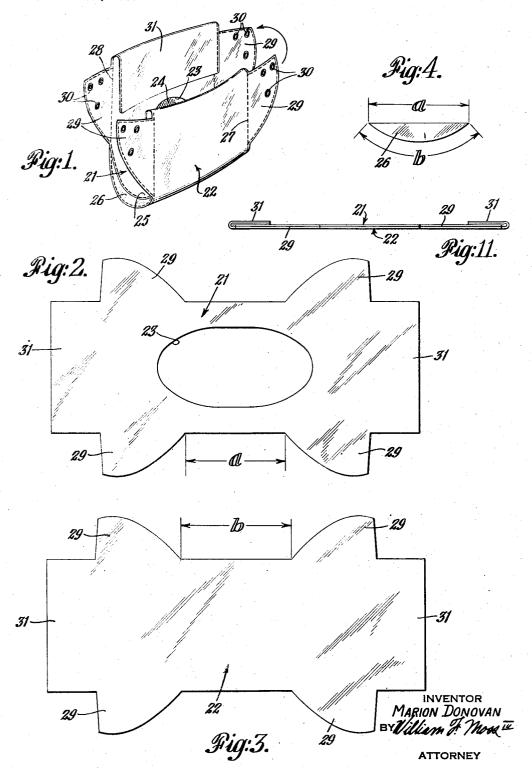
DIAPER COVER

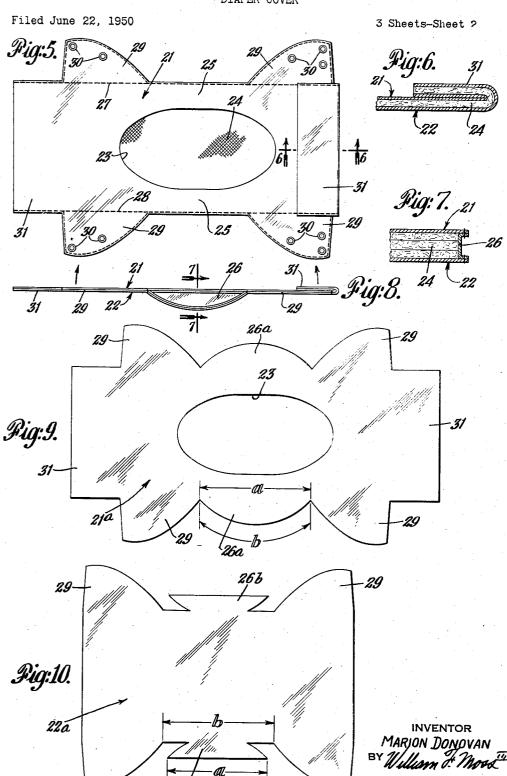
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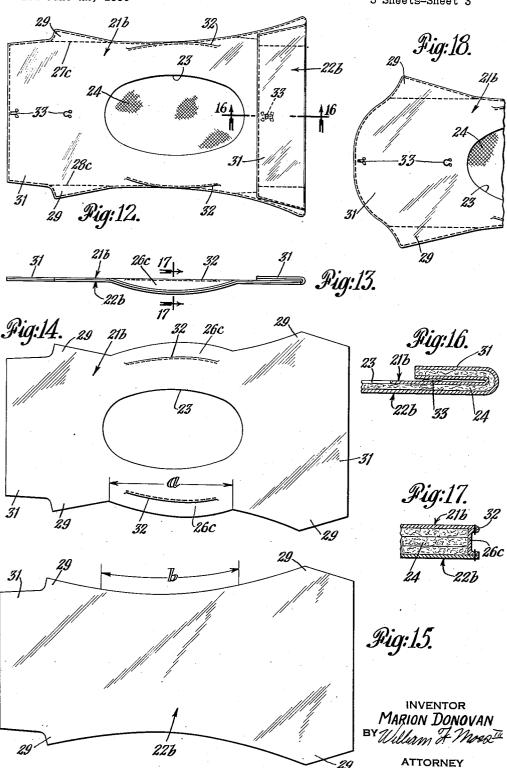
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DIAPER COVER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,575,165

DIAPER COVER

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Application June 22, 1950, Serial No. 169,602

11 Claims. (Cl. 128-287)

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The present invention relates to a new and improved waterproof and leakproof diaper cover.

The new diaper cover is an improvement over the inventions disclosed in my copending applications Serial No. 71,580, filed January 19, 1949 and now Patent No. 2,556,800, No. 91,536, filed May 5, 1949 and Serial No. 99,096, filed June 14, 1949.

The present invention provides a diaper cover which will prevent moisture from leaking from ding and will not bind about the baby's legs or restrict circulation of the blood or proper ventilation. Also, without the use of pins to retain the diaper in position, the new diaper cover will prevent the diaper from wadding into a mass or 15 bunching or from becoming disarranged in any way within the diaper cover. The diaper may be retained in the correct and more comfortable position with less likelihood that the baby's skin will be chafed or the baby made fretful by the 20 17—17 of Fig. 13, showing the diaper inserted. discomfort of a wadded, bulky mass of diaper, yet this is accomplished in a simple fashion without the effort of pinning the diaper to the cover and without the risk that such pins may become undiaper inserted may be easily and rapidly applied to the baby and may be thoroughly cleansed in a very simple fashion. All of these features are presented by the new diaper cover, and yet it may expensive manner.

Other features of the present invention will become apparent upon reading the following specification and referring to the accompanying drawings in which similar characters of reference represent corresponding parts in each of the several views

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one form of the new diaper cover with both end portions folded in. Fig. 2 is a plan view of a blank forming the inner sheet of the diaper cover as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a blank forming the outer sheet of the diaper cover as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a blank forming a side wall of the diaper cover as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the assembled diaper cover shown in Fig. 1 but with only one end folded in.

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the

lines 7—7 of Fig. 8, showing the diaper inserted. Fig. 8 is a side elevational view of the form of diaper cover shown in Fig. 5.

blank forming the inner sheet of the diaper cover shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 10 illustrates a plan view of an alternative form of blank forming the outer sheet of the diaper cover shown in Fig. 5 and further illustrates another modification thereof.

Fig. 11 is a side elevational view of a modified form of diaper cover with both ends folded in.

Fig. 12 is a plan view of an alternative form of the diaper and soiling the baby's clothes or bed- 10 an assembled diaper cover with one end folded in. Fig. 13 is a side elevational view of the diaper cover shown in Fig. 12 with one end folded in.

Fig. 14 is a plan view of a blank forming the inner sheet of the diaper cover shown in Fig. 12.

Fig. 15 is a plan view of a blank forming the outer sheet of the diaper cover shown in Fig. 12.

Fig. 16 is a cross-sectional view along the lines 16—16 of Fig. 12, showing the diaper inserted.

Fig. 17 is a cross-sectional view along the lines

Fig. 18 is a plan view of a portion of a modified form of an assembled diaper cover.

Referring now to the drawings in more detail, the general outline of the diaper cover may be done and hurt the baby. The new cover with a 25 that of a modified hour glass, as shown in Fig. 12, or of a tabbed rectangle, as shown in Fig. 5, or any modification of such forms, as, for example. the modification shown in Fig. 18. The cover may be of any soft pliable waterproof material, such be manufactured in a relatively simple and in- $_{30}$ as rubber, waterproof cloth or plastic, although I prefer to use a plastic material of a vinyl resin type.

The diaper cover has two basic parts. One is an inner sheet which is shown in various alternative forms as 21, 21a and 21b in Figs. 2. 9 and 14. respectively. The other basic part is a backing or outer sheet shown as 22, 22a and 22b in Figs. 3, 10 and 15, respectively. As can be seen from the drawings, all alternative forms of the inner sheet have a cut-out central portion generally indicated as 23. The inner and outer sheets are joined together by stitching or sealing along at least their side portions to form a pocket to retain a diaper 24 placed between said inner and outer sheets. A portion of diaper 24 is exposed to the baby by means of this cut-out area 23 for the absorption of moisture.

It has been found that if two pieces of material co-extensive in size and shape are joined lines 6-5 of Fig. 5, showing the diaper inserted. 50 together along their side edges with a cut-out central portion, such as 23 in the inner sheet 21, there is a tendency for the structure to gap open at its midpoints shown at 25 in Fig. 5, when a diaper is inserted and the structure is curved in Fig. 9 is a plan view of an alternative form of 55 the operating position shown in Fig. 1 which it

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will asume when the central portion is passed between the baby's legs and the end portions are secured about the baby's waist. However, I have discovered that this objectionable gaping, with its resulting leakage in the case of diaper covers, is overcome when the structure is provided with arcuate side walls. My inner sheets and outer sheets are so shaped and joined together to provide such side walls. However, the construction is better understood initially if these side walls 10 are shown as separate pieces, and the cover is shown as being formed of four pieces of material instead of the preferred two pieces.

Figs. 2, 3 and 4 illustrate this four-piece construction which utilizes an inner sheet 21, an 15 outer sheet 22 and two side walls 29. Inner-sheet 21 may be shaped as shown in Fig. 2 for use with outer sheet 22 shown in Fig. 3 and two side walls 25 shown in Fig. 4. The length of the straight side edge of sheet 21 at about its mid- 20 dle portion is indicated as "a" in Fig. 2. This length "a" is less than the length of the similar middle portion of outer sheet 22 which is indicated as "b" in Fig. 3, but the remaining portions of sheets 21 and 22 may be of the same size and shape. The side walls 26 are formed as shown in Fig. 4 with one straight edge and one convexly curved edge. The length of the straight edge of each side wall 26, indicated as "a" is the same as the straight edge mid-portion of inner sheet 21 which is also indicated as "a." The length of the curved edge of 26, which is indicated as "b," is the same as the length of the straight edge midportion of outer sheet 22, which is also indicated as "b."

A side wall piece 26 is affixed by any usual means, such as stitching or sealing to each side edge of the inner and outer sheets 21 and 22, respectively, at their mid-portions, with straight edge a being affixed to straight edge a of inner sheet 21 and curved edge "b" being affixed to straight edge b of said outer sheet 22. This provides a side elevation as is shown in Fig. 8 with the outer or backing sheet 22 being convexly curved away from said inner sheet 21 at this 45 mid-portion area. The inner and outer sheets may now be joined along the remaining portion of their side edges by similar means, for it will be noted that the excess length of outer sheet 22: over inner sheet 21 has been taken up by the 50 convex curve or pocket formed in said outer sheet 22 by side panels 26, and the other portions of sheet 22 may be co-extensive in size and shape with other portions of sheet 21. I also prefer to join said inner and outer sheets together along 55 straight lines 27 and 28 running across the tab portions 29 as shown in Figs. 1 and 5.

The tab portions indicated as 29 on said inner sheet 21 and on said outer sheet 22 are provided with snaps 39 or buttons and button holes or other fastening means by which the diaper cover with a diaper inserted may be secured about the waist of an infant. Snaps 39 are shown in Fig. 5 and it may be noted that these snaps also provide an adjustable waist size. If desired these tab rortions 29 may be left blank and pins may be used through these tabs to so secure the diaper cover without endangering its waterproof integrity, or this is maintained by the seams or lines of juncture 27 and 28.

The foregoing four-piece construction illustrates clearly the desired form that the central portion of the diaper should take. Of course, side walls 26 need not be of the precise shape shown in Figs. 4 and 8 but may be somewhat deeper or 75

shallower or may be longer or shorter if desired. Also, they might be angular rather than smoothly curved; the cover will be satisfactory as long as the length of edge "a" of 26, which is to be attached to inner sheet 21, is of less length than the overal length of edge b, or edges if b is made angular rather than curved, which is or are to be attached to outer sheet 22. The principal thing is to obtain a structure having an outer sheet curved convexly either arcuately or angularly, in relation to the inner sheet at about its middle portion. Although illustrative, this four-piece construction is not as simple or economical as the following alternative two-piece constructions which achieve the same desired result.

An alternative form of inner sheet is shown in Fig. 9 as 21a, which is designed for use with backing sheet 22, shown in Fig. 3, but without the need for any separate pieces to form the arcuate side walls. Again, the middle portion of 21a is somewhat shorter in length than that of 22. The length shown as "a" at the mid-portion of sheet 21a is less than the length shown as "b" of the mid-portion of sheet 22, but the length of the arc or curved edge shown as "b" in sheet 21a is the same as the length of the straight edge shown as "b" in sheet 22. Therefore when the curved edge b of sheet 21a is joined to the straight edge b of sheet 22, the length by which sheet 22 exceeds 21 is taken up, and the desired convex curve is obtained similar to that obtained when a separate side panel 26 was used. The inner and outer sheets 21a and 22 are then joined together in the same fashion as disclosed earlier. 35 It will be readily seen that these particular portions of sheet 21a, which are generally indicated as 26a, serve the same purpose as the separate side panels 26. However, forming these side: walls as an integral part of the inner sheet makes the diaper cover more economical to manufacture in that there is less cutting and so less waste of material and less stitching or joining of pieces of material required.

Again, it may be noted that this side-wall forming extension 25a need not be smoothly curved but may be angular with an outer edge generally parallel to the long axis of sheet 21a and side edges diverging toward the main portion of sheet 21a.

Another alternative form of construction provides the same desirable structure and is illustrated in Fig. 10, which shows a plan view of a backing sheet 22a designed for use with inner sheet 21. It will be noted in passing that sheet 22a does not have the extended portions 31 at each end of the sheet which are shown in other plan views and the purpose of this will be discussed later. The middle portion of sheet 22a indicated as "b" is of the same length as the middle portion of sheet 22. Formed integrally with sheet 22α and extending at each side of its middle portion is a side wall forming extension 26b roughly similar to side panel 26. This piece of material 26b has an exterior straight edge "a" and arcuate edges indicated as "b." Each piece of material 26b might be described as a truncated section of a circle being joined to sheet 22a along the line of truncation, and having two sides which are segments of the arc of the circle, and having one straight side a opposite to and substantially parallel with said line of truncation. Again, it may be noted that the side edges of 26b need not be segments of the same arc but

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as they converge toward the main portion of said backing sheet 22a.

The length of straight edge a of 26b is the same length as the straight edge a of the inner sheet 21. The side edges, whether curved or straightly converging, of side wall forming extensions 26b are secured to the adjacent straight edges of the middle portion of 22a, thus taking up the excess of length by which this middle portion of 22aexceeds the middle portion of 21 and forming 10 inner sheet 21b. Outer sheet 22b is a separate the backing sheet into a convex curve or angular pocket at this middle portion. Straight edge aof 26b is itself affixed to straight edge a of 21 and the two sheets are then secured together as before. It will be noted that again the side eleva- 15 of diaper cover may be sealed by stitching or sealtion of the structure will be like that shown in

Another, and the preferred form of obtaining the desired structure, is illustrated in Figs. 12, 13, 14 and 15. In this alternative form an inner 20 sheet of the general shape of 21b at its mid-portion is used. The other portions of 21b are merely illustrative of a form of diaper cover slightly different in outline from that previously shown. Again, outer sheet 22b is longer in its middle portion than is inner sheet 21b at its middle portion. Also the two sheets are of different shape at their middle portions. The long sides of sheet 22b at their middle portions are generally in the form 30 of concave curves providing outer sheet 22b with a narrower middle portion than end portions. Inner sheet 21b also has its long side edges of this same general concave curve for parts of their length but at their middle portion these concave 35 curves are interrupted by two convex curves so that at its middle portion 21b is wider than outer sheet 22b at this point. On both sides of the central aperture 23 of sheet 21b, inward of the side edges of said sheet 21b at its convexly curved 40 middle portion, there is a seam or tuck 32 formed by stitching or sealing. These seams 32 may be straight or slightly curved and roughly parallel with the convexly curved edges of the middle portion of sheet 21b. The area of sheet 21b on 45 each side outside of these tucks 32 is indicated as 26c. It will be seen that when inner sheet 21b with said seams 32 is attached to outer sheet 22b along the side edges of each sheet, a structure having the side elevation shown in Fig. 13 will be obtained and that this structure has an outer sheet which is convexly curved with relation to the inner sheet at its middle portion, the areas 26cof said inner sheet 21b forming the side walls creating such convex curve, which curve takes up the excess length of the middle portion of outer sheet 22b. Again, side-wall forming extension 26c may be angular instead of smoothly curved and the same advantages will be obtained.

Straight stitch or seam lines 27c and 28c may be added as before to provide this alternative form of diaper cover with tab portions which may be pierced by pins or other fastening means without destroying the waterproof integrity of the diaper cover.

A cross-sectional viw of this preferred form is shown in Fig. 17, which is taken along lines 17—17 of Fig. 13. It will be noted that this Fig. 17 is generally similar to Fig. 7, which shows a similar cross-sectional view of a diaper cover con- 70 structed of four pieces of material. However, Fig. 17 differs from Fig. 7 in one important respect as is shown graphically in accordance with the conventional draftsmen's symbols of the

arate pieces of material are shown joined together, i. e. an inner sheet 21, a sidewall 26 and an outer sheet 22; these three separate pieces are secured together by ordinary stitches or seams. In Fig. 17 the same construction is achieved by only two pieces of material. Inner sheet 21b and side panel area 26c are one piece of material and seam 32 does not secure two pieces of material together, but merely provides a small tuck in piece of material and is secured by ordinary stitches or seams to the edge of sidewall forming extension 26c of sheet 21b.

The ends of all the foregoing alternative forms ing lines, or they may be left open in order that the diaper cover may be more readily cleaned. However, the particular form given to the end portions of these diaper covers, which end portions are generally denoted as 31, has its own particular advantage which will now be shown.

If the baby is particularly active, the inserted diaper has a tendency to slip away from the end portions of the diaper cover and to bunch or wad Outer sheet 22b is used with inner sheet 21b. 25 in a mass in the central portion of the cover. Such a wadded diaper increases the likelihood of chafing and fretfulness because it is generally uncomfortable to the baby. Furthermore, when the diaper is so wadded into a mass in the central portion of the diaper cover and so in the vicinity of the cut-out area 23, the diaper has a tendency to project through this cut-out area and create leakage. This problem has been recognized in the prior art and an attempt has been made to overcome it by pinning the diaper at both ends of the diaper cover. Such a procedure is not satisfactory for it entails additional operations in both inserting and removing the diaper from the cover and it subjects the baby to possible injury should the pins become undone. Also, unless additional material is used to provide tabs, the diaper must be pinned through the diaper cover and in a very short time the waterproof integrity of the cover may be lost. In my improved diaper cover I overcome all of these difficulties without requiring any extra operations, or endangering the baby or destroying the waterproof integrity of the cover.

I provide extensions 3! at each end of my diaper cover which extensions project beyond the length of the cover necessary to reach the baby's waist in front and back when its central portion is passed between the baby's legs. A diaper 24 is used which is long enough to extend into these extended areas 31 for at least a distance far enough so that when these extended portions 31 of the diaper cover are folded back at each end, the ends of the diaper 24 are folded back as well, and the diaper is securely held in place. This is clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 16. The grip obtained on the diaper by these folded end portions will prevent the diaper from slipping down and bunching or wadding in the central portion of the cover, or from otherwise becoming dis- $_{65}$ arranged within the cover. Since the cover is of thin pliable material, even with the diaper inserted it is still subject to folding over without becoming particularly bulky or objectionable. Moreover, it has been found that the baby is not annoyed by such folds which are positioned about his waist when the diaper cover is in use and so are out of his way.

If desired, snaps or hooks and eyes 34 can be provided on the inner sheet at each end thereof United States Patent Office. In Fig. 7 three sep- 75 in order to retain the extended end portions 31

when they are folded back upon themselves. Such hooks and eyes are shown in Fig. 12 in both an engaged and disengaged position and this is clearly illustrated in the cross-sectional view of Fig. 16. Such hooks and eyes 34 are also 5 shown in Fig. 18, which illustrates a further alternative outline for a diaper cover by showing one-half of such cover, the other half being simi-

As can be seen, the new diaper cover can be 10 used without the presence of these extended areas 3! and without utilizing folds at each end to grip the diaper, in which case both the inner and outer sheets will have the length generally indicated in Fig. 10 for the outer sheet. Also, the extended 15 middle portion in relation to said inner sheet. diaper cover featuring only the gripping end folds 31 can be used without the presence of the convex curve in the backing sheet as is shown in Fig. 11. A more satisfactory diaper cover is either can be used to advantage without the other.

While I have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment of my invention, it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the pre- 25 cise construction herein disclosed and the right is reserved to all changes and modifications coming within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I 30 claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent is:

- 1. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet provided with a central aperture and an outer sheet, said sheets being 35 joined together along at least two opposing side edges of one of said sheets to provide a pocket for the retention of a diaper, said outer sheet having end portions and being longer than the length required to reach a baby's waist in front and in back when said diaper cover is passed between a baby's legs, whereby the said end portions may be folded back and thereby grip the end portions of a diaper inserted between said sheets and extending a substantial distance into 45 said end portion areas to maintain said diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.
- 2. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet joined together along the long side edges of at 50 least one of said sheets to provide a space for the retention of a diaper inserted between said sheets, said sheets each having a middle portion, body portions and end portions, said inner sheet being provided with a central aperture at its mid- 55 dle portion and said end portions of said sheets extending beyond a baby's waist in front and in back when the middle portion of the diaper cover with a diaper inserted is passed between a baby's legs, whereby said end portions may be folded 60 back to grip the end portions of an inserted diaper projecting into said end portions of said diaper cover and to retain said diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.
- 3. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material 65 comprising an inner sheet, side panels and a backing sheet, said inner sheet being provided with a central aperture and having a middle portion shorter than the middle portion of said backing sheet, said side panels having one straight 70 edge and one convexly curved edge, a said side panel being joined along its straight edge to each side of the middle portion of said inner sheet at the side edges thereof and along its curved edge to each side of the middle portion of said back- 75 into said end portion areas and to maintain said

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ing sheet along the side edges thereof and said inner and backing sheets being joined together at least along the remaining portions of their long sides.

- 4. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a longer backing sheet joined together to provide a space for the retention of a diaper inserted between said sheets, said inner sheet being provided with a central aperture and with a side-wall forming extension at each side of its middle portion whereby when said inner sheet and said backing sheet are joined together along the side edges of said inner sheet said backing sheet will be convexly curved at its
- 5. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet, said inner sheet having a central aperture and being of less length than said backing sheet and obtained if both of these features are present, but 20 having a side-wall forming extension at each side of its middle portion whereby said inner sheet is wider at said middle portion than said backing sheet at its middle portion, said inner sheet and said backing sheet being joined together along at least the side edges of said inner sheet whereby arcuate side-walls are formed on each side of said diaper cover at its middle portion and at said middle portion said backing sheet is convexly shaped in relation to said inner sheet.
 - 6. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet joined together along the side edges of said inner sheet, said inner sheet being provided with a central aperture and a side-wall forming extension at each side of its middle portion and being wider at said portion than said backing sheet at its middle portion, said side-wall forming extensions being convexly curved in outline, said inner sheet having a shorter middle portion than said backing sheet, whereby when said sheets are so joined together said backing sheet is convexly curved about an axis transverse of its length at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet, said backing sheet having end portions extending beyond the baby's waist when said diaper cover with a diaper inserted between said sheets is passed between a baby's legs, whereby said end portions may be folded back to grip the end portions of a diaper so inserted and extending a substantial distance into said end portion areas and to maintain said diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.
 - 7. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet joined together along the side edges of said inner sheet, said inner sheet being provided with a central aperture and a side-wall forming extension at each side of its middle portion and being wider at said portion than said backing sheet at its middle portion, said side-wall forming extensions shaped to have a side edge and end edges converging away from the main body of said inner sheet, said inner sheet having a shorter middle portion than said backing sheet, whereby when said sheets are so joined together said backing sheet is convexly curved about an axis transverse of its length at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet, said backing sheet having end portions extending beyond the baby's waist when said diaper cover with a diaper inserted between said sheets is passed between a baby's legs, whereby said end portions may be folded back to grip the end portions of a diaper so inserted and extending a substantial distance

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diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.

8. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet joined together to retain a diaper inserted there- 5 between, said inner sheet having a central aperture and having a middle portion shorter and narrower than the middle portion of said backing sheet, said backing sheet being integrally provided at each side of its middle portion with 10 a side-wall forming extension and being wider at said middle portion than said inner sheet at its middle portion by the width of said extensions, each of said extensions having a side edge substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis 15 of said backing sheet and end edges converging toward the main body of said backing sheet, said end edges of said extensions being joined to the main body of said backing sheet along the adjacent side edges thereof, said backing sheet being 20 joined to said inner sheet along the side edges of said extensions and the remaining side edges of said backing sheet whereby said backing sheet is convexly curved at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet.

9. A diaper cover of soft waterproof material comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet joined together to provide a space for the retention of a diaper inserted therebetween, said inner sheet having a central aperture and a middle por- 30 tion shorter and narrower than the middle portion of said backing sheet, said backing sheet being integrally provided at each side of its middle portion with a side-wall forming extension, and being wider at said middle portion than said 35 inner sheet at its middle portion by the width of said extensions, each of said extensions formed substantially in the shape of a truncated section of a circle and being integrally joined to said backing sheet along the line of truncation and having curved end edges and a side edge substantially parallel with said line of truncation. the two sheets being secured together by joining the said curved end edges of said extensions to the adjacent side edges of said backing sheet, and the side edge of each of said extensions and the remaining side edges of said backing sheet to said inner sheet, whereby said backing sheet is convexly curved at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet, and said sheets being pro- 50 vided with end portions of a length sufficient to extend beyond a baby's waist in front and in back

when the diaper cover with a diaper inserted is passed between the legs of a baby, whereby said end portions and the ends of a diaper inserted therein may be folded back to retain said diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.

10. A diaper cover comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet, both of soft waterproof material, said inner sheet being shorter than said backing sheet and provided with a central aperture and with side-wall forming extensions on each side thereof and having a narrow tuck positioned on each side of said inner sheet between said central aperture and the edge of each of said side-wall forming extensions and extending for substantially the length of said extensions, said inner sheet being joined along its side edges to said backing sheet, whereby said backing sheet is convexly curved at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet.

11. A diaper cover comprising an inner sheet and a backing sheet, both of soft waterproof material, each of said sheets having end portions, body portions and a middle portion, said body and end portions being of substantially the same size and shape, the middle portion of said inner sheet being generally convex in outline and wider and shorter than the middle portion of said backing sheet and having a central aperture and a narrow tuck on each side of said aperture inwardly of said convex edges, said tuck extending substantially the length of said middle portion, said inner sheet and said backing sheet being joined together along the side edges thereof, whereby said backing sheet is convexly curved at its middle portion in relation to said inner sheet, the said end portions of said sheets being of a length to extend beyond a baby's waist in front and in back when said diaper cover with a diaper inserted is passed between the legs of a baby; whereby said end portions may 40 be folded back to grip the end portions of a diaper inserted and retain said diaper from displacement within said diaper cover.

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