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(54) **Infant bodysuit**

(57) An infant bodysuit having a pair of rows of snap sockets either one of which can receive a curved row of snaps studs, the rows of snap sockets and snap studs being provided along a gentle curve that is easy for a caregiver to match up the studs and sockets. Reinforcement, through a woven fabric facing, is provided in the region of the snap sockets on the front panel to provide two-dimensional stability throughout the region. Rib binding is used along the leg openings and covers the facing material for improved comfort to the infant. A flat, straight edge bottom is provided along the bottom edge of the front panel to reduce bulkiness. An improved leg opening is achieved by significantly narrowing the width of the front panel from the top of the leg opening down to the attachment portion.

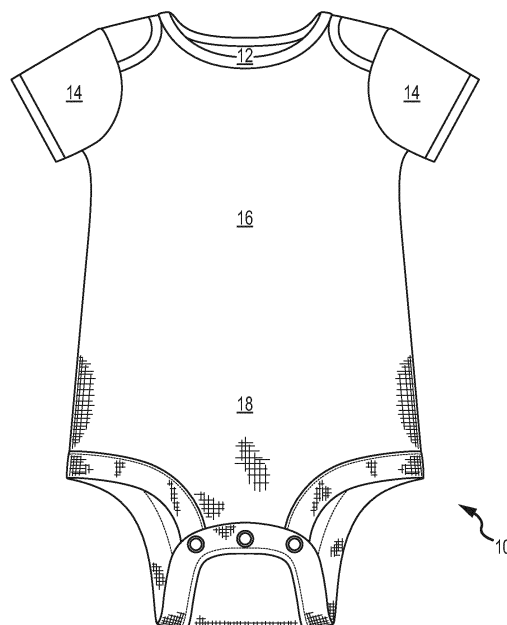


FIG.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	DE 299 14 379 U1 (JAKO O MOEBEL UND SPIELMITTEL [DE]) 18 November 1999 (1999-11-18)	1,4-6, 10-12	INV. A41B13/08
A	* page 1, paragraphs 1,3,4 * * page 2, paragraph 5 * * page 4, paragraph 5 - page 5, paragraph 4; figure 2 *	7-9	
A	----- US 2007/056076 A1 (GAUGLER TERESA K [US] ET AL) 15 March 2007 (2007-03-15) * paragraphs [0005], [0008], [0009], [0018], [0042], [0044], [0045]; figures 1,2 *	1	
A	----- US 2002/062511 A1 (LEE CARMEN M [US]) 30 May 2002 (2002-05-30) * abstract; figure 2 * -----	1	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A41B A41D			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 10 January 2012	Examiner Monné, Eric
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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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04.001)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1, 4-12

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1, 4-12

1. A bodysuit for an infant, comprising:
 one or more fabric panels substantially configured into a tubular shape to receive the torso of the infant and having openings for the infant's neck, arms, and legs; and
 a first closure mechanism on the back side of the leg opening and a second closure mechanism on the front side of the leg opening, wherein the first closure mechanism mates with the second closure mechanism;
 wherein the first and second closure mechanisms include mating portions of three or more snaps, one of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap studs and the other of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap sockets, the snap studs and snap sockets collectively referred to as snap features;
 wherein the snap features in each of the first and second closure mechanisms are formed in a curved row;
 wherein at least one of the first and second closure mechanisms includes at least two rows each having three or more snap features,
 wherein either row can be used to temporarily attach the first closure mechanism to the second closure mechanism so as to temporarily attach the front side of the leg opening to the back side of the leg opening in between the two legs of the infant so as to form a pair of separate leg openings and contain the infant within the bodysuit;
 wherein each of the curved rows follows a curve of sufficiently large radius such that there is a straight line passing between a portion of the outermost of the snap features in a given row that passes through a portion of the center snap feature in the same row.

2. claims: 2, 4-14



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

2. A bodysuit for an infant, comprising:
 one or more fabric panels substantially configured into a tubular shape to receive the torso of the infant and having openings for the infant's neck, arms, and legs; and
 a first closure mechanism on the back side of the leg opening and a second closure mechanism on the front side of the leg opening, wherein the first closure mechanism mates with the second closure mechanism;
 wherein the first and second closure mechanisms include mating portions of three or more snaps, one of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap studs and the other of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap sockets, the snap studs and snap sockets collectively referred to as snap features;
 wherein the snap features in each of the first and second closure mechanisms are formed in a row;
 wherein at least one of the first and second closure mechanisms includes at least two rows each having three or more snap features,
 wherein either row can be used to temporarily attach the first closure mechanism to the second closure mechanism so as to temporarily attach the front side of the leg opening to the back side of the leg opening in between the two legs of the infant so as to form a pair of separate leg openings and contain the infant within the bodysuit;
 wherein the portion of the one or more fabric panels that includes the at least two rows of snap features is reinforced by a fabric material that is stiffer and more rigid than the fabric panels to provide increased two-dimensional stability between the two rows of snap features and between the snap features of a given row.



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

3. claims: 3-12, 15-17

3. A bodysuit for an infant, comprising:
 one or more fabric panels substantially configured into a tubular shape to receive the torso of the infant and having openings for the infant's neck, arms, and legs; and
 a first closure mechanism on the back side of the leg opening and a second closure mechanism on the front side of the leg opening, wherein the first closure mechanism mates with the second closure mechanism;
 wherein the first and second closure mechanisms include mating portions of three or more snaps, one of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap studs and the other of the first and second closure mechanisms including three or more snap sockets, the snap studs and snap sockets collectively referred to as snap features;
 wherein the snap features in each of the first and second closure mechanisms are formed in a row;
 wherein at least one of the first and second closure mechanisms includes at least two rows each having three or more snap features,
 wherein either row can be used to temporarily attach the first closure mechanism to the second closure mechanism so as to temporarily attach the front side of the leg opening to the back side of the leg opening in between the two legs of the infant so as to form a pair of separate leg openings and contain the infant within the bodysuit;
 wherein the portions of the one or more fabric panels that form the front side and back side of the leg opening are sized relatively to each other so that the material forming each of the front side and the back side of the leg opening narrow at a significantly higher rate at the top of the leg opening as compared to the bottom of the leg



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

opening and, in addition, the front side of the leg opening is significantly narrower in width from the material forming the back side of the leg opening from the highest side edge of the leg opening down to the bottom edge of the leg opening.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-01-2012

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 29914379	U1	18-11-1999	NONE
US 2007056076	A1	15-03-2007	NONE
US 2002062511	A1	30-05-2002	NONE