United States Patent [19]

LaMontagne

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[54] **DEVICE FOR PROTECTING A SKATER FROM EFFECTS OF SPILL**

[75] Inventor: **Roger A. LaMontagne,** Montreal, Quebec, Canada

[73] Assignee: **The Raymond Lee Organization, Inc.,** New York, N.Y. ; a part interest

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **272/1 R,** 2/2, 2/216, 272/70

[51] **Int. Cl.** **A63b 71/12,** A41d 13/00

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 272/1 R, 70.3, 70.4, 70; 2/1, 2, 46, 216; 35/29 R; 135/45 A; 280/11.37 R, 87.02 W; 297/5, 6; D6/5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; D83/1 E

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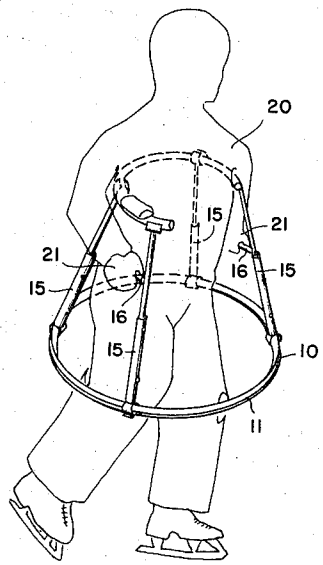
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Primary Examiner—George J. Marlo
Assistant Examiner—R. T. Stouffer
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Howard I. Podell

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A protective device for young skaters which protects them in the event of a fall or spill. The device is in the form of a circular frame which fits about the mid-section of the skater and is hand held in place. The frame is shaped in the form of a circular hoop fastened by four vertical members to a small open hoop that fits under the arms of the wearer, with a lateral support fastened to each pair of vertical members that may be gripped by one of the wearer's hands.

1 Claim, 3 Drawing Figures



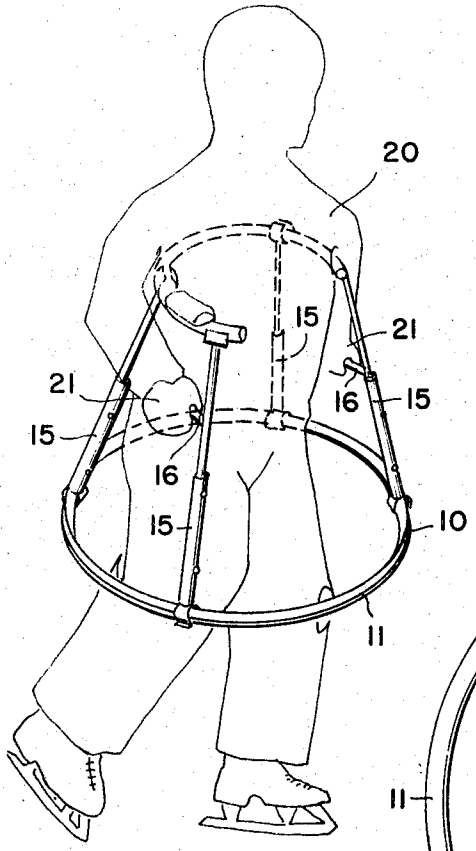


FIG. 1

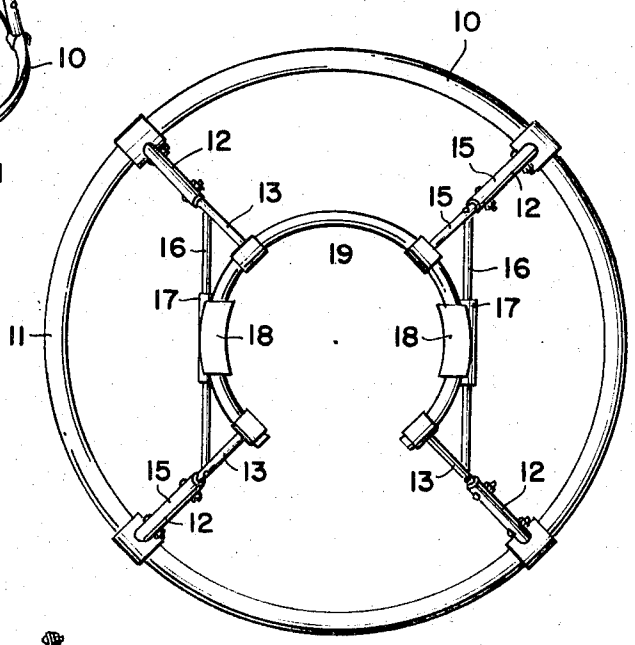


FIG. 2

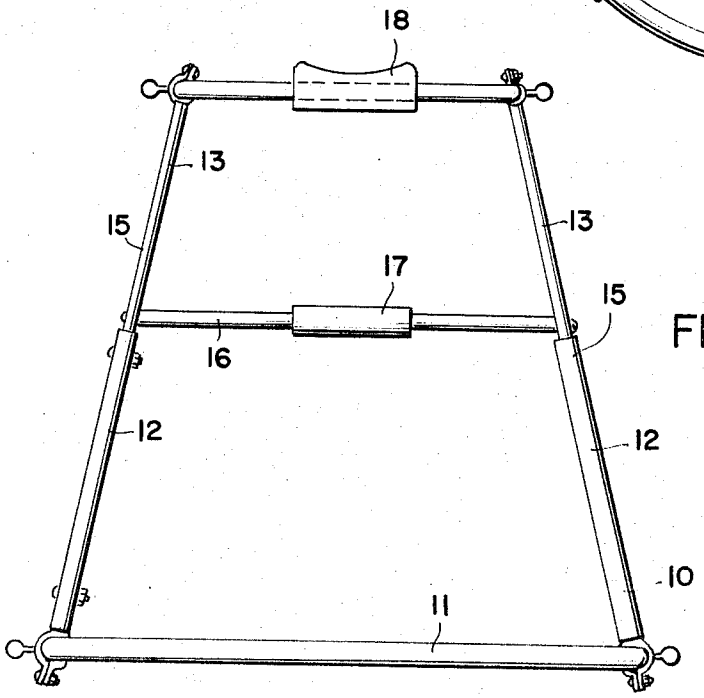


FIG. 3

DEVICE FOR PROTECTING A SKATER FROM EFFECTS OF SPILL

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a device for protecting a skater from the effects of a fall or spill, and particularly to a device which is in the shape of a circular frame that may be fitted about the mid-section of a skater.

The advantage of this device is that it is in the form of a light weight frame that the skater carries to assure himself of protection in the event of a fall or spill, and thus enables the skater to more readily concentrate on learning to skate. A further advantage of the device is that the frame is of a simple and light weight shape and may be easily grasped by a young skater or a learner.

The device is in the form of a frame comprising a circular hoop which is fitted about a parallel plane at the level of the knees of the wearer, with four vertical members fastening the hoop to a small open circular member that fits under the arms of the wearer. A lateral member joins each pair of vertical members, on each side, and the device is held by the skater, with a hand grasping each lateral member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The objects and features of the invention may be understood with reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment of the invention, taken together with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the device being worn by a skater;

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the device; and

FIG. **3** is an elevation view of the device.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIG. **1** illustrates the device **10** worn about wearer **20** with a lateral member **16** grasped by each hand **21.**

As shown in FIGS. **1–3** the device comprises a circular hoop section **11** which fits in a horizontal plane about the mid-section of the wearer's body, said hoop section **11** being fastened by four equally spaced vertical members **15** to a small open circular member **19** that fits under the arms and about the back of the wearer. On each side, a lateral member **16** joins each pair of vertical members **15,** and lateral member **16** is fitted with a plastic or rubber grip **17.** A plastic or rubber grip **18** is mounted on each side of the upper open circular member **19,** so as to comfortably fit under the armpits of the wearer.

Each vertical member **15** is adjustable in length and may be formed of a small diameter tubular section **13** that fits telescopically inside of a larger internal diameter tube **12,** with bolt **29** fastening the telescopic section together to form the proper length of each vertical member **15.**

In the preferred embodiment the hoop **10,** vertical member **15,** lateral member **16** and open section **19** are formed of lightweight tubing, preferably fabricated of aluminum or of plastic. The diameter of the circle formed by hoop **11** is sufficiently large to avoid interference between the hoop member **11** and the moving legs of a skater. In the event of a fall or spill of the skater **20,** the hoop **11** forms a convenient buffer, and the shock and impact of a fall is sharply reduced by the manner in which the lateral members **16** are grasped by the hands **21** of the skater.

Since obvious changes may be made in the specific embodiment of the invention described herein, such modifications being within the spirit and scope of the invention claimed, it is indicated that all matter contained herein is intended as illustrative and not as limiting in scope.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A device for protecting a skater from the effects of a fall or spill, said device being adaptable to being hand carried about the exterior body and clothing of the skater and comprising

a continuous circular hoop member joined by longitudinal vertical structural members to an open hoop member of smaller diameter which is fastened in a plane generally parallel to the plane of the continuous circular hoop member, together with

a lateral member mounted on each side of the device to a pair of said vertical structural members in a plane parallel to, and mid-way between the plane of the continuous circular hoop member and the plane of the open hoop member, with the open hoop member being of a size to fit under the armpits and about the back of a wearer, and the continuous circular hoop member being of a size to fit freely about the body of the wearer, with said vertical structural members being of adjustable length, so that the device may be carried by a skater with the open hoop member fitted under his armpits, the continuous circular hoop member located about the mid-section of the body of the skater, and with each hand of the skater grasping a lateral member, in which a hand grip member of resilient composition is fitted on each lateral member, and in which grip member of soft resilient composition is fitted on each side to the open hoop member, adaptable for fitting under the armpit of a wearer.

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