

CLAIMS

- [Claim 1] A pants-type absorbent article comprising:
 an exterior sheet having a waist opening at an upper end and a pair of leg openings in a lower portion; and
 an absorber attached to an inner surface of said exterior sheet,
 wherein said exterior sheet includes:
 a front part;
 a rear part having side ends that are connected to side ends of said front part;
 a crotch part continuous with said front part and said rear part;
 a waist elastic member joined to said front part and said rear part in a waist circumferential region located along an edge of said waist opening, and configured to contract to form a waist opening gather;
 a leg elastic member joined to said crotch part along edges of said pair of leg openings, and configured to contract to form a pair of leg opening gathers; and
 an intermediate elastic member joined to said front part and said rear part in a region located between said waist elastic member and said leg elastic member in a vertical direction, and configured to contract to form an intermediate gather,
 said waist elastic member includes:
 a first waist elastic member that, in a first waist circumferential region that is an upper portion of said waist circumferential region and is formed by laminating two sheet members, is joined between said two sheet members and generally parallel to said edge of said waist opening; and
 a second waist elastic member that, in a second waist circumferential region that is located below said first waist circumferential region in said waist circumferential region and is formed by laminating at least three sheet members, is joined between any of said at least three sheet members and generally parallel to said first waist elastic member, and
 among said at least three sheet members, one sheet member to which at least part of said second waist elastic member is directly joined has a bending resistance of 80 mm or less in a horizontal direction, when measured according to the 45 degree cantilever method in accordance with JIS-L-1086 using a test specimen having a width of 20 mm and a length of 150 mm ~~is used in a 45 degree cantilever method~~.
- [Claim 2] The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein
 a total of the bending resistance of said one sheet member in said horizontal direction and a binding resistance of said one sheet member in said vertical direction when said test specimen is used in said 45 degree cantilever method is 130 mm or less.
- [Claim 3] The absorbent article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
 another sheet member to which said at least part of said second waist elastic member is directly joined also has a bending resistance of 80 mm or less in said

horizontal direction when said test specimen is used in said 45 degree cantilever method.

[Claim 4] The absorbent article according to claim 3, wherein a total of the bending resistance of said other sheet member in said horizontal direction and a bending resistance of said other sheet member in said vertical direction when said test specimen is used in said 45 degree cantilever method is 130 mm or less.

[Claim 5] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said one sheet member has a tensile strength of 1.6 N/cm or more in said vertical direction, when measured according to a tensile strength measurement method using a test specimen having a length of 250 mm in said vertical direction and a width of 50 mm in said horizontal direction, said tensile strength measurement method comprising the steps of:

a) grasping opposite vertical ends of said another test specimen;

b) pulling said another test specimen in said vertical direction to acquire a maximum load that can be applied to said another test specimen until said another test specimen is damaged; and

c) acquiring said tensile strength on the basis of said maximum load.

[Claim 6] The absorbent article according to claim 5, wherein another sheet member to which said at least part of said second waist elastic member is directly joined has a tensile strength of 1.6 N/cm or more in said vertical direction, when measured according to said tensile strength measurement method using another test specimen having a length of 250 mm in said vertical direction and a width of 50 mm in said horizontal direction.

[Claim 7] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said waist circumferential region is located above an upper end of said absorber.

[Claim 8] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said waist circumferential region has a width of 50 mm or less in said vertical direction.

[Claim 9] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said exterior sheet includes a folded portion that is folded toward a wearer at said edge of said waist opening, and said first waist elastic member is joined between said folded portion and a portion of said exterior sheet that faces said folded portion.

[Claim 10] The absorbent article according to claim 9, wherein a lower end portion of said folded portion is included in said at least three sheet members in said second waist circumferential region.

[Claim 11] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said first waist circumferential region in said vertical direction has a width at least half a width of said waist circumferential region in said vertical direction.

- [Claim 12] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said second waist elastic member includes a plurality of elastic threads, and at least a portion of said plurality of elastic threads are disposed between an outermost sheet member and a sheet member that faces said outermost sheet member among said at least three sheet members in said second waist circumferential region.
- [Claim 13] The absorbent article according to claim 12, wherein another portion of said plurality of elastic threads are disposed between two sheet members excluding said outermost sheet member among said at least three sheet members in said second waist circumferential region.
- [Claim 14] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said second waist elastic member is disposed between two sheet members excluding an outermost sheet member among said at least three sheet members in said second waist circumferential region, said outermost sheet member and a sheet member that faces said outermost sheet member are not joined in said second waist circumferential region, at least an upper end portion of said intermediate elastic member is disposed and joined between said outermost sheet member and said sheet member facing said outermost sheet member, in a lower portion of said waist circumferential region, and a distance in said vertical direction between a lower end of said second waist elastic member and an upper end of said intermediate elastic member is 30 mm or less.
- [Claim 15] The absorbent article according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said at least three sheet members in said second waist circumferential region includes:
an outermost sheet member;
an innermost sheet member; and
two sheet members sandwiched between said outermost sheet member and said innermost sheet member and having upper ends located at different positions in said vertical direction, and
said second waist elastic member includes a plurality of elastic threads, a portion of said plurality of elastic threads being disposed between one of said outermost sheet member and said innermost sheet member and one of said two sheet members, and
another portion of said plurality of elastic threads being disposed between said one of said outermost sheet member and said innermost sheet member and the other of said two sheet members.