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(54) BAG FOR USE WITH HAND HELD TOOLS

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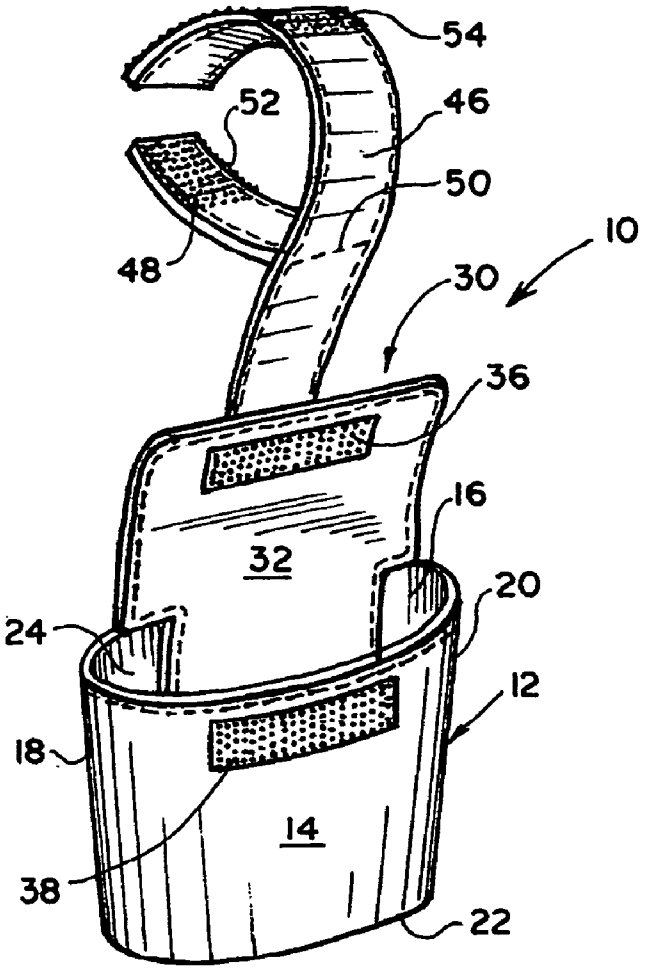
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bag or holder for retaining fastening devices such as nails, staples, screws and the like is detachably positionable on a hand-held tool, such as a power drill, screw driver and the like powered by a battery, AC power, air compressor, pneumatic power, etc. The bag defines a compartment with an open top for retaining a desired quantity of the fastening devices for the user's easy access. A flap secured to an upper portion of the bag main body can be retained in a closed position, covering the top opening, and an open position, allowing ready access to the interior of the compartment. The bag can be suspended from the hand-held tool by a suspension strap secured to the bag main body. A plurality of fastening members positioned on the bag main body and the strap selectively retain the strap in an open or closed position.



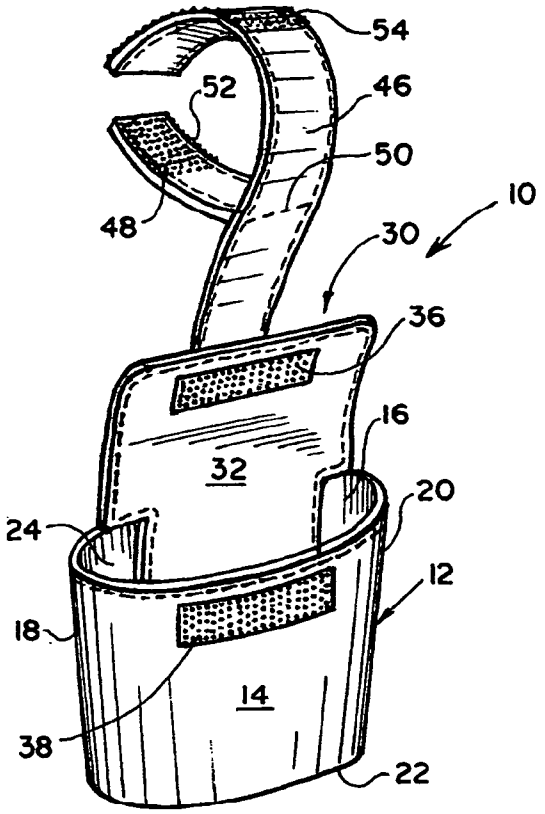


FIG. 1

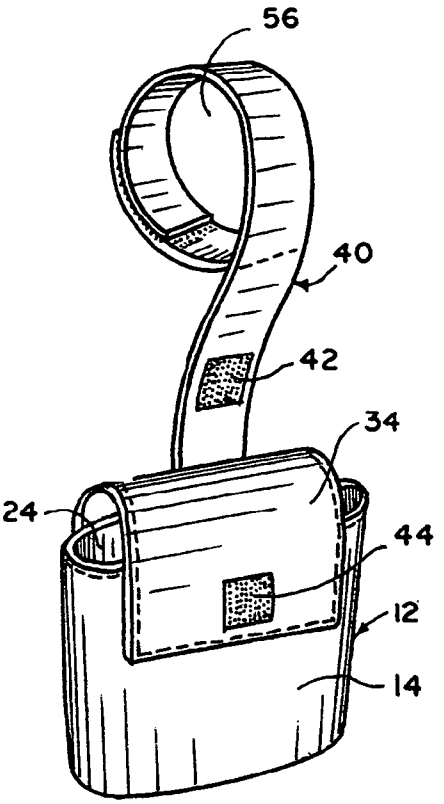


FIG. 2

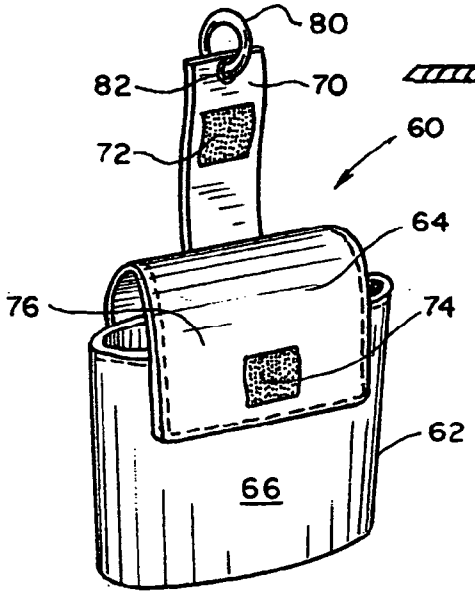


FIG. 3

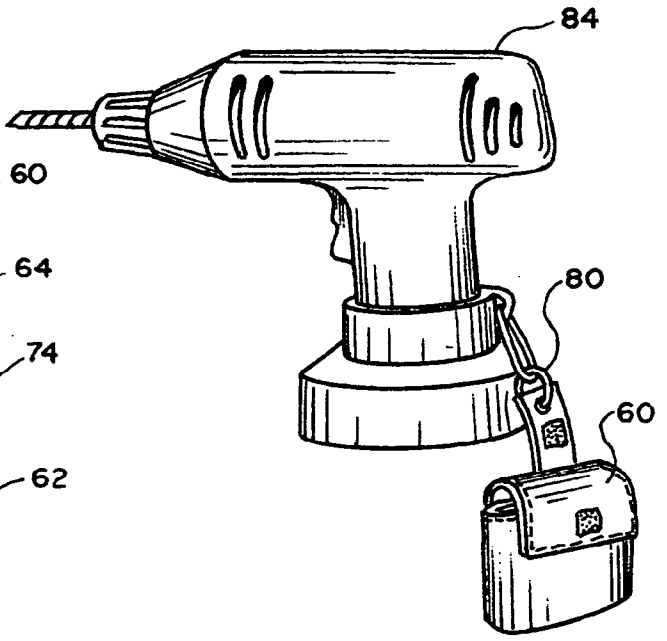


FIG. 4

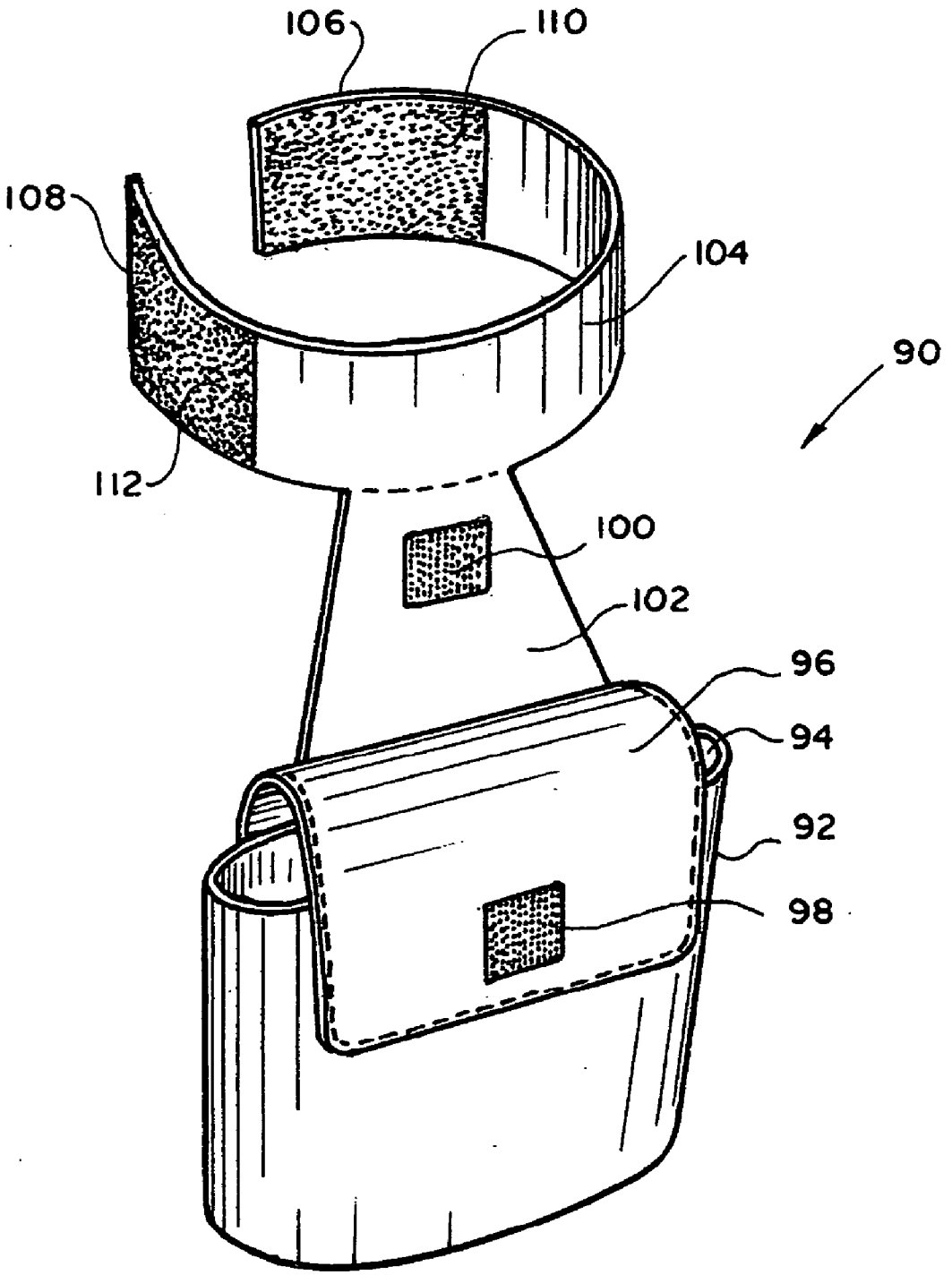


FIG. 5

BAG FOR USE WITH HAND HELD TOOLS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This nonprovisional application is based on and claims the benefits of my provisional application No. 60/425,675 filed on Nov. 12, 2002, entitled "Bag for Use with Hand-held Power Tools," the full disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to bags, or holders for retaining a desired quantity of small items, such as nails, tacks, staples, screws, and other such fastening devices to be used with hand held tools, such as drills, screw drivers and nail guns powered by batteries, electrical power or pneumatic.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Hand held power tools such as drills, screwdrivers, and nail guns are popular devices, which are used in building and construction trades. A user typically requires screws or nails (referred to as "fastening devices") to hold together wood, paneling, lumber, drywall, and the like. A problem arises in that the user will typically require a steady supply of these fastening devices for use in the building process. The users of the tool are limited in the number of screws or nails that they can carry in their hands at one time. In addition, by using their hands to carry the fastening devices, the users are unable to operate the power tool correctly or efficiently. This can result in dangerous situations where safety is impaired.

[0004] The user of the power tool has in the past needed to stop work periodically in order to pick up additional fastening devices. This repeated work stoppage results in an inefficient work process. A user is required to start and stop working periodically to replenish his supply of easily accessible fastening devices.

[0005] There are several methods, which have been employed in the past to address the problem of fastening devices. In one method, a mechanical device feeds fastening devices to the power tool, and does not require the user to manually hold and position the nail or screw. Although this method frees the user's hand to operate the power tool, it requires specially designed equipment, which is both cumbersome and expensive. In addition, complicated mechanical devices can, and often do, fail, rendering the power tool inoperable.

[0006] The present invention contemplates elimination of drawbacks associated with the prior art and provision of a bag, or holder for fastening devices that make the fastening devices easily accessible to a user.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a bag, which can be used in conjunction with hand-held power tools to provide a ready supply of fastening devices that are in easy reach of the user of the tool.

[0008] It is another object of the present invention to provide a bag, which frees the user's hand to operate the power tool.

[0009] It is a further object of the present invention to provide a bag, which does not require the use of complicated and expensive mechanical devices to supply a stream of fastening devices to the user.

[0010] These and other objects of the invention are achieved through a provision of a bag, or holder that comprises a main body defining a compartment with an open top. A flap secured to an upper portion of the main body is selectively moveable between a first position, substantially covering the open top, and a second position, allowing access to the interior of the compartment, where the fastening devices are retained. The flap can be retained in the first or the second position upon demand. A strap is secured to the main body for positioning the main body on the hand-held tool. The strap may be made as a leash, attached to a ring or other means of securing the bag on the hand-held power tool.

[0011] To retain the bag in the first position, a fastening means are provided on the main body and an interior surface of the flap. To retain the body in the second position, a fastening means are provided on the exterior of the flap and the strap. The fastening means may be selected from a number of matingly engageable devices, such as hook-and-loop fasteners, snaps, hooks, buttons and the like.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] Reference will now be made to the drawings, wherein like parts are designated by like numerals, and wherein

[0013] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of the bag in accordance with the present invention in an open position using a suspension means of a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] **FIG. 2** is a perspective view of the bag of the present invention with the flap closed.

[0015] **FIG. 3** is a perspective view of the bag of the present invention utilizing a suspension means of the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] **FIG. 4** is a perspective view of the bag shown in **FIG. 3** positioned on a power tool.

[0017] **FIG. 5** is a perspective view of the bag showing a third alternative embodiment of the suspension means.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0018] Turning now to the drawings in more detail, numeral **10** designates the bag, or holder of the present invention. As can be seen in the drawings, the bag **10** comprises a main body **12** having a generally defined front panel **14** and a generally defined back panel **16**. The front panel **14** and the back panel **16** are joined by a pair of generally defined side panels **18** and **20**. Of course, the main body **20** can be made as a unitary body by folding a sheet of a selected material and forming an enclosure therewith. A bottom panel **22** is secured to the bottom portion of the side wall generally defined by the panels **14**, **16**, **18**, and **20**. The main body **12** has a top edge **24**, which delimits a top opening of a compartment defined by the main body **12**.

[0019] Secured to the back panel **16** and extending upwardly therefrom is a flap **30**, which is sized to substan-

tially cover the opening defined by the top edge **24** when the bag **10** is in a first position, as shown in **FIG. 2**, substantially covering the top opening. The flap **30** has an inner surface **32** and an outer surface **34**. Secured to the inner surface **32** is a first fastening means **36**. A mating second fastening means **38** is secured on the outside of the front panel **14** adjacent to the top edge **24**. The fastening means **36** and **38** have matingly engageable fastening elements allowing the flap **30** to close the top opening of the main body **12** and remain in the closed position upon demand.

[**0020**] A suspension strap **40** is secured to the back panel **16**. The suspension strap **40** extends upwardly from the main body **12** behind the flap **30**. The length of the suspension strap **40** is at least slightly greater than the vertical dimension of the flap **30** when the flap **30** is in the second, open position. The suspension strap **40** is formed from a flexible material allowing the flap **40** to be bent and/or wrapped around a handheld tool.

[**0021**] The suspension strap **40** and the exterior of the flap **30** carry a means for retaining the flap in the second position. As can be seen in the drawings, a fastening member **42** is attached to the strap **40** a distance above the main body **12**. The fastening member **42** is designed to mate with a fastening member **44** positioned on an outside surface **34** of the flap **30**. The fastening members **42** and **44**, when engaged, retain the flap **30** in the second position, allowing access to the interior of the main body **12**. This position of the flap **30** facilitates access to the fastening devices, such as staples, nails, screws, etc. retained in the compartment defined by the main body **12**.

[**0022**] The suspension strap **40** can be secured on a power hand-held tool in a number of ways. One such embodiment is illustrated in **FIGS. 1 and 2**, and another exemplary way is illustrated in **FIGS. 3 and 4**. Turning first to the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 1 and 2**, the strap **40** is shown comprising an elongated body **46** and an auxiliary strap member **48**. The auxiliary strap member **48** is fixedly secured to the main body **12** at a location **50** spaced a predetermined distance from the fastening member **42**. The auxiliary strap member **48** is provided with fastening means **52** on a surface that faces the elongated strap **40**.

[**0023**] A matching fastening means **54** is provided on a surface of the free end of the elongated body **46** that faces the fastening means **52**. When the elongated body **46** and the auxiliary strap member **48** are wrapped around a body of a handheld tool, such as an electric screwdriver, the fastening means **52** and **54** are joined together forming a loop **56** (**FIG. 2**), which extends about the body of the power tool. The fastening elements **52** and **54** are secured together, forming a variable dimension loop that can be tightened or loosened depending on what elements of the fastening means **52** and **54** are joined together. The loop formed by the strap portions **46** and **48** is wrapped around the body of the power tool, retaining the bag **10** on the power tool during use.

[**0024**] When no longer needed, the bag **10** is closed by disengaging the fastening means **44** from the fastening means **42**, and reengaging the second fastening means **36** with the first fastening means **38** on the main body **12**. Once the bag is closed, preventing the nails, screws, tacks, etc. from falling out of the bag **10**, the suspension strap **40** is removed from its position on the body of the power tool and the bag **10** is removed. In this action, the auxiliary strap member **48** is disengaged from the elongated strap **46** by disengaging the fastening means **52**, **54**, and allowing the user to remove the bag **10** from the power tool. When the user resumes work or needs to use different power tools, different types of fastening elements, such as staples may be deposited in the bag **10** and the bag **10** is repositioned on the next used power tool.

[**0025**] Turning now to the embodiment showing an alternative means of suspending the bag **10** from a hand-held tool, as illustrated in **FIGS. 3 and 4**, the bag of the present invention is designated generally by numeral **60**. The bag **60** is substantially similar to the bag **10**; it comprises a main body **62** and a flap portion **64** provided with securing members on the inside of the flap, not shown, corresponding to the securing members on the front panel **66** of the main body **62**. **FIG. 3** shows that bag **60** in a closed position. As can be further seen in **FIG. 3**, the bag **60** comprises a suspension strap **70** carrying a means **72** for retaining the flap **64** in the second position, that is an open position during use. The fastening means **72** is adapted to matingly engage fastening means **74** positioned on an outside surface **76** of the flap **64**.

[**0026**] The suspending means of the second embodiment differ from the suspending means of the first embodiment inasmuch as instead of the auxiliary strap member, they provide for the use of a ring **80**, which is engaged through an opening **82** formed in the strap member **70** adjacent its free end. The ring **80** is adapted for engaging with a hand tool **84**, as shown in **FIG. 4**, allowing the bag **60** to be suspended from the body of the power tool **84**.

[**0027**] **FIG. 5** illustrates still another alternative arrangement of a strap for engaging the power tool. As can be seen in the drawing, the bag **90** is provided with the main body **92** having an open top **94** that is selectively covered with a flap **96**. The flap **96**, similar to the flaps **30** and **64**, is provided with a fastening means on its inside surface (not shown) that correspond to the fastening means secured on the main body **92** (not shown) to keep the flap **96** in closed position, as shown in **FIG. 5**. When in use, the flap **96** is raised, and the fastening means **98** is engaged with the fastening means **100** secured on a suspension strap **102**. In this position, the open top **94** is open allowing easy access to the interior compartment formed by the main body **92**.

[**0028**] The strap **102** carries a secondary or auxiliary strap member **104**, which extends generally perpendicularly to a vertical axis of the strap **102**. The strap member **104** has free ends **106**, **108**, which are adapted for wrapping about a power tool and engaging the power tool for temporary securing of the bag **90** on the power tool. To this end, the free end **106** and the free end **108** carry matching fastening means **110** and **112**, respectively. When the fastening means **110** and **112** are matingly engaged, the bag **90** is suspended on the power tool, allowing the user an easy access to fastening devices housed in the main body **92**.

[**0029**] The body of the bags **10**, **60** and **90** is formed from a sturdy material capable of withstanding the weight of fastening devices such as nails, staples, screws, etc. Similarly, the suspension straps **46**, **70** and **102** are formed from a strong flexible material allowing the suspension straps **46**, **70** and **102** to bend and fold to accommodate temporary attachment to the power tools. The fastening means **36**, **38**, **42**, **44**, **52**, **54**, **72**, **74**, **98**, **100**, as well as those located under the flaps and not shown in the drawings, can be selected from any number of desired fastening devices. For instance, the fastening means may be strips of hook-and-loop fasteners, snaps, buttons, hooks and the like.

[**0030**] The suspension straps **40**, **70**, and **102** may be attached by stitching, adhesive, staples, grommets, and any

other means for securing the straps to the main body. Alternatively, the suspension straps may be formed unitary with the main body, depending on the manufacturing design.

[0031] It is envisioned that the suspension means may be a leash, a loop, a ring, a hook or other suitable means for suspending the main body from the exterior object, such as a hand-held power tool.

[0032] Many other changes and modifications can be made in the design of the present invention without departing from the spirit thereof. I therefore pray that my rights to the present invention be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A bag comprising:

a main body defining a compartment with an open top;

a flap securely attached to said main body adjacent a top portion of the main body, said flap moveable between a first position in substantially covering relationship to said open top and a second position allowing access to an interior of said compartment; and

a means for selectively retaining said flap in the second position upon demand.

2. The bag of claim 1, further comprising a means securely attached to said main body for detachably suspending said main body from an exterior object.

3. The bag of claim 2, wherein said flap is provided with an inner surface and an outer surface and wherein said means for retaining said flap in the second position comprises a first fastening means positioned on the outer surface of the flap and a second fastening means secured on said suspension means, said first fastening means and said second fastening means being adapted for mating engagement for retaining said flap in the second position.

4. The bag of claim 3, further comprising a means for retaining said flap in the first position.

5. The bag of **4**, wherein said main body has a front outer surface, and wherein said means for retaining the flap in the first position comprises a third fastening means secured on the inner surface of the flap and a fourth fastening means secured on the front outer surface of the main body, said third fastening means being adapted for mating engagement with the fourth fastening means for retaining the flap in the first position.

6. The bag of claim 2, wherein said suspension means comprises an elongated flexible strap provided with an auxiliary suspension member carried by the elongated strap, said flexible strap and said auxiliary suspension member forming a loop for detachably suspending the main body from the exterior object.

7. The bag of claim 6, wherein said elongated strap and said auxiliary suspension member are provided with mating fastening members for forming the loop.

8. The bag of claim 2, wherein said suspension means comprises an elongated flexible strap and a ring secured to a free end of said elongated strap.

9. A bag comprising:

a main body having a front outer surface and an open top, said main body defining a compartment;

a flap secured to a top portion of the main body, said flap moveable between a first position, substantially covering the open top and a second position allowing access to interior of the compartment;

a strap secured to the main body for detachably positioning the main body on an exterior object;

a means for retaining the flap in the first position upon demand; and

a means for retaining the flap in the second position upon demand.

10. The bag of claim 9, wherein said strap forms a variable dimension loop for detachably positioning the main body on the exterior object.

11. The bag of claim 10, wherein said strap comprises an elongated flexible strap member and an auxiliary strap member securely attached to the elongated strap member said elongated strap member and said auxiliary strap member carrying matingly engageable fastening members positioned on free ends of the elongated strap member and the auxiliary strap member.

12. The bag of claim 9, wherein said means for retaining the flap in the first position comprises mating fastening means secured on the main body and an interior surface of the flap.

13. The bag of claim 9, wherein said means for retaining the flap in the second position comprises mating fastening means secured on an exterior surface of the flap and on the strap.

14. The bag of claim 9, wherein said strap carries a ring on a free end thereof, said ring being adapted for suspending the main body from an exterior object.

15. A bag for retaining a desired quantity of fastening devices, comprising:

a main body forming a compartment for receiving the fastening devices and delimiting a bag top opening;

a flap selectively moveable between a first position in substantially covering relationship to the top opening and a second position allowing access to the compartment;

a means for selectively retaining said flap in the first position;

a means for selectively retaining the flap in the second position;

a means for detachably securing the main body on a hand-held tool for use with the fastening devices.

16. The bag of claim 15, wherein said means for retaining the flap in the first position comprises mating fastening means secured on the main body and an interior surface of the flap.

17. The bag of claim 15, wherein said means for retaining the flap in the second position comprises mating fastening means secured on an exterior surface of the flap and on the securing means.

18. The bag of claim 15, wherein said securing means comprises a pair of strap members provided with mating fastening means on free ends thereof for forming a variable dimension loop and engaging the hand-held tool.

19. The bag of claim 15, wherein said securing means comprises an elongated strap member secured to the main body and a ring secured to a free end of the elongated strap.

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