

of the structural vent 104 is convex. FIG. 7h shows a lens 100 which features a concave surface 106 on structural vent 108. There are, of course, many other variations which are possible.

In the above described embodiments, it is evident that the structural vent 58 is ground directly into the lens 10 which thereby provides a form of truncation. However, it is anticipated that in some instances it may be preferable to first truncate the lens and then to grind in the vent or to mold a truncated, as well as a vented lens. Further, the lens described herein has a bicurve posterior surface, although in some instances it may be very desirable to produce a mono-curve lens. Still further, the example set forth herein is directed toward a lens which is produced from a soft material, and as such, it will be appreciated that all references to diameters and radii, etc., refer to dimensions in the dry states and these dimensions will accurately convert to finished lens dimensions when the lens is hydrated. It should be appreciated that is the lens is produced from a hard material the dimensions will not have an expansion factor.

We claim:

1. A prism ballasted contact lens comprising:
 - a posterior surface having a substantially circular boundary;
 - an anterior surface; and
 - a peripheral edge zone contiguous with said posterior and anterior surfaces, said peripheral edge zone being configured to define a stabilizing and vent zone in the prism ballast area, having two thickened stabilizing portions spaced from each other by a substantially flat vent surface which tapers from said anterior surface toward said posterior surface and which intersects said posterior surface along an arcuate line of curvature reverse to the curvature of the substantially circular boundary of the posterior surface, said vent surface partially releasing constrictive engagement between said lens and the eye, said stabilizing portions stabilizing said contact lens and preventing said lens from rotating on the eye of the wearer.
2. The contact lens as set forth in claim 1, wherein said peripheral edge zone is substantially circular and said stabilizing and vent zone comprises approximately 10% of said peripheral edge zone.
3. The contact lens, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said vent surface is concave.
4. The contact lens, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said vent surface is convex.
5. A prism ballasted contact lens for predetermined orientation on the human eye and for stabilization relative to the vertical meridian of the eye at the position of predetermined orientation, comprising:
 - a posterior lens surface of substantially concave configuration;
 - an anterior lens surface of substantially convex configuration disposed in a relationship to the posterior lens surface to define the lens body therebetween and joining the posterior lens surface to substantially define the periphery of the lens, and with the anterior lens surface being configured to form a wedge section at the area of the lens having the most prism ballasting for providing for predetermined orientation of the lens and for stabilization of the lens at the position of predetermined orientation, the wedge section being defined by the body of the lens and by two convex anterior surface areas separated by a wedge edge surface extending from the anterior lens surface substantially to the posterior lens surface proximate the periph-

ery of the lens, the wedge edge surface being of varying width for positioning substantially symmetrically about the vertical meridian of the eye and the wedge edge surface being widest substantially at that area of the lens for positioning at the vertical meridian of the eye.

6. A prism ballasted contact lens having posterior and anterior surfaces, for orientation on the eye of a human with respect to the vertical and horizontal meridians thereof, said lens comprising:

- at least one vision correcting surface on said anterior surface;
- a vent including a vent surface for providing a structural relief in said lens at the most prominent portion of the prism ballasting for releasing the constrictive engagement between the eye and the posterior surface of said contact lens, said vent surface tapering in one direction from a first location on the anterior surface between the geometrical center of the lens and the edge thereof toward, and at least to, the posterior surface of said lens at the edge thereof, said vent surface further tapering horizontally away from the first location on the anterior surface toward and at least to the posterior surface at the edge of said lens, said vent enabling said lens to move on the eye; and
- a distinct stabilizing portion adjacent each side of said vent for engagement with the inferior lid of the eye, said stabilizing portions by engaging the inferior lid during movement of the eye counteracting unwanted rotational torque exerted upon said lens, and thereby assuring that said lens maintains true position on the eye.

7. A prism ballasted contact lens having vertical and horizontal axes associative with the vertical and horizontal meridians of the eye to which it is mounted and movable along the vertical meridian between first and second locations, said lens comprising:

- posterior and anterior surfaces contiguous with a peripheral edge surface; and
- structural vent means provided in the prism ballasted portion of said lens for releasing constrictive engagement between said lens and the eye, said structural vent means having a surface which tapers both vertically and horizontally from a point on said anterior surface through said ballasting portion and intersecting said peripheral edge surface thereby providing a thickened portion on each side of said structural vent means, which when viewing said lens in its position on the eye, has an appearance resembling a modified crescent, said structural vent means enabling said lens to move along the vertical meridian of the eye between first and second locations relative to movement of the eye and the thickened portions stabilizing the lens upon the eye during such movement.

8. The method of making a prism ballasted contact lens, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a peripheral edge surface on said lens,
- (b) forming posterior and anterior surfaces on said lens such that said lens has a prism ballasted area;
- (c) forming a stabilizing and vent zone on said lens at the prism ballasted area thereof which includes two distinct stabilizing portions spaced from each other by a substantially flat vent surface which tapers from said anterior surface toward said posterior surface.

9. The contact lens manufactured according to the method set forth in claim 8.

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