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(54) Title: FIGURE WITH CUSTOM COVER

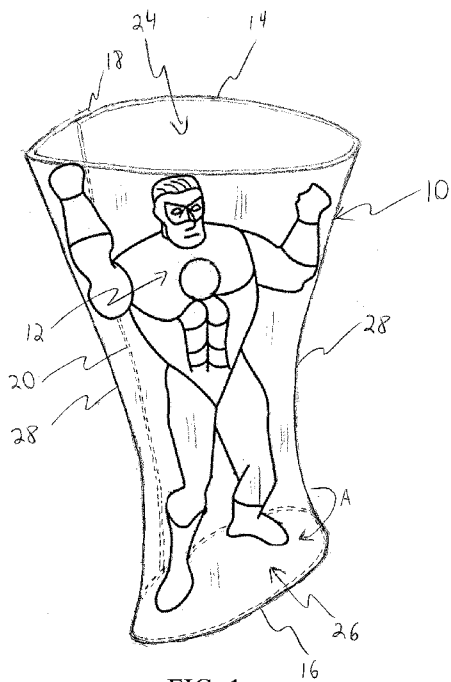


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A figure with a custom cover is provided herein. More specifically, provided is a custom cover for a figure comprising a heat-shrinkable, generally transparent, sheet sized and shaped for covering a figure, and the sheet receptive to ink and paint for decorating the figure. Also provided herein is a method for customizing a figure comprising decorating a custom cover, the custom cover being generally transparent and colorable, positioning the custom cover around the figure, and heat shrinking the custom cover to the figure to attach the cover to the figure. Further, provided herein is a kit for customizing a figure comprising a figure, a custom cover sized and shaped for covering the figure, the custom cover being colorable, a coloring agent for coloring the custom cover, and a tool for applying the coloring agent to the custom cover.

WO 2015/095338 A1

## FIGURE WITH CUSTOM COVER

SPECIFICATIONBACKGROUND

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/916,954, filed December 17, 2013, the entire disclosure of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

10

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates to a figure with custom cover. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to a figure which can be decorated or personalized with a customizable flexible sheet by heat-shrinking the sheet onto the figure.

15

RELATED ART

Customizing or decorating figures (e.g., board games pieces, action figures, etc.) is a common hobby for children and adults alike. Figures can be customized by drawing directly onto the figure with art supplies (e.g., paint, colored pencil, etc.). However, it is often difficult, especially for young children, to draw on the figures themselves due to the contours of the figures and the difficulty of simultaneously drawing onto and holding a figure.

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What would be desirable, but has not yet been developed, is a figure with a custom cover. More specifically, what would be desirable is a customizable cover that can be decorated prior to being applied to a figure.

25

SUMMARY

The present disclosure relates to a figure with custom cover. More specifically, the disclosure relates to a customizable cover that can be decorated prior to being applied to a figure. The customizable cover could be universal and intended for use with a variety of  
5 different figures, or specifically shaped and/or precut to be used with a specific figure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing features of the disclosure will be apparent from the following Detailed Description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

**FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a figure with a universal custom cover wrapped around  
5 the figure prior to application of heat;

**FIG. 2** is a perspective view of the figure with the custom cover after heat has been applied thereto;

**FIG. 3** is a perspective view of the finalized figure with the custom cover applied thereto;

10 **FIG. 4** is a universal foldable custom cover with figure outlines thereon;

**FIG. 5** is a foldable precut custom cover; and

**FIG. 6** is a foldable precut custom cover with a plurality of individually foldable portions.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure relates to a figure with a custom cover, as discussed below in connection with **FIGS. 1 – 6**. The custom cover provides a simple and easy way to decorate or customize a figure.

5           **FIGS. 1-3** are perspective views of various stages of applying a custom cover **10** to a figure **12**. More specifically, **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of a figure **12** with a universal custom cover **10** wrapped around the figure **12** prior to applying heat. The figure **12** could be an action figure, doll, or any other suitable toy or item (e.g., truck, airplane, etc.).

10           The custom cover **10** could be a plastic sheet, flexible sheet, etc. As shown, the custom cover **10** could be generally rectangular, having a top edge **14**, bottom edge **16**, right edge **18**, and left edge **20**, although, as described below, the custom cover **10** could be of any useful shape or size. The custom cover (e.g., sheet) is receptive to ink and paint for decorating the figure. A user decorates and colors the custom cover **10** using any suitable art supplies (e.g., pens, colored pencils, paints, etc.) prior to applying the custom cover **10** to the figure **12**  
15 (although the custom cover **10** could instead, or additionally, be decorated after it is applied to the figure **12**). Any suitable coloring tool (e.g., paintbrush, pencil, etc.) could be used to apply any suitable coloring agent (e.g., enamels, colored pencils, paints, etc.) to the custom cover. Drawing and decorating the custom cover **10** on a flat surface prior to applying it to the figure **12** is particularly advantageous for young children who are still developing motor control and  
20 dexterity functions and may not be able to hold, orient, and decorate the figure **12** simultaneously.

          The custom cover **10** is wrapped around the figure **12**, such as indicated by **Arrow A**. Preferably, the right edge **20** and left edge **18** overlap slightly to form an open top **24** and an open bottom **26**. As shown, the custom cover **10** forms a substantially cylindrical shape  
25 surrounding the figure **12**, where the sides **28** of the cylinder could be tapered inward or otherwise shaped to better conform to the shape of the figure **12**. The open top **24** and open bottom **26** can be folded or pinched prior to applying heat to the custom cover **10**. Alternatively, the open top **24** and open bottom **26** can close themselves once heat is applied. Heat can be applied in any of a variety of ways (e.g., the figure and custom cover could be  
30 placed in an oven or a heat gun could be used).

**FIG. 2** is a perspective view of the figure **12** with the custom cover **10** after heat has been applied thereto. Due to the application of heat to the custom cover **10**, the custom cover **10** will shrink and adhere to the figure **12**. The duration and intensity of the heat will vary the resulting properties of the custom cover **10** (e.g., how much the custom cover shrinks), as well as how the heat is applied (e.g., uniformly using an oven, at specific portions using a heat gun). However, parts of the custom cover **10** may adhere to itself forming excess portions **40**. These excess portions **40** can be cut out and removed (e.g., by tearing or by using a knife or scissors, etc.), such as along lines **42**, so that the custom cover **10** better fits and conforms to the shape of the figure **12**.

**FIG. 3** is a perspective view of the finalized figure with the custom cover **10** after application of heat and after any excess portions **42** have been removed. The custom cover **10** is substantially the same shape as the figure **12** through a combination of heat application and removal of excess portions.

**FIG. 4** is a universal foldable custom cover **110** with figure outlines **154**, **156** drawn (e.g., pre-printed) thereon. There is a fold line **158** separating front portion **150** and back portion **152**, and indicating to a user where the custom cover should be folded, as indicated by **Arrows B**. Each of the front portion **150** and back portion **152** has a figure outline. More specifically, the front portion **150** has a front figure outline **154** on the front surface of the custom cover **110**, and the back portion **152** has a back figure outline **156** on the front surface of the custom cover **110**. The figure outlines **154**, **156** substantially match the shape of an action figure (e.g., head, chest, arms, legs, etc.), although they could be of any other shape and could match the shape of a specific figure. When the custom cover **110** is folded, front portion outline **154** (and individual portions thereof) is generally aligned with back portion outline **156** (and individual portions thereof), thereby fully covering the figure. The front and back portions of the custom cover extend over the front and back portions of the figure.

The figure outlines **154**, **156** could be used as a general guide as to where a user should draw and/or as a guide for removing (e.g., cutting out) the figure outlines **154**, **156** from the custom cover **110**. If the outlines **154**, **156** are removed from the custom cover **110**,

each outline **154**, **156** could be applied separately, which could improve the accuracy of placement of decorative elements of the custom cover **110**.

**FIG. 5** is a foldable precut custom cover **210** shaped to a figure. The figure outlines **154**, **156** substantially match the shape of an action figure (e.g., head, chest, arms, legs, etc.), although they could be of any other shape. Here the outlines **254**, **256** are precut and foldable at the arm portions of the figure along line **258**, as indicated by **Arrows C**. This could be advantageous to a user in that the precut outlines **254**, **256** could be customized for particular figures specifically (or used for figures generally). Also, having precut figures could minimize excess portions resulting from the application of heat to the custom cover **210**.  
5  
10 When the custom cover **210** is folded, front portion outline **254** (and individual portions thereof) is generally aligned with back portion outline **256** (and individual portions thereof), thereby fully covering the figure.

**FIG. 6** is a foldable precut custom cover **310** with a plurality of individually foldable portions. The figure outlines **154**, **156** substantially match the shape of an action figure (e.g., head, chest, arms, legs, etc.), although they could be of any other shape. The portions are foldable along lines **358**, such as indicated by **Arrows D**. Such an embodiment could be used specifically for particular figures (or used for figures generally). Further, having individually foldable portions could increase the accuracy of matching decorative elements with the figure (e.g., better matching an arm element). Further, such an embodiment could reduce the size and/or amount of excess portions resulting from the application of heat to the custom cover **310**. The figure includes fold lines **358** and cut lines **360** (although the cut lines **360** could be precut). The individual foldable portions could include individually foldable head **364**, arms **366**, biceps **368**, chest **370**, legs **372**, etc.  
15  
20

The custom cover could be packaged together with a figure (where the custom cover could be shaped and precut to be used specifically with the packaged figure). Additionally or alternatively, one or more custom covers could be packaged without a figure. The sheets could be precut for specific figures, specific poses, and/or specific figures in specific poses. Further, the sheets could be pre-printed with indicia. For example, the pre-printed indicia could include an outline of the body for the figure, basic facial features (e.g., eyes, nose, etc.),  
25

superhero symbol, etc. The custom covers could be on a large roll and separated by perforations and/or by cutting.

The custom covers could be clear (e.g., transparent) and/or tinted one or more colors and/or have certain portions pre-colored. The custom covers are intended to be colored before  
5 being adhered to the figure, but they could be colored after adhesion (particularly where certain portions of the custom cover are pre-colored or pre-decorated with a certain pattern).

Having thus described the system and method in detail, it is to be understood that the foregoing description is not intended to limit the spirit or scope thereof. It will be understood that the embodiments of the present disclosure described herein are merely exemplary and that  
10 a person skilled in the art may make any variations and modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. All such variations and modifications, including those discussed above, are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A custom cover for a figure comprising:  
a heat-shrinkable, generally transparent, sheet sized and shaped for covering a figure;  
5 and  
the sheet receptive to ink and paint for decorating the figure.
2. The custom cover of Claim 1, wherein the sheet comprises plastic.
3. The custom cover of Claim 2, wherein the sheet further includes a front portion and a  
back portion for extending over front and back portions of the figure.
- 10 4. The custom cover of Claim 3, wherein the front portion of the sheet includes a pre-  
printed front figure outline and the back portion of the sheet includes a pre-printed back figure  
outline.
5. The custom cover of Claim 2, wherein the sheet is precut to a shape of a figure  
including a head, arms, and legs.
- 15 6. A method for customizing a figure comprising:  
decorating a custom cover, the custom cover being generally transparent and colorable;  
positioning the custom cover around the figure; and  
heat shrinking the custom cover to the figure to attach the cover to the figure.
7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of decorating the custom cover is performed  
20 before heat shrinking the cover to the figure.
8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of decorating the custom cover is performed  
after heat shrinking the cover to the figure.
9. The method of Claim 6, wherein the sheet comprises plastic.
10. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of positioning the custom cover around the  
25 figure comprises wrapping the custom cover about the figure.
11. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of positioning the custom cover around the  
figure comprises folding the custom cover about the figure.
12. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of decorating the custom cover comprises  
coloring the custom cover.
- 30 13. A kit for customizing a figure comprising:

a figure;

a custom cover sized and shaped for covering the figure, the custom cover being colorable;

a coloring agent for coloring the custom cover; and

5 a tool for applying the coloring agent to the custom cover.

14. The custom kit of Claim 13, wherein the custom cover comprises a heat-shrinkable plastic.

15. The custom kit of Claim 13, wherein the figure comprises an action figure.

10 16. The custom kit of Claim 13, wherein the sheet further includes a front portion and a back portion for extending over front and back portions of the figure.

17. The custom kit of Claim 16, wherein the front portion includes a pre-printed front figure outline and the back portion includes a pre-printed back figure outline.

18. The custom kit of Claim 13, wherein the sheet is precut to a shape of a figure including a head, arms, and legs.

15



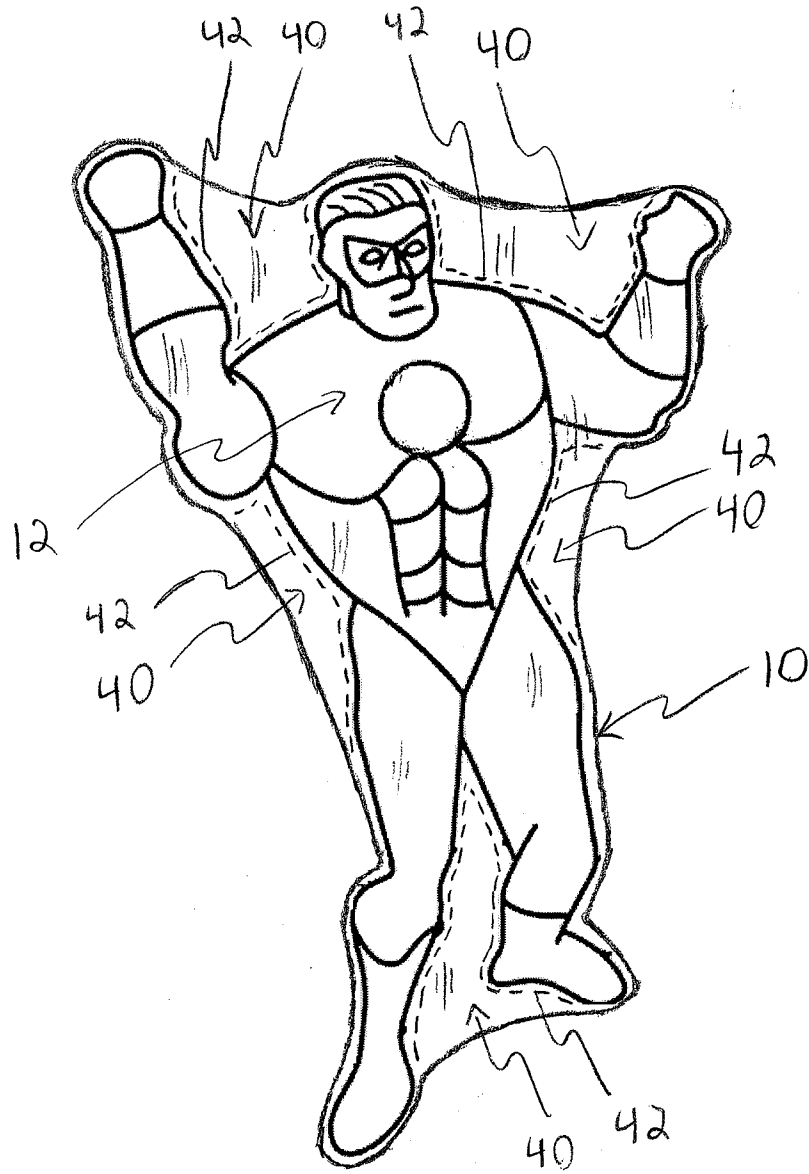


FIG. 2

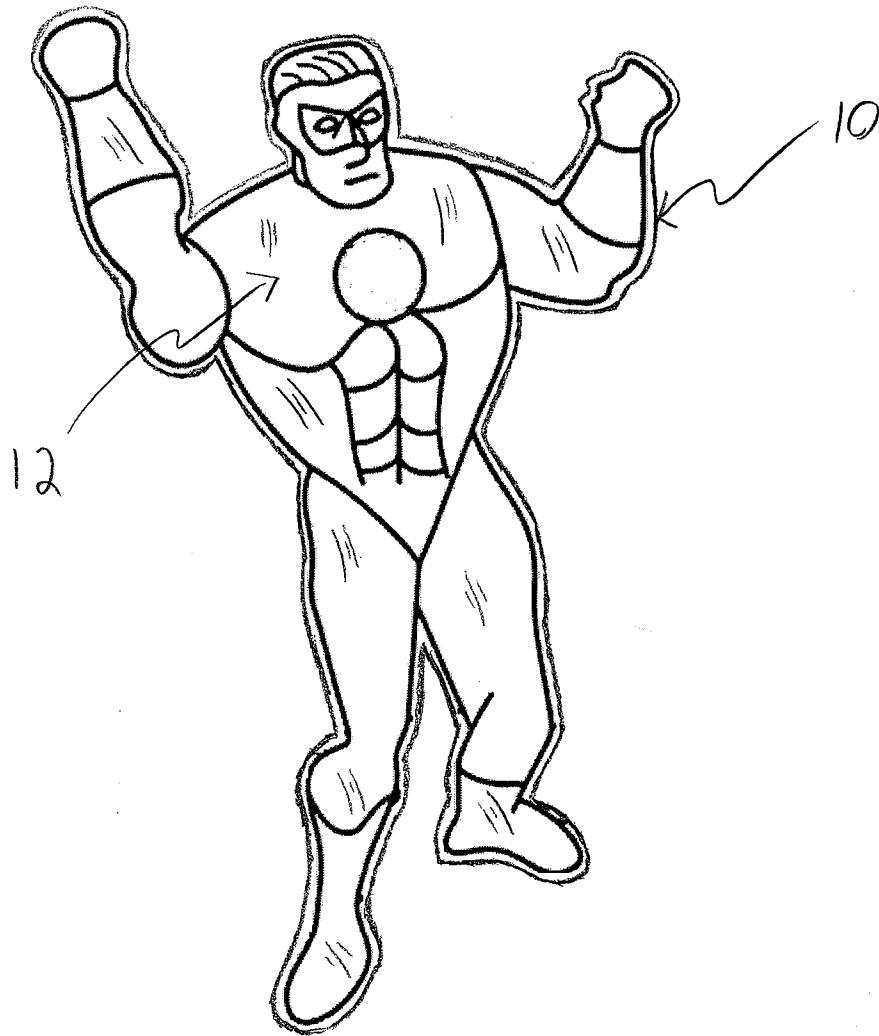


FIG. 3

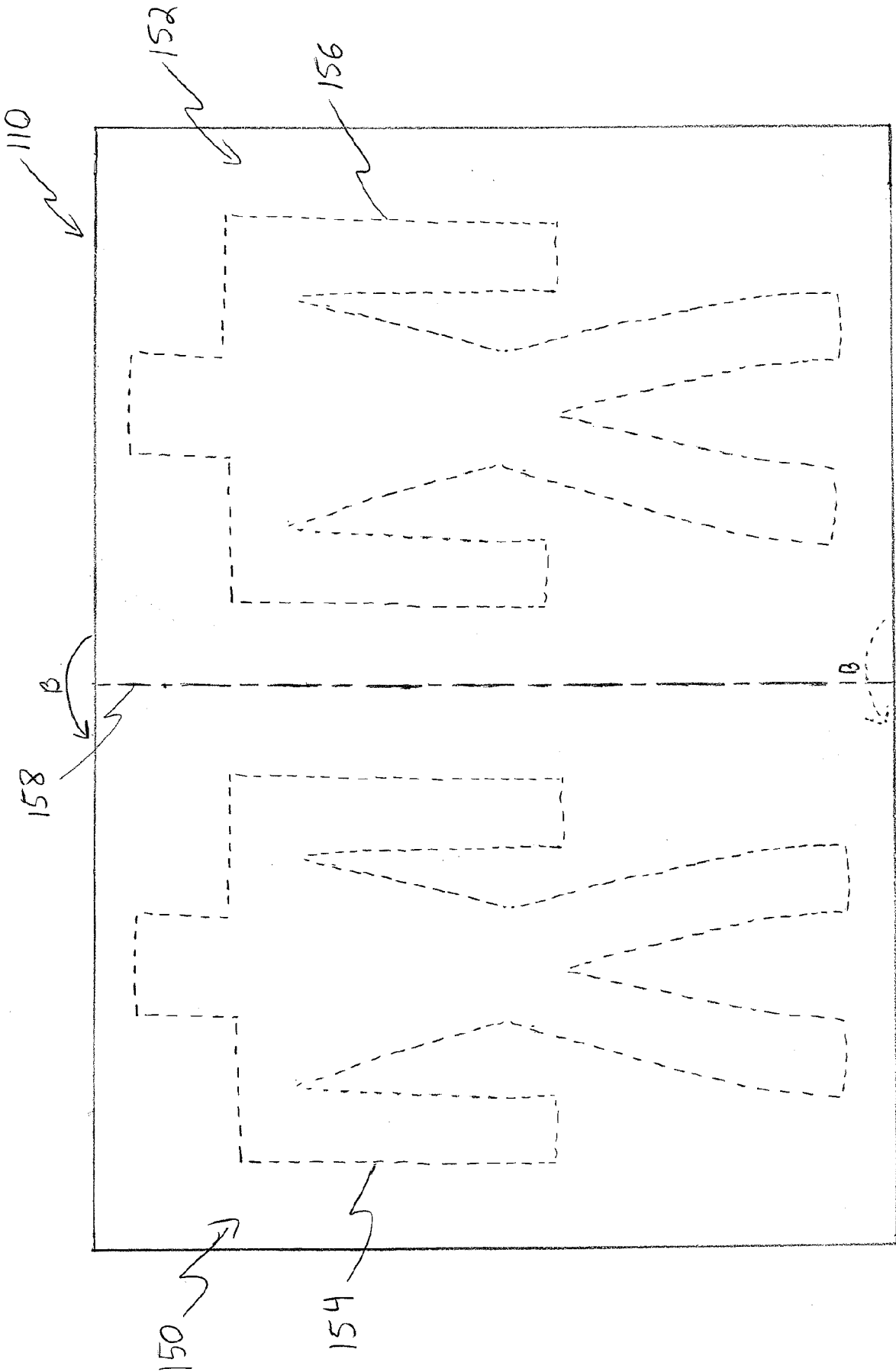


FIG. 4

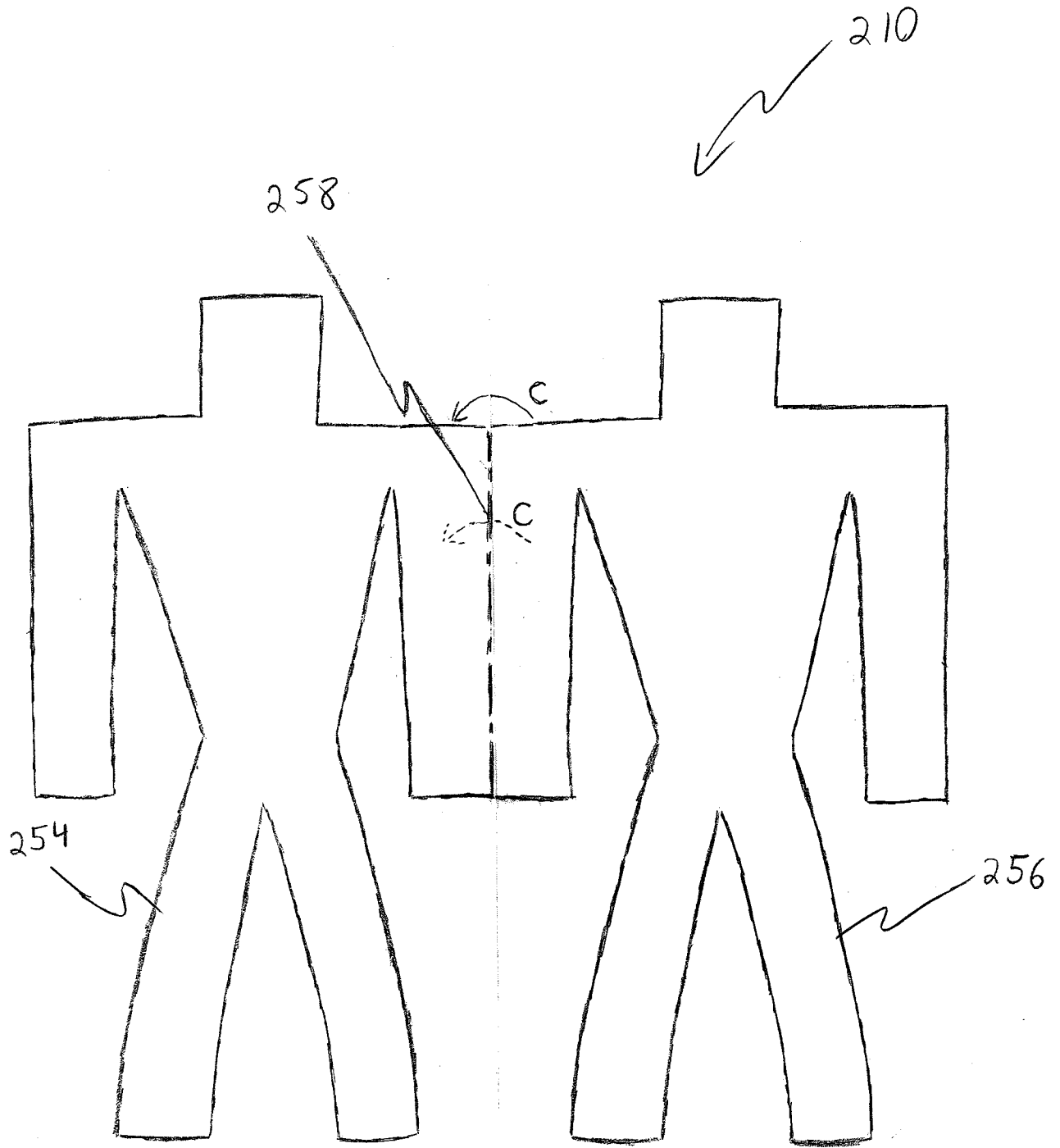


FIG. 5

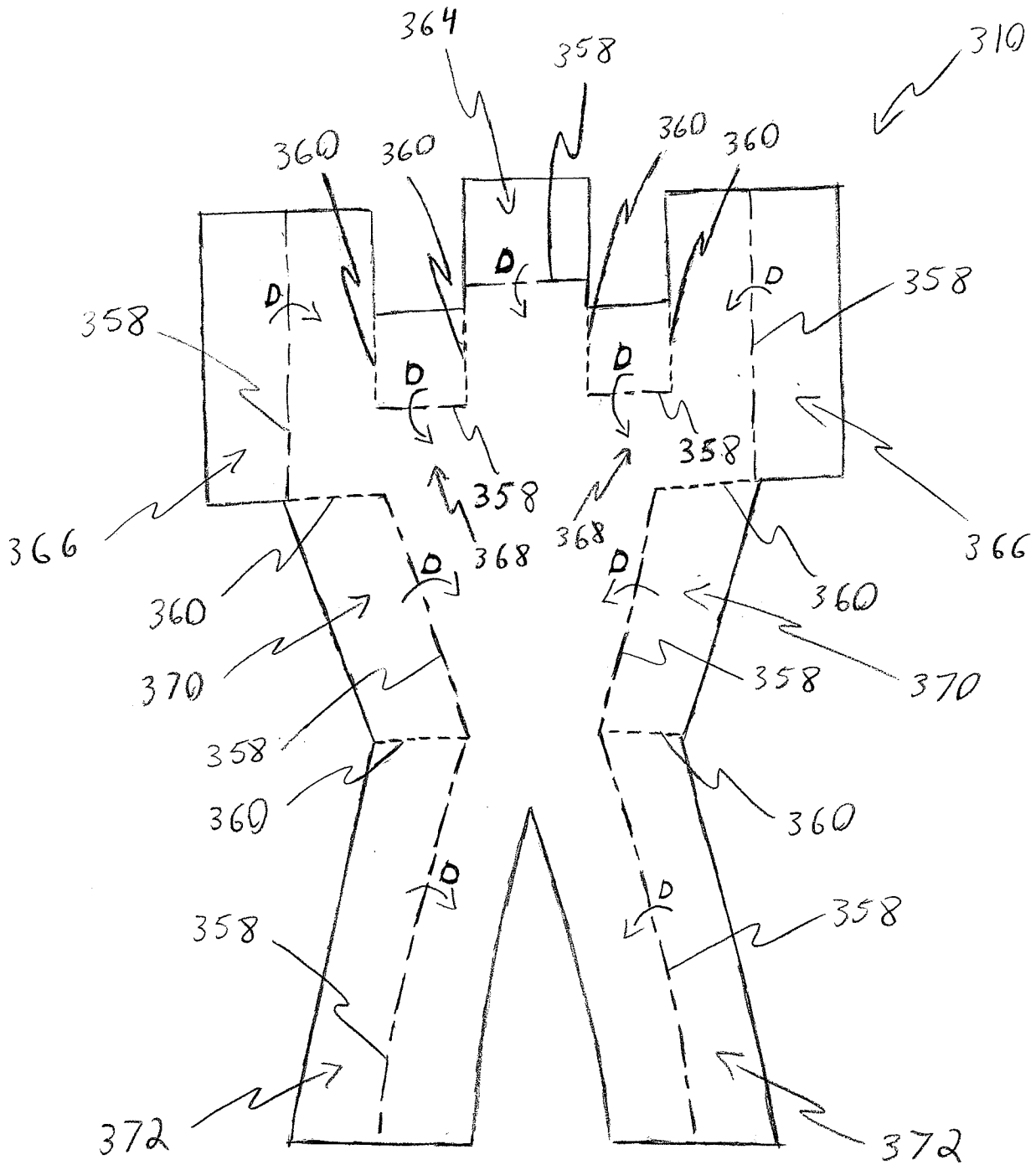


FIG. 6

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US2014/070877
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC(8) - B44C 5/00 (2015.01)  
 CPC - B44C 5/00 (2015.01)  
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC(8) - A47G 33/00, 33/08; B44C 5/00 (2015.01)  
 CPC - A47G 33/08; B44C 5/00; Y10S 362/806 (2015.01)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 USPC - 156/60, 84, 85 (keyword delimited)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 PatBase, YouTube, Google Patents, Google Scholar  
 Search terms used: heat, shrink, wrap, decoration, figurine, doll

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2010/0224308 A1 (WOOD) 09 September 2010 (09.09.2010) entire document	1-3, 13-16
Y		4-12, 17-18
Y	US 2012/0276804 A1 (MCKENNA et al) 01 November 2012 (01.11.2012) entire document	4-12, 17-18
A	US 4,927,025 A (THOMPSON et al) 22 May 1990 (22.05.1990) entire document	1-18
A	US 2006/0117463 A1 (SPINELLI) 08 June 2006 (08.06.2006) entire document	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

\* Special categories of cited documents:  
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date  
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  
 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 February 2015	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>03 APR 2015</b>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver  PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774
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