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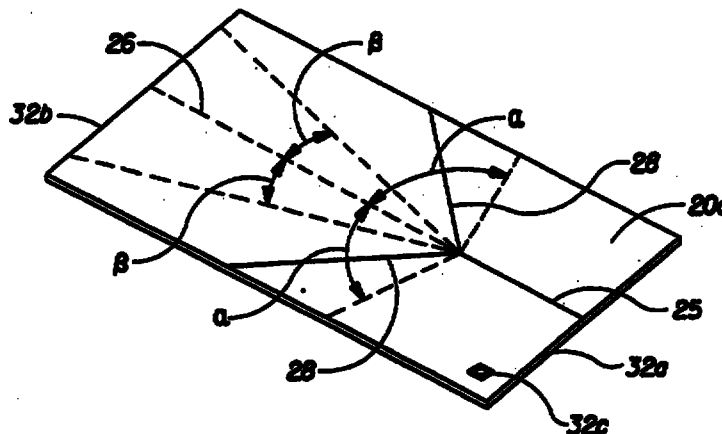
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| (51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :<br><b>A61F 13/15</b>                                                                                                                                                           |  | A1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | (11) International Publication Number:<br><b>WO 96/02217</b>       |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | (43) International Publication Date:<br>1 February 1996 (01.02.96) |
| (21) International Application Number:<br><b>PCT/US95/07658</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |  | (81) Designated States: AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, FI, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, <b>SG</b> , SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG). |                                                                    |
| (22) International Filing Date:<br>16 June 1995 (16.06.95)                                                                                                                                                                             |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                    |
| (30) Priority Data:<br>08/276,239 18 July 1994 (18.07.94) US                                                                                                                                                                           |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                    |
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SG 9700394-1

(54) Title: PRE-FOLDED ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING IMPROVED FIT



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to absorbent articles comprising a plurality of bend lines which are predisposed on either or both ends of the article to bend upon encountering the lateral compressive forces caused by the thighs of the wearer, the bend lines comprising, a main rear bend line centrally and longitudinally disposed on the article beginning at a point about one-eighth to about one-half of the distance away from the front edge and extending toward the back edge of the article; a main front bend line or lines centrally and longitudinally disposed on the article beginning about the front edge and extending up to the beginning point of the main rear fold line, or comprising two parallel fold lines longitudinally disposed on the article beginning at about the front edge and extending to about the beginning of the main rear bend line, or comprising two parallel bend lines longitudinally disposed on the article beginning at about the front edge and extending for about one-fourth to about two-thirds of the full length of the article from the front edge; and two rearwardly diverging bend lines starting at about the beginning point of the main rear fold line, the rearwardly diverging fold lines extending toward each side of the longitudinal edges of the article, the rearwardly diverging bend lines each forming an angle with the longitudinal centerline of from about 10° to about 80°; wherein the body facing surface is "V" or "U" shaped in the front region and is inverted "V" or "U" shaped in the rear region of the article.