



US00D438615S

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

(10) **Patent No.: US D438,615 S**

(45) **Date of Patent: \*\* Mar. 6, 2001**

(54) **DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLE**

(75) Inventors: **Lisa Ann Dimitrijevs; Amy Lynn Fletcher**, both of Appleton;  
**Christopher Peter Olson**, Neenah;  
**Kathleen Irene Ratliff**, Neenah;  
**Shirlee Ann Weber**, Neenah; **Susan Lee West**, Neenah, all of WI (US)

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

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

(21) Appl. No.: **29/116,185**

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

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/444,080, filed on  
Nov. 22, 1999.

(51) **LOC (7) Cl.** ..... **24-04**

(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**

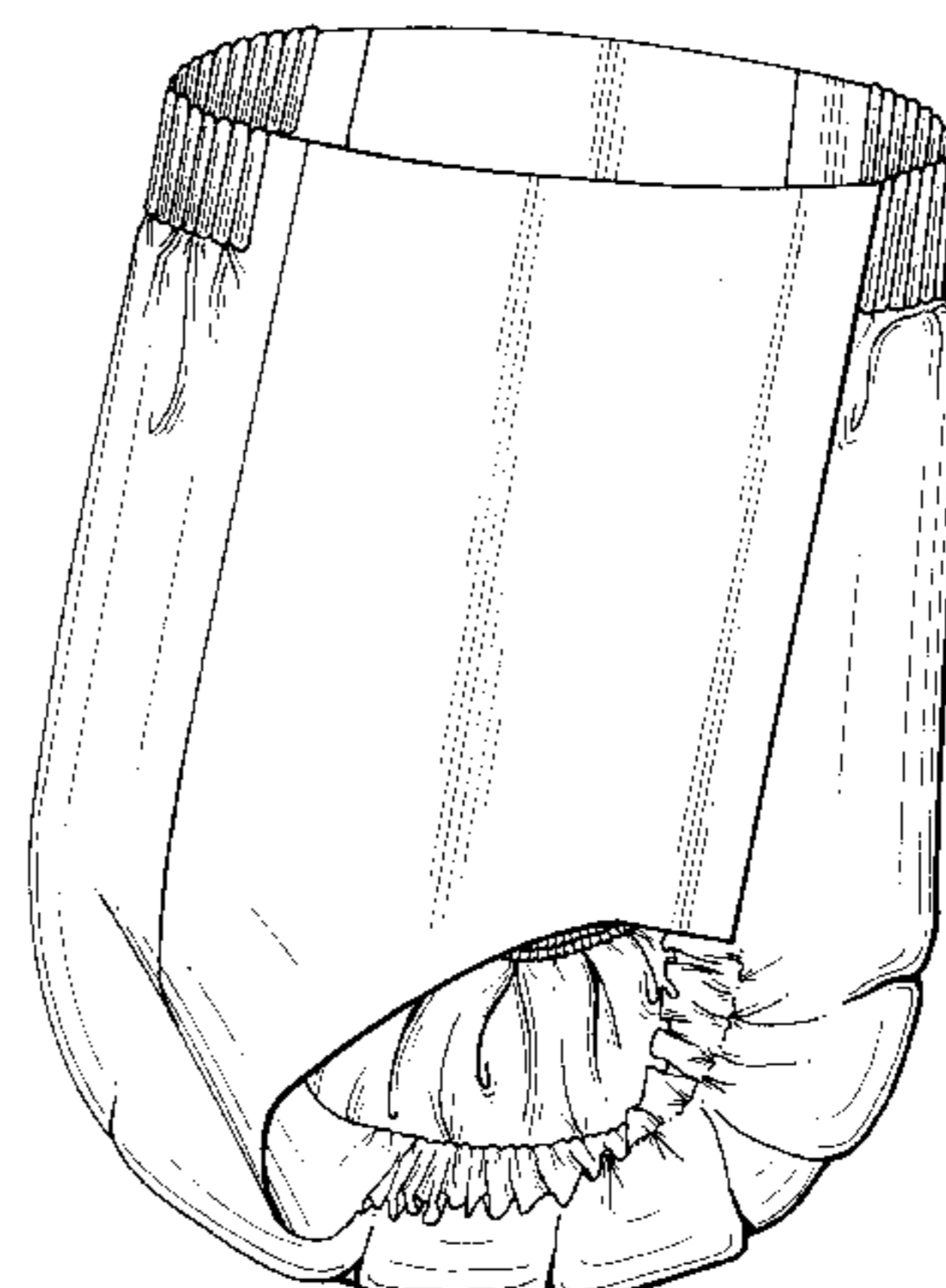
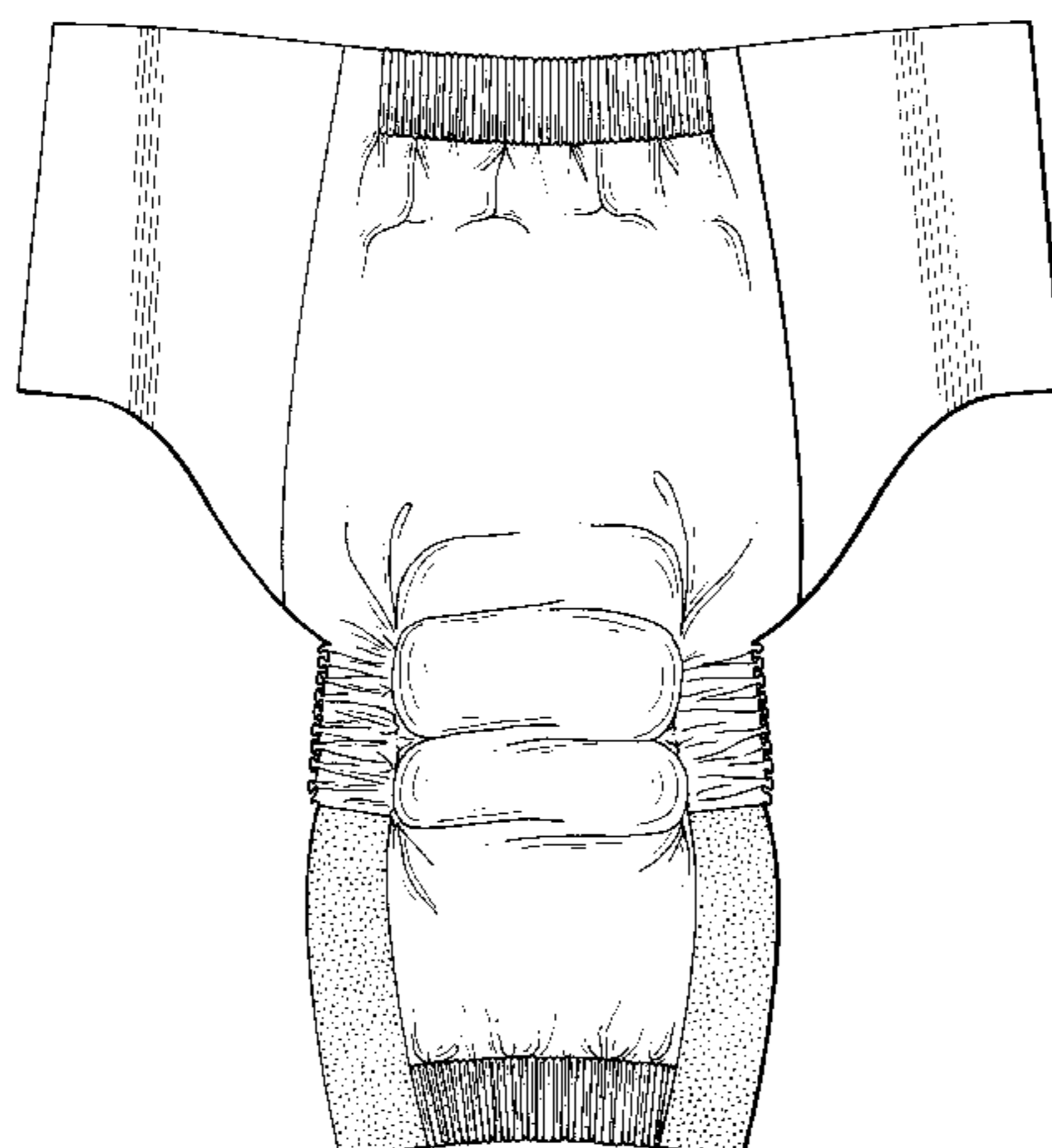
**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

- 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 Trepants.

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 front elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1, with the refastenable fastening system shown engaged on the right side of the absorbent article and disengaged on the left side of the absorbent article.

FIG. 5 is a left side perspective view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

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

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

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

FIG. 11 is a bottom plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 1.

FIG. 12 is a left side elevation 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. 13 is a front elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11.

FIG. 14 is a rear elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11.

FIG. 15 is a right side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11.

FIG. 16 is a left side elevation of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11.

FIG. 17 is a top plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11; and,

FIG. 18 is a bottom plan view of the disposable absorbent article of FIG. 11.

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

**1 Claim, 18 Drawing Sheets**

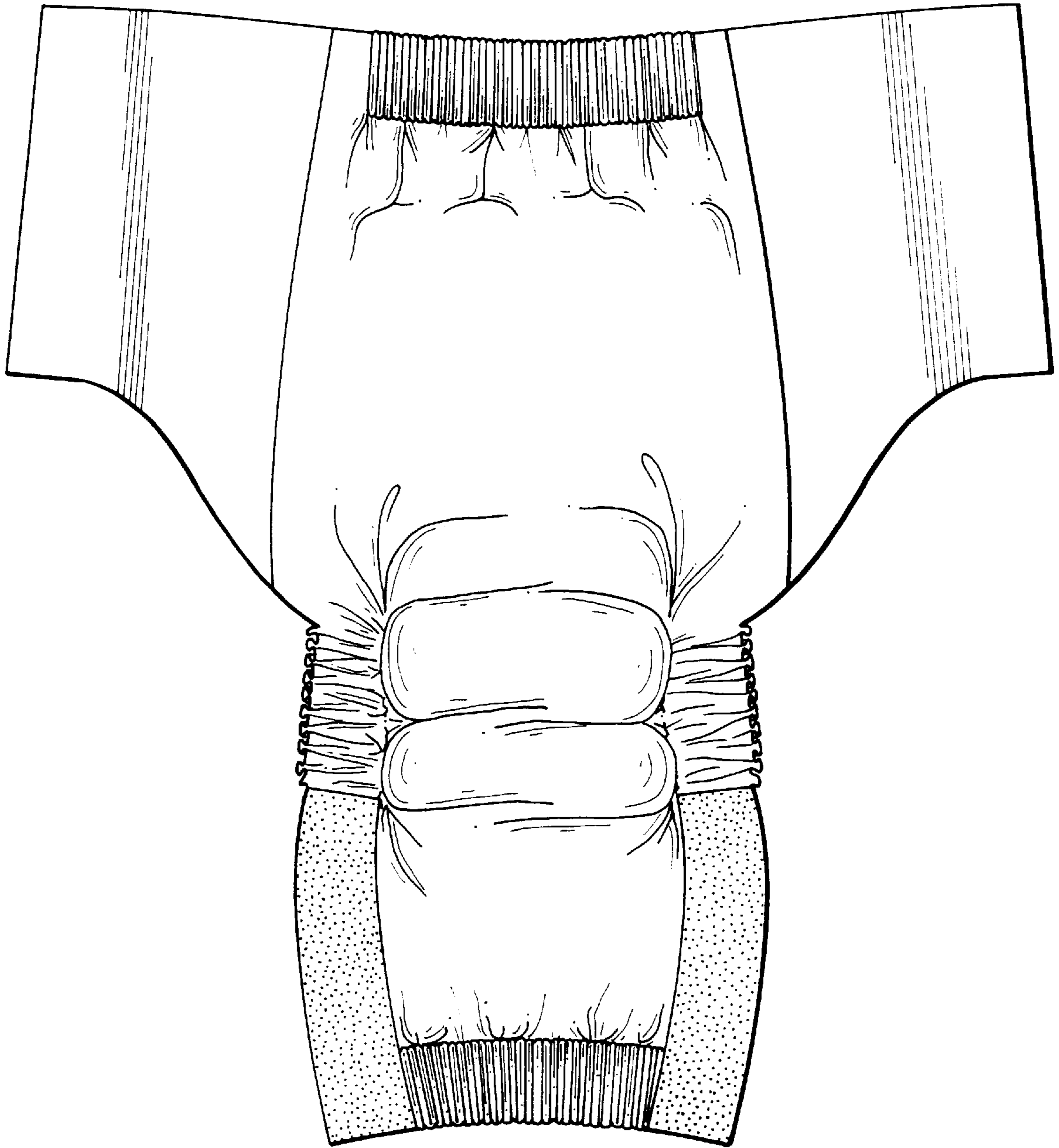


FIG. 1

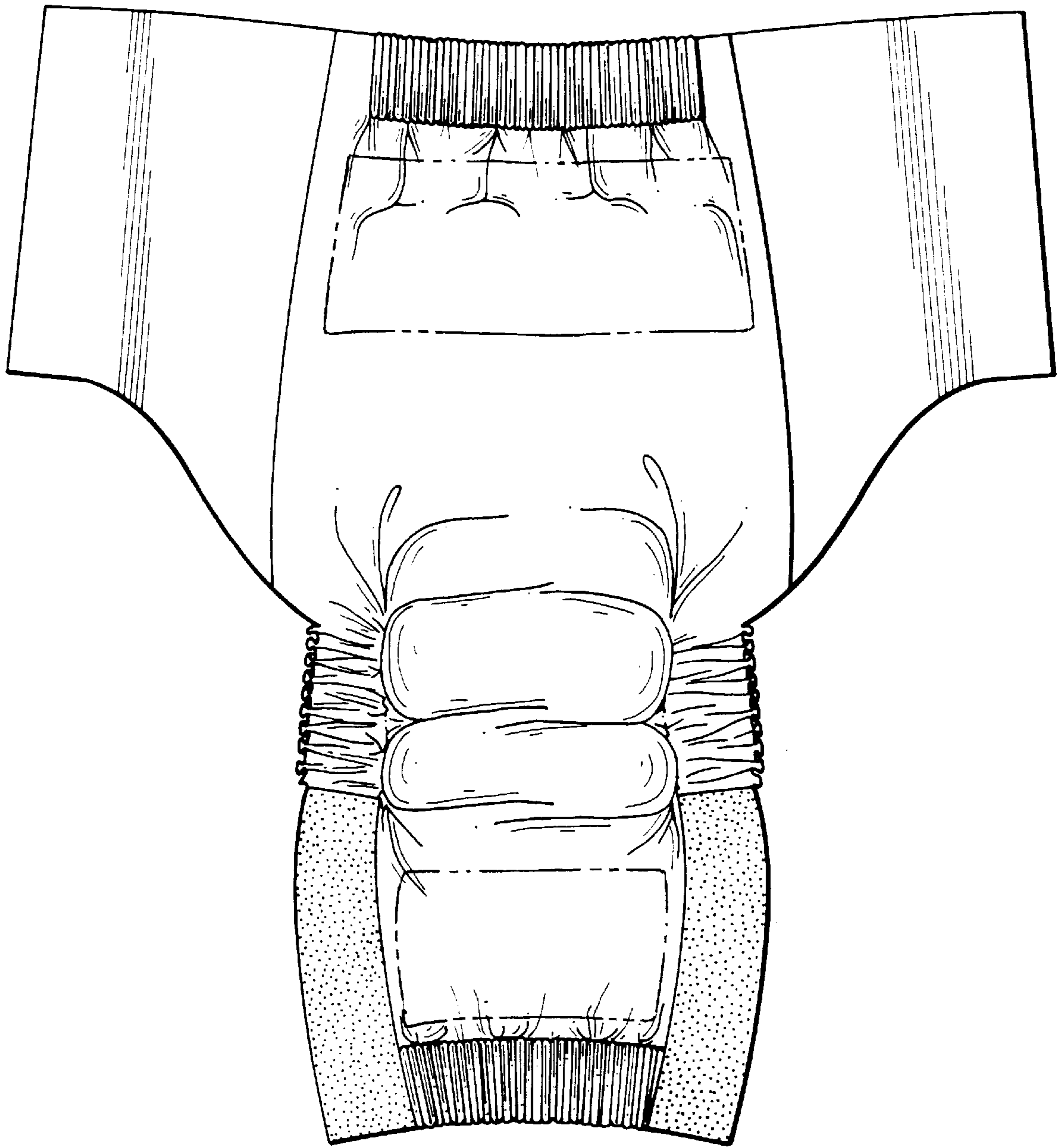


FIG. 2

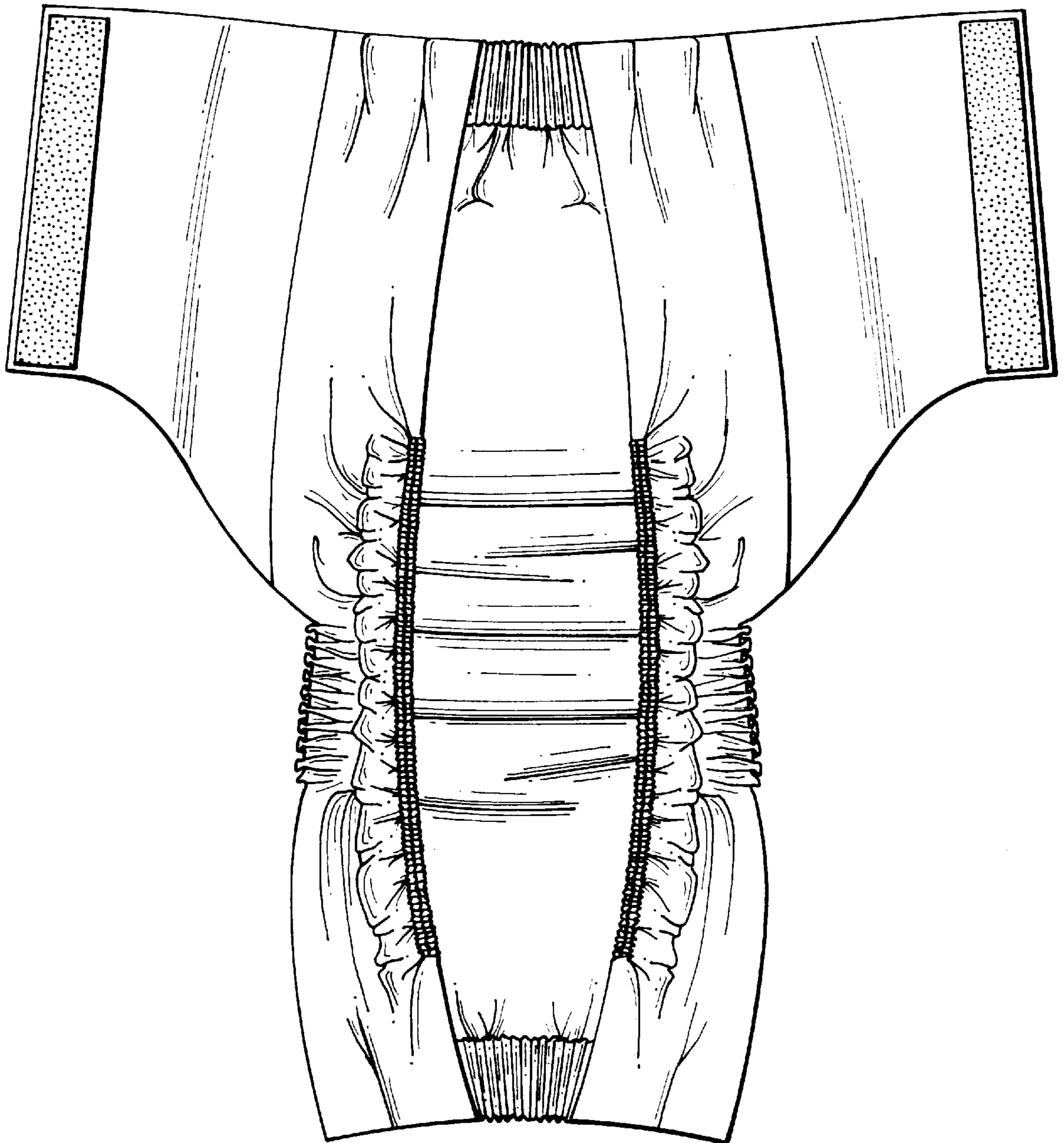


FIG. 3

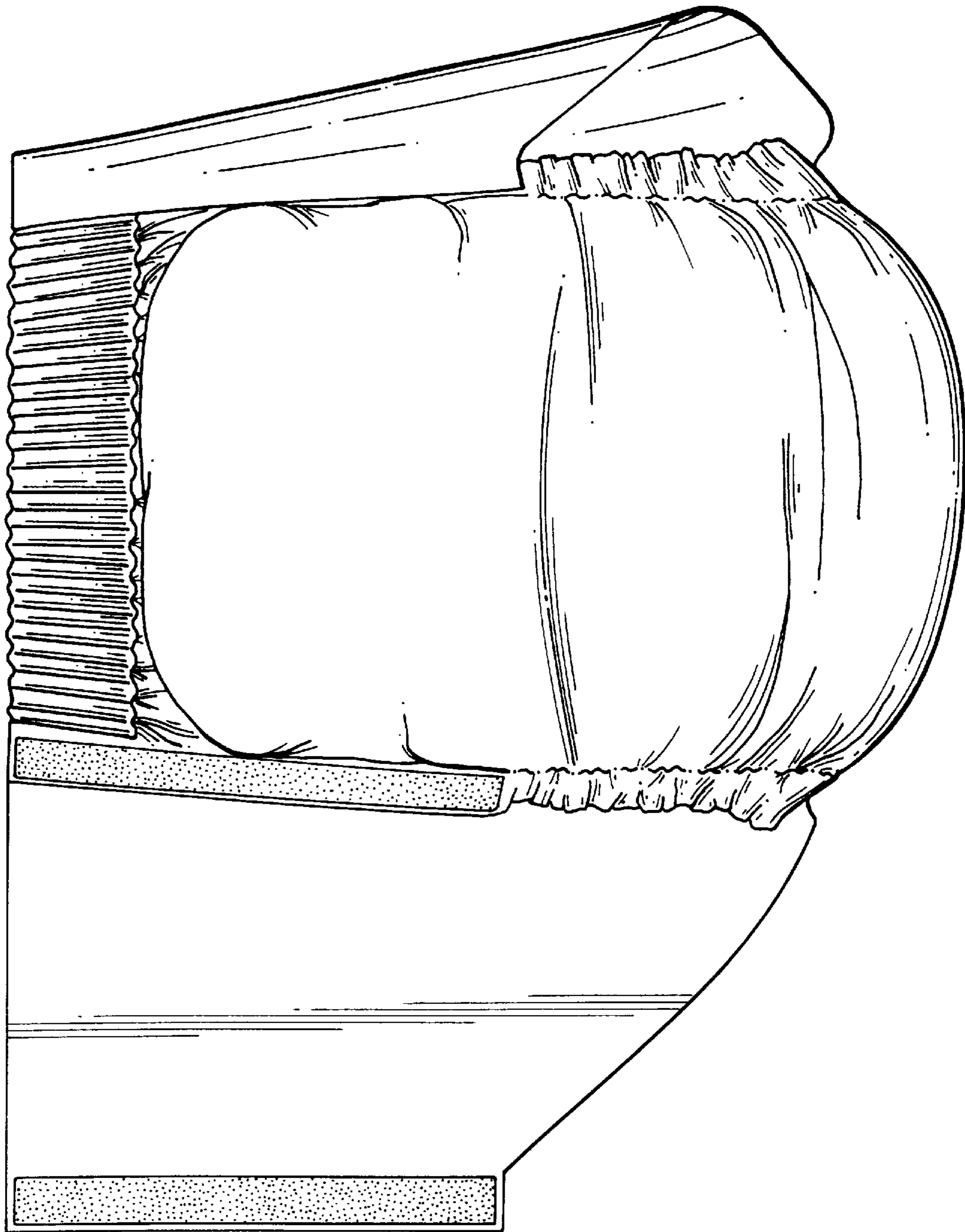


FIG. 4

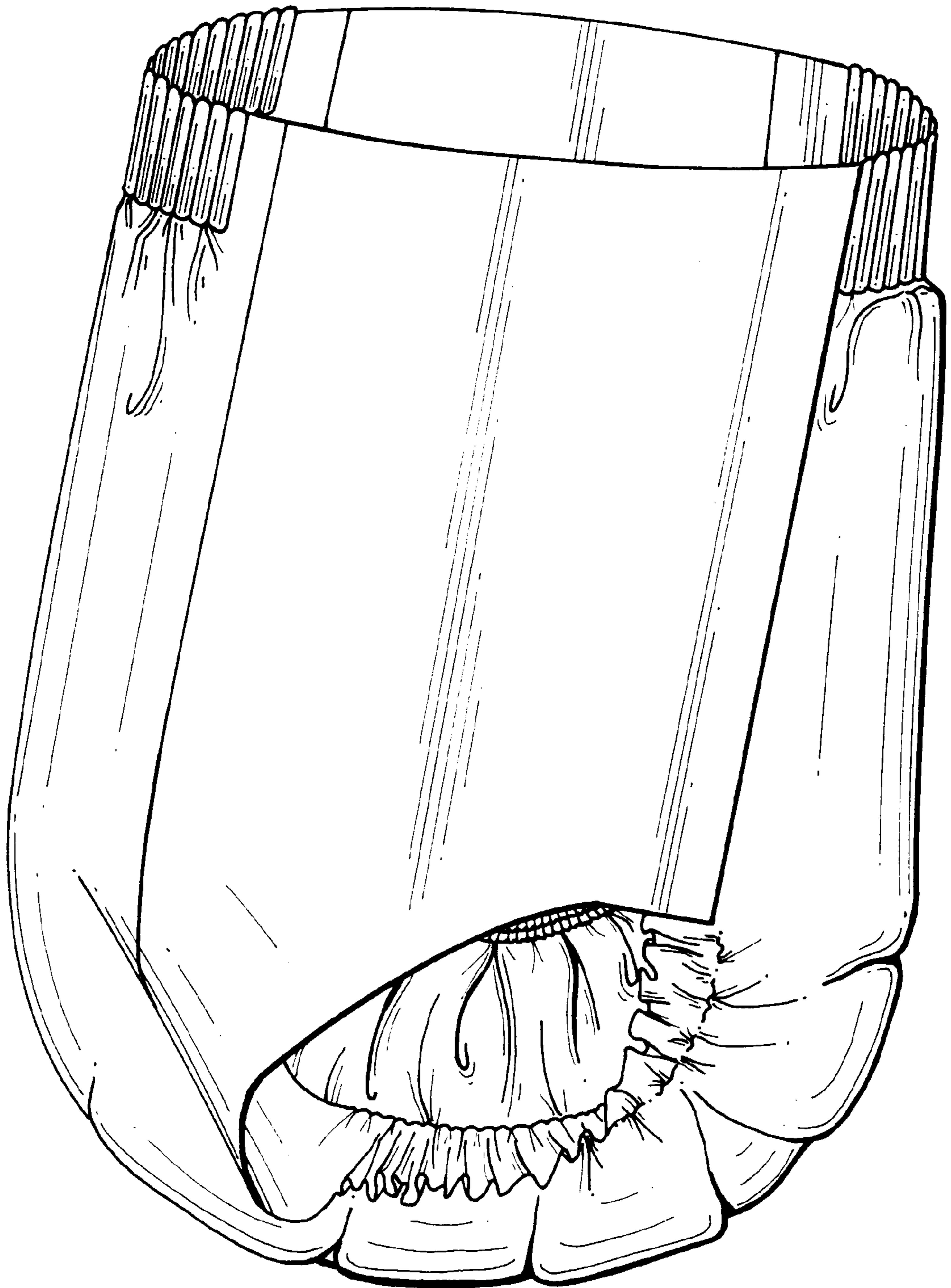


FIG. 5

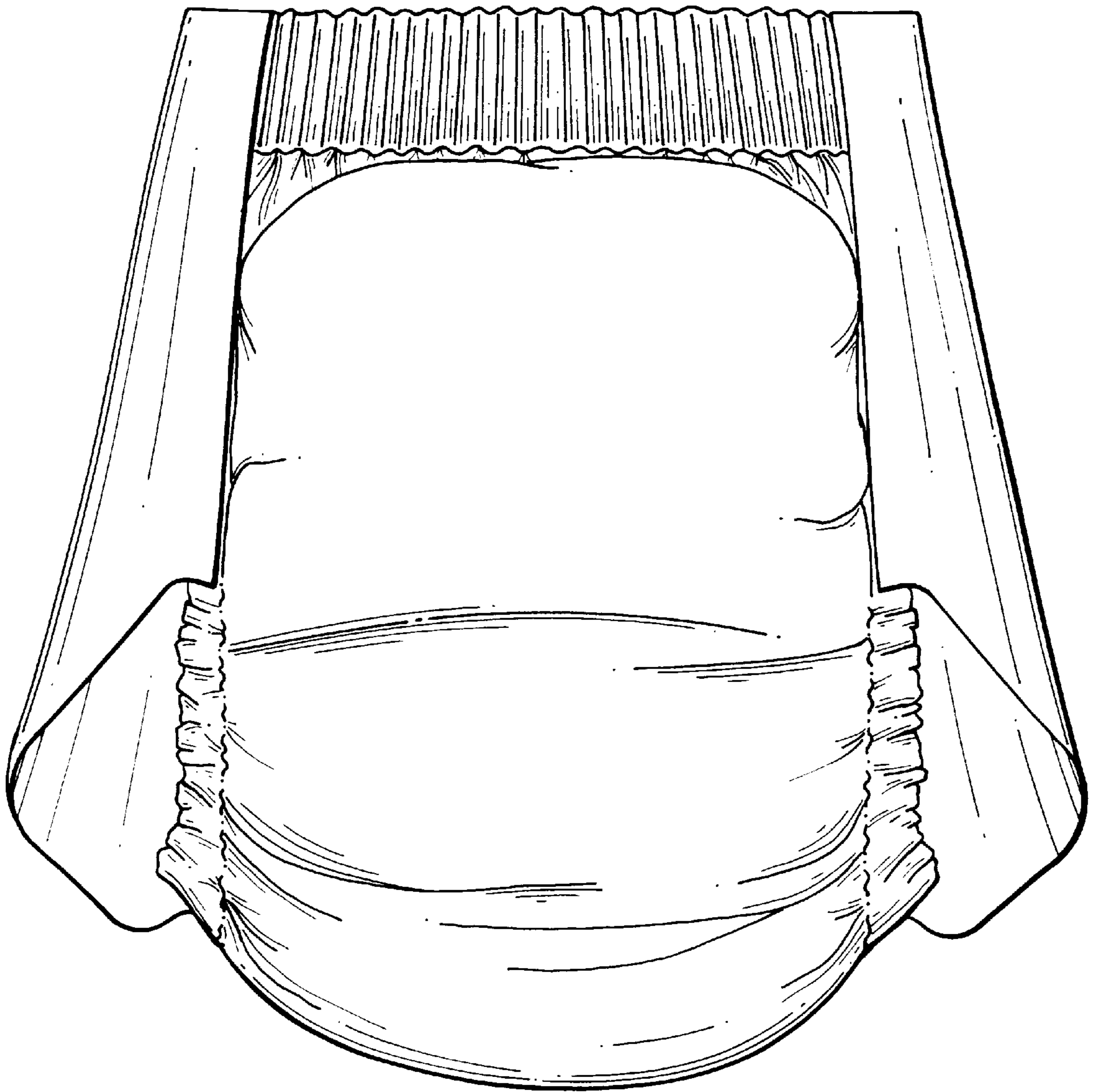


FIG. 6



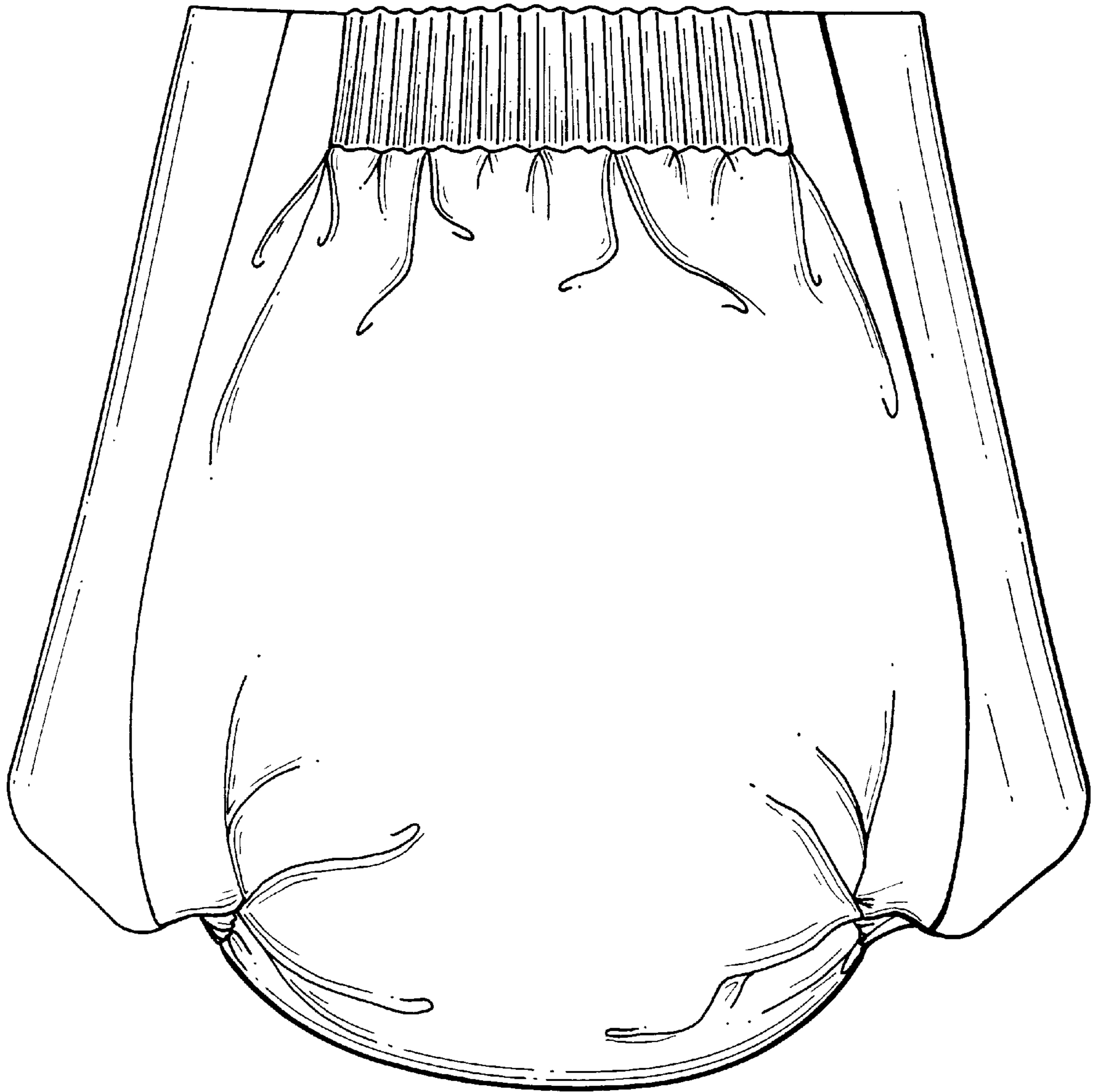


FIG. 7



FIG. 8



**FIG. 9**

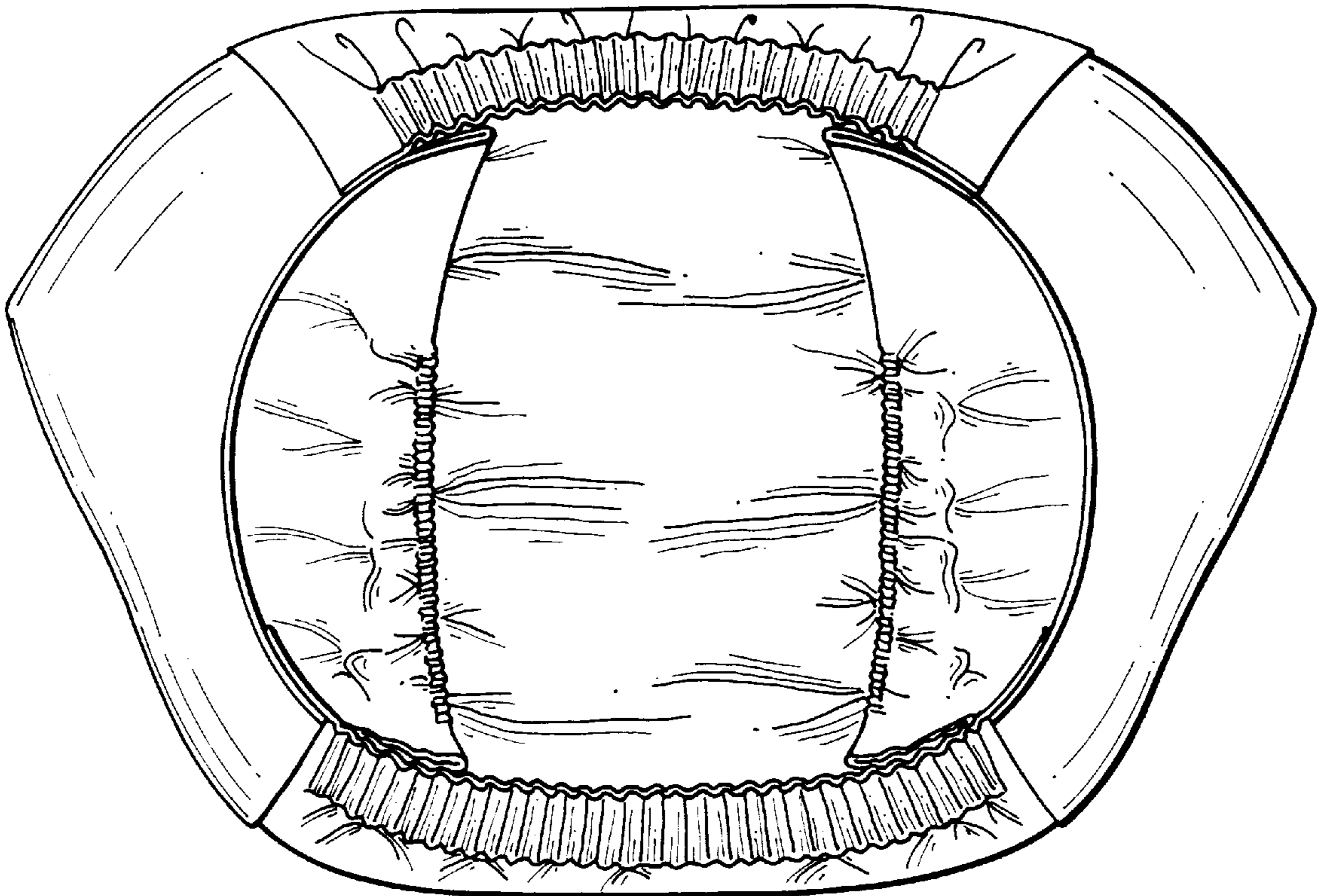


FIG. 10

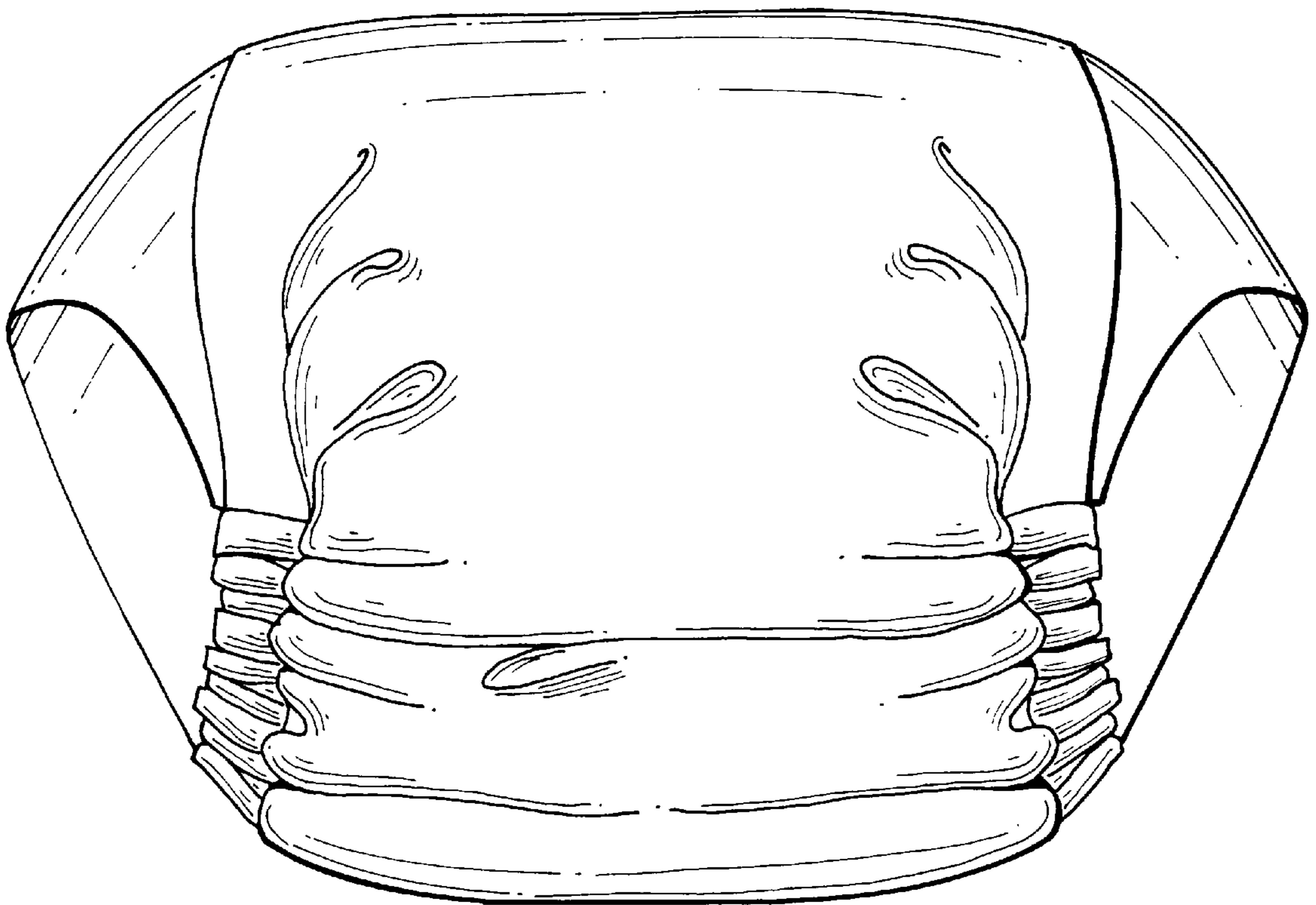


FIG. 11



FIG. 12

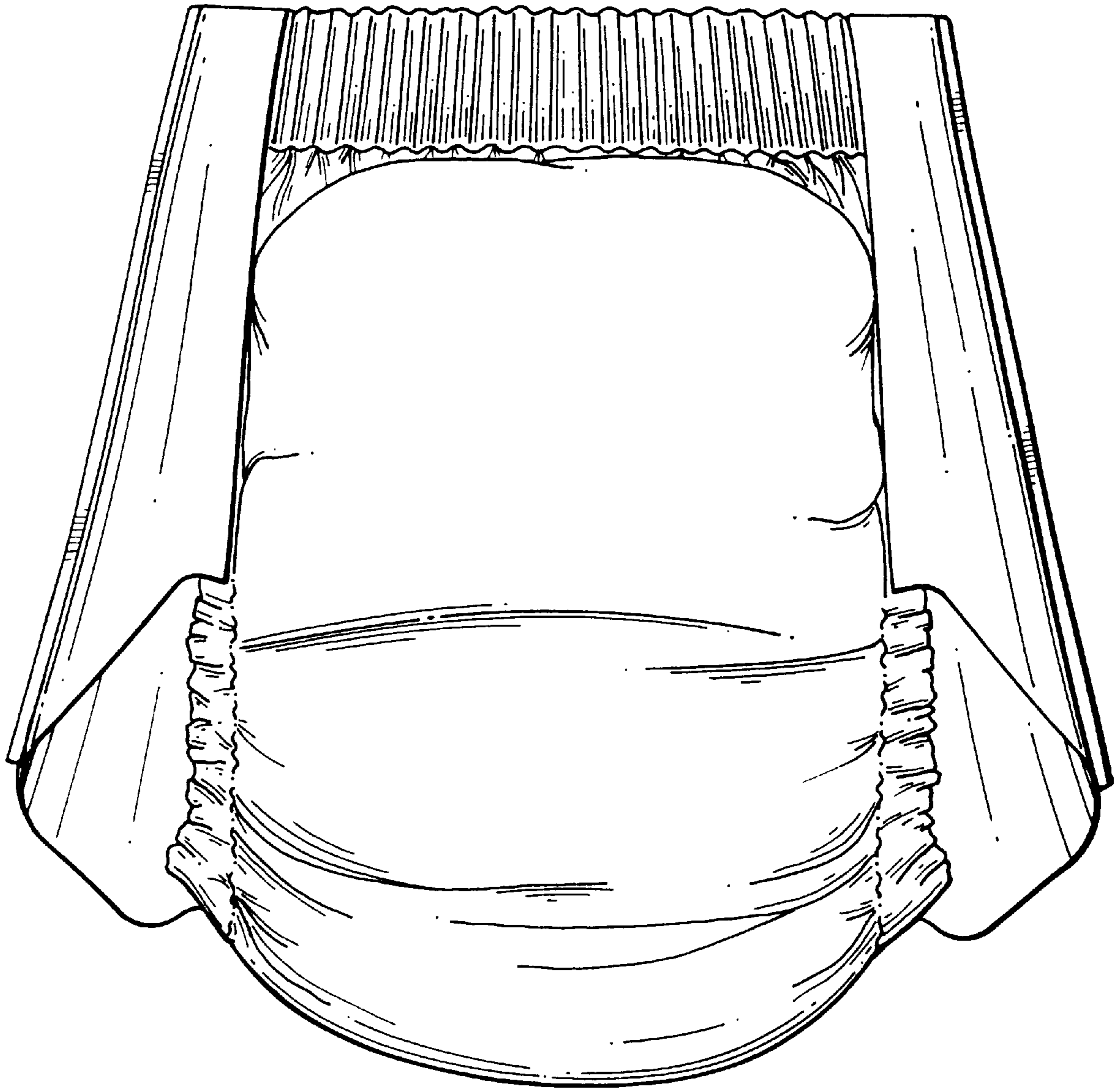


FIG. 13

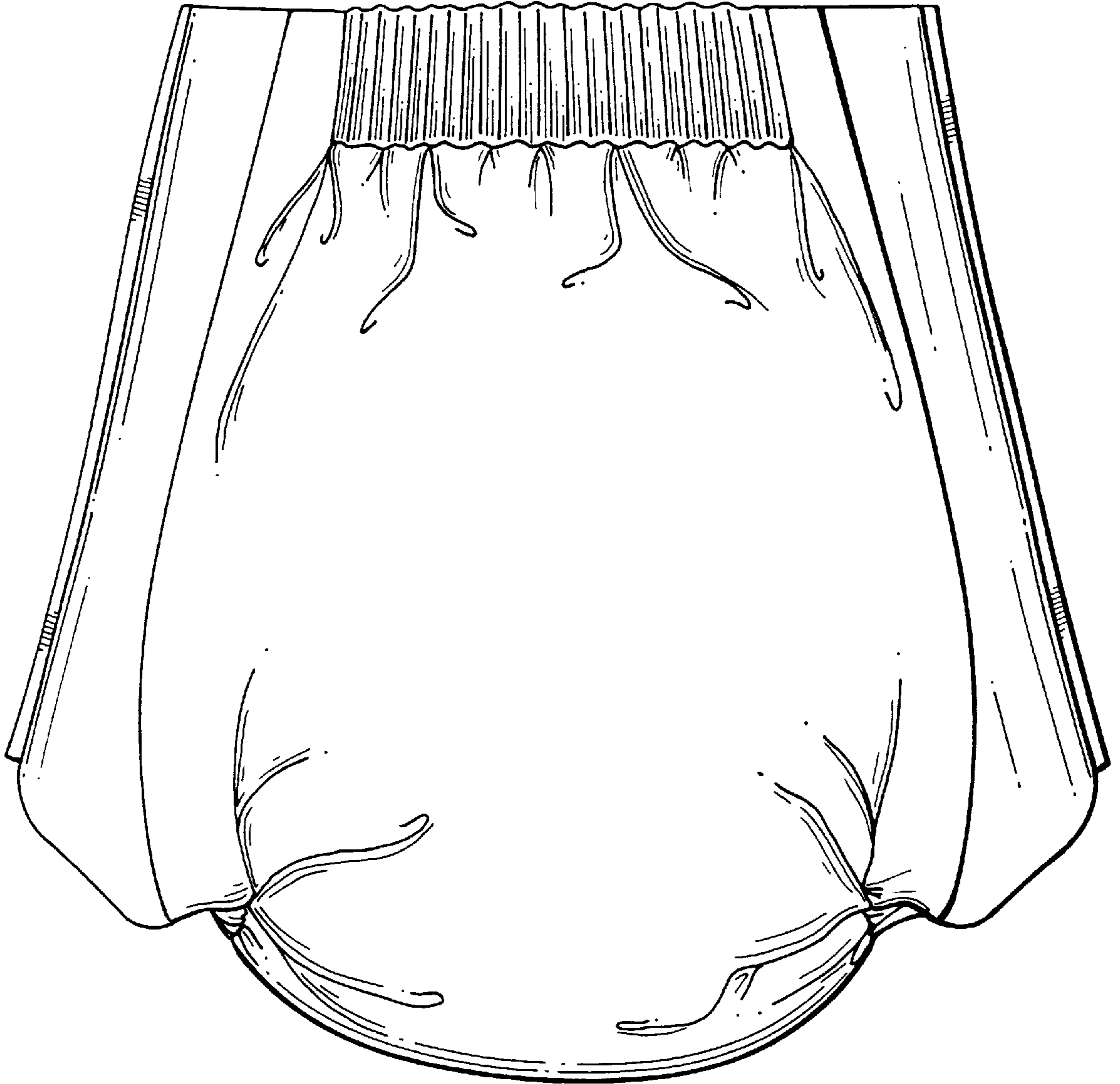


FIG. 14





**FIG. 15**



FIG. 16

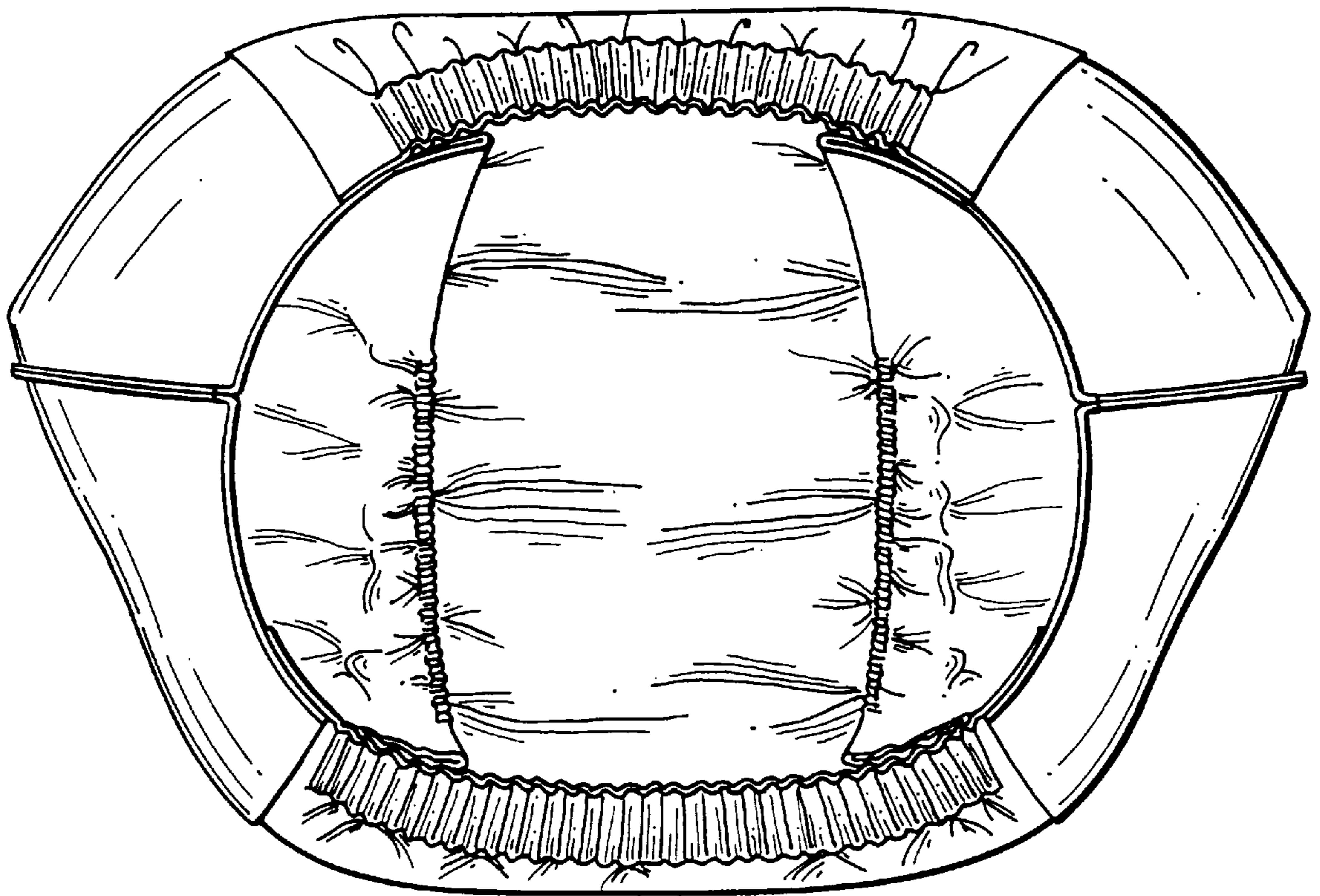


FIG. 17

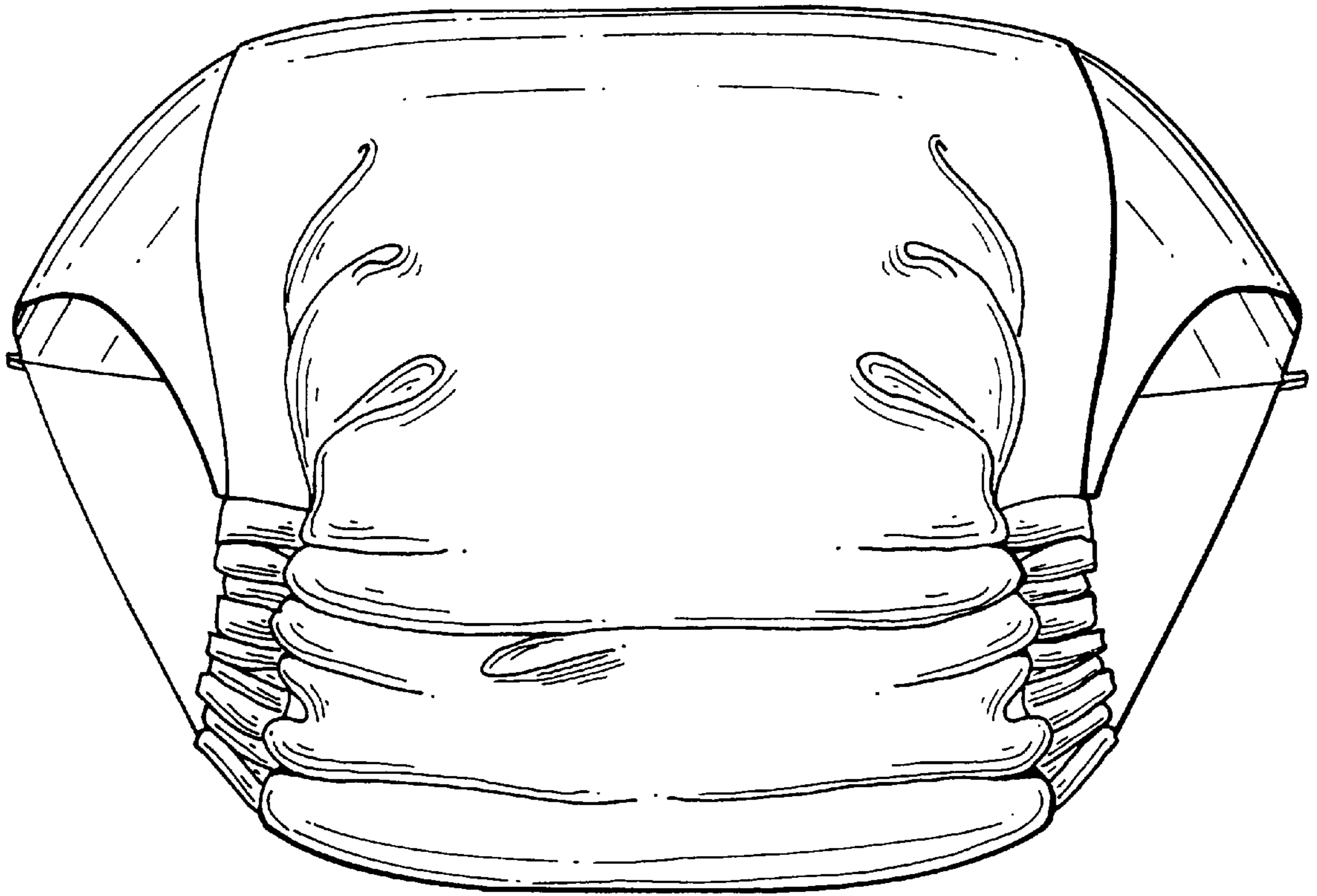


FIG. 18

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

PATENT NO. : Des 438,615 S  
DATED : March 6, 2001  
INVENTOR(S) : Dimitrijevs 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 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, and 37, delete "11" and substitute -- 12--.

Signed and Sealed this

Fifteenth Day of January, 2002

Attest:



Attesting Officer

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