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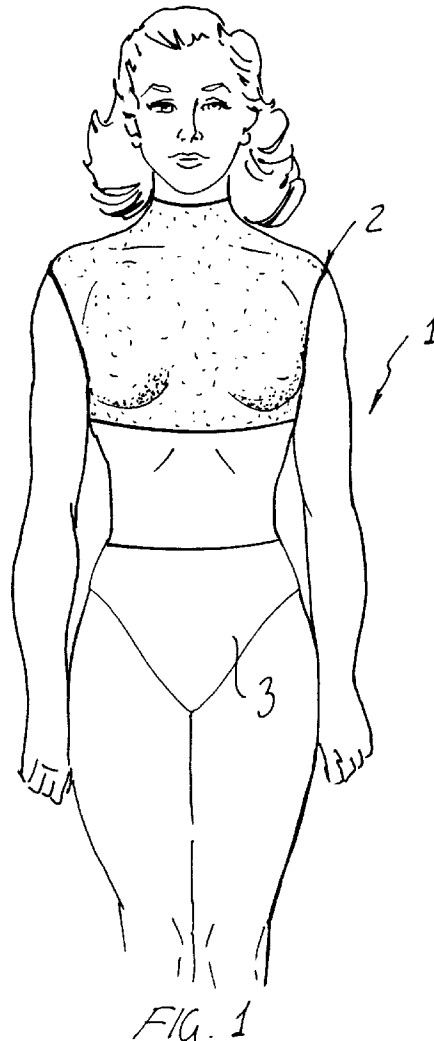
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(54) **Bathing costume made from rubber for reducing drag**

(57) The present invention relates to a bathing costume (1) having a low streamline resistance or drag, the main feature of which is that it comprises a body portion (2) made of a rubber latex material or of a silicone rubber material, and provided with an outer smooth surface in order to reduce to a minimum the streamline resistance or drag thereof.



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Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a bathing costume having a low streamline resistance or drag.

As is known, bathing costumes are conventionally made of elasticized fabrics, which are affected by the drawback that they absorb water in variable amounts depending on the fabric construction, thereby making heavier the swimmer bearing such a bathing costume.

A solution of the above problem would be very important from an athlete, mainly in swimming competition, since the knitted elasticized fabric forming the bathing costume would inevitably have a comparatively rough surface susceptible to generate a high friction during swimming, which can greatly reduce the performance of the athlete.

The above mentioned problems are further compounded in a female bathing costume since the typical anatomy of a female body would generate further surface unevenness constituting a deleterious braking element with respect to the streamline resistance of a swimming female athlete.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the aim of the present invention is to overcome the above mentioned drawback, by providing a bathing costume with a very low streamline resistance so as to absolutely prevent any water absorption, thereby enhancing the muscle effort exerted by an athlete in a swimming activity.

Within the scope of the above mentioned aim, a main object of the present invention is to provide such a bathing costume which is specifically designed for a female body, thereby enhancing the swimming performance of female athletes.

A further object of the present invention is to provide such a low streamline resistance bathing costume which is very reliable and safe in operation.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide such a low streamline resistance bathing costume which can be easily made starting from easily available elements and materials and which, moreover, is very competitive from a mere economic standpoint.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the above mentioned aim and objects, as well as yet other objects, which will become more apparent hereinafter, are achieved by a low streamline resistance bathing costume, characterized in that said bathing costume comprises a bathing costume body made of a rubber latex or silicone rubber material, having a smooth outer surface in order to reduce to a minimum the water drag or friction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent hereinafter from the following detailed disclosure of a preferred embodiment of a low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to the invention, which is illustrated, by way of an indicative, but not limitative example, in the accompanying drawings, where:

Figure 1 is a front view illustrating the bathing costume according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side view illustrating that same bathing costume; and

Figure 3 is a rear view illustrating the bathing costume according to the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference to the number references of the above mentioned figures, the low streamline resistance bathing costume according to the invention, which has been generally indicated by the reference number 1, comprises a bathing costume body 2 and a trunks portion 3, which is of a conventional type.

The body portion 2 has the main feature that it is made of a rubber latex or silicone rubber material, said body being susceptible to be easily obtained by means of suitable molds allowing to provide a bathing costume body having a perfectly smooth outer surface to reduce to a minimum the water drags or frictions.

The bathing costume body, in particular, is so made as to cover the trunk and breast of the swimmer, as well as shoulder region of the swimmer, while leaving the swimmer arms fully free.

Since said bathing costume body is made of a latex rubber or silicone rubber material, it will be efficiently impermeable, thereby preventing any water absorption and providing moreover a resilient containment effect, deriving from the used material, which will in turn provide a surface softening of the anatomic contours of the swimmer, thereby further reducing any frictions against water.

From tests it has been found that the disclosed bathing costume body is such as to greatly facilitate the water sliding of the swimmer since no water friction will occur on the outer smooth surface of the bathing costume body.

From the above disclosure it should be apparent that the invention fully achieves the intended aim and objects.

In particular, the fact is to be pointed out that a bathing costume has been provided which can be quickly worn and which, since it is made of a siliconic rubber or latex rubber material, is perfectly impermeable and resilient, thereby providing a very good containment effect.

In practicing the invention, the used models, as well

as the contingent size and shapes, can be any, depending on requirements.

Claims

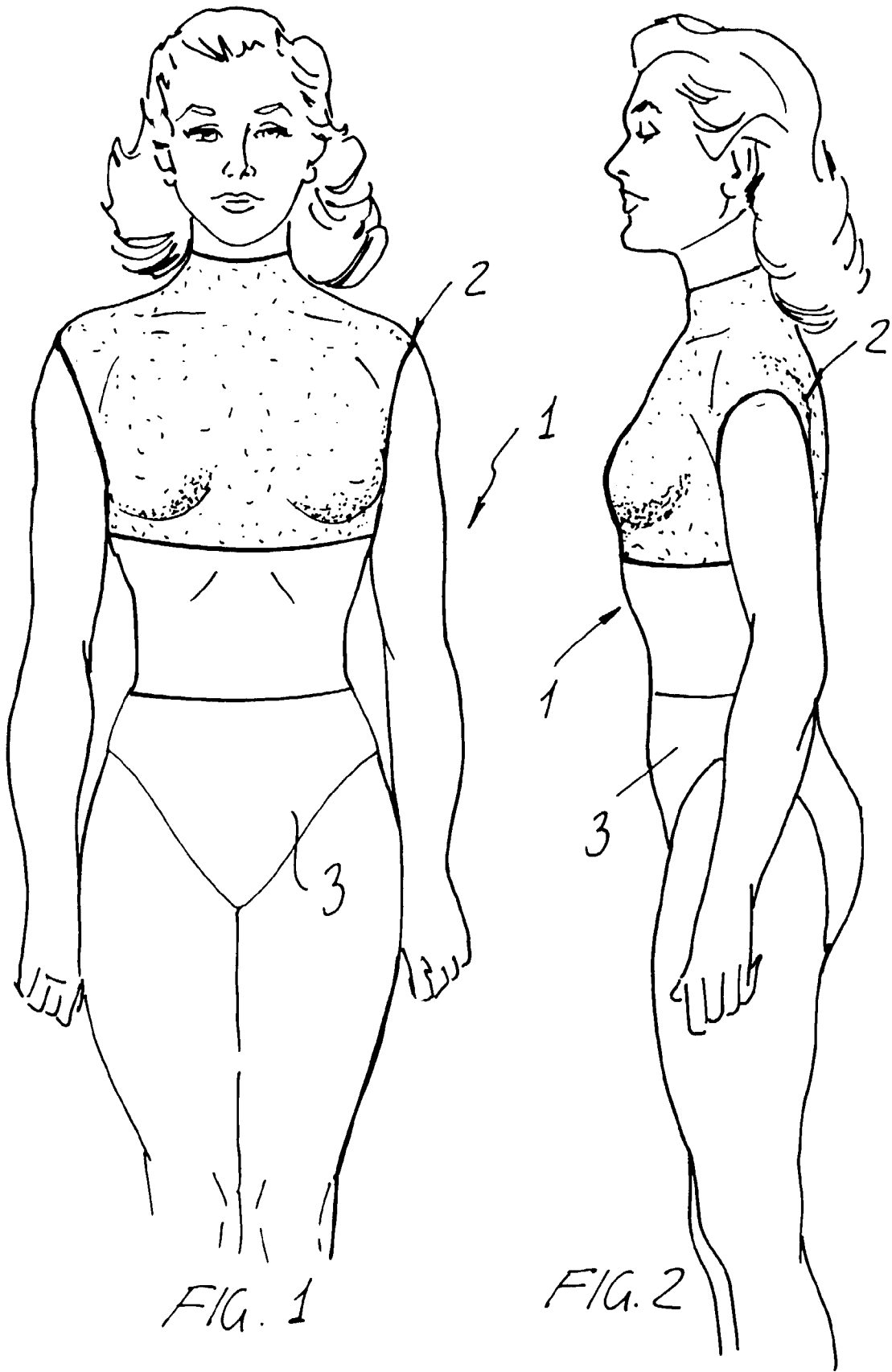
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1. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, characterized in that said bathing costume comprises a bathing costume body made of a rubber latex or silicone rubber material, having a smooth outer surface in order to reduce to a minimum the water drag or friction. 10
 2. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to Claim 1, characterized in that said bathing costume body is provided with an intrinsic resiliency adapted to provide a containment effect. 15
 3. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said bathing costume body is made by suitable molds. 20
 4. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that said bathing costume body affects the trunk, breast and shoulder of a swimmer. 25
 5. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that said bathing costume body is substantially waterproof. 30
 6. A low streamline resistance bathing costume, according to one or more of the preceding claims, and substantially as broadly disclosed and illustrated and for the intended aim and objects. 35

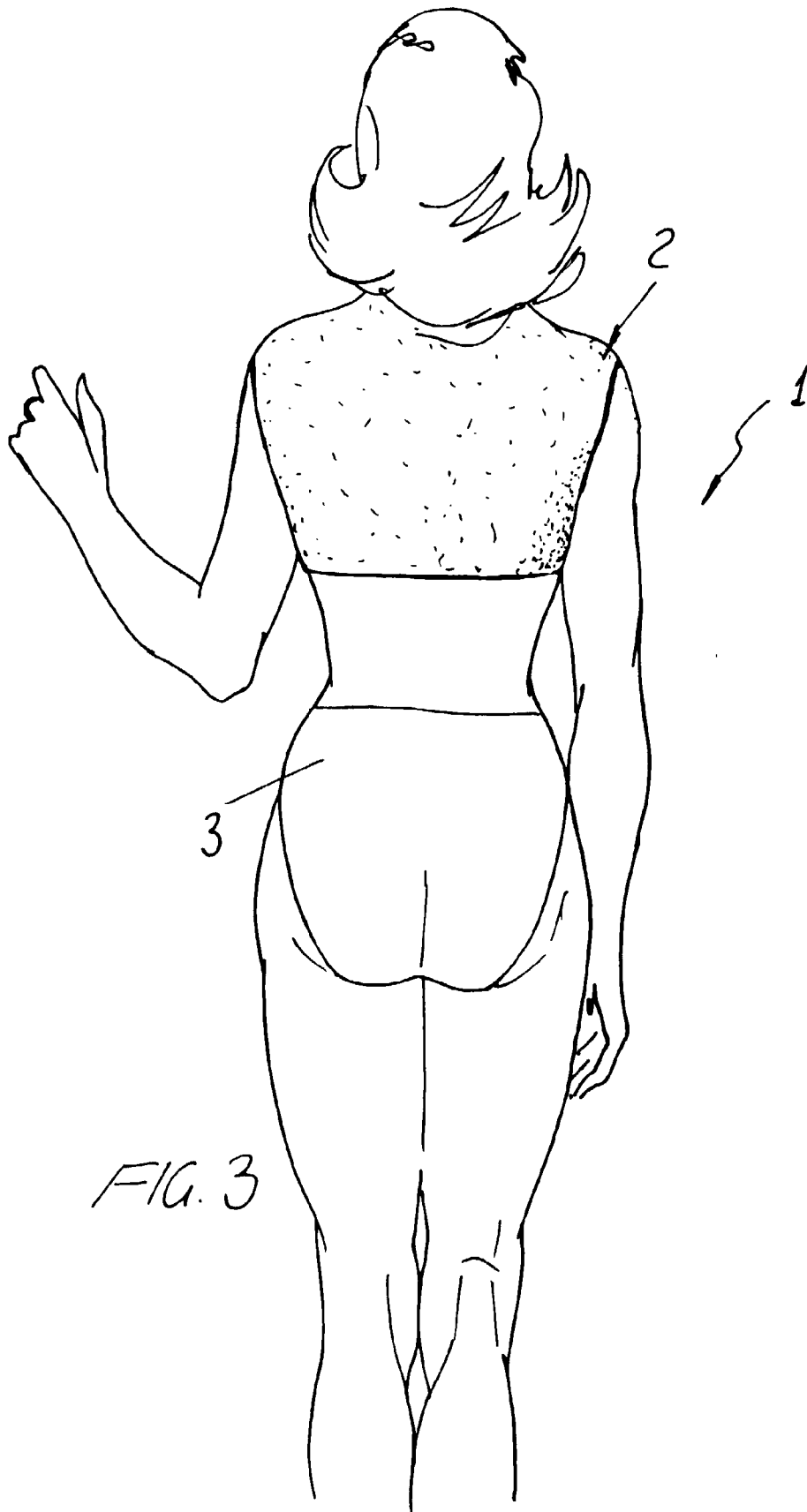
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 83 0102

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 5 586 340 A (PETER J. RUSSO) 24 December 1996 * column 1, line 6 - line 10 * * column 4, line 9 - line 15 * * figure 1 * ---	1-6	A41D7/00
A	FR 797 660 A (INTERNATIONAL LATEX PROCESSES LIMITED) 1 May 1936 * page 1, line 1 - line 6 * * claim 1 * * figures 1-4 * ---	1-6	
A	US 2 659 085 A (HILDA M. ERICSON) 17 November 1953 * the whole document * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A41D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 July 1998	Examiner Fairbanks, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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