

March 7, 1967

B. J. PLATT

3,307,758

CARRYING BAG AND BACK REST DEVICE

Filed Aug. 24, 1964

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

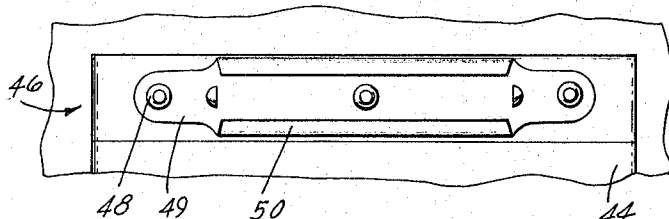
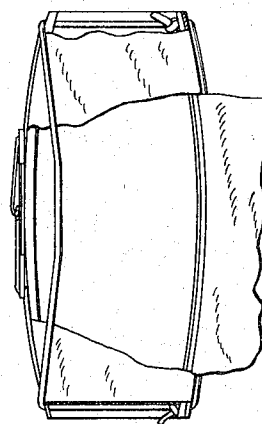
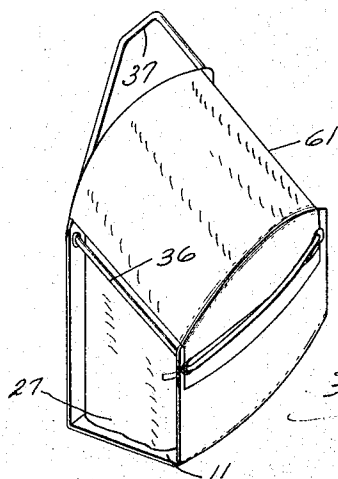
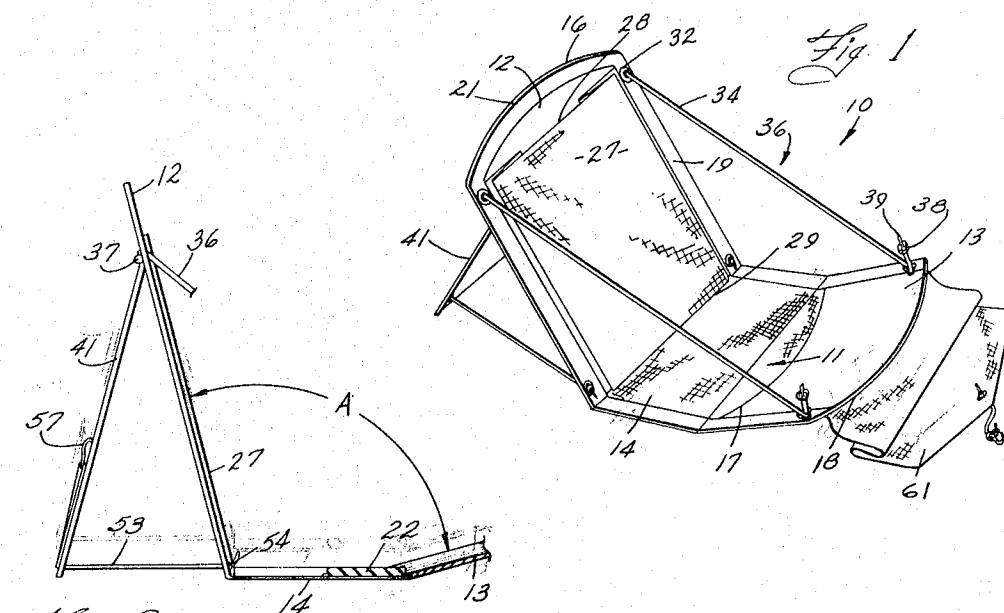


Fig. 8

INVENTOR.

BENJAMIN J. PLATT

BY

Woodhams, Blanchard & Flynn  
ATTORNEYS

March 7, 1967

B. J. PLATT

3,307,758

CARRYING BAG AND BACK REST DEVICE

Filed Aug. 24, 1964

3 Sheets-Sheet 2

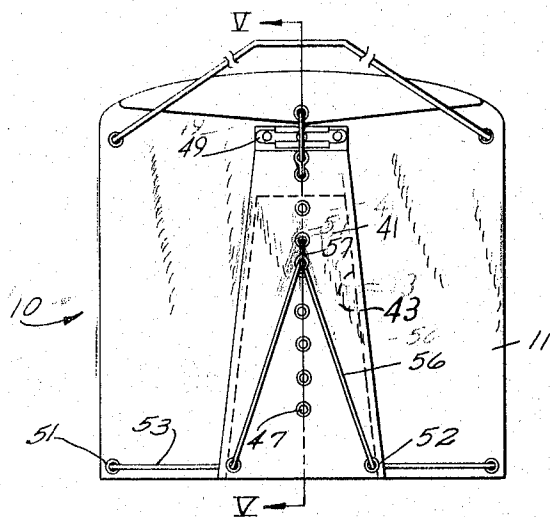


Fig. 4

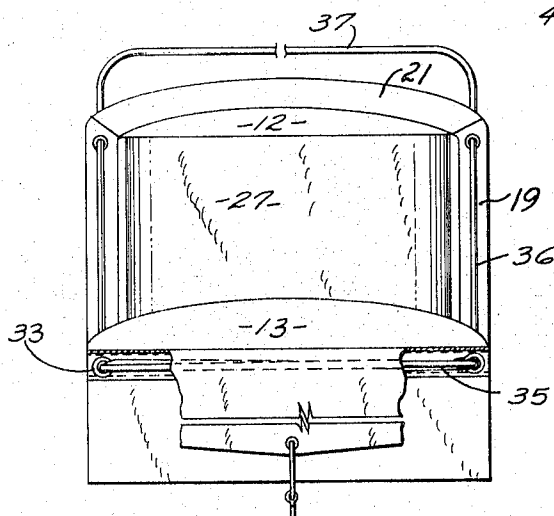


Fig. 6

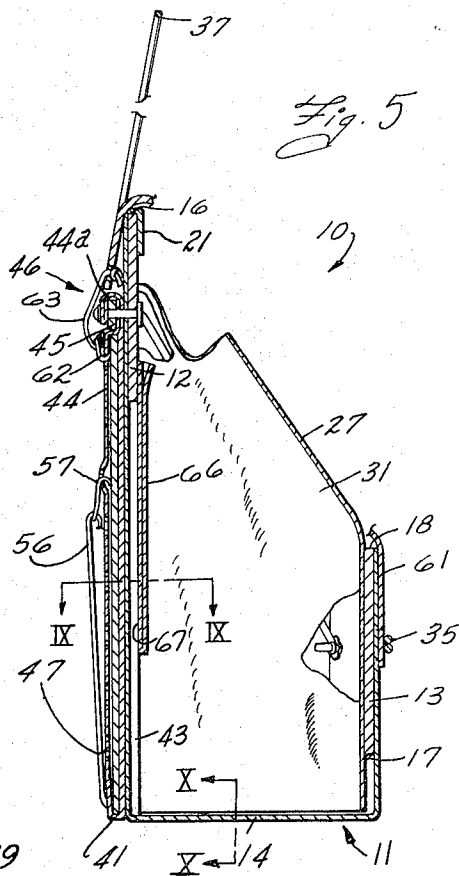


Fig. 5

INVENTOR.

BENJAMIN J. PLATT

BY

Woodhams, Blanchard & Lynn  
ATTORNEYS

March 7, 1967

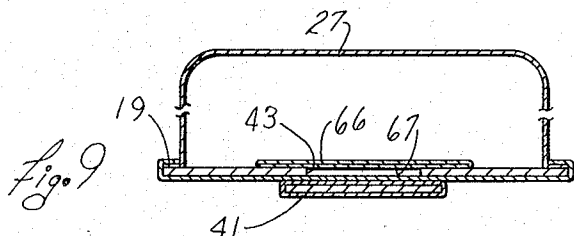
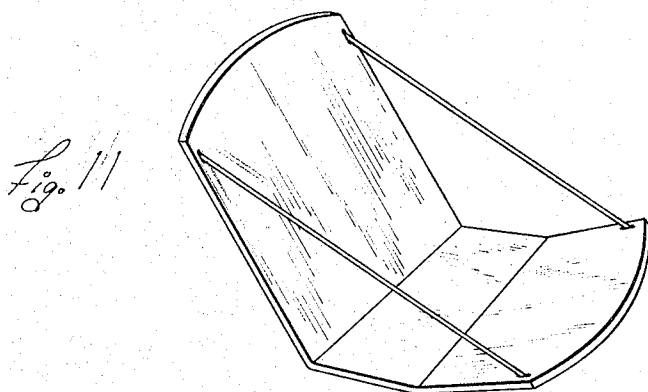
B. J. PLATT

3,307,758

CARRYING BAG AND BACK REST DEVICE

Filed Aug. 24, 1964

3 Sheets-Sheet 3



INVENTOR  
BENJAMIN J. PLATT  
BY  
*Woodhams, Blanchard & Flynn*  
ATTORNEYS

1

3,307,758

## CARRYING BAG AND BACK REST DEVICE

Benjamin J. Platt, 1803 N. 5th St., West Oshkemo

Township, Kalamazoo County, Mich. 49001

Filed Aug. 24, 1964, Ser. No. 391,643

9 Claims. (Cl. 224-9)

This invention relates to a combined back rest and carrying bag construction and more particularly relates to such construction which in one condition supports the back of a person seated thereon and in another condition forms a carrying bag of variable volume.

A number of prior art constructions are intended for use alternatively as a container for carrying articles and as a seating device.

However, none of these has been completely satisfactory. At least one comprises a rigid wall case which when folded for carrying is substantially filled by parts necessary for its use as a back rest and, hence, little or no room is left for carrying articles. Other rigid walled devices generally define containers of a fixed volume which are unsatisfactory to the average user wishing to carry loads of a widely varying volume range at different times. Thus, such devices may be too small to accommodate a large load and too bulky and clumsy to carry when small loads or no loads at all are involved. Such devices also require excessive storage volume. Many prior art devices include a substantially rigid framework of elongated elements, comprising a seat section hinged directly to a back section and covered by a cloth cover. The seat and back fold toward each other to form a relatively flat carrying bag usually and disadvantageously of limited volume and without a flat bottom of significant area. Such devices also usually provide only a single hand grip for carrying, whereas it is often desirable to alternatively carrying such a device in the manner of a shoulder bag or knap sack. Such devices also generally cannot maintain themselves substantially upright for easier loading and provide little protection against crushing or breakage for their contents.

The prior art devices have also generally not been completely satisfactory as back rests. For example, no device of the cloth and framework type is known which supports the thighs of the occupant in an elevated position for increased comfort and to prevent the occupant from sliding forwardly when the back is in a comfortable semi-reclining position. Further, now known prior devices of any type readily allow the occupant to change the inclination of both the back and thigh supporting portion. Still further, no provision for a padded seat appears in the prior art. The present invention seeks to correct these and other deficiencies of the prior art construction.

Accordingly, the objects of this invention include:

(1) To provide a combined back rest and carrying bag capable of supporting the back and thighs of a person seated thereupon and alternatively capable of use as a carrying bag of variable volume.

(2) To provide a device, as aforesaid, which comprises a bucket-like seat capable of positively supporting the back of the occupant in comfortably inclined position and a portion of the device spaced from the back thereof is raised to support the thighs of the occupant to maintain the occupant's knees in a comfortable raised and partially bent condition and to prevent the occupant from sliding off the seat due to the inclination of the back thereof.

(3) To provide a device, as aforesaid, in which the back is positively braced and in which the occupant can adjust the inclination of the back member while seated on the device.

(4) To provide a device, as aforesaid, in which the

2

upper portions of back and thigh supporting members are normally connected by an elongated element to maintain the angle therebetween substantially constant despite adjustment of the inclination of the back member, in which the inclination of the thigh support member can be adjusted independently of the back member if desired and by the seated occupant, and in which the means maintaining a fixed angle between the body and thigh support members locks more tightly in the presence of the weight of the occupant.

(5) To provide a device, as aforesaid which provides a clean dry surface on which to sit, which surface may be cushioned, which prevents cold drafts on the back of the occupant, which flexes slightly to conform to the contours of the occupant to increase the comfort of the device, which may be used on a wide variety of supporting surfaces ranging from single plank type stadium seats to beach sand, ground or snow without modification and which when provided with a cushioned seat portion is particularly adapted to use in snow or on otherwise unsuitable surfaces.

(6) To provide a device, as aforesaid, which is capable of forming a carrying bag having a pair of opposed substantially rigid walls comprising said back and thigh support members which cooperate with a web connected to the bottom edges thereof and a flexible sheet affixed to one thereof to define a voluminous, self-cleaning carrying bag having a large flat bottom and in which said walls are movable together to closely sandwich a load for protecting the load from crushing or breaking and so that the carrying bag need not be substantially thicker than the load carried thereby.

(7) To provide a device, as aforesaid, in which said elongated element may be adjusted for use as a hand grip, for carrying the device as a shoulder bag or knap sack and hanging the device on a wall hook and which elongated element when so used maintains the carrying bag closed.

(8) To provide a device, as aforesaid, including a cover for covering the contents thereof when used for a carrying bag and for use as an extension of the thigh support member to protect the legs of the user from sand, dirt or the like when device is used as a back rest.

(9) To provide a device, as aforesaid, which may be constructed of any of a variety of relatively inexpensive and widely available materials, which is manufacturable in large numbers or individually at relatively low cost, which require little space in shipping which is capable of a relatively long and maintenance free service life and which is readily maintained by the average user.

Other objects and purposes of this invention will be apparent to persons acquainted with apparatus of this general type upon reading the following specification and inspecting the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is an oblique view of the device embodying the invention arranged as a back rest.

FIGURE 2 is a partially broken, fragmentary, and enlarged side elevational view of the device of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is an oblique view similar to FIGURE 1, but showing the device arranged for use as a carrying bag or knap sack for a relatively large load.

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged rear elevational view of the device of FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged, partially broken central cross-sectional view substantially as taken on the line V-V of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is a partially broken, front elevational view of the device of FIGURE 4 with the cover sheet removed from the top thereof.

3

FIGURE 7 is a partially broken, top view of the device of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 8 is an enlarged fragment of FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 9 is a sectional view taken along the line IX—IX of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 10 is a sectional view taken on the line X—X of FIGURE 5.

FIGURE 11 is an oblique view similar to FIGURE 1 showing a modification.

Certain terminology will be used in the following description for convenience in reference only and will not be limiting. The words "upwardly," "downwardly," "rightwardly" and "leftwardly" will designate directions in the drawings to which reference is made. The words "front" and "rear" will refer to directions taken with respect to the normal position of a person seated in the device embodying the invention such directions being to the right and left, respectively seen in FIGURES 2 and 5. The words "inwardly" and "outwardly" will refer to directions toward and away from, respectively, the geometric center of the device and designated parts thereof. Said terminology will include the words above specifically mentioned, derivatives thereof and words of similar import.

#### General description

In general, the combined back rest and carrying bag embodying the invention comprises a back member and a thigh support member hingedly affixed at longitudinally spaced locations to an intermediate seat portion which may be a fabric web. An adjustable back brace is hinged to the back member for supporting same at a variable inclination on a supporting surface such as the ground. The ends of a rope are adjustably fixed by jamming grommets to the upper side edges of the thigh support member, the rope extending through openings in the upper side edges of the back member and around the back thereof for determining the angle between the back and thigh support member. Thus, the back and thighs of a person seated on the web are supported in a comfortable inclined position by the back and thigh support members, respectively. The side edges of a rectangular bag sheet are affixed to the side edges of the back member, the midportion of the bag sheet being movable away from the back member to define a chamber therewith, and with said web, for carrying articles. The portion of the rope behind the back member may be used as a carrying handle for carrying the device as a carrying bag.

#### Detailed description

The device 10 (FIGURES 1 and 5) embodying the invention basically comprises a substantially rectangular back member or panel 12 and a longitudinal aligned thigh support member or panel 13 of preferably similar width affixed to and separated by a seat element a panel 14. The members 12 and 13 are pivotable with respect to each other along their opposed edges and with respect to the seat element H. In the preferred embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURES 1 and 5, the seat element 14 comprises the intermediate portion of an elongated flexible web 11 which extends substantially throughout the longitudinal extent of the members 12 and 13. The web 11 is preferably of medium weight canvas but other materials including flexible plastic sheeting or other fabrics may be used if desired.

The upper edge 16 (FIGURE 1) of the back member 12 is preferably convexly curved as are the concave lower edge 17 and convex upper edge 18 of the thigh support member 13. The nesting curves of the edges 17 and 18 allow members to be sequentially cut from a piece of material with minimum waste while providing a pleasing appearance. If desired, the edges 16, 17 and 18 may be straight. The back and thigh support members 12 and 13 are preferably constructed of a substantially rigid and relatively light weight material capable of limited resilient flexure. Although the present embodiment uses  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch

4

thick plywood, other materials such as cardboard or plastic panels or the like might be used if desired. The web 11 includes side flaps 19 which fold over the side edges of the members 12 and 13 and a similar end flap 21 which folds over the upper end of the back member 12. The web 11 including the flaps 19 and 21, is in the embodiment of FIGURE 1, attached to the back and thigh support members 12 and 13 by a suitable adhesive of any convenient type although other fastenings including stitching, staples, rivets or the like may be used if desired.

A pad 22 (FIGURE 2) may be disposed upon the seat portion 14 and may be affixed thereto by any convenient means such as adhesives. In the particular embodiment shown, the pad 22 comprises a slab of relatively dense resilient material such as foam rubber.

The side edges of a flexible rectangular bag sheet 27 are affixed to the back member 12 adjacent the sideward edges thereof and are preferably covered by the flaps 19. The bag sheet 27 is preferably of the same material as the web 11. The bag sheet 27 is wider than the back member 12 approximately by twice the longitudinal extent of the seat portion 14. The bag sheet 27 extends from the bottom edge of the back member 12 upwardly almost to the upper edge 16 thereof. The upper and lower edges 28 and 29 of the bag sheet 27 are freely movable so that the bag sheet 27 may be folded flat against the back member 12 as shown in FIGURE 1 or may be freely pulled forwardly away from the back member 12 (FIGURES 3, 5 and 7) to define therewith and with the seat portion 14 a chamber 31 of large maximum volume (1800 cubic inches in the embodiment shown) for receiving articles to be carried. The forward portion of the bag sheet 27 is normally reinforced, when the device 10 is used for carrying, by the thigh support member 13 as indicated in FIGURE 5 and hereinafter discussed, the members 12 and 13 acting to shield and protect articles placed in the chamber 31.

A pair of circular grommets 32 reinforce openings through the back member 12 near the upper corners thereof. A pair of jamb grommets 33 define a substantially key hole shaped opening through each of the upper corners of the thigh support member 13. The narrowed ends of the jamb grommets 33 are preferably opposed as in FIGURE 6.

The midportion 37 (FIGURE 2) of an elongated flexible element, here a rope 36 normally lies, when the device 10 is arranged as a back rest as shown in FIGURE 1, behind the back member 12 between the grommets 32. The legs 34 of the rope 36 extend from the midportion 37 forwardly through the grommets 32 and through the enlarged portion of the corresponding jamb grommets 33. The transverse portions 35 of the rope 36 emerging from the jamb grommets 33 then cross the width of the forward or under face of the thigh support member 13 to pass upwardly or rearwardly through the narrow portion of the jamb grommets 33 on the opposite side. The ends 39 of the rope 36 are preferably terminated in knots 38 or by other enlargement means such as suitable clips, not shown, or the like to prevent inadvertent removal thereof from the jamb grommets 33 should said ends slip from the narrow portion of said jamb grommets into the wide portion thereof. It will be noted that tensioning of the rope 36 due, for example, to the weight of a person seated in the device 10 in its orientation of FIGURE 1, will cause the legs 34 of the rope 36 in the large part of the jamb grommets 33 to move toward the narrow portions thereof, thereby tightly wedging or jamming the rope ends 39 into said narrow portions to fix the ends 39 with respect to the thigh support member 13 independently of the knots 38. The jammed ends 39 are released by outward movement thereof toward the wide part of the jamb grommets 33. Thus, the effective length of rope 36 between the jamb grommets 33 may be adjusted and locked between such adjustments to furnish the angle or distance between the members 12 and 13 desired.

The upper end of a vertically elongated and preferably upwardly convergently tapered back brace 41 is hinged on the back face of the back member 12 adjacent its upper end and extends substantially to the bottom edge of the back member 12. In the particular embodiment shown, the upper portion of back brace 41 is cut from the back member 12 to leave a slot 43 (FIGURE 5) therein extending upwardly into the central portion thereof. The outward side of the back brace 41 is here covered with a flexible material, here the cloth 44 which is preferably similar to that of the web 11. The cloth 44 folds over the edges of the brace 41 and is affixed thereto by any convenient means such as an adhesive. The cloth 44 extends upwardly past the upper end of the back brace 41 in a multiple thickness which is attached to the back of the member 12 to form a cloth hinge 46. In the particular embodiment shown, the upper portion 44a of the cloth 44 is double folded and a block 45 of preferably similar material and width to the back brace 41, is inserted into said folded upper portion 44a. A plurality, here three, of rivets 48 sandwich the folded upper end 44a of the cloth 44 and the block 45 between the member 12 and a plate 49 (FIGURE 8). The plate 49 includes a channel defining flanges 50 for receiving a name tag or the like. The block 45 and folded portion 44a abut the upper end of the back brace 41 to prevent upward (FIGURE 5) movement thereof with respect to the back member 12. If desired, the upper portion 44a may be folded a lesser number of times where a relatively thick block 45 is used. Alternately, the block 45 may be omitted where the fabric of the upper portion 44a when folded approaches the thickness of the brace 41 so as to adequately abut same. A plurality of spaced holes 47, which are preferably grommets, extend through the cloth cover 44 along the vertical centerline thereof. A pair of grommets 51 define holes through the lower corners of the back member 12 and a pair of grommets 52 define similar openings through the lower corners of the back brace 41. A cord 53 of any desired type extends from knotted ends 54 (FIGURE 2) rearwardly through the grommets 51 (FIGURE 4) and 52 toward the midportion 56 of said cord which carries a hook 57. The hook may be inserted into a selected one of the holes 47 to regulate the length of the cord 53, and hence the angle, between the back brace 41 and the back member 12. When the device 10 is arranged as a back rest (FIGURE 1), the hook 57 is normally adjusted to allow a non-zero angle between the brace 41 and member 12. The hook 57 is generally placed in a higher one of the holes 47 when the device 10 is arranged as a carrying bag (FIGURE 5) so that the brace 41 is held closely against the back member 12.

A cover sheet 61 (FIGURES 1, 3 and 5) is affixed to the web 11 adjacent its forward edge preferably by sewing. The cover sheet 61 is long enough to pass rearwardly over and cover the chamber 31 at its maximum volume substantially as shown in FIGURE 5. The cover sheet 61 is narrow enough to pass snugly but without wrinkling between the legs of the rope 36 near the grommets 32. A hook 62 is fixed to the free end of the cover sheet 61 preferably by a resilient thong 63. The hook 62 is engageable with a selected one of the holes 47 to resiliently tension and maintain the cover sheet 61 over the mouth of the chamber 31.

If desired, an open topped pocket 66 (FIGURE 5) may be anchored along its side and bottom edges to the forward wall of the back member 12. Since the pocket 66 lies in part over the slot 43 in the back member 12, said pocket is preferably provided with a back wall 67 to prevent loss of small articles therefrom.

#### Operation

When used as a back rest, the device 10 may be used in two ways. In one way it is arranged as in FIGURE 1 upon a supporting surface, for example, the ground. The back brace 41 is pivoted away from the member 12

through an angle determined by the hole 47 into which the hook 57 is placed, i.e., by the effective length of the cord 53. The bottom of the brace 41 rests on the ground and supports the back member 12 in a comfortable rearwardly inclined position as determined by said angle. Further, the cover sheet 61 may be stretched out in front of the device 10 to protect the legs of the user from contact with the ground. The seat portion 14 lies on the ground. The member 13 slopes upwardly and forwardly away from the member 12 at an inclination determined by the effective length of the rope 36 and by the slope of the back member 12. The back of a person seated on the portion 14 is supported by the normally inclined back member 12 and the thigh support member 13 supports the thighs of the occupant to assist in maintaining the knees of said occupant in a comfortable elevated position, the feet of the occupant extending forwardly therefrom. The normal inclined or upstanding position of the member 13 also positively prevents the occupant from sliding forwardly off the device 10 or appreciably away from the bottom edge of the back member 12 as might otherwise be caused by the inclination of the back member 12. The weight of the occupant on the members 12 and 13 tensions the rope 36 to cause said members to resiliently bend around the occupant to some extent which increases the comfort of the device 10 as a back rest. Thus, the members 12 and 13 together with the portions of the rope 36 extending therebetween tend to form a bucket like enclosure which holds the occupant with great stability and substantially without effort on the part of the occupant in a comfortable sitting position.

The occupant may adjust the slope of the back member 12 without leaving the device 10 simply by reaching rearwardly, moving the hook 57 to another one of the holes 47 and thereafter urging the back brace 41 rearwardly to insure that it is in its rearwardmost position allowed by the repositioned hook 57. The thigh support member 13 tends to follow the member 12 quite closely as the inclination of the latter is changed to maintain the included angle between the members 12 and 13 indicated at A in FIGURE 2 at least approximately constant despite changes in the inclination of the back member 12. Thus, both the comfort and the stability of the occupant are maintained without separate adjustment to the member 13 as the inclination of the back member 12 is changed.

The inclination of the member 13 may be readily adjusted by the occupant while seated without adjustment of the inclination of the member 12. The occupant preferably removes at least some of the weight of his thighs from the member 13 and pulls outwardly on the ends 39 of the rope 36 to move same at least partially out of the narrow portions of the jamb grommets 33 thereby unlocking the ends 39. Thereafter, an upward and outward pull on the ends 39 raises the member 13 to a more vertical position and conversely, a downward force on the upper edge of the member 13 reclines same. Movement of the ends 39 toward each other while exerting a simultaneous downward force on the member 13 relocks the rope ends 39 in a new position in the jamb grommets 33.

The device 10 may also be used as a back rest without benefit of the back brace 41. In a stadium, for example, where a bleacher type seat would provide no bearing for the back brace, the latter may be left in the FIGURE 5 position and back support will normally be provided by weight of the thighs on the support member 13 which pulls the back member 12 forwardly against the back of the occupant. The angle A between the members 12 and 13 is adjustable as described above.

The device 10 can be converted to a carrying bag (FIGURES 3 and 5) by readjusting the hook 57 in the holes 47 to hold the back brace 41 firmly against the back member 12. An upward pull on the midportion 37 of the rope 36 shortens the portions of the rope 36 between

the members 12 and 13 to bring said members into the substantially spaced, upstanding condition of FIGURE 5. The midportion of the bag sheet 27 may now be pulled forwardly away from the member 12 and toward its position of FIGURE 5 so that articles to be carried may be placed within the chamber 31. Thereafter, the cover sheet 61 may be placed over the chamber 31 and fastened by means of the hook 62 into one of the holes 47 in the back brace 41. The upwardly pulled midportion 37 of the rope 36, with the knots 38 abutting the grommets 33 will be long enough to be used as a shoulder strap or to be placed behind the neck and in front of the shoulders of the user for carrying the device 10 as a knap sack. The midportion 37 may be shortened for use as a hand grip or handle by unlocking the rope ends 39 from the jamb grommets 33, axially adjusting said ends with respect to said grommets 33 and finally relocking said ends in said jamb grommets. Alternatively, the rope ends 39 may be left undisturbed in the jamb grommets 33 and the two portions of rope 36 passing forward of the support member 13 may be seized at their midpoints and drawn up until they lie next to the midportion 37 whereby all three may be grasped or hung on a hook. The members 12 and 13 tend to move toward each other and curve around and snugly surround the load in the chamber 31 when the rope 36 is tensioned by an upward pull on the rope midportion 37. For thinner loads or when the chamber 31 is empty, the member 13 is moved upwardly as a whole with respect to, as well as, toward the member 12 upward urging of the rope midportion 37 acting to make the device thinner. In such flat condition, the device 10 may be readily stored in a small space. The chamber 31 may, if desired, be loaded substantially as above described but with the back member 12 braced nearly vertically by the back brace 41 whereby the device 10 stands up without manual support during loading or unloading.

The grommets 33 and 32 are positioned so that an upward pull on the rope midportion 37 tends to move the upper end of the member 13 toward the upper end of the member 12. Thus, if only the bottom portion of the chamber 31 is filled, the upper edge of the member 13 moves inwardly while its lower edge stays spaced from the member 12 so that the member 13 at least partially covers the load in the chamber 31 thus allowing the cover sheet 61 to be omitted or left open.

If desired, a liner, not shown, may be provided for continuously covering the upper faces (FIGURE 1) of the member 12, the pad 22 and the member 13. In such case the back sheet 67 of the pocket 66 may be omitted and the front sheet thereof is attached along its bottom and side edges to the face of the liner. It is also contemplated that the web 11 and such liner may together comprise a fabric tube, into an open end of which the member 12, pad 22 and member 13 may be slid, whereafter closure of the tube ends, as by sewing, and thereafter addition of the grommets 32 and 33 fixes the members 12 and 13 within the tube, the pad 22, if included, being fixed in said tube by any convenient means, such as adhesives.

Although the above discussion has been primarily directed toward a preferred embodiment of the device 10, constructed for long life and for a pleasing appearance, at least the broader aspects of the invention might be carried out by a device such as seen in FIGURE 11, of less expensive materials and simplified construction for use as a throwaway to be discarded after a single or limited use. Turning to FIGURE 2, such a throwaway device might be constructed for example by making the back member 12, the seat element 14 and the support member 13 from a piece of cardboard creased and folded at the lines of separation between the parts 12, 13 and 14. An inexpensive grade of heavy twine might be used for the elongated element 36. The pad 22, cover 61 and, for stadium use, the back brace 41 with its cord

53 might be eliminated. Even the bag sheet 27 might be eliminated although this would seriously degrade the ability of the device 10 to act as a carrying device except perhaps for single relatively large boxes or thin objects such as papers taken a few at a time.

Although a particular preferred embodiment of the invention has been disclosed above for illustrative purposes, it will be noted that variations or modifications thereof which come within the scope of the appended claims are fully contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. In a new article of manufacture adapted to form a back rest, the combination comprising:
  - a first panel;
  - a second panel secured to said first panel and pivotable with respect thereto;
  - a third panel secured to said first panel and pivotable with respect thereto into divergence with said second panel, said second panel and third panel being spaced from each other by said first panel;
  - flexible tension elements connected between said second panel and third panel at points thereon adjacent the side edges thereof, said elements limiting the divergence of said second and third panels;
  - whereby a transverse pull on said elongated element will move said second and third panels toward each other.
2. In a combined back rest and carrying bag construction, the combination comprising:
  - a flexible web;
  - a panel-like back member secured to said web;
  - a panel-like support member secured to said web, said back member and support member each having a bottom edge, said bottom edges being opposed to and spaced from each other;
  - an elongated flexible element connecting said back member and support member at points thereon spaced from said bottom edges for normally causing said back and support members to slope upwardly from said bottom edges, said elongated element being adjustable for varying the angle defined between said members;
  - a bag sheet of width greater than said back member and having side edges affixed adjacent the side edges of said back member, the midportion of said bag sheet being alternatively capable of being folded against said back member or being separated therefrom to define therewith and with said web a chamber for receiving articles to be carried;
  - whereby said back and support members may be used to support the back and thighs respectively of a person seated on said web and alternatively may be used to house a load in said chamber for carrying.
3. The device defined in claim 2 wherein:
  - said back member has a pair of openings in the side edges thereof adjacent the top edge thereof;
  - said support member has a pair of substantially keyhole shaped jamb grommets in the side edges thereof adjacent the top edge thereof, the narrow portions of said jamb grommets being opposed;
  - said flexible element comprises a rope having an end portion in the narrow part of each jamb grommet, said rope ends running from said jamb grommets along the sides of the device, into the corresponding ones of said openings in said back member and joining in a common midportion behind the back member;
  - whereby urging of the upper edge of the back and support members away from each other will lock said end portions with respect to said jamb grommets.
4. The device defined in claim 2 including:
  - a back brace hinged at its upper end to the back of the back member and pivotable with respect there-

- to for supporting said back member in an inclined condition with respect to a supporting surface;
- a plurality of openings through said back brace;
  - a cord anchored to said back member adjacent the lower end thereof and passing through at least one of said openings in said back brace adjacent the lower end thereof;
  - a hook connected to said cord and alternatively engageable with one of the remaining openings in said back brace for limiting pivotal movement of said back brace away from said back member;
  - a cover sheet extending from the upper end of said support member for covering said chamber when said device is used as a carrying bag and a hook on the end of said cover sheet for engaging another of said holes in said back brace to hold said cover sheet in place.
5. The device defined in claim 2 wherein said web continuously covers at least one side of said back and support members and is made of fabric; and said back support members and said back brace are of thin plywood, said back and support members being flexible at least across their width dimensions for bending around a person or load located therebetween on said web, said back member having a slot extending from the middle lower edge thereof to assist such flexibility.
6. The device defined in claim 1 in which said flexible elements are part of a single loop having one reach extending across the back of said second panel and a further reach extending across the front of said third panel, said flexible elements being disposed on opposite sides of the article and spaced from said first panel for connecting the corresponding ends of said one and further

reaches to limit the divergence of said second and third panels.

7. The device defined in claim 1 in which at least said second and third panels are of substantially rigid material which resists bending at least longitudinally of the article for supporting the back and thighs, respectively, of a person seated on said first panel, the inclined third panel preventing said person from sliding forward off said device even when said second panel is at an obtuse angle to said first panel.

8. The device defined in claim 1 in which said first panel includes opposed edge portions integral therewith which are flexible and pivotally connect said second and third panels to said first panel.

9. The device defined in claim 1 in which said first panel comprises a single and continuous piece.

#### References Cited by the Examiner

##### UNITED STATES PATENTS

|           |         |          |         |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 155,739   | 10/1874 | McAdams  | 297—380 |
| 380,416   | 4/1888  | Ames     | 224—47  |
| 1,140,997 | 5/1915  | Minehart | 190—8   |
| 1,625,106 | 4/1927  | Sullivan | 297—380 |
| 2,107,880 | 2/1938  | Wilsdorf | 297—380 |
| 2,816,599 | 12/1957 | Adams    | 190—8   |

##### FOREIGN PATENTS

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| 839,252 | 5/1952 | Germany. |
| 38,330  | 2/1915 | Sweden.  |

GERALD M. FORLENZA, *Primary Examiner.*

J. E. OLDS, *Assistant Examiner.*