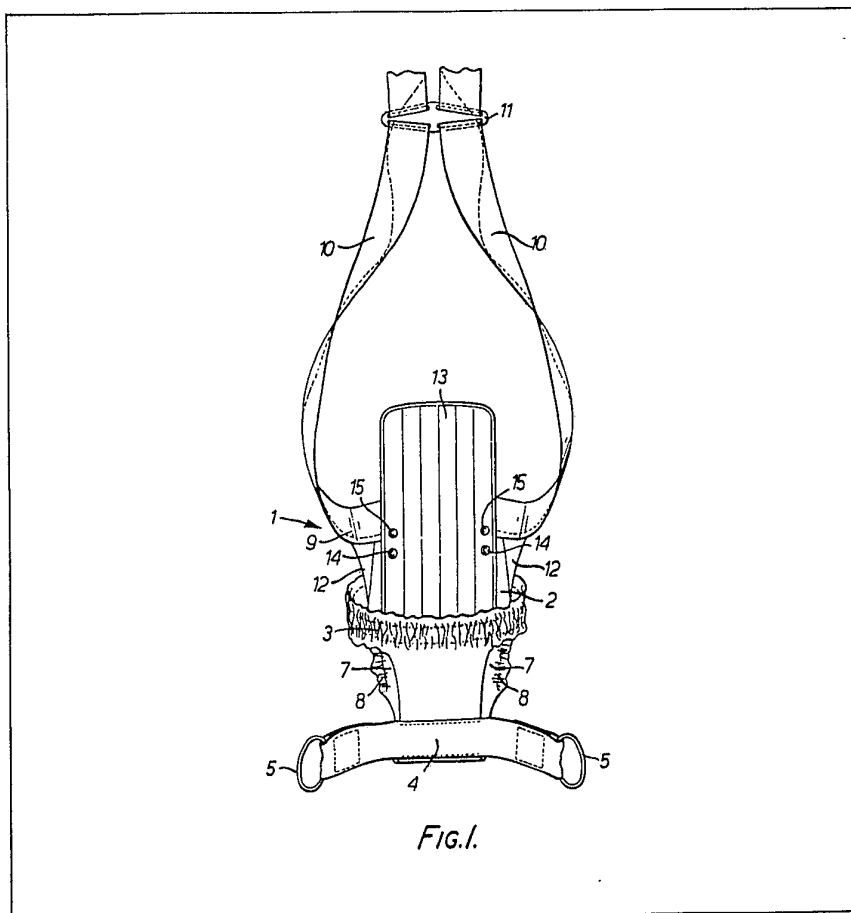


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(54) Improvements in or relating to slings for carrying babies

(57) A sling for carrying a baby comprises a seat portion (2) for supporting the baby, having at one edge a band (9) which extends into shoulder straps (10) at either side. A waist band (4) for the wearer is also attached to the seat portion (2) and has rings attached to it at either end. A buckle (11) is provided to hold the straps (10) adjacent to one another in a region intermediate their length which falls at the centre of the back of the wearer in use, the ends of the straps (10) may then be passed through the rings (6) of the waist band (4) and tied behind the back of the wearer to support the baby in a carrying position.



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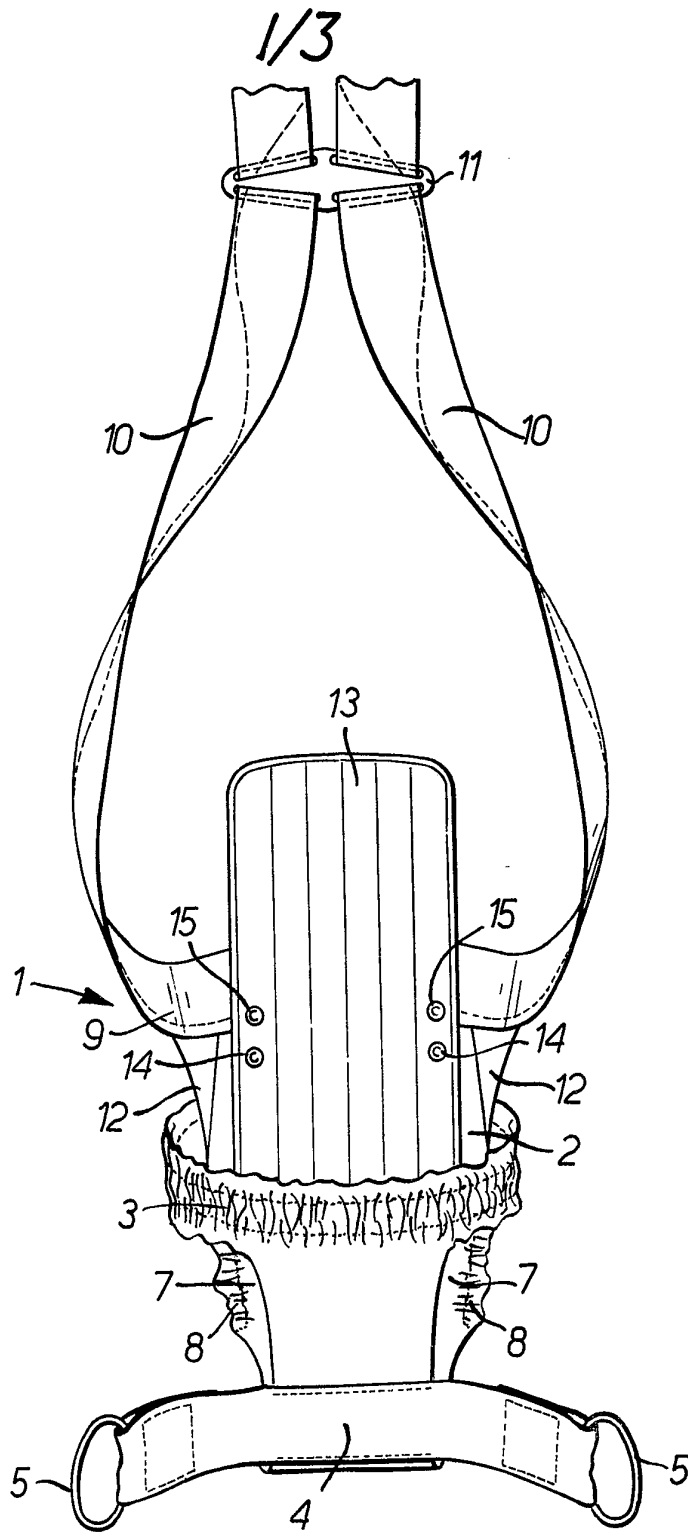


FIG. 1.

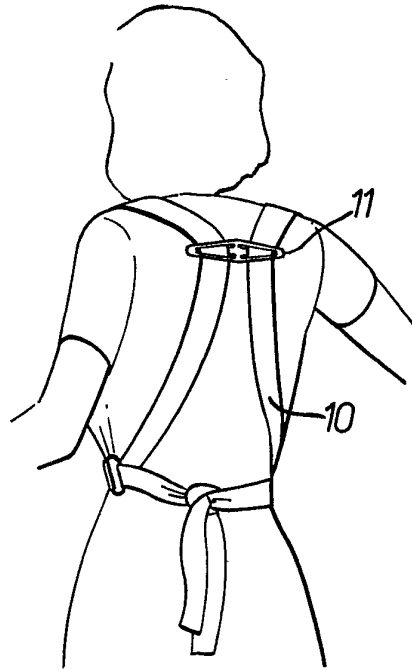


FIG. 2.

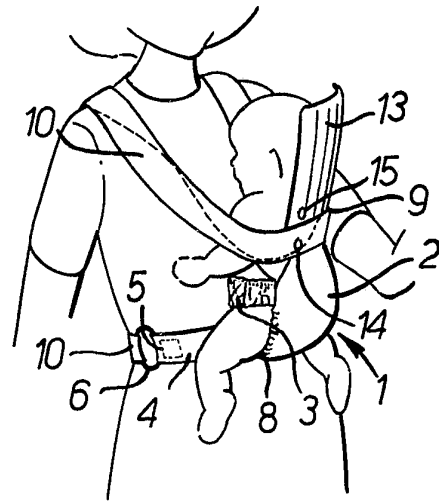


FIG. 3.

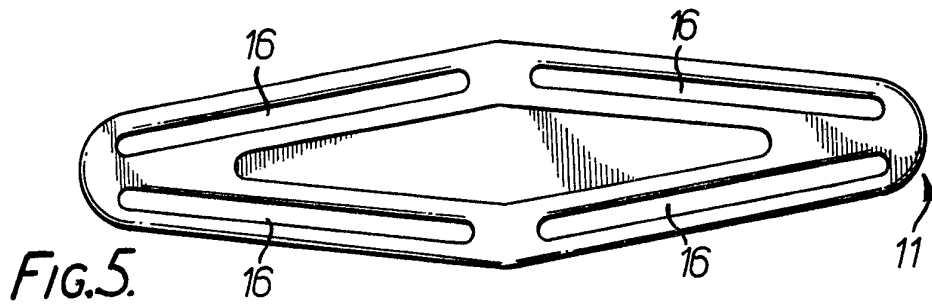
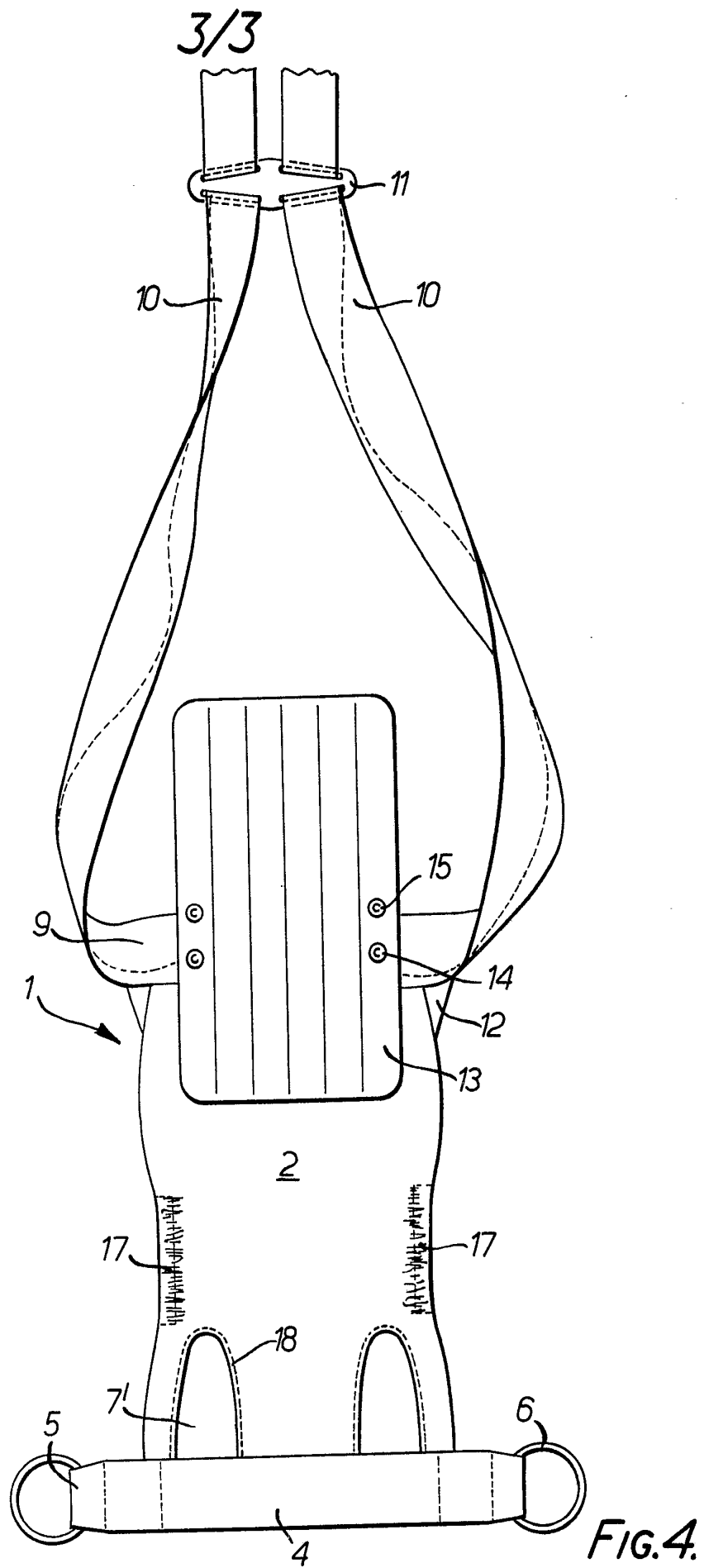


FIG. 5.



## SPECIFICATION

**Improvements in or relating to slings for carrying babies**

5 The invention relates to slings for carrying babies.  
 The present invention provides a sling for carrying a baby, comprising a seat portion, two carrying shoulder straps each extending from the seat portion, adjustable buckle means for holding said shoulder straps substantially adjacent one another in a region intermediate their respective lengths, and a waist band attached to the seat portion for connection with the shoulder straps.

15 In order that the invention may be well understood two embodiments thereof will now be described, by way of example only, reference being made to the accompanying drawings in which:  
*Figure 1* is a perspective view of a sling laid out in an extended condition;  
*Figure 2* is a partial back view of a wearer of the sling of *Figure 1*;  
*Figure 3* is a partial side view of a wearer of the sling of *Figure 1*;  
*Figure 4* is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a sling laid out in an extended condition; and  
*Figure 5* is a plan view of a buckle suitable for use with either embodiment.

30 With reference to *Figures 1* to *3* of the drawings the sling *1* has a seat portion *2* formed from a double layer of textile material. One end edge of the seat portion *2* is attached to an elasticated strap *3* which is connected at either end to a respective side edge of the seat portion *2* such that a fold is formed in the seat portion *2* to provide a support for the baby's bottom.

A waist band *4* is attached to the seat portion *2* in the region of the fold formed in the seat portion *2*.

40 The band *4* is constructed from two layers of textile material with a layer of padding therebetween. The band *4* extends a short distance beyond the seat portion *2* at either side thereof. Loops *5* are provided at either end of the band *4*. In this embodiment the loops are formed by folding the material of the band *4* over and securing the free ends by sewing. The loops *5* each accommodate a metal ring member *6*.

Two elongate openings *7* are formed in the seat portion *2* adjacent to the elasticated strap *3*. The openings *7* are formed between adjacent side edges of the seat portion *2* when it is folded. The back edge *8* of each opening *7* is provided with an elasticated insert so that the seat portion takes a generally concave shape.

55 A band *9* is attached along the end edge of the seat portion *2* opposite the elasticated strap *3*. The band extends either side of the seat portion *2* thus forming two shoulder straps *10*. The band *9* and straps *10* are constructed from a double layer of textile material. Quilted padding is provided in the band *9* and extends along the shoulder straps *10* to just beyond those portions which pass over the shoulders in use.

another in a region intermediate their respective lengths. The straps *10* are not padded in the region where they pass through the buckle *11*. The straps *10* are woven through apertures *16* in respective sides of the buckle *11*. When the straps *10* are in tension the buckle *11* holds them firmly by friction in the selected position. However when the tension is relaxed the position of the buckle *11* may be adjusted to a preferred position for the wearer.

75 Side gussets *12* are provided between the side edges of the seat portion *2* adjacent the band *9* and the shoulder straps *10* where they join the band *9*.

A reinforced head support *13* is provided. The support *13* is removably attached to the band *9* by means of two stud fasteners *14*, one member of each of which is mounted on the band *9* and the cooperating members therefor are mounted on the support *13*. An additional pair of cooperating members *15* are also provided on the support *13* so that the position of the support may be adjusted.

85 An alternative embodiment of the sling is illustrated in *Figure 4* and like reference numerals indicate parts equivalent to those in the abovedescribed embodiment. In this sling the seat portion *2* has elastic inserts positioned along a part *17* of each side edge to form fenders so that the seat portion *2* takes a generally concave shape. The waist band *4* is in this sling attached to one end edge of the seat portion *2*. The leg openings *7'* are formed in the material of the seat portion *2* and are padded at their edges *18* to prevent chaffing of the baby's legs.

To wear either sling *1* the wearer first adjusts the buckle to a suitable position such that when the sling *1* is worn the buckle is comfortably located at the back of the wearer as shown in *Figure 2*. The baby may then be placed in the sling *1* with his legs protruding through the openings *7*. The shoulder straps *10* with the buckle *11* are then passed over the head of the wearer so that the padded parts of straps *10* rest on the shoulders of the wearer. The free ends of the straps *10* are passed through the rings *6* at either side of the waist band *4*, which should be comfortably located in the region of the waist of the wearer. The free ends of straps are finally tied behind the back of the wearer as shown in *Figure 2*.

110 It will be appreciated that the provision of the buckle *11* allows the straps *10* to be adjusted and tied without danger of the baby slipping.

## 115 CLAIMS:

1. A sling for carrying a baby, comprising a seat portion, two carrying shoulder straps each extending from the seat portion, adjustable buckle means for holding said shoulder straps substantially adjacent one another in a region intermediate their respective lengths, and a waist band attached to the seat portion for connection with the shoulder straps.
2. A sling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the buckle means comprises a buckle having apertures through which the straps are threaded, the straps being held by friction when said straps are in tension and being freely movable through the apertures

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