(57) Abstract: The disclosure relates to an apparatus (A) for aiding in manual support or lifting object, comprising first strap connector (18) connected to first means adapted to be engaged by at least a portion of one of the user's arms (16); second strap connector (28) connected to a second means adapted to be engaged by at least a portion of the other of the user's arm (26); and strap (10) extending between the first strap connector and the second strap connector which an intermediate portion thereof resting on the shoulder of the user.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A65F 3/14, 3/04,
US CL : 224/218, 260, 259, 257, 101; 482/74; 294/25
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 224/218, 260, 259, 257, 101; 482/74; 294/25

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,311,884 B1 (Johnson) 06 November 2001 (06.11.2001) see document.</td>
<td>1-4, 12, 20</td>
</tr>
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<td>X</td>
<td>US 4,930,695 A (Thompson et al.) 05 June 1990 (05.06.1990), see document.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,508,389 B1 (Ripoyla et al.) 21 January 2003 (21.01.2003), see document.</td>
<td>1-6, 12-16, 19/13-19/16</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,672,493 B1 (Fair et al.) 06 January 2004 (06.01.04), see document.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2,558,551 A (Beaton) 25 June 1943 (25.06.1943), see document.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 1,240,728 A (Jordan) 18 September 1917 (18.09.1917), see document.</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 4,993,705 A (Tolle) 19 February 1991 (19.02.1991), see document.</td>
<td>1-6, 12-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
  *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  *E* earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
  *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 November 2005 (10.11.2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report 2 April 2006

Authorized officer

Telephone No. (571) 242-4050

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 10,11,17 and 18
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
   Claim 10 refers to claim 9 which is not present.

2. ◐ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ❑ Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ❑ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ❑ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.

3. ❑ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:  

4. ❑ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(2)) (April 2005)