United States Patent [19]

Kohls

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[45] **Dec. 3, 1974**

[54] **FOLDABLE SKI COVER**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **150/52 R,** 150/3

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A45c 11/00**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 150/52 R, 52 G, 3, 7, 1; 224/5 Z, 45 S; 280/37 K; 190/51

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A bag for carrying and storing a pair of skis is constructed of a flexible, substantially waterproof material and is of generally elongated construction closed at one end and open at the other and is divided by a longitudinally extending partition into two compartments. The bag consists of an elongated, generally tubular front portion, an elongated, generally tubular rear portion of greater cross-sectional area than the front portion and an intermediate portion integral with the front and rear portions to form a continuous, elongated bag. The bag is longer than the skis and the open end of the bag is adapted to be folded on itself to close the bag. A plurality of fastening means, preferably velvet type fabric hook fasteners, are employed along the length of the bag to fasten the bag around the skis.

12 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures

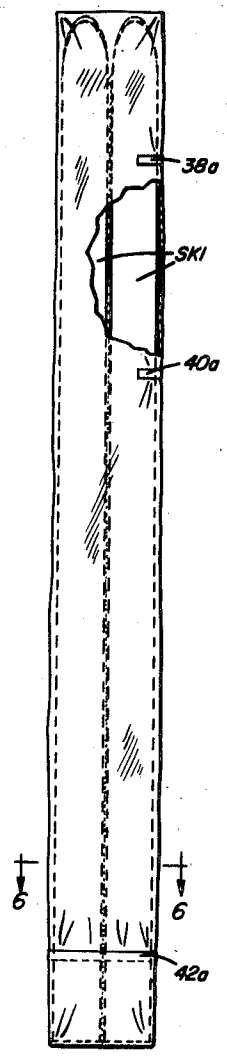


Fig. 1

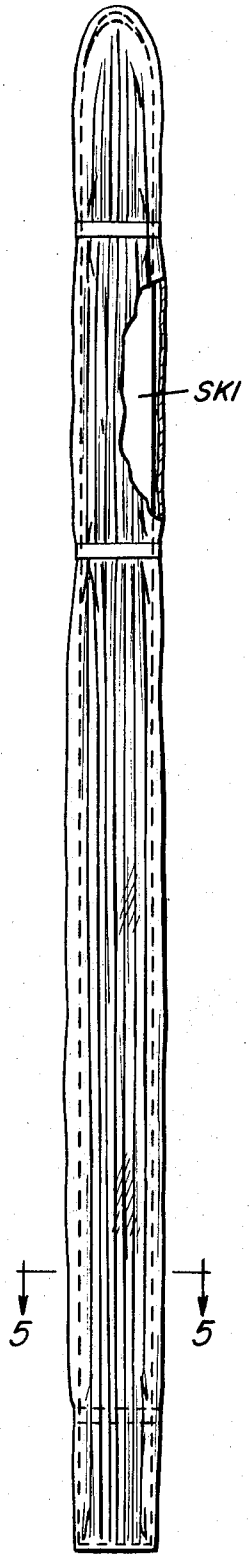


Fig. 2

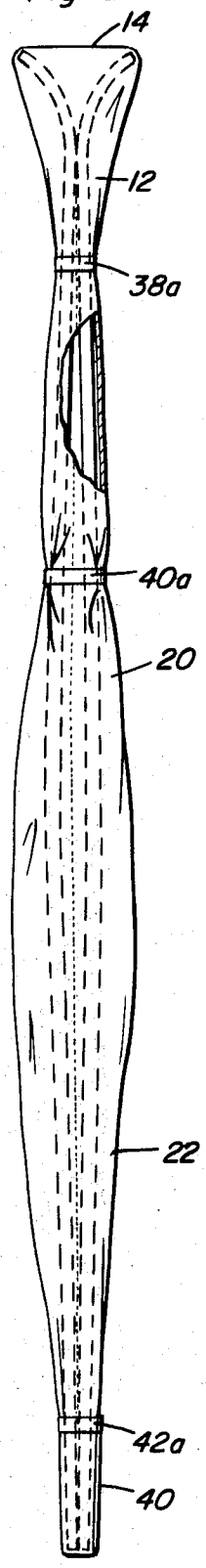


Fig. 3

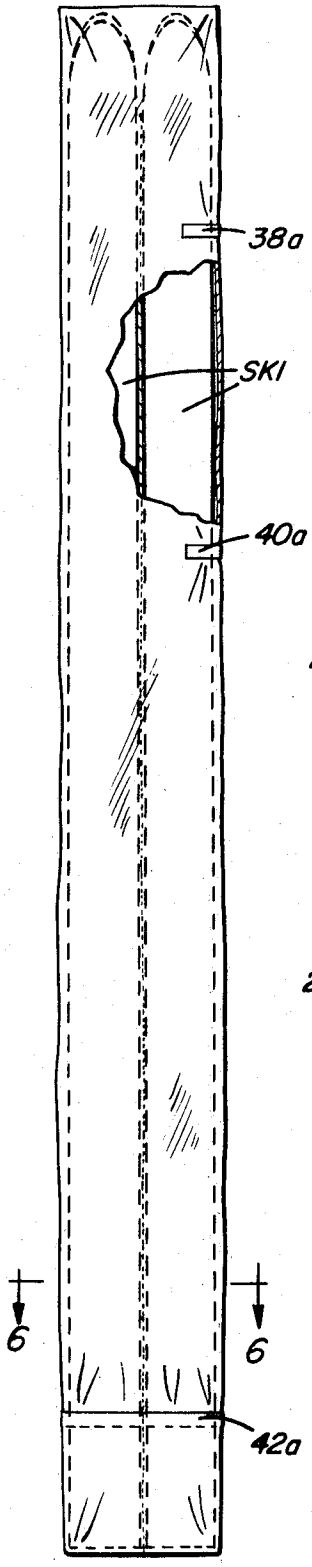


Fig. 4

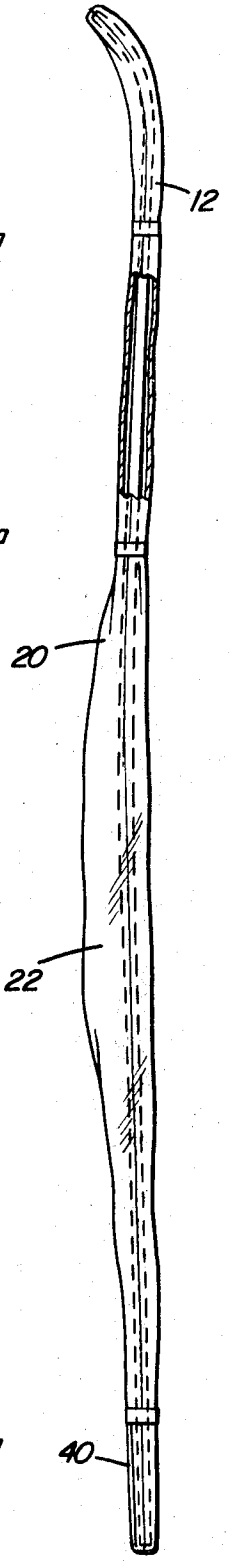


Fig. 5

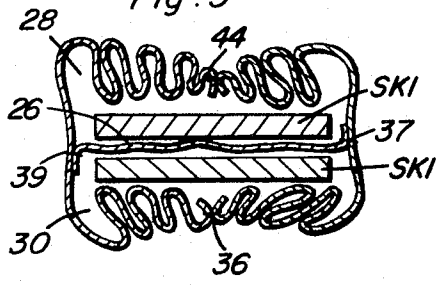


Fig. 6

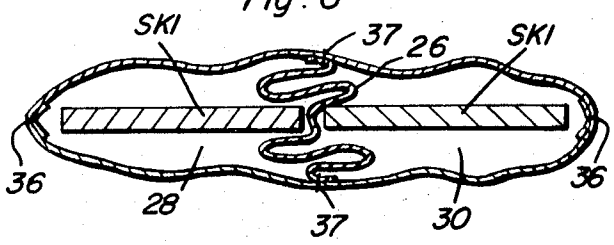


Fig. 7

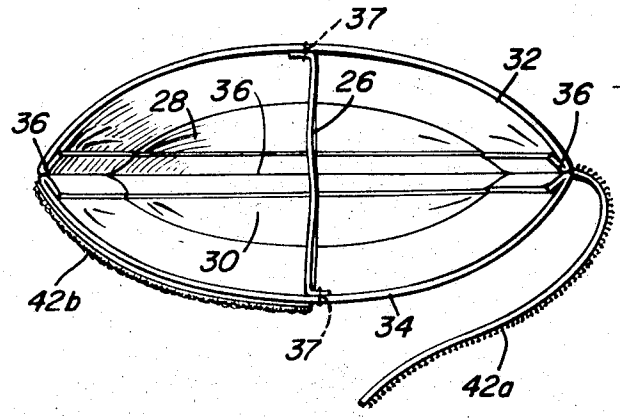


Fig. 10

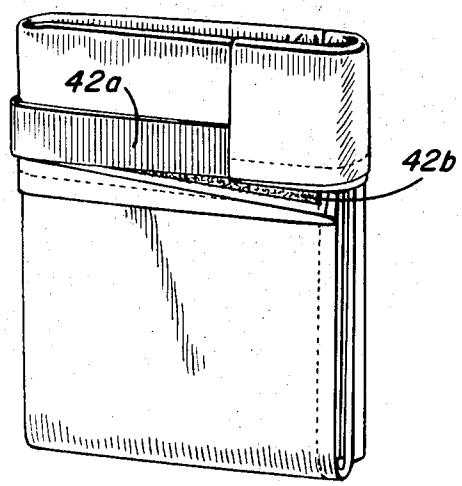


Fig. 8

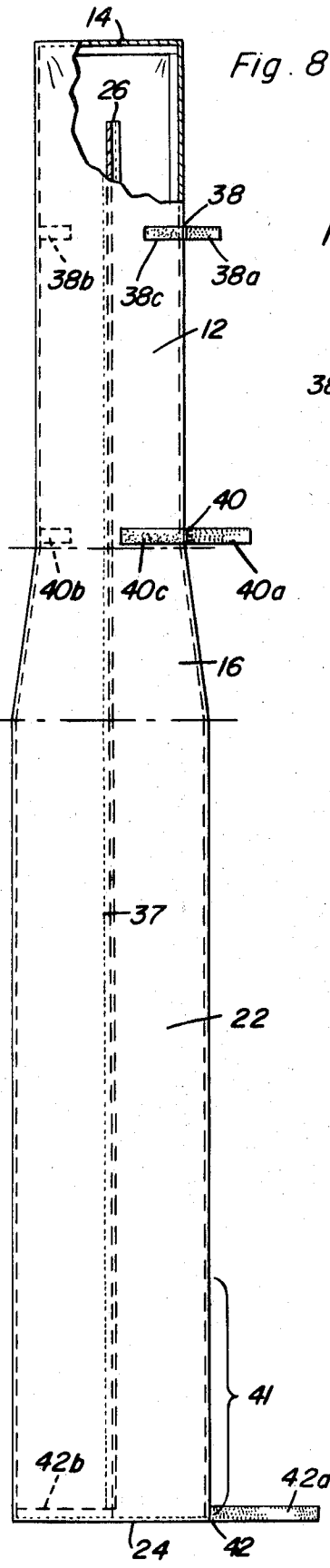
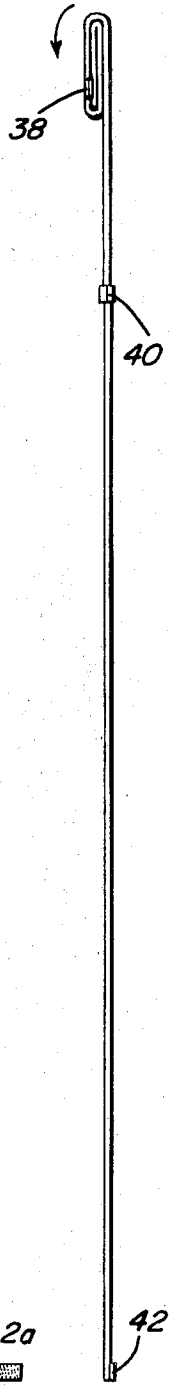


Fig. 9



FOLDABLE SKI COVER

The present invention relates to bags for carrying and storing skis, and, more particularly, to a bag designed to securely hold a pair of skis in different positions.

Portable, flexible material bags for carrying and storing skis are generally well known. Most such bags permit carrying both skis of a ski pair in a single compartment in a fixed position, i.e., the skis may be carried side-by-side or bottom-to-bottom. Some bags provide compartments which are sufficiently large that the skis are able to move around and shift positions within the compartment. The former type of bag is undesirable since it limits the positioning of the skis therein and cannot be used for all applications. The latter type bag provides inadequate protection for the skis.

It has been observed that when hand carrying skis it is desirable that the skis be positioned with their bottoms facing each other. This is also the required position for the skis for mounting on certain ski racks. However, there are also ski racks which require the skis to rest flatly thereon in side-by-side relation. No presently available bag provides adequate protection to the skis by preventing movement of the skis within the bag while at the same time is sufficiently flexible to permit the skis to be disposed in either bottom-to-bottom or side-by-side configuration.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a flexible ski bag which completely encloses the skis and which permits the skis to assume any desired disposition therein, yet which restricts movement of the skis in the bag thereby avoiding damage to the skis.

It is another object of the invention to provide a ski carrying and storing bag which allows the skis to be carried in either side-by-side or bottom-to-bottom positions and to be shifted from one position to the other without removing the skis from the bag.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a two compartment bag whereby a single ski may be stored in each compartment and the skis thereby prevented from contacting and damaging each other.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from the following description and appended claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the bag of the present invention enclosing a pair of skis in bottom-to-bottom relation.

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the bag of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the bag of the present invention enclosing a pair of skis in side-by-side relation.

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view of the bag of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken substantially along line 5—5 in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken substantially along line 6—6 in FIG. 2.

FIG. 7 is an end view of the bag of the present invention looking into the open end of the bag.

FIG. 8 is a plan view of the bag of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a side elevational view showing the manner in which the empty bag of FIG. 8 may be folded.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the bag of FIG. 8 in fully folded condition.

The ski carrying and storing bag of the present invention is constructed of a light, waterproof material which is extremely flexible and is readily adapted to receive and enclose a pair of skis and their bindings therein. The bag is designed to store the skis in either bottom-to-bottom or side-by-side position and to permit the skis to be readily shiftable from one position to the other without removing the skis from the bag. In addition, the bag includes two compartments for receiving individual skis in each compartment to protect the skis from each other. When enclosed within the bag the skis are covered and protected from dirt, grit, salt and the like to which the skis may otherwise be exposed during transportation on a vehicle. A particular advantage of the bag of the present invention is that it is designed so that it can be folded into a very small package and easily carried in a pocket.

The bag of the present invention, designated generally as **10**, is not clearly seen in FIGS. **7** and **8**. Referring to these FIGURES it can be seen that bag **10** consists of an elongated body having three identifiable integral portions. Front portion **12** is elongated and generally tubular and closed at its forward end **14**. The front portion **12** is integral with an intermediate portion **16** which is of continuously increasing cross section from its forward, narrow end **18** to its rear, wide end **20**. A rear portion **22** is integral with intermediate portion **16** at the latter's wide end **20**. Rear portion **22** is elongated and tubular and of greater cross-sectional area than front portion **12**. Rear portion **22** is open at its rear end **24**. A partition **26**, of flexible material, extends longitudinally of the body to divide the bag into two substantially equal compartments **28** and **30**. As can be seen in FIG. **7**, the bag **10** is of generally oval cross-sectional configuration and is formed in two longitudinally extending halves, an upper half **32** and a lower half **34**, which halves are connected together by a continuous longitudinally extending seam **36**. The longitudinal edges of partition **26** are preferably secured longitudinally of the body by stitching **37** to body halves **32** and **34**. It will be appreciated that the manner of securing the halves **32** and **34** and the partition **26** thereto may vary and any suitable securing technique may be employed.

To use bag **10**, one ski is inserted on each side of partition **26** in each of compartments **28** and **30** with the forward end (or curved end) of the skis extending into the front portion **12** of the bag. The bindings on the skis are accommodated by the enlarged cross-sectional area of the bag in rear portion **22**. Once the skis are inside the bag they can be shifted to different positions and held in these positions by suitable fasteners to be more fully discussed hereinafter. Regardless of the position of the skis in the bag, due to partition **26**, no part of the two skis can touch each other. Bag **10** is intentionally designed to be longer than the skis it is to house. The rear end section **41** of the rear portion **22** is adapted to be folded back on itself to adapt the length of the bag to the length of the skis. Also, by folding the rear end section **41** back on itself, the bag becomes totally enclosed to protect the skis from the elements.

A plurality of fastening means **38**, **40** and **42**, are distributed along the length of bag **10** to snugly gather and fasten the bag to the skis and thereby to hold the skis securely in position in their respective compartments. Any suitable separable fastening means, such as straps and buckles, tie cords, and the like are functional al-

though the preferred fastening means are velvet pile type fabric fasteners which include interengaging hooks on opposite superposed pieces. Mere pressure exerted on superposed velvet-type fabrics having facing piles is sufficient to engage their respective hooks. Velvet type fabric hook fasteners suitable for use with bag **10** are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,717,437 and 3,009,235. While the fastening means may be disposed at any number of convenient locations along the length of bag **10** it is particularly preferred to locate one fastening means **38** on front portion **12**, a second fastening means **40** at about the point of intersection of the front and intermediate portions, and a third fastening means **42** at the extreme rear end **24**. When the preferred velvet type fabric hook fasteners are employed, it will be appreciated that each fastener consists of two mating parts, in effect a male and female fabric section. Thus, for example, fastening means **38** consists of a male velvet fabric tape **38***a* extending sidewardly from one side of front portion **12** and an oppositely facing female velvet fabric tape **38***b* (shown in phantom on FIG. **8**) on the opposite side of bag **10**. In order for tape **38***a* to reach tape **38***b* to engage therewith, the bag material between them must be folded or gathered against the skis in the bag. In addition, fastening means **38** includes a second female velvet fabric tape **38***c* adjacent tape **38***a* to permit folding the bag in a flat position and storing the bag with tape **38***a* secured in a closed position. Fastening means **40** is the same as fastening means **38** and includes fabric tapes **40***a*, **40***b* and **40***c*. Likewise, fastening means **42** includes a male fabric tape **42***a* and a female fabric tape **42***b*, but does not include a second female fabric tape since, when the bag is folded, tapes **42***a* and **42***b* are engaged to hold the bag in its folded position (see FIG. **10**).

Referring now to FIGS. **1**, **2** and **5** there is shown the bag **10** enclosing a pair of skis with the skis in bottom-to-bottom configuration. After the individual skis are inserted into their respective compartments **28** and **30**, the rear end section **41** is folded back upon itself to enclose the bottom of the bag, and tape **42***a* is wrapped around the skis to gather the bag material and hold it snugly against the skis and to engage tape **42***b*. Likewise, tapes **40***a* and **38***a* are snugly wrapped around the skis to gather the bag material against the skis and to engage tapes **40***b* and **38***b* respectively. The excess bag material **44** between the tapes falls loosely around the skis. The skis may alternatively be placed in the bag in side-by-side relation as shown in FIGS. **3**, **4** and **6**. Again, after the skis are inserted into their respective compartments **28** and **30**, the rear end section **41** is folded back onto itself to enclose the bottom of the bag and fastening tapes **38***a*, **40***a* and **42***a* are wrapped around the skis to engage tapes **38***b*, **40***b* and **42***b*, respectively. It is noteworthy that notwithstanding the configuration of the skis within the bag, the fastening means holds the bag closely adjacent the skis to securely hold the skis in place in their compartments. It is also noteworthy that partition **26** at all times prevents contact between the skis.

To adjust the position of the skis from side-by-side to bottom-to-bottom or vice versa, all that is necessary is to open fastening means **38** and **40** and loosen fastening means **42** and then to shift the skis while they are still in the bag. Next, the bag material is tucked tightly around the skis at the fastening means and the respective fastening means are engaged and/or tightened, as necessary.

As hereinbefore indicated, the bag **10** of the present invention is readily foldable into a very small package for storage in a pocket. FIG. **9** illustrates the manner in which folding is accomplished. First, tapes **38***a* and **40***a* are engaged with tapes **38***c* and **40***c*. Next, the front end **14** is folded over a few inches onto itself and the folded section folded longitudinally onto the bag a number of times until the entire length of the bag has been folded into a section only a few inches long. Then, the resulting section is folded transversely onto itself and fastened in this folded position by engagement of tapes **42***a* and **42***b*, as shown in FIG. **10**.

While the present invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments thereof, it will be understood that numerous modifications can be made by those skilled in the art without actually departing from the scope of the invention. Accordingly, all modifications and equivalents may be resorted to which fall within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claim as new is as follows:

1. A bag for carrying and storing a pair of skis therein, said bag being of a flexible, substantially waterproof material, comprising:

a. an elongated, generally tubular front portion having a closed front end for receiving the forward ends of a pair of skis;

b. an elongated, generally tubular rear portion for receiving the rear ends of said pair of skis, said rear portion being of greater cross-sectional area than said front portion, the rear of said rear portion being open for inserting said pair of skis therein;

c. an intermediate portion having a front end integral with said front portion and a rear end integral with said rear portion, the cross-sectional area of said intermediate portion increasing continuously from its front end to its rear end, said intermediate portion communicating with said front and rear portions to form a continuous, elongated bag, said bag being longer than said skis and said open end of said rear portion adapted to be folded on itself to close said bag;

d. a flexible partition in said bag extending longitudinally substantially the entire length of said bag dividing said bag into two compartments, each compartment adapted to receive one of said pair of skis; and

e. a plurality of separable fastening means distributed along the length of said bag for fastening said bag around said skis to hold said skis in position, at least one of said fastening means disposed adjacent said open end of said rear portion.

2. A bag, as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said bag is generally oval in cross section.

3. A bag, as claimed in claim **1**, wherein said bag includes at least three fastening means along the length thereof.

4. A bag, as claimed in claim **3**, wherein one of said fastening means is disposed at the open rear end of said bag.

5. A bag, as claimed in claim **4**, wherein one of said fastening means is disposed on said front portion of said bag.

6. A bag, as claimed in claim **5**, wherein one of said fastening means is disposed at about the intersection of said front and intermediate portions.

7. A bag, as claimed in claim 6, wherein each said separable fastening means comprises a pair of engageable velvet type fabric hook tapes secured to said bag.

8. A bag, as claimed in claim 7, wherein said bag is longitudinally and transversely foldable to a size suitable for fitting in a pocket.

9. A bag, as claimed in claim 8, wherein one of said tapes of each said pair includes a portion extending sidewardly from said bag whereby said portion is adapted to extend around said skis to gather said bag against said skis and to engage the other tape of said pair.

10. A bag, as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one said fastener means includes a third velvet type fabric hook tape with which said sidewardly extending tape can be engaged during folding of said bag without gathering said bag.

11. A bag, as claimed in claim 5, wherein said bag is generally oval in cross section and said cross section of said rear portion is sufficient to accommodate the skis and their bindings.

12. A bag, as claimed in claim 11, wherein the cross section of said bag along its length is sufficiently large to permit adjusting the position of said skis from bottom-to-bottom to side-by-side and vice versa without removing said skis from said bag.

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