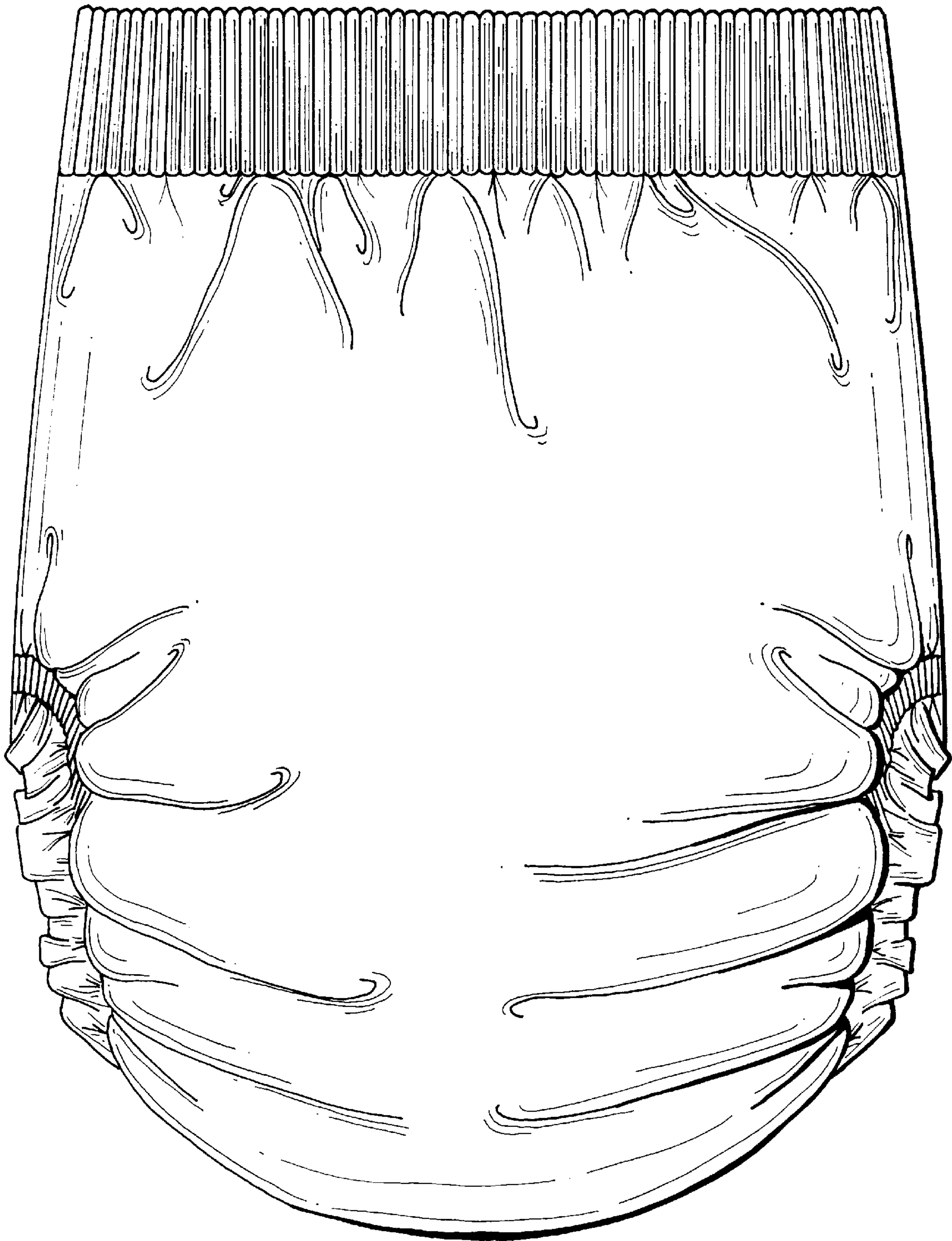


FIG. 13

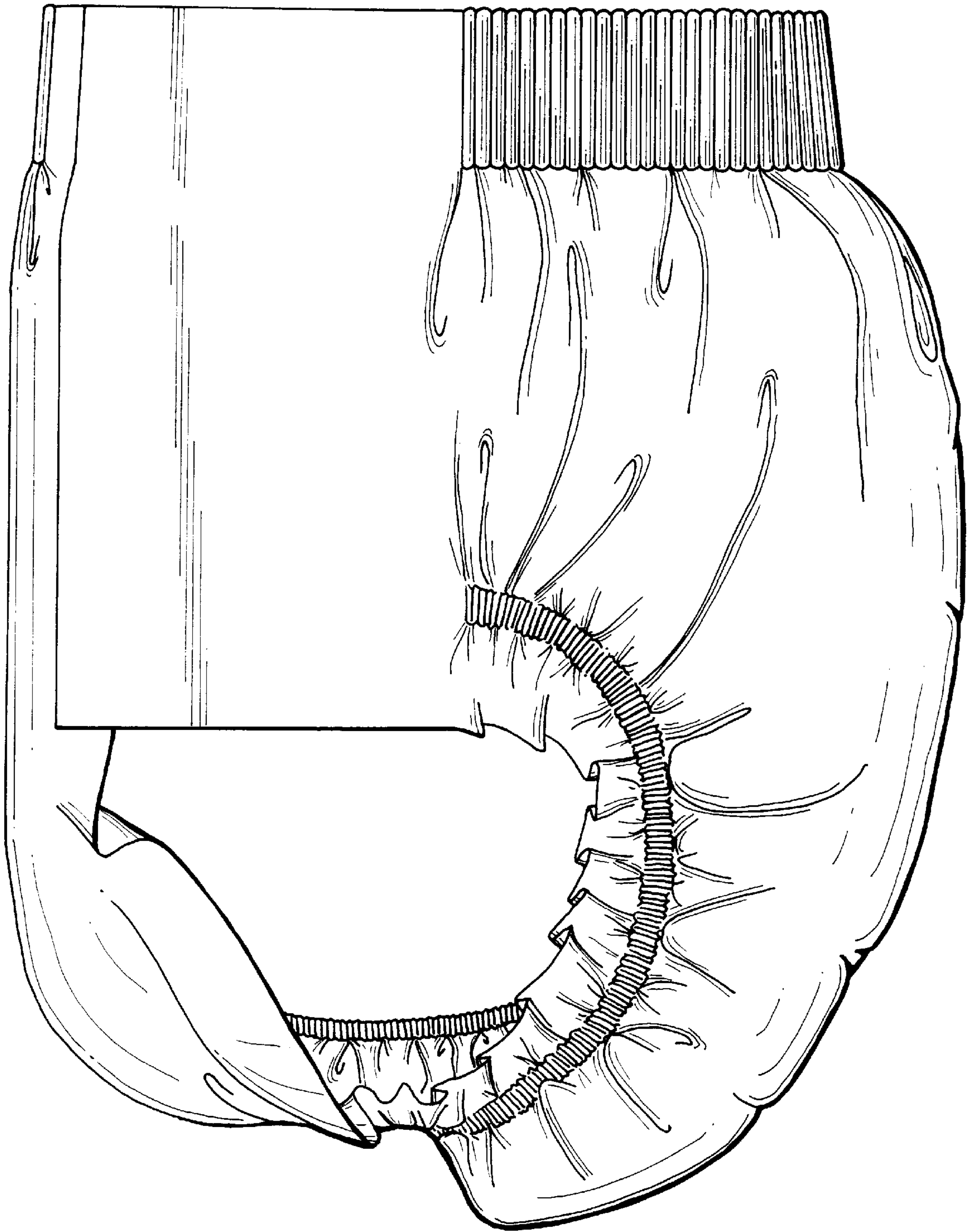


FIG. 14

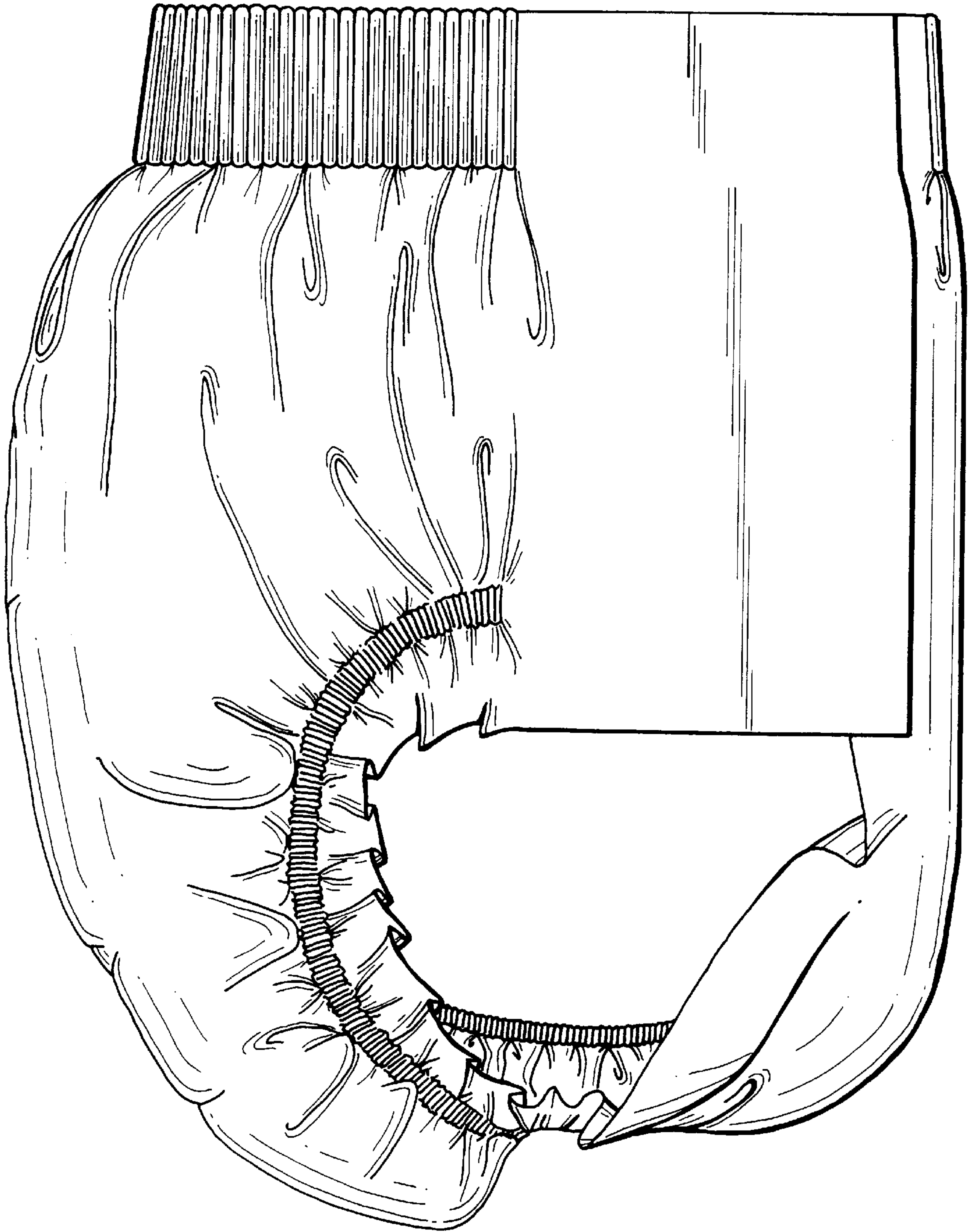


FIG. 15



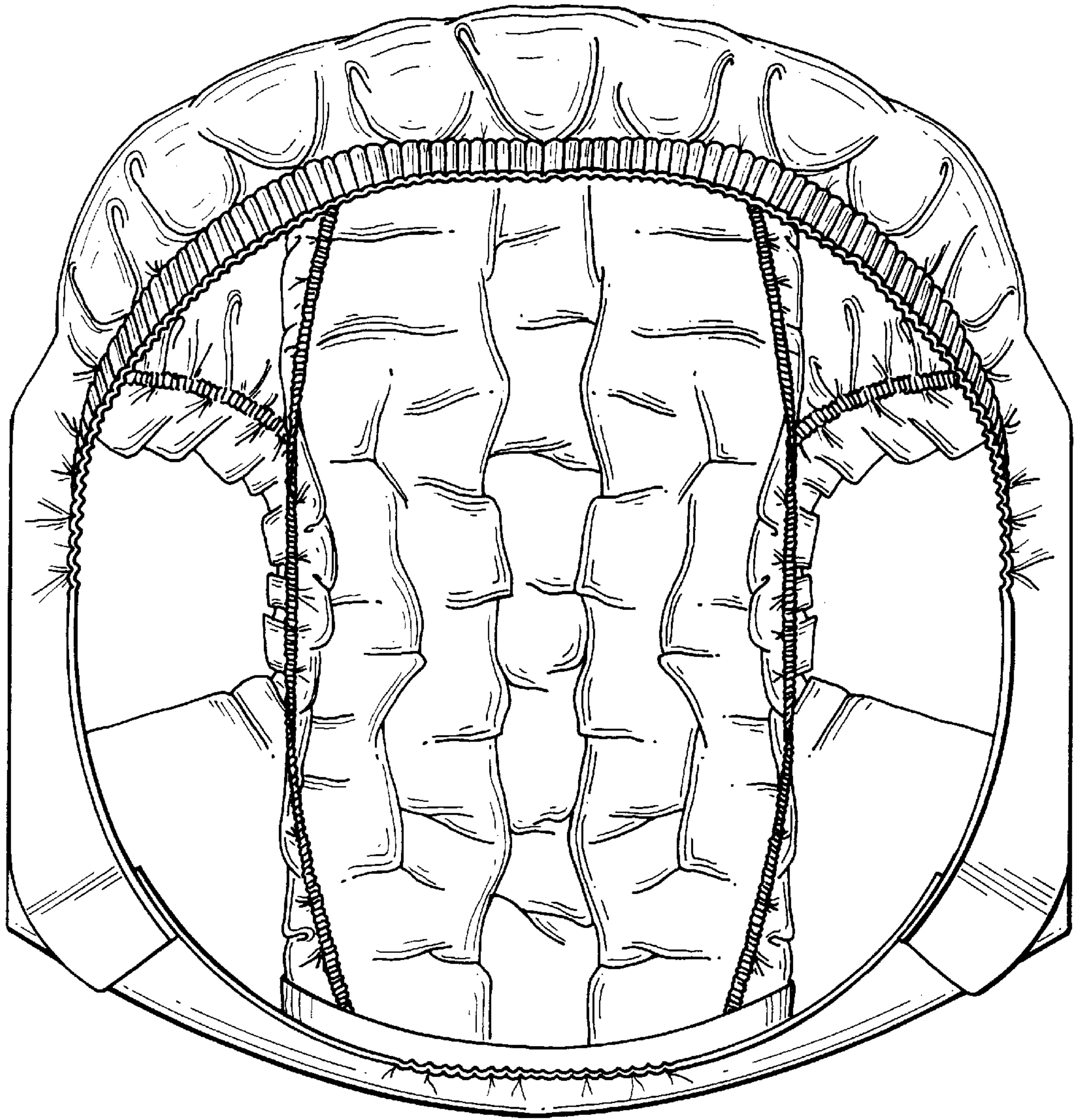


FIG. 16

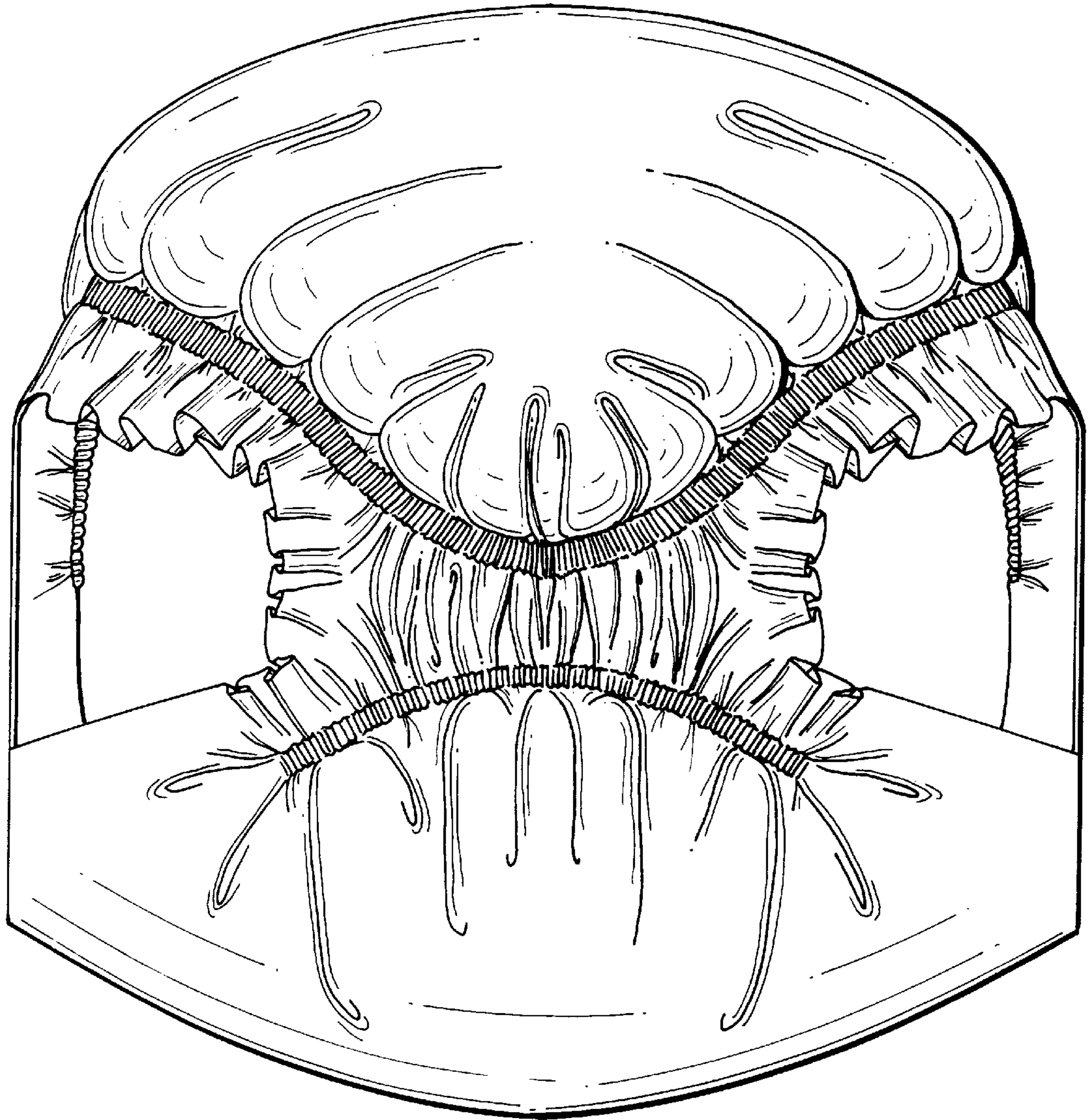


FIG. 17

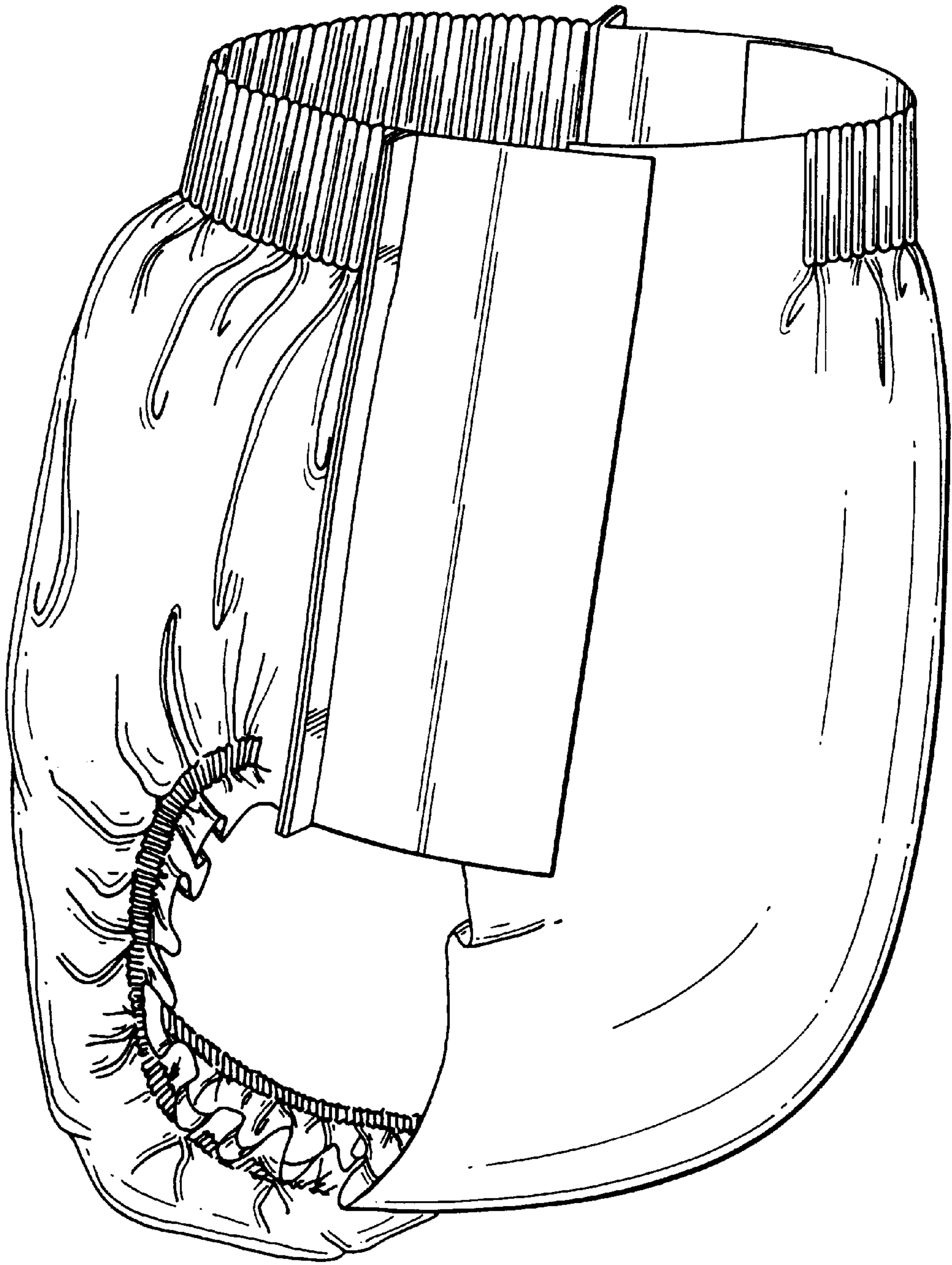


FIG. 18



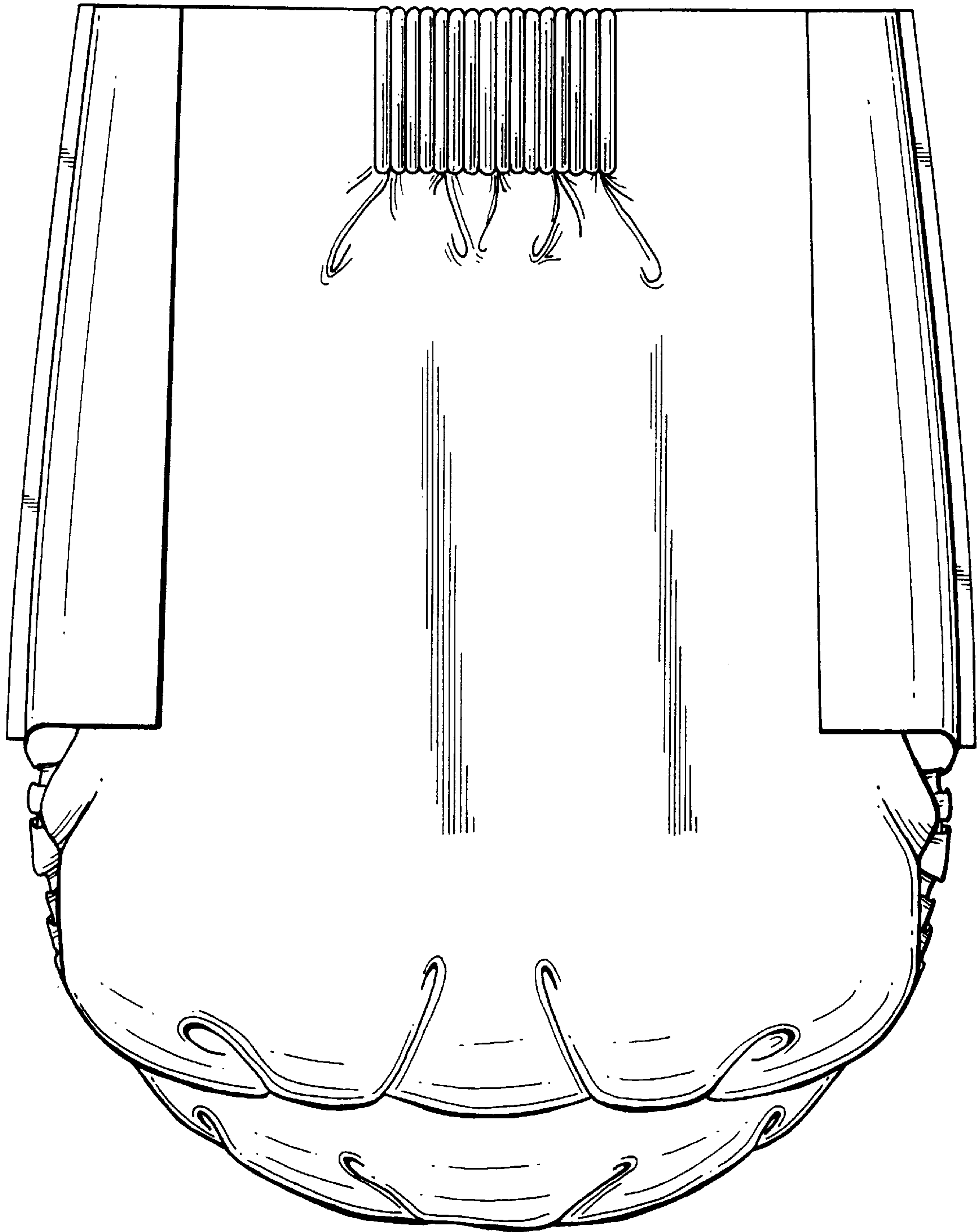


FIG. 19

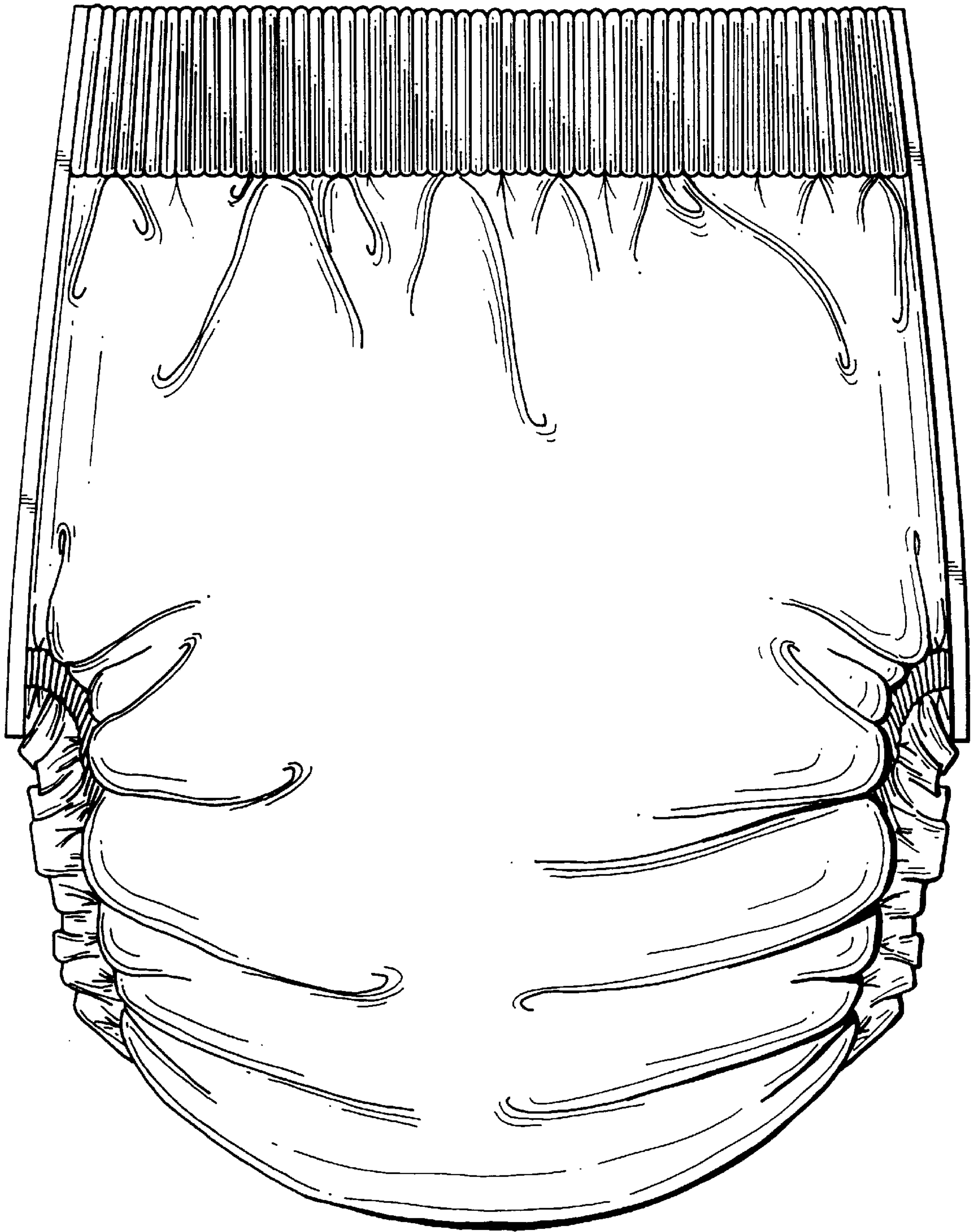


FIG. 20

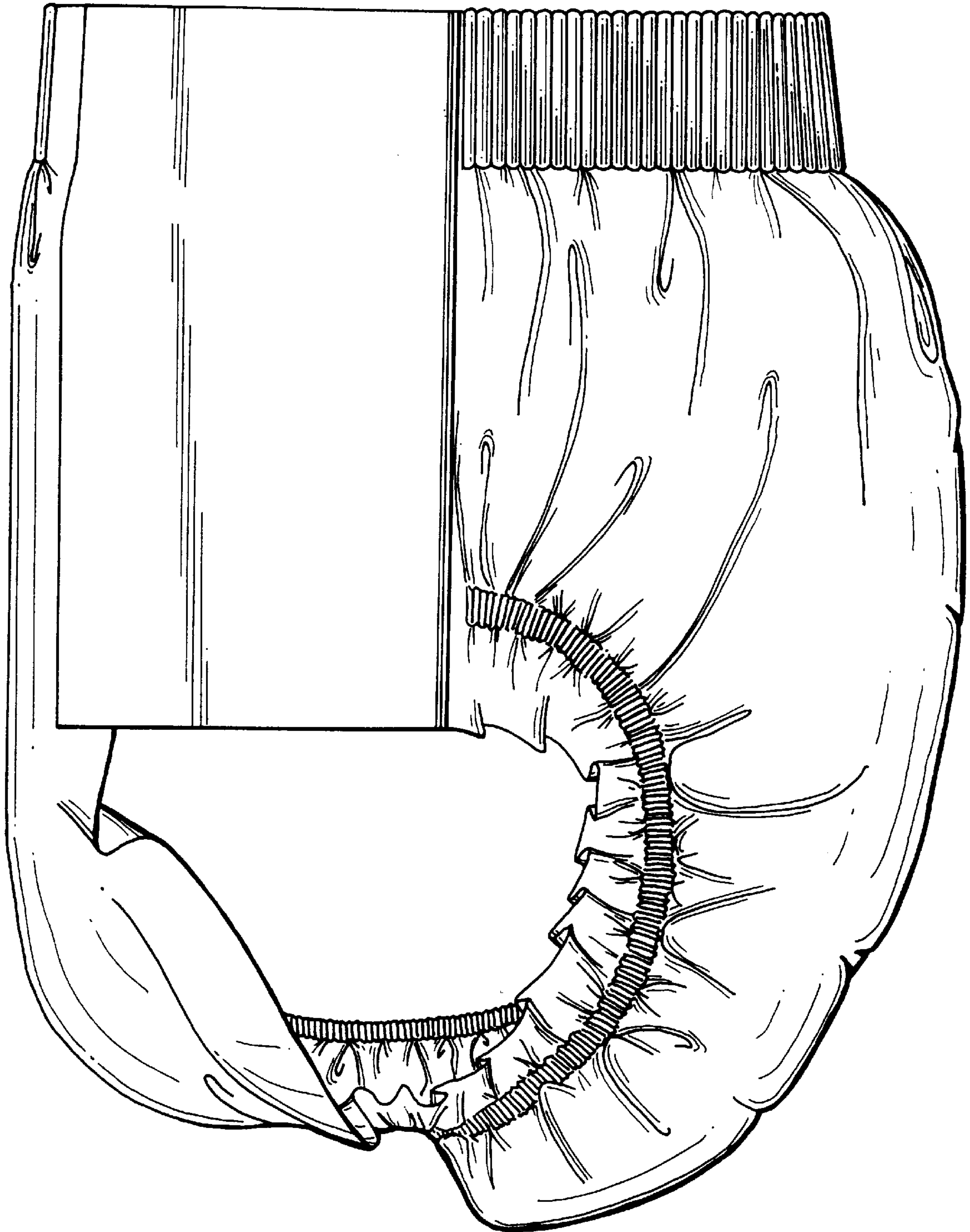


FIG. 21



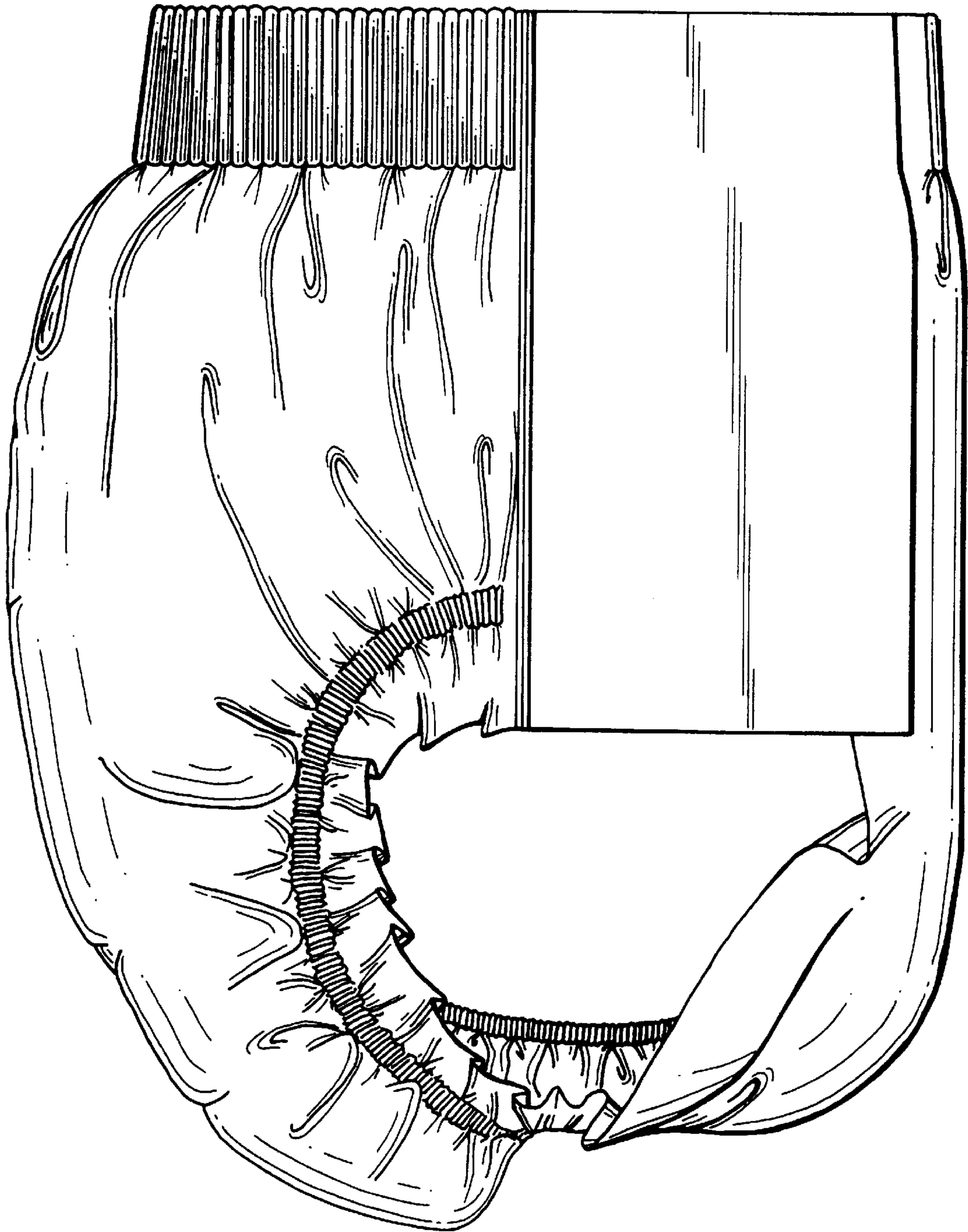


FIG. 22

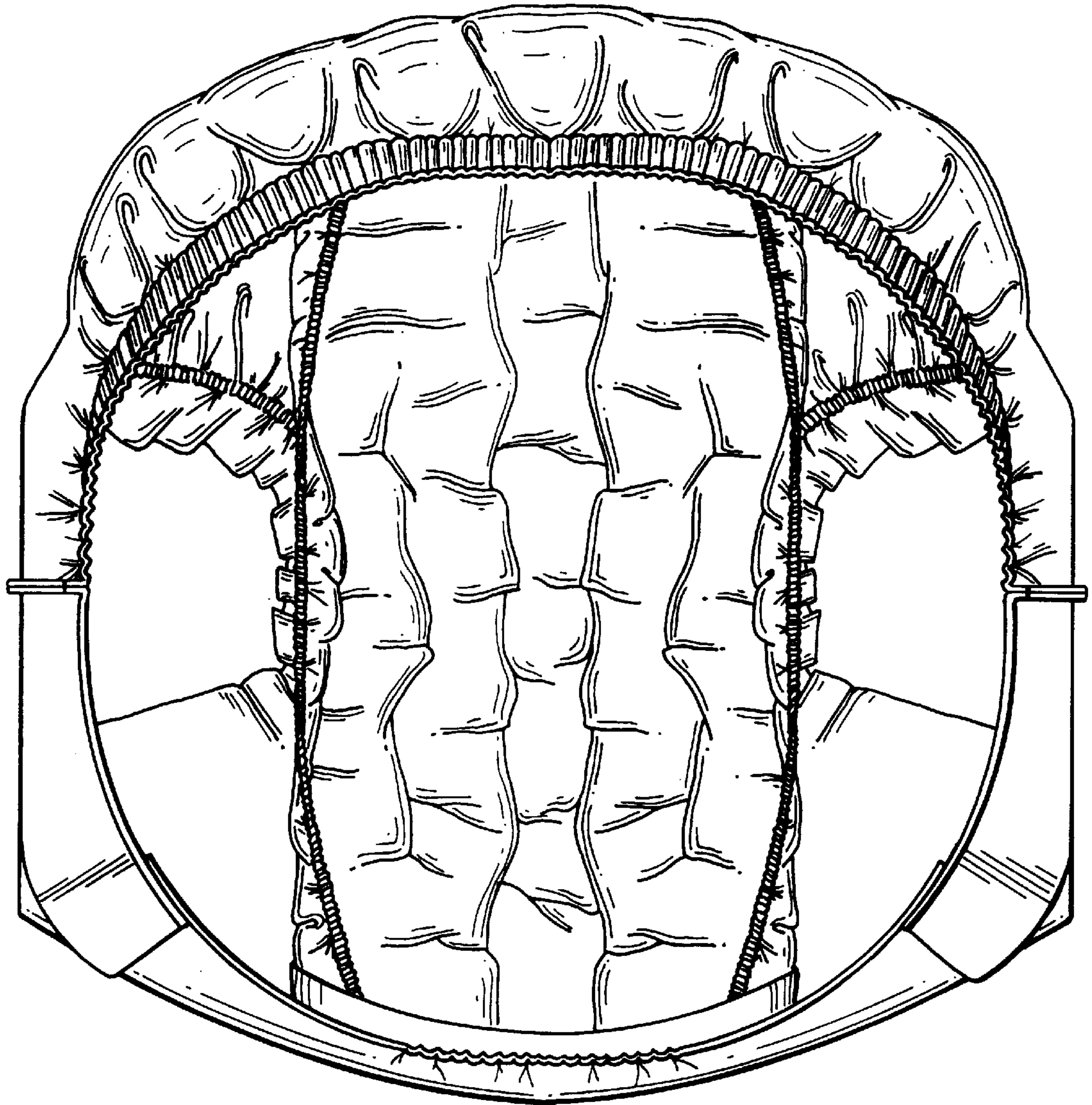


FIG. 23

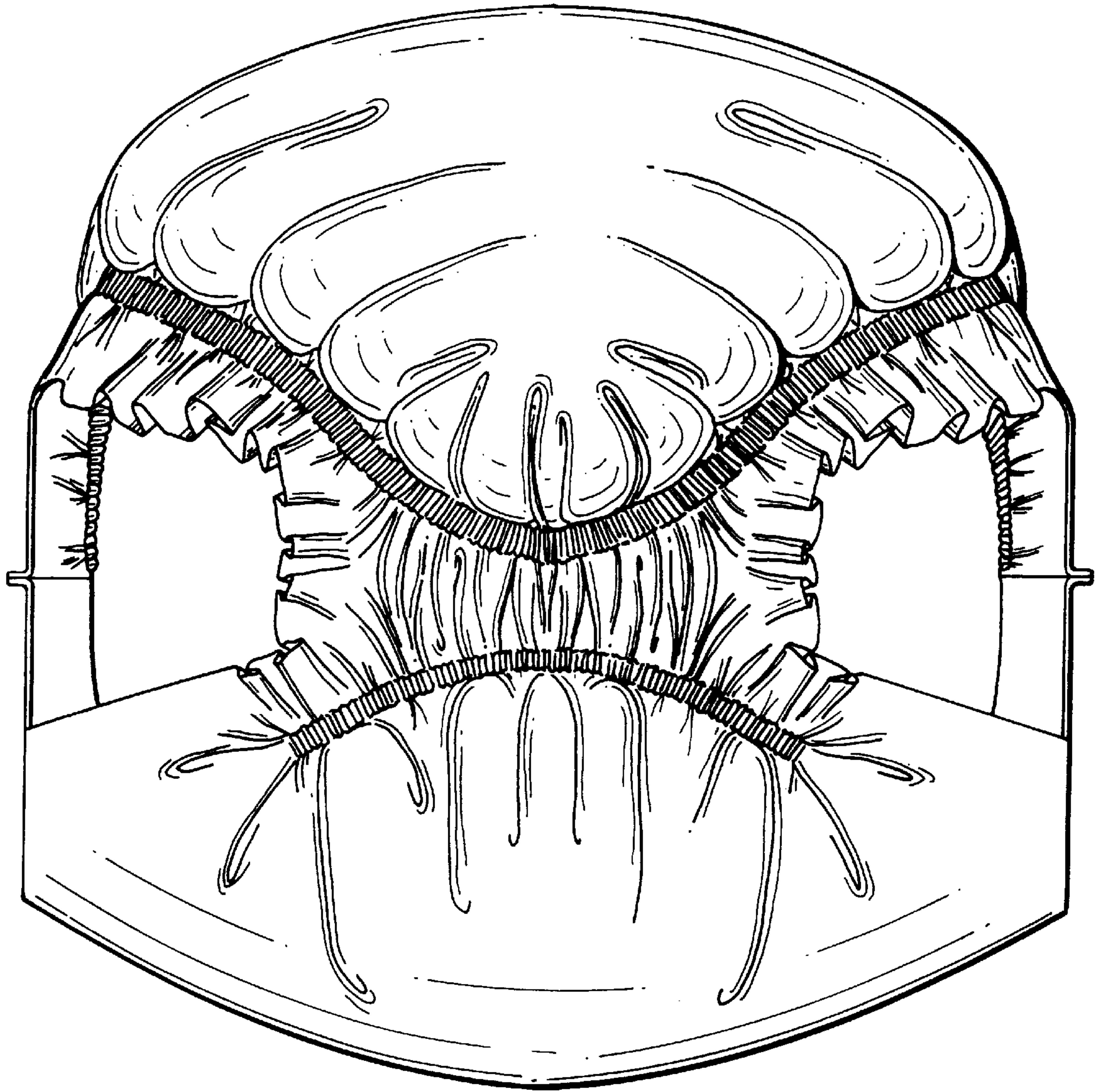


FIG. 24



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : Des 437,932 S  
DATED : February 20, 2001  
INVENTOR(S) : Ruman et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 2,

Lines 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26, delete "10" and substitute -- 11 --.  
Lines 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, and 42, delete "17" and substitute -- 18 --.

Signed and Sealed this

Fifteenth Day of January, 2002

Attest:



Attesting Officer

JAMES E. ROGAN  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office