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intermediate between that of the cornea and that of the seg.

The thickness of the lens is within the usual range of values for the appropriate material, and the diameter of the outer edge of the lens is likewise of the usual magnitude for a corneal magnitude.

It has been found that with the lens of the invention the wearer can distinctly see either near objects or intermediate objects or distant objects without interruptions in his vision. The eye views through the optical center of the contact lens. The distinct view provided by the corresponding portion of the lens, either the portion having the seg for distant objects or the (peripheral) remainder of the lens for near objects, are clearly seen, in spite of the less distinct outlines of the object provided by the other portion of the lens.

Modifications may be made in the above-described embodiment within the scope of the subjoined claims and within the scope of the invention. For example, the lens may be tinted to provide protection from the sun or for cosmetic purposes.

What is claimed is:

1. A bifocal contact lens made of a transparent contact-lens material and having an anterior surface of a selected curvature and a posterior concave surface having a peripheral portion for near viewing and having a spherical curvature and with a radius of curvature designed to fit the surface of a wearer's cornea with a parallel fit, and not a tight fit, so that a layer of tear liquid is maintained in a gap between said posterior surface and said cornea, and a central portion for distant viewing in the form of a depression in said posterior surface for holding tear liquid, the diameter of said central portion being at least 3.5 mm and its curvature being a spherical curve, which tear liquid in the depression acts as part of the lens system, the surface of said depression having a radius of curvature shorter than that of said peripheral portion; and a transparent zone of

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said posterior surface at the junction of said peripheral and central portions, which zone is of rounded and smooth shape and from 0.1 mm to 0.4 mm in which so as to provide a gradual transition from the curvature of said peripheral portion to the curvature of said depression.

2. A contact lens as in claim 1 wherein said anterior surface has a uniform spherical curvature.

3. A contact lens as in claim 1 wherein said depression is a full hemisphere whose radius is smaller than the radius of the curvature of said peripheral portion.

4. A method of making a bifocal contact lens having anterior and posterior surfaces which consists of providing an anterior surface of selected curvature on one side of a lens blank of transparent contact lens material; providing a central depression for distant viewing on the posterior surface having a diameter of at least 3.5 mm, a spherical curvature, and a radius of curvature less than that of the curvature of the cornea of the wearer of the lens and also a peripheral portion for near viewing with a spherical curvature on the posterior surface beyond said depression and having a radius of curvature substantially the same as that of the cornea of the wearer of the lens, to form the lens with a parallel fit, and not a tight fit, and with a gap filled with tear fluid between said posterior surface and said cornea; and then blending the transition zone between the peripheral and central portions of said posterior surface to form an annular zone of 0.1 mm to 0.4 mm in width by polishing with a tool having a radius intermediate the radii of said central depression and said peripheral portion, so as to provide a gradual and smooth and transparent transition zone from the peripheral portion to the said depression.

5. A method as defined in claim 4 in which the step of blending is performed by polishing with a tool whose surface consists of velveteen cloth.

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