United States Patent [19]

Gatsos et al.

[11] **3,863,521**

[45] **Feb. 4, 1975**

[54] **ADJUSTABLE HANDLEBARS**

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[73] Assignee: **Carlisle Corporation,** Cincinnati, Ohio

[22] Filed: **Feb. 2, 1972**

[21] Appl. No.: **222,931**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 191,988, Oct. 26, 1971, abandoned.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **74/551.4,** 280/278

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B62k 21/16**

[58] **Field of Search** 74/551.3, 551.4, 551.5, 74/551.6, 551.7; 403/102, 103, 95, 99; 280/278

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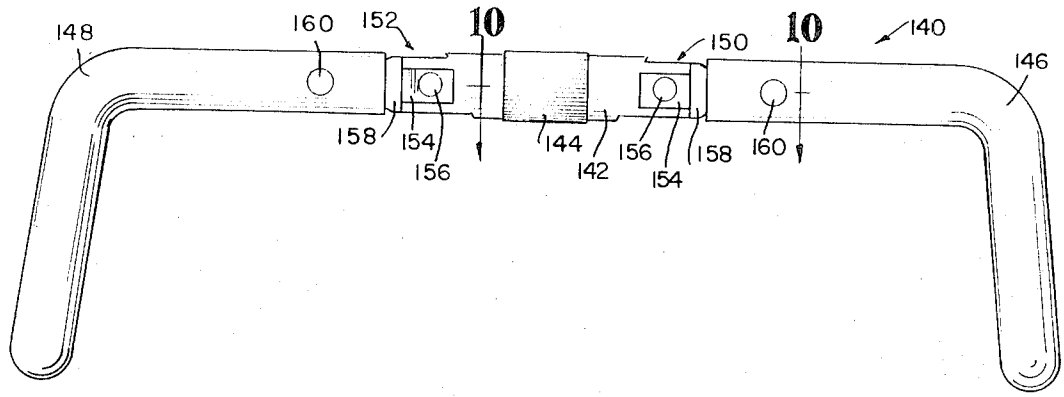
Primary Examiner—Kenneth H. Betts

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Adjustable handlebars comprising a central, main body portion, hand-grip portions respectively at opposite sides of the main body portion, a device for connecting each hand-grip portion to the main body portion for movement from a high-speed running position to a low-speed resting position, and a manually-operable lock associated with each connecting device and arranged securely to hold its associated hand-grip portion alternatively in its running and resting positions. The connecting devices may preferably provide for pivotal movement of the hand-grip portions from lower positions to higher positions, the lower positions being the running positions and the higher positions being the resting positions.

16 Claims, 12 Drawing Figures



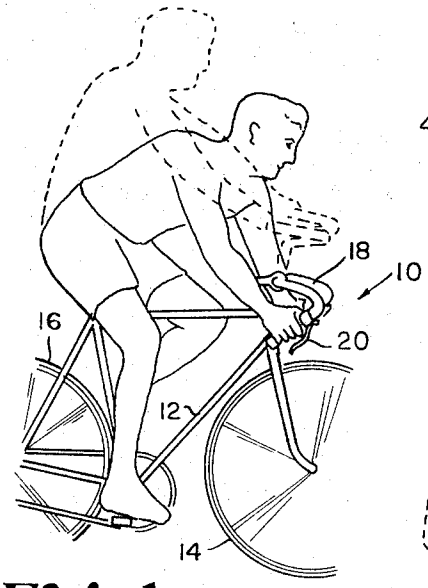


Fig. 1

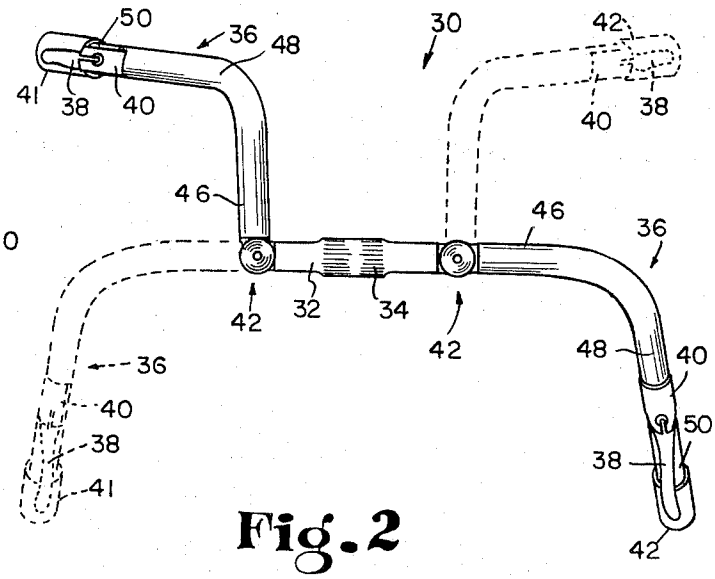


Fig. 2

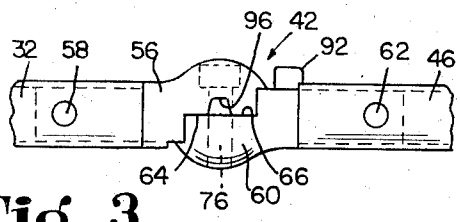


Fig. 3

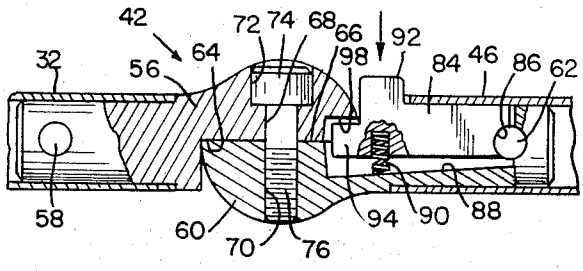
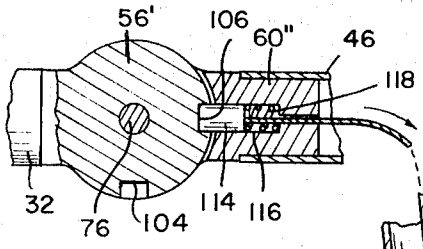


Fig. 4



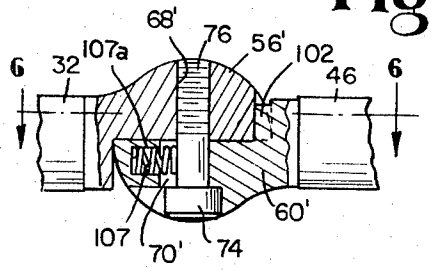


Fig. 5

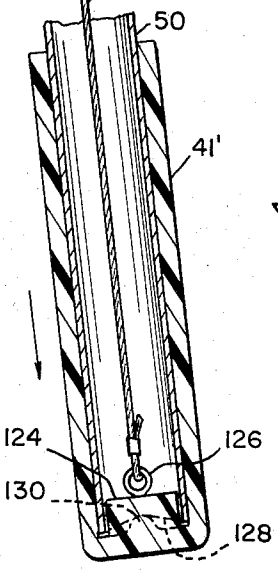


Fig. 7

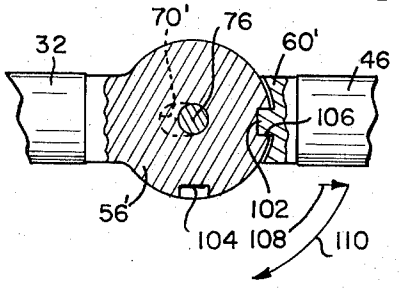


Fig. 6

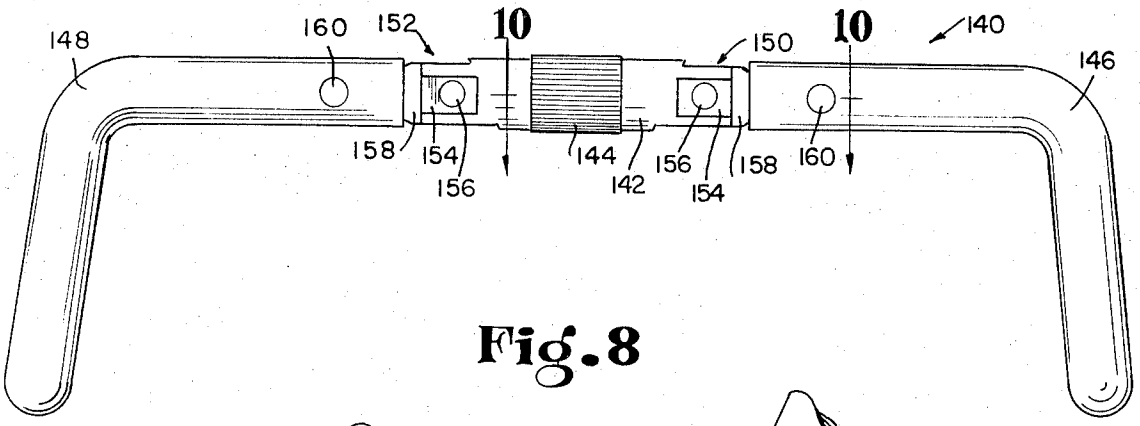


Fig.8

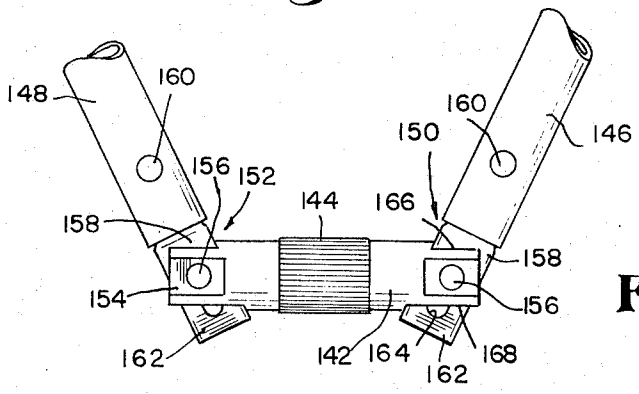


Fig.9

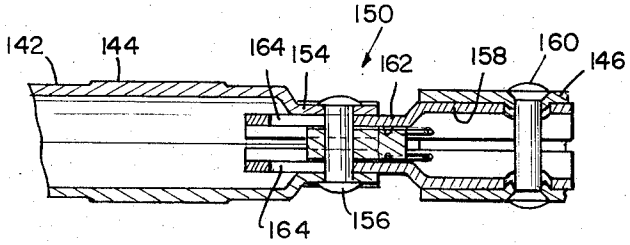


Fig.10

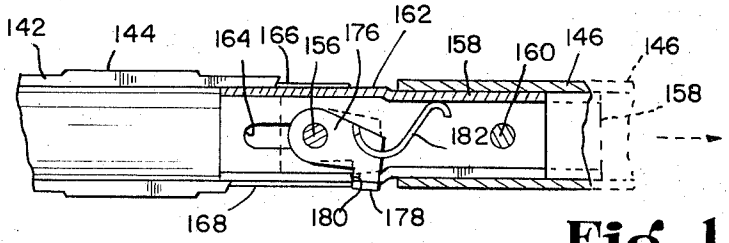


Fig.11

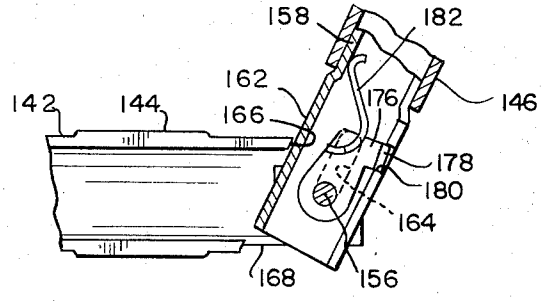


Fig.12

ADJUSTABLE HANDLEBARS

This is a continuation-in-part of copending application Ser. No. 191,988 filed Oct. 26, 1971, now abandoned, for Adjustable Handlebars.

Bicycling has always been a highly accepted form of transportation, recreation and exercise. In the past few years, sales of bicycles have increased and more and more people, including adults, are riding bicycles as a form of recreation and exercise. The advantages of bicycle riding are well known.

More and more people are now turning to high performance bicycles of the type having multi-speed transmissions, narrow wheels, and racing handlebars. For reasons well known, such racing handlebars are conventionally arranged to cause the rider to bend over and lean forwardly with his arms extending downwardly. This position provides for greater driving power from the rider's legs. However, long sustained periods of riding in this highly efficient position is very tiring.

It is an object of the present invention, therefore, to provide adjustable handlebars which will permit the rider easily and manually, while riding, to shift the grip-portions of the handlbars from their lower, high-speed running positions to their upper, relaxing positions.

Others have provided handlebars which may be adjusted with tools, for instance, to fit a particular rider. Representative United States patents showing such devices are Nos. 540,879 issued in June, 1895; 578,180 issued in March, 1897; 611,668 issued in October, 1898; 613,014 issued in October, 1898; 3,481,218 issued in December, 1969; and 3,505,901 issued in April, 1970.

The adjustable handlebars of the present invention constitute a significant improvement over such prior art handlebars for several reasons, the primary reason being that they are easily shifted between their high-speed running positions and their low-speed resting positions while riding. The handlebars bars of the present invention are extremely safe because they include locking means arranged securely to hold the hand-grip portions alternatively in their high-speed running positions and their low-speed resting positions. Yet, in accordance with the present invention, this locking means is constructed so that a rider can easily manually release each hand-grip portion for movement from one of its positions to the other of its positions. One illustrative locking means includes a locking member which is urged by a spring into its locking position and which may be moved by finger or thumb pressure against the urging of the spring to its releasing position. In another illustrative embodiment, the locking member, which is spring urged to its locking position, is moved to its releasing position by twisting the associated hand-grip on the handlebars. Another illustrative embodiment is such that the locking member is moved from its locking position to its releasing position by pulling the associated hand-grip portion to which the member is connected a short distance away from the central main body portion of the handlebars. In this last-mentioned embodiment, the hand-grip portions are shifted from their lower positions to their higher positions by pulling the hand-grip portions outwardly, pivoting them upwardly about their pivot axes, and then moving them downwardly to be locked in their upper positions.

The capability of being able to adjust the positions of the hand-grip portions whlie riding is extremely advantageous, especially when riding in groups or in cross-country races. The ability to shift to and from the forwardly leaning running position every few minutes is extremely important for purposes of resting the rider's back. In cross-country riding, using the handlebars of the present invention, a rider can easily and quickly shift to a comfortable resting position for coasting down hill.

Another advantage of the handlebars of the present invention is that the hand-grip portions are preferably connected for pivotal movement between their lower positions and their upper positions about axes extending generally horizontally and in the direction in which the bicycle is moving. In one embodiment, each connecting means providing this pivotal movement includes cooperating connector members having generally concentric circular flat faces engaged together to provide adequate bearing surfaces and through which concentrically extends a fastening element defining the pivot axis for the connecting means. In another embodiment, the connecting means providing this pivotal movement includes a sleeve-like member having diametrically opposed elongated slots in its end, a second member telescopically received in the sleeve-like member to be movable between an outer position in which it can be tilted upwardly to extend through said slots and an inner position in which it extends parallel to said sleeve-like member.

Other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent as this description progresses.

To accomplishment of the above and related objects, the present invention may be embodied in the forms illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that change may be made in the specific constructions illustrated and described, so long as the scope of the appended claims is not violated.

In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a fragmentary view showing a bicycle and a rider in running position in solid lines and in resting position in broken lines;

FIG. **2** is a view of the handlebars of the present invention looking from the front of the handlebars and showing, in solid lines, one hand-grip portion in its lower position and the other hand-grip portion in its upper position;

FIG. **3** is a fragmentary top view showing one illustrative connecting means and locking means;

FIG. **4** is an enlarged fragmentary and sectional view of the connecting means of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **5** is a fragmentary sectional view showing another connecting means and locking means;

FIG. **6** is a sectional view taken along the lines **6—6** in FIG. **5** and looking forwardly in the direction of movement of the bicycle;

FIG. **7** is another fragmentary sectional view showing still another connecting means and locking means;

FIG. **8** is a view of another embodiment of the present invention looking from the front of the handlebars;

FIG. **9** is a fragmentary view showing the hand-grip portion of the handlebars of FIG. **8** in their upper positions;

FIG. **10** is a fragmentary sectional view taken from FIG. **8** generally along the line **10—10**;

FIG. **11** is a fragmentary sectional view of the pivotal connection means of the handlebars of FIG. **8** taken along a plane perpendicular to the pivot axis; and

FIG. 12 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the same plane as FIG. 11 except showing the hand-grip portion pivoted upwardly.

Turning now to the drawings and first to FIG. 1 it will be seen that there is illustrated a bicycle indicated generally by the reference numeral 10 including a conventional frame 12, front wheel 14 and back wheel 16 with conventional handlebars 18. The rider is illustrated in two positions. In solid lines, the rider is shown leaning forwardly with his arms extending downwardly to grip the generally downwardly extending hand-grip portions of the handlebars 18. In this position, the rider is better able to apply driving power to the pedals of the bicycle. In order to stop the bicycle, the rider may actuate the conventionally located hand levers 20. The levers, of course, are pivotally connected to the hand-grip portions just above the usual rubber grips so that the rider may apply the brakes without removing his hands from the grips.

With such conventional handlebars, the rider may straighten his back some by gripping the handlebars at their main body portions right next to the conventional gooseneck clamp. While this will permit the rider to straighten up some to rest his back, it will not permit him to straighten up too much and it is not very safe because the rider's hands are away from the brake actuating levers 20.

Turning now to FIG. 2, it will be seen that the handlebars of the present invention, indicated generally by the reference numeral 30, include a central, generally horizontally extending main body portion 32 provided with the usual, slightly enlarged and knurled portion 34. The handlebars 30 are connected to the bicycle by tightening the usual gooseneck clamp of the bicycle about the portion 34.

At each end of the main body portion 32 is a hand-grip portion 36. It will be appreciated that the illustrative handlebars 30 are symmetrical and that the hand-grip portions 36 are allochirally related. A brake actuator lever 38 is connected to each hand-grip portion 36 by means such as the illustrated clamp 40 to be adjacent the conventional rubberlike hand-grip indicated at 41. In some cases, such rubber hand-grips are not used and the handlebars are wrapped with a tape which is ideal for gripping. Thus, the brake actuator levers 38 move with the hand-grip portions 36 always to be easily accessible to the rider. This is an important feature of the present invention.

Means, indicated generally by the reference numeral 42, are provided for connecting the hand-grip portions 36 respectively to the opposite ends of the main body portion 32. These connecting means 42 preferably provide for pivotal movement of their associated hand-grip portions 36 between their illustrated lower positions to their illustrated upper positions.

Each hand-grip portion 36 includes a portion 46 extending straight out from the connecting means 42, a portion 48 which is curved forwardly from the portion 46 and then rearwardly, and a generally straight portion 50 which extends rearwardly and slightly outwardly. The grips 41 are mounted on the distal ends of these straight portions 50. When both hand-grip portions 36 are in their lower positions, the handlebars 30 of the present invention have the same general appearance as the conventional handlebars 18, the primary difference being the appearance of the connecting means 42.

When both hand-grip portions 36 are in their upper positions, the rider of the bicycle can be in the position shown in dashed lines of FIG. 1. It will be appreceated that this is a much more comfortable position and that the brake actuator levers 38 are close to the rider's hands.

Turning now to FIGS. 3 and 4, one illustrative connecting means 42 will be discussed. The connecting means 42 includes a first connector member 56 rigidly connected to the main body portion 32 by a fastening element 58 and a second connector member 60 rigidly connected to the hand-grip portion 36 by a fastening element 62. Both illustrative connector members 56, 60 have reduced shank portions which extend, respectively, into the tubular portions 32, 46 to provide a neat, smooth appearance. One or both of the illustrated fastening elements 58, 62 may be of the type that can be easily removed to facilitate installation of the handlebars 30 on a bicycle. This may be advisable because the connecting means 42 may be larger in diameter than the span of the conventional gooseneck clamp.

The connector member 56 is formed to provide a flat face 64 defining a plane which includes the axis of the tubular main body portion 32. The other connector member 60 is formed to provide a mating flat face 66. Then, the two connector members 56, 60 are provided with registering bores 68, 70 the coinciding axes of which are perpendicular to the flat faces 64, 66 and perpendicular to and intersecting the axis of the main body portion 32. The connector member 56 is counterbored as indicated at 72 to receive the head 74 of a bolt 76 which extends through the bore 68 to be threaded into the bore 70. The bolt 76, therefore, defines the axis about which the connector member 60 pivots relative to the connector member 56. The flat surface 64, 66 are generally circularly shaped and adjacent portions of the connector members 56, 60 are generally spherically shaped so that the appearance of the illustrative connector means 42 is generally spherical. Illustratively, the flat surfaces 64, 66 may have a diameter of 1½ inches so that the two mating surfaces provide a relatively large bearing surface, the purpose of which is to confine the connector member 60 to smooth pivotal movement about the axis of the bolt 76. When the bolt 76 is tightened and the two surfaces 64, 66 are pulled into mating engagement, the resulting pivot joint is extremely stable and will not permit the hand-grip portion 36 to shake or rattle relative to the main body portion 32.

In order to lock the connecting means 42 in a selected position, locking means including a locking member 84 (FIG. 4) is provided. The illustrative locking member 84 is formed with a bearing surface 86 engaging the fastening element 62 so that the member 84 can pivot about the axis of the fastening element 62 in an axially extending slot 88 formed in the connector member 60. A spring 90 is disposed as shown in FIG. 4 to urge the locking member 84 outwardly to its locking position. The locking member 84 includes a finger piece 92 which extends outwardly toward the rider of the bicycle and the locking portion 94.

the locking member 56 is provided with a pair of notches 96, 98 peripherally spaced apart about the axis of the bolt 76 to be engaged by the locking portion 94. The spring 90 urges the locking portion 94 into engagement with either the notch 96 or the notch 98. As illustrated in FIG. 4, when the locking member 84 is in its

locking position, its locking portion **94** spans the plane defined by the mating faces **64, 66** to prevent pivotal movement of the connector member **60** relative to the connector member **56.** The sides of the slot **88** are such that the locking member **84** can only move toward and away from the bottom of the slot. The notches **96, 98** are proportioned and designed snugly to receive the locking portion **94** so that the hand-grip portion **36** will be securely locked either in its lower position or upper position. The two notches **96, 98** are illustratively approximately 90° apart so that the hand-grip portion **36** moves approximately 90° from its lower position to its upper position.

Preferably, the handlebars **30** will be placed on the bicycle such that the pivot axes for the connector means **42** will extend generally horizontally and forwardly in the direction of movement of the bicycle. This means that the planes defined by the mating faces **64, 66** will be generally vertically and perpendicular to the direction of movement of the bicycle.

Referring now to FIGS. **5** and **6,** another embodiment of the present invention will be discussed. In this embodiment, the connector members **56', 60'** have generally the same configuration illustrated in FIGS. **3** and **4** with the exception that they are proportioned and designed to utilize another type of locking means. The bore **70'** in the connector member **60'** is elongated so that the connector member **60'** can move laterally as well as pivotally relative to the axis of the bolt **76.** Then, the connector member **60'** is formed to provide a locking portion **102** which alternatively engages peripherally spaced apart notches **104, 106** formed in the member **56'.** As shown in FIG. **6,** in order to move the locking portion **102** from the notch **106** to the notch **104,** the connector member **60'** is moved first in the direction of the arrow **108** to disengage the portion **102** from the notch **106** and then pivotally in the direction of the arrow **110** to engage the portion **102** with the notch **104.** Since the sectional view of FIG. **6** is taken looking forwardly from the bicycle, the notch **104** defines the upper position of the hand-grip portion while the notch **106** defines the lower position of the hand-grip portion.

The locking portion **102** is urged into its locking position by means of a spring **107** disposed in an opening **107***a*. When a rider desires to shift the position of the handgrip portion, he merely pulls it away from the bolt **76** and then pivots it from its position to its alternate position.

Turning now to FIG. **7,** another embodiment of locking means and connecting means will be discussed, this embodiment including a locking member **114** carried for reciprocation in an opening **116** in the connector member **60''** with a spring **118** disposed in that opening and urging the locking member **114** to its projected locking position engaging either the notch **104** or notch **106** in the connector member **56'.** A cable **120** is connected to the locking member **114** and extends through the tubular hand-grip portion **36** so that its opposite end is connected to the inwardly extending portion **124** of the hand-grip **41'.** An illustrative cable connection is indicated at **126.** The end of the tubular portion **50** is formed with a cam surface **128** and the grip **41'** is formed to provide a protrusion **130** which rides on the cam surface. The cam surface **128** is proportioned and designed such that when the grip **41'** is rotated about the portion **50,** the grip moves axially outwardly to pull on the cable **120** to move the locking member **114** to its releasing position. The locking means of the embodiment of FIG. **7** is, therefore, released by the rider twisting the hand-grip **41'.**

Referring now to FIGS. **8–12,** another embodiment of the present invention will be discussed, this embodiment being indicated generally by the reference numeral **140.** The embodiment **140** includes a central, main body portion **142** knurled as indicated at **144** as discussed previously. Hand-grip portions **146, 148** are disposed respectively at opposite sides of the main body portion **142.** Means, indicated generally by reference numerals **150, 152** are provided for respectively connecting the hand-grip portions **146, 148** to the main body portion **142** for generally rectilinear shifting movement relative to the main body portion between inner and outer positions and for pivotal movement relative to the main body portion between lower positions and upper positions. The connecting means **150, 152** are proportioned and designed, as described hereinafter, such that the said pivotal movement can occur only when the hand-grip portions have been shifted outwardly or away from the main body portion **142.**

In the illustrative embodiment, the main body portion **142** is sleeve-like, and provides, at each of its ends, sleevelike portions **154,** the walls of which are flattened in generally vertical planes as illustrated. A fastening element, such as the illustrated rivet **156,** extends through each portion **154** to provide a pivotal connection means as will be more fully described hereinafter. In the illustrative embodiment, the rivets **156** also serve to fasten together the two halves of the main body portion **142.**

In the illustrative embodiment **140,** a connector member **158** is fixed to each hand-grip portion **146, 148** by means of a fastening element, such as the illustrated rivet **160.** In accordance with the discussion above, each end of the main body portion **142** may be considered the said first connector member while the connector member **158** may be considered the said second connector member.

Each connector member **158** is formed to provide a distal portion **162** having a cross-sectional shape such that it will telescopically fit into the adjacent sleeve-like portion **154** of the main body portion **142.** This distal portion **162** is formed with axially elongated slots **164** in its vertical side walls, through which slots the rivet **156** extends. The diameter of the rivet **156** is substantially equal to the width of the slots **164.** Thus, each connector member **158** can reciprocate or shift rectilinearly in its associated sleeve-like portion **154** from an inner position to an outer position. The extent of this shifting movement is determined by the length of the slots **164.** The inner position, illustrated in FIG. **10,** is also defined by the rivet **156** being against the right-hand ends of the slots **164,** and the outer position is defined by the rivet **156** being against the left-hand end of the slots.

Each sleeve-like portion **154** is provided with an axially inwardly extending upper slot **166** and an axially inwardly extending lower slot **168.** These two slots **166, 168** are diametrically opposed, and the width of the slots is such that the slots will receive the distal portion **162.** As shown, the distal portion **162** of each connector member **158** is formed with parallel, vertically extending sides, and these sides engage respectively the axially extending side edges of the slots **166, 168** when

the hand-grip portions **146, 148** are in their upper positions. The axially inner end of each slot **168** is disposed such that, when the associated connector member **158** is in its outer position, the axially inner end of the connector member outwardly from the axially inner end of the slot. This is why the connector member can pivot upwardly to its position shown in FIG. **9** when it is in its outer position. As shown in FIG. **11**, when the connector member **158** is in its inner position, the axially inner end of the connector member is inwardly from the axially inner end of the lower slot **168** to prevent any pivotal movement about the axis of the rivet **156.**

The hand-grip portions **146, 148** are moved from their lower positions to their upper positions, therefore, by pulling outwardly on the hand-grip portions and then pivoting them upwardly about the axes of the rivets **156.** Once a connector member **158** is in its upper position, it can be moved in the direction of its slots **164** downwardly to the position shown in FIG. **9**, i.e., a position such that the connector member **158** is resting against the axially inner ends of the slots **166, 168.**

Each connecting means **150, 152** is stable in either of its positions. A connector member **158** is stable it its upper position since its slots **164** are of a width not significantly greater than the diameter of the rivet **156** extending therethrough and since the connector member is conformingly disposed in the slots **166, 168** and against the axially inner ends thereof. In its inner position as shown in FIG. **10**, the connector member is stable because its distal portion **162** is conformingly received in the sleeve-like portion **154.**

A locking member **176** is provided for locking each hand-grip portion **146, 148** in its lower or upper position. The illustrative locking member **176,** which includes a fingerengaging portion **178,** is pivotal about the axis of the rivet **156.** In other words, the locking member **176** stays with the rivet **156,** but pivots about its axis. The distal portion **162** is provided with an aperture or notch **180** through which the finger-engaging portion **178** extends. A spring such as indicated at **182** is provided for yieldably urging the portion **178** out into engagement with the notch **180.** As viewed in FIG. **11,** when this finger-engaging portion **178** is pushed inwardly out of engagement with the notch **180,** the connector member can be moved from its inner position to its outer position. It will be appreciated that this locking arrangement will work also to hold the connector member **158** in its position shown in FIG. **9.** That is, the connector member **158** cannot be pivoted downwardly from its position shown in FIG. **9** until the connector member is shifted to its outer position in the direction of elongation of the slots **164.** This shifting cannot take place until the portion **178** is pushed inwardly out of engagement with the notch **180.**

It will be appreciated that other forms of locking arrangements may be used for locking each hand-grip portion **146, 148** in its lower or upper position. Primarily, the objective is to provide a releasable locking member which will hold the connector member **158** either in its position shown in FIG. **9** or its position shown in FIG. **11,** i.e., the position with the rivet **156** against the right-hand ends of the elongated slots **164.** One alternative locking arrangement which has been effective is to provide a locking member which pivots about a fixed axis on the connector member **158** and which engages and hooks over the rivet **156** when the connector member is in its inner position, i.e., when the rivet is against the right-hand ends of the slots **164.** This alternative locking arrangement is, therefore, merely a releasable hook means for engaging the rivet **156** and preventing the connector member from moving rectilinearly away from the rivet. The hook means may also include a finger engaging portion such as the portion **178** which extends through the aperture **180.**

One significant advantage of the embodiment **140** is that the handlebars can be completely assembled in the factory and subsequently installed on any bicycle having a conventional handlebar clamp. The connector means **150, 152** are small enough in diameter to pass through such a clamp.

It will be appreciated that the handlebars of the present invention are constructed such that one hand-grip portion at a time may be moved so that at least one of the rider's hands will always be available for actuating the brake.

What is claimed is:

1. Adjustable handlebars for a bicycle comprising a central main body portion, hand-grip portions respectively at opposite sides of said main body portion, means for connecting each hand-grip portion to said main body portion for movement between a high-speed running position and a low speed resting position, and manually-operable means for releasably locking each said connecting means securely to hold its associated hand-grip portion alternatively in its running and resting positions, said connecting means including a first connector member at the adjacent end of said main body portion and a second connector member fixed to said hand-grip portion, said second connector member being engaged with and connected to the adjacent first connector member for generally rectilinear movement only relative to said first connector member between an inner position and an outer position, and pivot means for connecting said second connector member to said first connector member for pivotal movement, when said second connector member is in said outer position, between a lower position corresponding to said running position and an upper position corresponding to said resting position, said pivotal movement being about an axis extending forwardly in the direction of movement of said bicycle, said connector members being disengaged to permit such pivotal movement when said second connector member is in said outer position.

2. The invention of claim **1** in which said first connector members are provided by the opposite end portions of said main body portion, said end portions being sleeve-like telescopically to receive their associated second connector members.

3. The invention of claim **2** in which each said sleeve portion is provided with diametrically opposite axially extending slots in its end, the associated second connector member extending through said slots as said member pivots from its lower position to its upper position.

4. Adjustable handlebars comprising a central main body portion, hand-grip portions respectively at opposite sides of said main body portion, means for connecting each hand-grip portion to said main body portion for movement from a lower position to an upper position, and hand-operated means for releasably locking each said connecting means securely to hold its associated hand-grip portion alternatively it its lower and upper positions, said central main body portion provid-

ing, at each of its ends, a sleeve-like portion providing a first connector member, each said connecting means including a second connector member fixed to said hand-grip portion, said second connector member being telescopically disposed in the adjacent first connector member for rectilinear shifting movement by hand between an inner position and an outer position, and pivot means connecting said second connector member to said first connector member for pivotal movement, when said second connector member is in said outer position, between said lower position and said upper position, said pivotal movement being about an axis perpendicular to the direction of said rectilinear movement.

5. The invention of claim **4** in which each said second connector member is provided with a slot elongated in the direction of such shifting movement, each said pivot means including a pivot pin carried by its associated first connector member to extend through said slot, the extent of such shifting movement being determined by the length of said slot.

6. The invention of claim **4** in which said first connector member of each connecting means is provided with diametrically opposite axially extending upper and lower slots in its outer end, the associated second connector member extending through said slots as said member pivots from its lower position to its upper position.

7. The invention of claim **6** in which each said second connector member is provided with a slot elongated in the direction of such shifting movement, each said pivot means including a pivot pin carried by its associated first connector member to extend through said slot, the extent of such shifting movement being determined by the length of said slot.

8. Adjustable handlebars for a bicycle, said handlebars comprising a central main body portion, handgrip portions respectively at opposite ends of said main body portion, means for connecting each hand-grip portion to said main body portion for pivotal movement from a lower position to an upper position, and means for releasably locking each said hand-grip portion alternatively in its lower and upper positions, said locking means being manually operable by the rider of such a bicycle while riding, said main body portion providing, at each of its ends, a sleeve, each said connecting means including a connector member fixed to the adjacent hand-grip portion, said connector member being reciprocably received in the adjacent sleeve for shifting movement between an inner position and an outer position, said connector member being provided with an elongated slot, and a pivot pin carried by said sleeve to extend through said slot, the extent of such shifting movement being determined by the length of said slot, said sleeve and said connector member being proportioned and designed such that said connector member is pivotally movable about said pin only in its said outer position.

9. The invention of claim **8** in which the outer end of said sleeve is provided with upper and lower axially inwardly extending slots, said second connector member being proportioned such that, when it is in its said outer position, its axially inner end is outwardly from the inner end of said lower slot and movable through said lower slot as said connector member pivots into said upper slot.

10. The invention of claim **9** in which said locking means includes means for preventing said connector member from moving from its inner position to its outer position.

11. The invention of claim **8** in which said locking means includes means for preventing said connector member from moving from its inner position to its outer position.

12. Adjustable handlebars for a bicycle, said handlebars comprising a central main body portion providing opposite end portions, hand-grip portions respectively at opposite sides of said main body portion, a connector member fixed to each hand-grip portion, means for connecting each said connector member to the adjacent opposite end portion for generally rectilinear shifting movement relative to said end portion between an inner position and an outer position and for pivotal movement, when said connector member is in said outer position, relative to said end portion between a lower position and an upper position, said pivotal movement being about a generally horizontal axis extending perpendicularly to the direction of such rectilinear shifting movement and generally forwardly in the direction of movement of said bicycle.

13. The invention of claim **12** including means for releasably locking each said connector member in its said inner position, said locking means being manually releasable by the rider of such a bicycle while riding.

14. The invention of claim **12** in which said opposite end portions are sleeve-like to receive said connector members, each end portion being provided with upper and lower axially inwardly extending slots through which its associated connector member extends when pivoted upwardly.

15. The invention of claim **14** in which said associated connector member is proportioned such that, when it is in its said outer position, its axially inner end is disposed outwardly from the inner end of said lower slot and, when it is in its said inner position, its axially inner end is disposed inwardly from the inner end of said lower slot.

16. The invention of claim **15** in which said associated connector member is disposed against the axially inner ends of said upper and lower slots when said connector member is in its inner position and its said upper position.

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