Patent claims

1. A belt (1) comprising a first cover layer (2) with a first top surface (21) and a second cover layer (3) with a second top surface (31~~,~~); characterised in that the first cover layer (2) consists of a foam comprising a first thermoplastic or first thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the foam of the first cover layer (2) is a closed cell foam and the first cover layer (2) is devoid of a skin; in that the second cover layer (3) consists of a foam comprising a second thermoplastic or second thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the foam of the second cover layer (3) is a closed cell foam and the second cover layer (3) is devoid of a skin; and in that the belt does not have laterally projecting support strips in, at or near its neutral plane, in the form of projections extending laterally from the lateral sides of the belt by a distance long enough and being sufficiently rigid such as that the belt could be supported by such lateral supports on a pulley.

~~2. The belt (1) of claim 1, comprising a second cover layer (3) with a second top surface (31), characterised in that the second cover layer (3) consists of a foam comprising a second thermoplastic or second thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the foam of the second cover layer (3) is a closed cell foam and the second cover layer (3) is devoid of a skin.~~

2~~3~~. The belt of claim 1~~2~~, characterised in that the foams of the first and second cover layers (2,3) contain expanded microspheres.

3~~4~~. The belt of ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 or~~to~~ 2~~3~~, characterised

in that the foam of the first cover layer (2) comprises a first thermoplastic elastomer, in particular TPU or PEBA, most preferably TPU.

4~~5~~. The belt of claim 1~~2~~ or 2~~3~~, characterised in that the foam of the second cover layer (3) comprises a second thermoplastic elastomer, in particular TPU or PEBA, most preferably TPU.

5~~6~~. The belt of claim 1~~2~~, 2~~3~~ or 4~~5~~, characterised in that the first cover layer (2) comprises a first thermoplastic elastomer and the second cover layer (3) comprises a second thermoplastic elastomer, and in that the first thermoplastic elastomer and the second thermoplastic elastomer are identical.

6~~7~~. The belt of one of claims 1 to 5~~6~~, characterised in that the foaming degree of the first cover layer (2) is 1 to 60%, preferably 20 to 40%.

7~~8~~. The belt of one of claims 1~~2~~, 2~~3~~, 4~~5~~ or 5~~6~~, characterised in that the foaming degree of the second cover layer (3) is 1 to 60%, preferably 20 to 40%.

8~~9~~. The belt of one of claims 1~~2~~, 2~~3~~, 4~~5~~, 5~~6~~ or 7~~8~~, characterised in that the foaming degreee of the first cover layer (2) is the same as the foaming degree of the second cover layer (3).

9~~10~~. The belt of one of claims 1 to 8~~9~~, characterised in that it comprises a central traction layer (4) comprising a fabric or consisting of a fabric.

10~~11~~. The belt of one of claims 1~~2~~, 2~~3~~, 4~~5~~, 5~~6~~, 6~~8~~ or 8~~9~~, characterised in that it comprises a central traction layer (4) comprising a fabric or consisting of a fabric and in that it has a layer construction which is symmetrical about the central traction layer (4).

11~~12~~. A belt conveyor for conveying goods (7, 71, 72, 73, 74) comprising an endless belt by which the goods are conveyed, characterised in that the endless belt is an endless belt (1) according to one of claims 1 to 10~~11~~, and in that the endless belt (1) is arranged horizontally and the goods (7) are conveyed on the first top surface (21).

12~~13~~. A belt conveyor for conveying goods (7, 71, 72, 73, 74) comprising an endless belt by which the goods are conveyed, characterised in that the endless belt is an endless belt (1) according to one of claims 1 to 10~~11~~, and in that the endless belt is arranged perpendicularly, and the goods (7) are conveyed by the first top surface (21) in cooperation with one or more rotatable pulleys (61, 62, 63) which press the goods (7) against the first top surface (21).

13~~14~~. A belt conveyor for conveying goods (7, 71, 72, 73, 74) comprising an endless belt by which the goods are conveyed, characterised in that the endless belt is an endless belt (1) according to one of claims 1 to 10~~11~~, and in that the endless belt is arranged perpendicularly, and the goods (7) are conveyed by the first top surface (21) in cooperation with a second endless belt (11) according to one of claims 1 to 10~~12~~, which runs in the same direction and in the same speed as the endless belt (1) and which presses the goods (7) against the top surface.

14~~15~~. A belt conveyor for conveying goods (7, 71, 72, 73, 74) comprising an endless belt by which the goods are conveyed, characterised in that the endless belt is an endless belt (1) according to one of claims 1 to 10~~11~~, and in that the endless belt is arranged perpendicularly, and the goods (7) are conveyed by the first top surface (21) in cooperation with a fixed support (8) having a sliding surface (81), said sliding surface (81) pressing the goods (7) against the first top surface (21).

15~~16~~. The belt conveyor according to one of claims 11~~12~~ to 14~~15~~, characterised in that the goods to be conveyed is paper or a paper-made good, cardboard or a cardboard-made good, or mail (71, 72, 73, 74).

16~~17~~. A method of transferring a rotary motion from a rotating drive wheel, rotating drive pulley or rotating drive roll (67, 100) to one or more idler wheels, idler pulleys or idler rolls (68, 69, 70, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110) using an endless belt looping around the rotating drive wheel, drive pulley or drive roll (67, 100) and around the one or more idler wheels, idler pulleys or idler rolls (68, 69, 70, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110), characterised in that the endless belt is an endless belt (1) according to one of claims 1~~2~~, 2~~3~~, 4~~5~~, 5~~6~~, 7~~8~~ or 8~~9~~.

17~~18~~. The method of claim 16~~17~~, characterised in that it transfers rotary motion to one or more first idler wheels, first idler pulleys or first idler rolls (101, 103, 106, 109, 110) being in contact with the second top surface (31) of the belt (1), each first idler wheel, first idler pulley or first

idler roll (101, 103, 106, 109, 110) imparting the belt (1) looping around it a convex bend; and that it also transfers rotary motion to at least one second idler wheel, second idler pulley or second idler roll (102, 104, 105, 107, 108) being in contact with the first top surface (21) of the belt (1), each second idler wheel, second idler pulley or second idler roll (102, 104, 105, 107, 108) imparting the belt (1) a concave bend.