

March 20, 1951

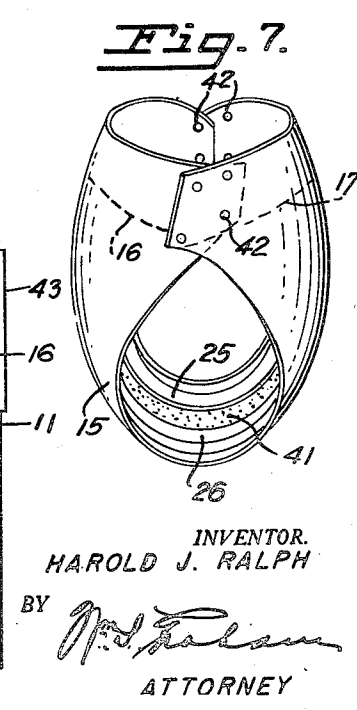
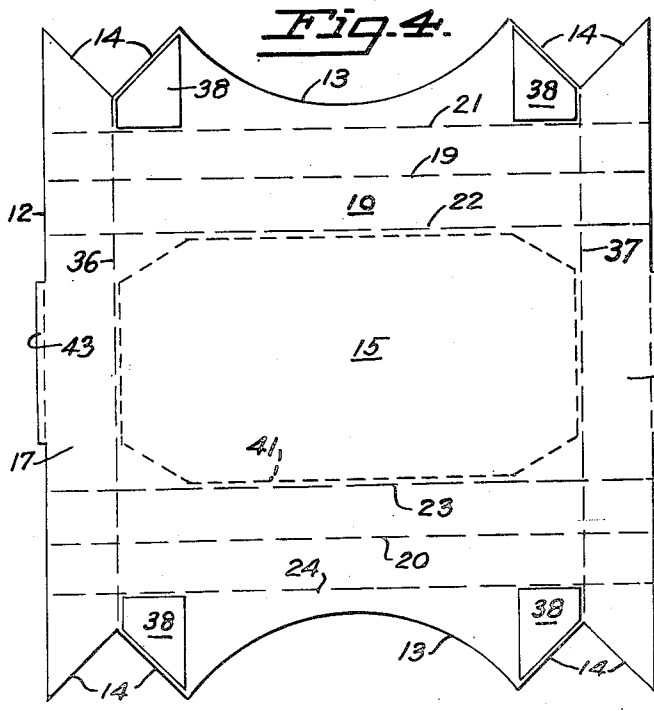
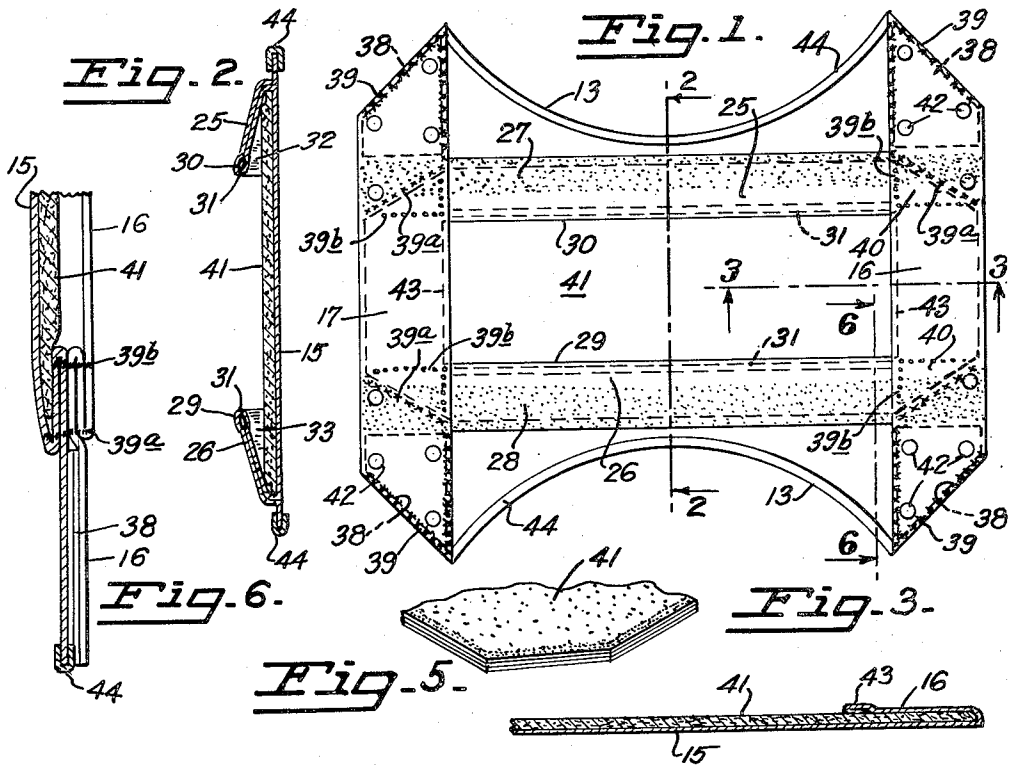
H. J. RALPH

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DIAPER GARMENT FOR INFANTS

Filed Sept. 21, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



INVENTOR.
HAROLD J. RALPH

BY *W. J. Tolson*
ATTORNEY

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H. J. RALPH

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 8.

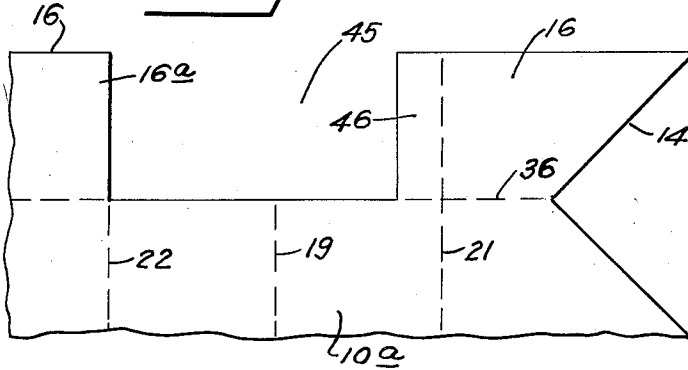


Fig. 9.

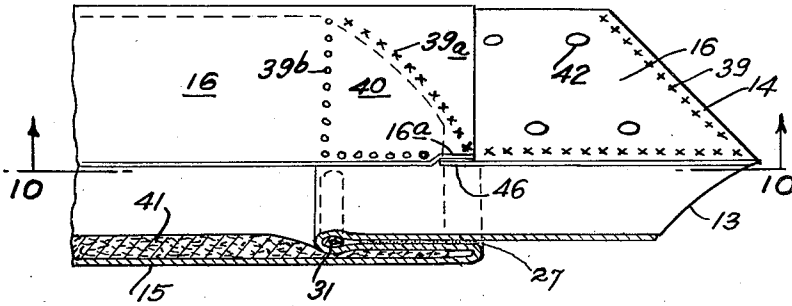
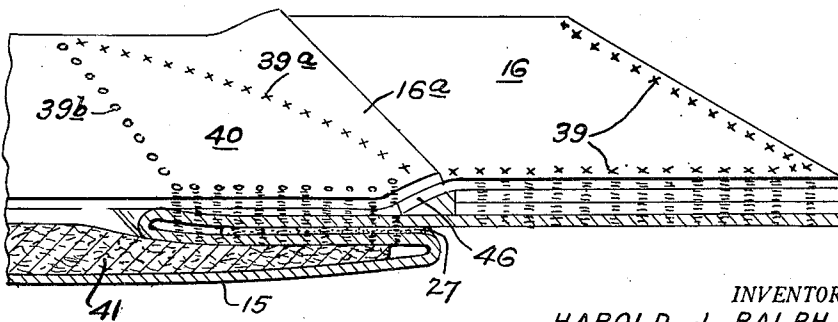


Fig. 10.



INVENTOR.
HAROLD J. RALPH
BY *H. J. Ralph*
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DIAPER GARMENT FOR INFANTS

Harold J. Ralph, San Francisco, Calif.

Application September 21, 1948, Serial No. 50,335

10 Claims. (Cl. 128—287)

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This invention relates to diaper garments for infants and more particularly relates to diaper garments comprising a holder having a pocket in which an absorbent pad may be changeably inserted.

The employment of the diaper as a garment for infants is an extremely old art and practice, usually comprising an absorbent textile folded breech cloth requiring laundering. In more recent years liquid impervious covering garments have been employed to cover the folded textile diaper, and still more recently an absorbent destructible diaper for a single use without laundering, has been employed, with or without a liquid impervious covering. Against this background the present invention is an improvement.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a destructible diaper and an improved liquid impervious container or holder garment for such a diaper.

Another object is to provide a sanitary moisture impervious holder having an elongated pocket impervious to leakage at its connected edges, in which a removable absorbent diaper may be changeably held.

A further object is to provide a moisture impervious diaper holder which may be formed without stitching or seams.

A still further object is to provide a liquid impervious diaper holder which may be formed from an integral blank of sheet material.

Yet another object is to provide a diaper holder having a pocket for receiving therein a destructible diaper and providing fins or flaps overlying the edges of a diaper body to prevent seepage from the pocket.

A further object is to provide a holder for destructible diapers, simple in construction, economical in manufacture, and efficient in operation, and generally to improve upon the devices of the character described.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, which will be apparent from or further set forth in this specification, one form in which the invention may be embodied is described herein and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, it being understood that variation of details may be resorted to by substitution of equivalents without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention which is defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing—

Fig. 1 is a plan view of the diaper holding garment of the invention.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged lateral transverse section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

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Fig. 3 is a fragmentary enlarged longitudinal section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a blank from which the diaper holder garment is formed, reduced in size as compared to Fig. 1 and showing in broken lines the fold lines, and in dotted lines the position of the diaper member when the holder is folded.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of diaper member.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged section on line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of holder and diaper in garment-forming relation.

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary plan view of blank for forming a modified form of the invention.

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view, partly in section, of the modified form of the garment incorporating the blank of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is an enlarged fragmentary section on line 10—10 of Fig. 9.

Referring to the accompanying drawing in which like reference characters indicate corresponding parts in the several views, 10 indicates generally in Fig. 4 a blank from which a diaper holder is formed. If the garment is formed from an integral sheet the blank 10 is of substantially equal overall length and width prior to folding and is of flexible moisture impervious thin sheet material, preferably an integral sheet of the more recently developed semi-transparent plastics, though wellknown oiled-silk sheet material, rubberized cloth or the like, may also be employed. These materials are washable by surface application without absorption of water.

The opposite ends 11 and 12 of the blank are preferably parallel on straight lines whereas the relatively opposite side edges are cut irregularly, providing at the central portion of each side edge an arcuate cut-out or indent 13, and at the opposite ends of the side edges are angular cut-outs or indents 14. The central portion of the blank which becomes a backing sheet for a diaper is indicated 15, and foldable transverse end flaps are indicated 16 and 17. Thus far, the blank has been described by its configuration in a flat integral sheet.

To provide a longitudinal pocket from the blank to form a diaper holder, a pair of relatively spaced longitudinal fins are provided, freely overlying the back sheet and having one longitudinal edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and having the other longitudinal edge free so that the fins freely overlie the back sheet with the free edges relatively opposed. In forming

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the pocket from an integral blank, the blank is creased upon defined longitudinal lines, and end flaps are folded upon transverse lines, the fold lines being indicated by broken lines in the accompanying drawing. Since the material is moisture impervious flexible sheet material, it is unnecessary to provide scoring on the lines of folding, though scoring may be resorted to if desired and convenient.

In forming the elongated pocket from an integral sheet to receive a diaper member, the blank is first bent by creasing longitudinally the full length of the blank on the lines 19 and 20 which are relatively spaced on opposite sides of, and substantially parallel to, the longitudinal center line of the blank, the material between other adjacent parallel lines 21, 22 and 23, 24, respectively, being then taken up from both sides of the lines 19 and 20, thereby providing fins in the form of pleats 25, 26 longitudinally of the garment and relatively spaced on opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline thereof. The fins or pleats thus formed are pressed downwardly toward each other to substantially contact and freely overlie the plane of the back sheet 15 of the blank so that their free edges 19, 20 are relatively opposed. Where the fins are formed as pleats from an integral sheet, the two overlying layers of sheet material forming the pleats have their opposed faces sealed to each other for their entire length adjacent the connection of the formed fin to the plane of the back sheet of the blank as represented by the lines 21, 22 for one pleat, and 23, 24 for the opposite pleat. Since the fold lines 21 and 24 are spaced from the adjacent relatively opposite longitudinal edges of the sheet and connect the respective fins or pleats to the back sheet, the connected longitudinal edge of each fin is thus spaced from the adjacent longitudinal edge of the garment, and this is important especially at the opposite end portions of the fins, since it provides a pocket of lesser width than the entire width at the end portions of the garment and thus saves diaper material. The areas of sealing between the layers of the fins is indicated by stippling 27, 28. Since the sheet is integral and moisture-impervious, the opposite longitudinal edges of the pocket at the fold lines 22 and 23 have a leak-proof connection with the back sheet; if the fins are formed of separate strips they should likewise be connected by a leak-proof seal at the longitudinal connected edge of the pocket.

An elongated enlarged soft elastic edge is provided at the longitudinal free edge of the fins and of greater thickness than the remainder of the fin. Where the fin is formed as a pleat by folding an integral sheet blank upon itself, the layers of material forming the pleats are left unsealed relatively adjacent the free folded edges 19 and 20, thereby providing in each pleat at said folded edge portions 19 and 20, a relatively narrow elongated or tubular envelope 29, 30 which serves the purpose of maintaining the folded edges 19, 20 of the respective pleats slightly puffed and thereby slightly spaced from the plane of the backsheet. To more positively maintain the open or puffed condition of the tubular envelopes 29—30 there may, if desired, be inserted therein a flexible member, such as a soft elastic band or a soft flexible tube 31. When the garment is being worn by an infant the tube envelopes 29, 30 or elastic member 31 if the latter be employed, also serves to hold the free edge of the pleat in contact with the legs of the infant

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and prevents uncomfortable binding on the legs. The tubular envelopes 29—30 and the tubes 31 are of a length to extend between the free edges of downfolded end flaps 16 and 17 when the latter are folded and seals are made in said end flaps, as will be further described. It is to be understood that the sealing of the opposed faces of the layers of sheet material forming the pleats leaves the plane of the pleats freely overlying the back sheet 15 of the blank and not adhered thereto, so that when the end flaps 16, 17 are folded upon lines 36 and 37, an elongated body is formed having longitudinal pockets 32, 33 which extend between the end fold lines 36 and 37.

After the elongated fins or pleats are folded longitudinally into the blank, as thus far described, the relatively opposite end strip portions or flaps 16, 17 are folded on the lines 36, 37 so that the terminal end edges 11 and 12 and the included portion of longitudinal pleats 25, 26 overlie the portion of the plane of the blank comprising the back sheet 15. The end flaps 16, 17 extend at least between the free ends of the spaced opposite fins or pleats and are connected thereto. When the end flaps are thus folded it will be observed that the angular edges of the angular indents 14 register relatively, and a suitable seal as hereafter described may be employed to secure said end flaps in such overlying relation. Prior to such sealing, however, it is preferred to insert reinforcing members 38 between the opposed faces of the opposite end portions of each of the end flaps. These reinforcing members are preferably two thicknesses of the same material of which the blank is made. In shape they have opposite parallel edges which respectively parallel closely the fold lines 36, 37 and the downfolded edges 11 and 12 of the end flaps. One of the other pair of edges of each of the reinforcing members registers with the angularly inclined terminal edge at the opposite end of each of the end flaps, and the opposite edge of the reinforcing member closely parallels the sealed edges of the respective pleats 25, 26 which connects to the back sheet.

The end flaps being thus folded to overlying relation and the reinforcing members being thus positioned therebetween, all of the overlying layers, and including the back sheet layer, are secured together by a seal 39 therethrough substantially of the shape of three sides of a rhomboid, following and closely adjacent to the free edge lines of the infolded end flaps and diagonally across the portion of the pleat which is included in the layers of the infolded end flap. Experience has demonstrated that when the end flaps are integral with the back sheet it is not necessary, nor even desirable, to have the seal include the folded edges 36 and 37, which become the end edges after the end flaps are folded down, since the fold is inherently impervious; yet if the end flaps are formed of separate sheets of material sealed at an edge to the back sheet, such seal is also preferably leak-proof. It will be noted that the inner diagonal portion 39a of the seals 39 is diagonally transverse across the portion of the end flaps which are included in the pleats, whereby all overlying layers of the material including the back sheet, are thus secured together. The diagonal seals 39a at the same end of the holder are relatively convergently inclined toward the end of the holder to provide substantially trapezoidal end portions of the diaper receiving pocket, which, cooperating with the elongated pleats, provides an elongated octagonal pocket

for receiving the diaper member. Such diagonal sealing would normally leave a triangular portion 40 in which the edges of the layers of material comprising the pleats 25, 26 and the in-turned end flaps 16, 17, are unsealed relatively, possibly causing crevices difficult to clean and in which unsanitary matter might accumulate. Further, since it is desirable to provide a pocket into which an elongated generally octagonal diaper 41 may be removably inserted, this triangular portion 40 should not be closed by a sealing of the overlying sheets to the backing sheet 15 of the blank. Therefore, the overlying layers of the pleats and end flaps within this triangular area 40 are relatively sealed to each other on the base line and vertical side line of the triangle by a separate seal 39b which fastens together the overlying sheets only and eliminates the back sheet 15 from such relative sealing of such triangular area. By such sealing, it will be noted that the infolded end flaps freely overlie the transverse central portion of the back sheet in the area between the diagonal seals 39a, and that the infolded free end edges 11, 12 are free between the opposed edges 29, 30 of the fins, to complete the opposite end portions of the pocket. The seals referred to may be of any suitable type and are shown by varying arbitrary symbols in the drawing to distinguish them from other lines and from each other. Since the material of the holder is preferably moisture impervious thin flexible plastic sheet material which is well known to be sealable by application of heat, the sealing may be by a well-known heat process, but if the holder be of oiled silk or a rubberized sheet product, it may be stitched or sealed in any suitable manner.

Suitable fastening means for securing the holding garment about the girth of an infant are employed at the opposite ends of the downfolded end flaps 16, 17. Such fastening means may comprise snap fasteners 42 secured through the downfolded end flaps, the portion of the backsheet which the end flaps overlie and also the reinforcing member 38 therebetween, thus providing a band at each opposite end of the holder garment for cooperating relatively to encircle the girth of the infant. Any suitable number and type of fasteners may be employed, four being shown at opposite ends of each of the end band portions, these numbers of fastenings serving the purpose of reasonable adjustability to infants of varying girth measurements.

Suitable binding edges or piping such as indicated 43 may be employed on free edges of the sheet material of the holder to both reinforce the edge, give it flexible body substance for convenient manipulation, and to prevent a very thin edge from chafing the limbs of an infant. The piping may be folded from an integral edge of the material as indicated at 43, and sealed in the manner above described, or may be a separate strip 44 sealed or stitched to the free edge of the sheet.

From the foregoing description it will be observed that the pocket formed for receiving a diaper member is of elongated octagonal shape. The diaper member 41 for removably insertion therein conforms generally to loosely and removably fit the elongated octagonal shape of the pocket, and is preferably of a destructible type adapted for use upon one occasion only and then to be destroyed. Broadly, absorbent destructible diapers are well known. The preferred form, however, is a plurality of overlying

layers of soft crushable sheets of absorbent paper secured together relatively by embossing adjacent the peripheral edge. The form of octagonal pocket and corresponding octagonal diaper member dispenses with the right-angled or acute angled corners to the pocket and thus eliminates sharp angles into which it would be difficult to smoothly insert sharp angles of a diaper member, and which would be difficult to maintain clean and sanitary.

Having folded and sealed or stitched the holder garment in the manner above described, it is manifest that the only operation necessary to bring the holder and diaper into operative relationship is to lift the free edges of the fins or pleats and the downfolded end flaps forming the pocket, and insert thereunder the diaper member. When the diaper member is soiled, it may be likewise readily replaced. Obviously, the arcuate cutout indentations 13 are to fit about an infant's legs, and the opposite end portions considered as a unit provide a band to encircle the infant's girth. When the garment is in use and being worn by an infant the central portion of the garment or diaper will be adjacent the buttocks and therefore will receive the greatest wear. When a deposit of either liquid or solid is made upon the diaper member it may be of greater quantity of flush liquid than the capacity of the diaper member to absorb instantly at a single spot portion, and the liquid may thus spread to the edges of the diaper member. But due to the peripheral edge portion of the diaper being enclosed at all edges within the leakproof pocket of the garment, there will be no leakage from the garment and flow of the liquid will be delayed until normal absorptive quality of the diaper absorbs any free-flowing portion. In this respect the thickening of the opposed free edges 19, 20 of the fins by the elastic member 31 or flexible tube envelopes 29—30, serves to maintain the opposed free folded edge of the pleats 25, 26 in close contact relation with the legs of the infant, and yet holds said pleat edges slightly spaced from the diaper member so there will be no leakage over the edge of the thickened or folded edge of the fin. In the use therefore the impervious seal of the fins to the back sheet should extend at least the longitudinal central portion of the fin which will be positioned adjacent the buttocks of the infant, and preferably such impervious seal should extend completely around the pocket.

In Figs. 7, 8 and 9 there is disclosed a modification of the form of the invention in which a portion of the blank 10a is provided with a portion of the material cut out in the end flaps 16 and 17. The purpose of the cut out is not to save material, but rather to equalize the number of layers of the material through which a seal may be made by heat. Thus it will be noted that the portions 45 may be removed at the opposite end portions of each of the end flaps 16 and 17 in the area which would otherwise be folded into the pleats. Such a cut out eliminates one complete thickness and a portion of another thickness of the material folded into the pleats in that portion of the pleats included in the end flaps in the garment shown in Figs. 1 to 6. But a tongue 45 of the pleat fold remains in the end flap portion of the blank. When the blank is folded to form the pleats the edge portion 16a adjacent each end of end flap 16 (and similar portions in end flap 17) will overlie the tongue 46 so that when the seals 25 and 26 are made the

entire length of the pleat prior to folding down the end flaps, that same seal will include the sealing of the portions 16a to the tongue 46 and no further seal will be required at that seam. But when the end flaps 16 and 17 are folded on lines 36 and 37 to overlie the back sheet, it will be noted that in this modification, the end portions of the end flaps have four layers of material, and the portion within the pleat has four layers of material through which the seal 39 is made, thus equalizing the number of layers to be sealed. The seal 39a of triangle 40 is preferably a separate operation in which a plate is inserted between the back sheet 15 and the three overlying layers of sheet material constituting two layers in the pleats and one layer in the downfolded end flap.

However, in quantity production it is contemplated that by providing a heating iron having several sections of different temperatures to be applied to the several seals in accordance with the number of layers of material to be sealed, a single sealing operation may be employed for all of the sealing, in which operation the cut outs 45 would be of little consequence in the sealing operation.

Since no single term seems available and apt to describe both an arcuate and a straight line at the diagonal seal 39a, it is to be understood that the term diagonal includes either a straight or an arcuate seal at 39a; and for the same reason the diaper has been described as generally octagonal, meaning that it has opposite side edge portions to insert under the elongated fins or pleats, opposite end edge portions to insert under the end flaps and diagonal edge portions connecting the side edge portions and end edge portions, whether the diagonal edge portions be arcuate or on a straight line; the arcuate diagonal seal and arcuate diagonal diaper edge being shown in Figs. 9 and 10.

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. A diaper holding garment having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including a back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and each having one longitudinal edge connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, at least the opposite end portions of the connected edges of the respective fins having the connection to the back sheet in spaced relation to the adjacent longitudinal edge of the garment, each of the opposite ends of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling an infant's girth, and each of said ends including a flexible end sheet member connected to the back sheet and having a portion freely overlying the transverse central portion of an end portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between said free edges of the fins.

2. A garment of the character described, having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including an elongated back sheet and an elongated pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and each having one longitudinal edge connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite ends of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling an infant's girth, and each of said ends including a flexible end sheet

member connected to the back sheet and having a portion freely overlying the transverse central portion of an end portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between said free edges of the fins, and each of the opposite end portions of said back sheet being also connected to at least one of said overlying members by relatively spaced connections which are diagonal to the length of the fins and converse toward the adjacent end of the back sheet.

3. A diaper holding garment having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including a back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and each having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite ends of said garment having a portion for relatively cooperating for encircling the girth of an infant, and each of said ends including a flexible end sheet member, connected to the back sheet and having a portion freely overlying the transverse central portion of an end portion of the back, each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between said free edges of the fins, the free edge of said fins being flexible and being of greater thickness than at other portions of the fin body.

4. A diaper garment having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including a back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a band for cooperating relatively for encircling the girth of an infant, and each of said ends having a flexible end sheet member freely overlying the transverse central portion of an end portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between said free edges of the fins, said end sheet members having a seal to the back sheet diagonally to the fin members, the free edge of said fins being flexible and being of greater thickness between the opposed free edges of the end sheet members than at other portions of the fin body.

5. In a diaper holding garment, the combination of a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including a back sheet and an elongated pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a band for cooperating relatively for encircling the girth of an infant, and each of said ends having a flexible end sheet member freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end

portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between the said free edges of the fins, said end sheet members having a seal to the back sheet diagonally to the fins, and an absorbent elongated destructible diaper having diagonally cut corners adapted and arranged to fit removably in said pocket.

6. A garment of the character described, having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious integral sheet material including a back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, said fins comprising pleats folded upon themselves from said integral sheet, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling the girth of an infant, and each of said ends having a flexible end sheet member freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and of the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between the free edges of the fin pleats.

7. A diaper holding garment comprising a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including an elongated back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket comprising relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of said fins having at the free edge portion an elongated integral flexible tube which thickens the edge of the fin, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling the girth of an infant, and each of said ends having a flexible end sheet member freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between the free edges of the fins.

8. A garment of the character described having a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious integral sheet material including a back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket having relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins comprising pleats folded upon themselves from said integral sheet, said fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling an infant's girth, and each of said opposite ends having a flexible end sheet member freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet and the opposite edge of the end sheet

member being free between the free edges of the fin pleats, said end sheet members having a seal to the back sheet diagonally to the pleats.

9. A diaper holding garment comprising a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious sheet material including an elongated back sheet and a pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket having relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins comprising pleats folded upon themselves, said pleats freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and each having at least the longitudinal central portion of one edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and having the opposite edge free, said pleats having the layers thereof relatively sealed adjacent the connection to the back sheet and having at the free edge portion an elongated tubular envelope, an elongated flexible member in said envelope, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling an infant's girth, and each of said ends having a flexible sheet member provided with a portion freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between the free edges of the fin pleats, said end sheet members having a seal to the back sheet diagonally to the fin pleats.

10. In a diaper holding garment, the combination of a flexible elongated body of moisture impervious integral sheet material including a back sheet, an elongated pocket overlying the back sheet, said pocket having relatively spaced opposed longitudinal flexible fins comprising pleats folded upon themselves from said integral sheet, said fins freely overlying the plane of the back sheet and each having one longitudinal edge imperviously connected to the back sheet and the opposite edge free, each of the opposite end portions of said garment having a portion for cooperating relatively for encircling an infant's girth, and each of said opposite ends having a flexible end sheet member provided with a portion freely overlying the transverse central portion of the back sheet, one edge portion of each of said end sheet members being connected to an end portion of the back sheet member and the opposite edge of the end sheet member being free between free edges of the fins, said end sheet members having a seal to the back sheet diagonally to the pleats; and an absorbent elongated destructible diaper having diagonally cut corners adapted and arranged to fit removably in said pocket.

HAROLD J. RALPH.

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