ABSTRACT

It is common to see people carrying shopping bags as well as objects with hard handles. Both soft handles and hard handles can create discomfort during transport. The invention presented here is for a moderately flexible yet firm handle-grip/ hand grip apparatus (named “Gripz”) that enables people to comfortably carry a variety of loaded bag types or weighted objects that need to be carried by hand that allows for the attachment of some type of handle or hand grip. The material and design relieves discomfort while providing adequate support during transport.
GRIPZ COMFORT HANDLE FOR CARRYING BAGS AND OTHER ITEMS

[0001] The handle-grip/hand grip apparatus (named Gripz™ comfort handle™) are made from vinyl tubing (comes in one and two layers) material as well as colored PVC poly urethane alloy (two layers) tubing material. The tubing is first cut to roughly four inches long. Additional cutting to the top of the roughly four inch vinyl tubing is done to produce an opening to the outer face of the tubing as well as create unique separated flexible protrusion or protrusions located on two opposing sides or one side (depending on the design) of the apparatus as seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. The protrusion(s) allow a person to push bag handles beyond the protrusion(s) and into the apparatus/taurus tubular recess. This also allows the grip to remain on the bag because of these protrusion(s) and the flexibility of the protrusion(s) allow bag handles to be easily removed from the tubular recess. The tubing is cut to intentionally produce handle-grips/hand grips that curve upward (not downward) to form a slight “U” shape (as depicted in FIG. 7). The reason for this is to help counter the downward weight of a loaded bag that will be carried in order to provide more support for the hand carrying the weight. This helps reduce stress applied to the finger-joints and reduces the cutting off of circulation that occurs when carrying weighted bags with flat and narrow handle-loops. Short notches are cut at each end of the roughly four inch handle-grip/hand grip apparatus that act as a guide just prior to beginning of insertion of bag loops into the apparatuses interior. These notches can be seen in “a” and “b” of FIG. 3 (top view) and “a” and “b” in FIG. 6 (bottom view).

[0002] The handle-grip/hand grip apparatus (named Gripz™ comfort handle™) can hold a key ring, are pocket sized, portable, light, and made from a comfortable material (not hard like wood or plastic, yet more supportive than foam alone or silicone alone) that is pliable and economical to both the producer and buyer. A foam rubber layer can be (and has been) installed to the exterior of the handle-grip/hand grip apparatus as seen in FIG. 8, thereby extending the tubular contour for added comfort. The apparatus can carry one bag (varying in bag types from leather to paper, plastic or fabric) or multiple shopping bags (paper, plastic or reusable/cycled) as well as a variety of other materials used for carrying objects. The length of the bottom of the handle-grip/hand grip apparatus from end notch to end notch as seen in FIG. 6 is intentionally cut to a length that is slightly wider than the width of a hand in order to combat finger-joint and the narrowing affect on the hand and cutting off of circulation that bag handles produce when a bag is loaded with a certain amount of weight. The tubular shape of the handle-grip/hand grip apparatus provides a superior contour for the hand and fingers to touch as opposed to rectangular shaped devices with ninety degree angles and allows for freer finger movement then if indentures were made to fit each finger.


DRAWINGS

[0004] FIG. 1 is an upper diagonal view of the hand grip device

[0005] FIG. 2 is another upper diagonal view of the hand grip device with added web address

[0006] FIG. 3 is a top view of the hand grip device

[0007] FIG. 4 is a front-side view looking into the tubular device as if looking through a tunnel

[0008] FIG. 5 is a slight variation of the previous diagonal views seen in FIGS. 1 and 2

[0009] FIG. 6 is a bottom view of the hand grip device

[0010] FIG. 7 depicts the intentional slight “U” shape of the apparatus

[0011] FIG. 8 is the hand grip device with additional exterior layer of foam rubber for added comfort and stability

[0012] FIG. 9 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0013] FIG. 10 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0014] FIG. 11 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0015] FIG. 12 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0016] FIG. 13 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0017] FIG. 14 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0018] FIG. 15 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0019] FIG. 16 is a variation of the flexible protrusion(s) used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0020] FIG. 17 is a variation of the flexible protrusion(s) used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0021] FIG. 18 is a variation of the flexible protrusion used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

[0022] FIG. 19 is a variation of the flexible protrusion(s) used in the design of the outer face of the hand grip device

1. The protrusion(s) located at the outer face as seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 of the portable, removable, reusable handle/grip/hand-grip apparatus which is intended for the use of carrying various bags or other contraptions that require the use of a person’s hand. These protrusion(s) are flexible and allow the pushing and pulling out of various handles or other materials that could be used in the aid of carrying weighted objects such as plastic bag handles, fabric handles, twine, metal paint can handles, leather handles, hard plastic handles, paper handles, rope, string, or wire. The protrusion(s) are also firm enough to provide the ability of the handle-grip/hand-grip apparatus to remain attached to a bag handle when a person removes his or her hand from the handle-grip/hand-grip apparatus. The design of the protrusion(s) can vary, emerging from two opposing sides of the outer top face of the handle-grip/hand grip apparatus as seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, or emerging from one side of the outer top face as seen in FIGS. 10, 11, 18, and 19. These protrusions can be cut to shapes with straight edges as seen in FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 or cut with smoother curved “mibs” as seen in FIGS. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. FIG. 19 is also the outline of the shape of a metal “die” for cutting the shape of the handle-grip/hand grip apparatus out of the vinyl or PVC poly urethane alloy tubing material or other types of material.

2. The moderately flexible handle-grip/hand grip apparatus is purposely cut to roughly 4 inches long which is intended to be cut wider than most hands in order to counteract the pressure produced from holding weighted bags. The material cut is from sturdy yet pliable tubing that produces a slight
upward “U” shaped curve (as depicted in FIG. 7) as opposed to the slight downward “U” shaped curve of other bag handle-grips such as Pat. No. D624411 or straight-shaped devices such as patents Pat. No. D436036, U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,738,401, 7,387,324. The slight upward U shaped curve is intentionally produced to help counter the downward weight of a loaded bag or package that creates a downward “V” shape pressure to the hand. The width of the tubular material and the effect of the slight upward U shaped curve at that width in addition to the combination of vinyl and foam rubber produces a superior counter-action to the downward pull of a weighted bag or other object.