

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number:

0 272 254 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

- (45) Date of publication of patent specification: **31.03.93** (51) Int. Cl.⁵: **A45F 3/04**, A45F 3/06,
A45F 3/16
- (21) Application number: **86903131.0**
- (22) Date of filing: **08.05.86**
- (86) International application number:
PCT/AU86/00131
- (87) International publication number:
WO 86/06593 (20.11.86 86/25)

(54) EQUIPMENT PACKS.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (30) Priority: 08.05.85 AU 480/85 | (73) Proprietor: GEARY, Rodney Thomas
156 Northstead Street
Scarborough, WA 6019(AU) |
| (43) Date of publication of application:
29.06.88 Bulletin 88/26 | (72) Inventor: GEARY, Rodney Thomas
156 Northstead Street
Scarborough, WA 6019(AU) |
| (45) Publication of the grant of the patent:
31.03.93 Bulletin 93/13 | (74) Representative: Matthews, Graham Farrah et al
BROOKES & MARTIN Incorporating MAT-
THEWS, HADDAN & CO. High Holborn House
52/54, High Holborn
London, WC1V 6SE (GB) |
| (84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI LU NL SE | |
| (56) References cited:
CA-A- 1 068 240
GB-B- 745 424
US-A- 1 334 582
US-A- 4 018 371 | GB-B- 604 020
GB-B- 859 826
US-A- 3 664 560 |

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid (Art. 99(1) European patent convention).

Description

This invention relates to equipment packs of the type normally used by military or civilian personnel.

Military personnel are required to carry a number of different items of equipment which is usually mounted on a saddle or harness worn over the shoulders and connected to a belt around the waist of the wearer.

The object of the invention is to provide an equipment pack which is versatile in that different mixes of various items of equipment can be carried; and which can be readily accessed for use or discarding when necessary.

According to the invention there is provided an equipment pack for use by military or civilian personnel comprising a substantially U-shaped padded saddle having a neck portion, positionable in use to fit a user's neck and a pair of arms, positionable in use to lie over the chest of the user, a belt for positioning around the waist of the user, a quick-release fastener for securing the ends of the belt together, a first pair of straps secured to the neck portion of the saddle in spaced positions, and a second pair of straps each having one end secured to one of the arms of the saddle, a plurality of belt loops positioned on the belt and at least one pouch mounted on the belt, characterised in that said belt is formed of webbing having the loop portion of a loop pile-hook type fastener secured to an inside face of said belt, the inside face of each loop being positioned on the belt, the inside face of each loop being provided with a hook portion of a loop pile-hook type fastener, each strap being connected to one of the belt loops by a quick-release fastener and in that the pouch is mounted on the belt by means of one or more loops secured to the rear wall of the pouch.

Reference is made to Canadian Patent No 1068240 which discloses a harness having a saddle positioned to fit around the back of the neck of the wearer and a pair of arms adapted to extend over the shoulder of the wearer and downwardly over the wearer's chest, a belt for positioning around the waist of the wearer, the ends being secured together by a quick-release fastener, a first pair of straps secured to the saddle in spaced positions, and a second pair of straps each having one end secured to one of the arms of the saddle.

The invention will be better understood by reference to the following description of the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings wherein:-

FIGURE 1A is a front view of a saddle or harness;

FIGURE 1B is a side view;

FIGURE 1C is a front view of a suitable type of quick release catch;

FIGURE 2A is a plan view of a belt to be used in conjunction with the saddle or harness of Figures 1A and 1B;

FIGURE 2B is an elevation of the belt;

FIGURE 3A is a front view of an accessory holder to be attached to the belt;

FIGURE 3B is a back view of the accessory holder;

FIGURE 3C is a side view of the accessory holder;

FIGURE 4A is a front view of a water bottle holder;

FIGURE 4B is a top view of the water bottle holder;

FIGURE 4C is a side view of the water bottle holder;

FIGURE 4D is a back view of the water bottle holder;

FIGURE 4E is a bottom view of the water bottle holder;

FIGURE 5A is a front view of a basic pocket;

FIGURE 5B is a top view of the pocket;

FIGURE 5C is a side view of the pocket;

FIGURE 5D is a back view of the pocket; and

FIGURE 5E is a bottom view of the pocket.

As shown in the drawings the saddle or harness 11 is of more or less conventional design being substantially U-shaped to fit around the neck of the user with the arms of the U lying over the chest of the wearer. Straps 12 are fitted to the neck portion of the harness to be positioned on the back of the wearer, the free ends thereof being fitted with one component of a quick release fastener 13 (see Figure 1C) the other component of the fastener being fitted to the belt to be described later. Preferably the straps 12 are provided with means whereby the length of the strap can be adjusted to meet individual requirements. The component of the quick release fastener fitted to the belt is provided with a loop of webbing carrying a piece of the hook portion of a hook and loop ("Velcro") type fastener to prevent the fastener from sliding around the belt. Straps 14 are fitted to the free ends of each arm of the harness, the free ends of each strap being provided with one component of a quick release catch, the other component of the catch being attached to the belt to be described later. Pockets 15 for storage of items such as a medical kit and/or compass are provided on the arms of the harness.

The belt shown in Figures 2A and 2B is formed from a length of webbing 16 each end of the webbing being fitted with one component of a quick release fastener 17. Provision is made in the attachment of the belt to one component of the fastener to enable the length of the belt to be

adjusted. The inside face 18 of the belt is provided over a substantial portion of its length with the velvet-like (loop) portion of a loop and hook type fastener such as that marketed under the Trade Mark "Velcro".

Various items of equipment such as that shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5 of the drawings may be fitted to the belt.

As shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C an accessory holder for carrying such things as ammunition magazines comprises a series of pockets 19 mounted on one face of a supporting member 20, each pocket being adapted to accommodate one magazine. Each pocket is provided with a closure 21 held in the closed position by a press stud 22. Loops 29 of the webbing may be provided on the rear face of the supporting member to enable it to be mounted directly on the belt. Preferably the rear face of the supporting member (20) is provided with pieces 22 of the hook portion of a hook and loop ("Velcro") type fastener and press studs 23 to lock with cooperating components provided on the front and/or sides of a basic pocket as shown in Figures 5A to 5E as described later.

Referring now to Figures 4A to 4D, which show a water bottle carrier which forms part of the invention, the carrier is in the form of a pocket 24 open at the top and provided with two flaps 25 which overlie the top of the bottle on opposite sides of the neck and locked in place by means of press studs 26. A small pouch 27 is provided on the front of the pocket and is closed by means of a slide fastener 28. The rear wall of the pocket is provided with two loops 30 formed of webbing through which the belt passes.

In Figures 5A to 5D there is shown a basic pocket adapted to carry various items such as field rations. The basic pocket 31 is generally rectangular in plan and elevation and is fitted with a hinged lid 32 provided on the three sides with a downwardly projecting skirt 33 the lid being closed by means of a quick release fastener 34. If desired the rear end of the skirt on each side may be closed by a small piece of a hook and loop ("Velcro") type fastener. The rear wall of the pocket is provided with webbing loops 35 through which the belt passes. The front and side walls of the pocket may be provided with press stud components 36 to enable an accessory holder as shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C to be fitted thereto. The pocket is also provided with a length 37 of the loop portion of a hook and loop ("Velcro") type fastener to receive appropriately located hook portions fitted to the accessory holder. If desired a small pocket 38 fitted with a slide fastener 39 may be provided on top of the lid 32.

A quick release fastener is suitable for the purposes of the present invention that is marketed

under the Trade Mark "Fastex".

With the equipment pack of the present invention there is a more even distribution of the load on the wearer and greater facility to vary the load to be carried and more easy access to the various items of equipment.

Claims

1. An equipment pack for use by military or civilian personnel comprising a substantially U-shaped padded saddle (11) having a neck portion, positionable in use to fit a user's neck and a pair of arms, positionable in use to lie over the chest of the user, a belt (16) for positioning around the waist of the user, a quick-release fastener (17) for securing the ends of the belt together, a first pair of straps (12) secured to the neck portion of the saddle in spaced positions, and a second pair of straps (14) each having one end secured to one of the arms of the saddle, a plurality of belt loops positioned on the belt and at least one pouch mounted on the belt, characterised in that said belt (16) is formed of webbing having the loop portion of a loop pile-hook type fastener secured to an inside face (18) of said belt, the inside face of each loop being positioned on the belt, the inside face of each loop being provided with a hook portion of a loop pile-hook type fastener, each strap (12, 14) being connected to one of the belt loops by a quick-release fastener (13) and in that the pouch is mounted on the belt (16) by means of one or more loops secured to the rear wall of the pouch.
2. An equipment pack as claimed in claim 1, characterised by an accessory holder (19, 20) mounted on the belt (16), the rear face of the holder being provided with loops (29) through which the belt (16) passes, the holder being provided with a length of the hook portion of a loop pile-hook type fastener to engage the loop pile material secured to a basic pocket (31).
3. An equipment pack as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the accessory holder comprises a series of pockets (19) each of which is to be adapted to receive an ammunition magazine and is provided with a flap cover (21) to hold the magazine in position.
4. An equipment pack as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the rear face of the accessory holder is provided with a component of one or more separable fasteners (22, 23) adapted to engage one another component

(36, 37) of the separable fastener provided on the front or side face of a pouch or pocket (31) mounted on the belt.

5. An equipment pack as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that a water bottle carrier is mounted on the belt, said carrier being in the form of a pocket (24) open at the top to receive the water bottle and is provided with two flaps (25) which overlie the top of the bottle on each side of the neck of the bottle and are locked in place by separable fasteners (26).

Patentansprüche

1. Ausrüstungsgepäck zur Verwendung durch Soldaten oder Zivilisten, das folgendes umfaßt: ein im wesentlichen U-förmiges, gepolstertes Gurtzeug (11) mit einem Halsabschnitt der beim Einsatz dem Hals eines Benutzers angepaßt werden kann, und einem Paar Armen, die beim Einsatz über den Brustkorb des Benutzers gelegt werden können, einen Gurt (16) zum Umlegen um die Taille des Benutzers, einen Schnellverschluß (17), um die Enden des Gurtes miteinander zu verbinden, ein am Halsabschnitt des Gurtzeugs beabstandet befestigtes erstes Paar Riemen (12) und ein zweites Paar Riemen (14), bei denen jeweils ein Ende des Riemens an einem der Arme dem Gurtzeugs befestigt ist, eine Mehrzahl von am Gurt angebrachten Gurtschlaufen und mindestens eine am Gurt befestigte Tasche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß besagter Gurt (16) aus Gurtband gebildet ist, wobei der Schlingenfadenabschnitt eines Schlingenfaden-Hakenverschlusses an einer Innenseite (18) des besagten Gurtes befestigt ist, die Innenseite jeder Schlaufe am Gurt angebracht ist, die Innenseite jeder Schlaufe mit einem Hakenabschnitt eines Schlingenfaden-Hakenverschlusses versehen ist und jeder Riemen (12, 14) mittels eines Schnellverschlusses (13) mit einer der Gurtschlaufen verbunden ist, und dadurch, daß die Tasche mittels einer oder mehrerer an der Rückwand der Tasche befestigter Schlaufen am Gurt (16) angebracht ist.
2. Ausrüstungsgepäck nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch einen am Gurt (16) angebrachten Zubehörrhalter (19, 20), wobei die Rückseite des Halters mit Schlaufen (29) versehen ist, durch die der Gurt (16) läuft, und der Halter mit einer Länge des Hakenabschnitts eines Schlingenfaden-Hakenverschlusses versehen ist, um das an einer Grundtasche (31) befestigte Schlingenfadenmaterial in Eingriff zu neh-

men.

3. Ausrüstungsgepäck nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Zubehörrhalter eine Reihe von Taschen (19) umfaßt, von denen jede so ausgeführt sein soll, daß sie ein Munitionsmagazin aufnehmen kann, und mit einem Klappendeckel (21) versehen ist, um das Magazin festzuhalten.
4. Ausrüstungsgepäck nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Rückseite des Zubehörrhalters mit einer Komponente eines oder mehrerer lösbarer Verschlüsse (22, 23) versehen ist, die so ausgeführt sind, daß sie eine andere Komponente (36, 37) des lösbaren Verschlusses in Eingriff nehmen können, der an der Vorderseite oder Seitenfläche einer am Gurt angebrachten Tasche (31) vorgesehen ist.
5. Ausrüstungsgepäck nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß ein Feldflaschenträger am Gurt angebracht ist, wobei der besagte Träger in Form einer oben offenen Tasche (24) vorliegt, um die Feldflasche aufzunehmen, und mit zwei Laschen (25) versehen ist, die die Flasche oben beidseitig des Flaschenhalses abdecken und mittels lösbarer Verschlüsse (26) festhalten.

Revendications

1. Un paquetage d'équipement pour utilisation par du personnel civil ou militaire, comprenant un harnais (11) rembourré, essentiellement en forme d'U, ayant une portion cou, qui peut être mise en place pendant l'utilisation pour s'adapter au cou de l'utilisateur, et une paire de bras, qui peuvent être mis en place pendant l'utilisation sur le torse de l'utilisateur, une ceinture (16) destinée à être mise en place autour de la taille de l'utilisateur, une fermeture à déclenchement instantané (17) pour fixer ensemble les extrémités de la ceinture, une première paire de sangles (12) fixées à la portion cou du harnais en des positions espacées, et une deuxième paire de sangles (14) ayant chacune une extrémité fixée à l'un des bras du harnais, une pluralité de boucles mises en place sur la ceinture et au moins un étui monté sur la ceinture, caractérisé en ce que ladite ceinture (16) est formé de toile à sangle ayant la portion velours d'une fermeture du type "velcro" fixée à une face interne (18) de ladite ceinture, la face interne de chaque boucle étant mise en place sur la ceinture, la face interne de chaque boucle étant pourvue d'une portion crochet d'une fermeture du type "velcro", chaque san-

gle (12, 14) étant reliée à l'une des boucles de ceinture par une fermeture à déclenchement instantané (13), et en ce que l'étui est monté sur la ceinture (16) au moyen d'une ou de plusieurs boucles fixées à la paroi arrière de l'étui. 5

2. Un paquetage d'équipement selon la revendication 1, caractérisé par un support d'accessoires (19, 20) monté sur la ceinture (16), la face arrière du support étant pourvue de boucles (29) à travers lesquelles passe la ceinture (16), le support étant pourvu d'une longueur de la portion crochet d'une fermeture du type "velcro" pour avoir prise sur le matériau toujours fixé à une poche de base (31). 10 15

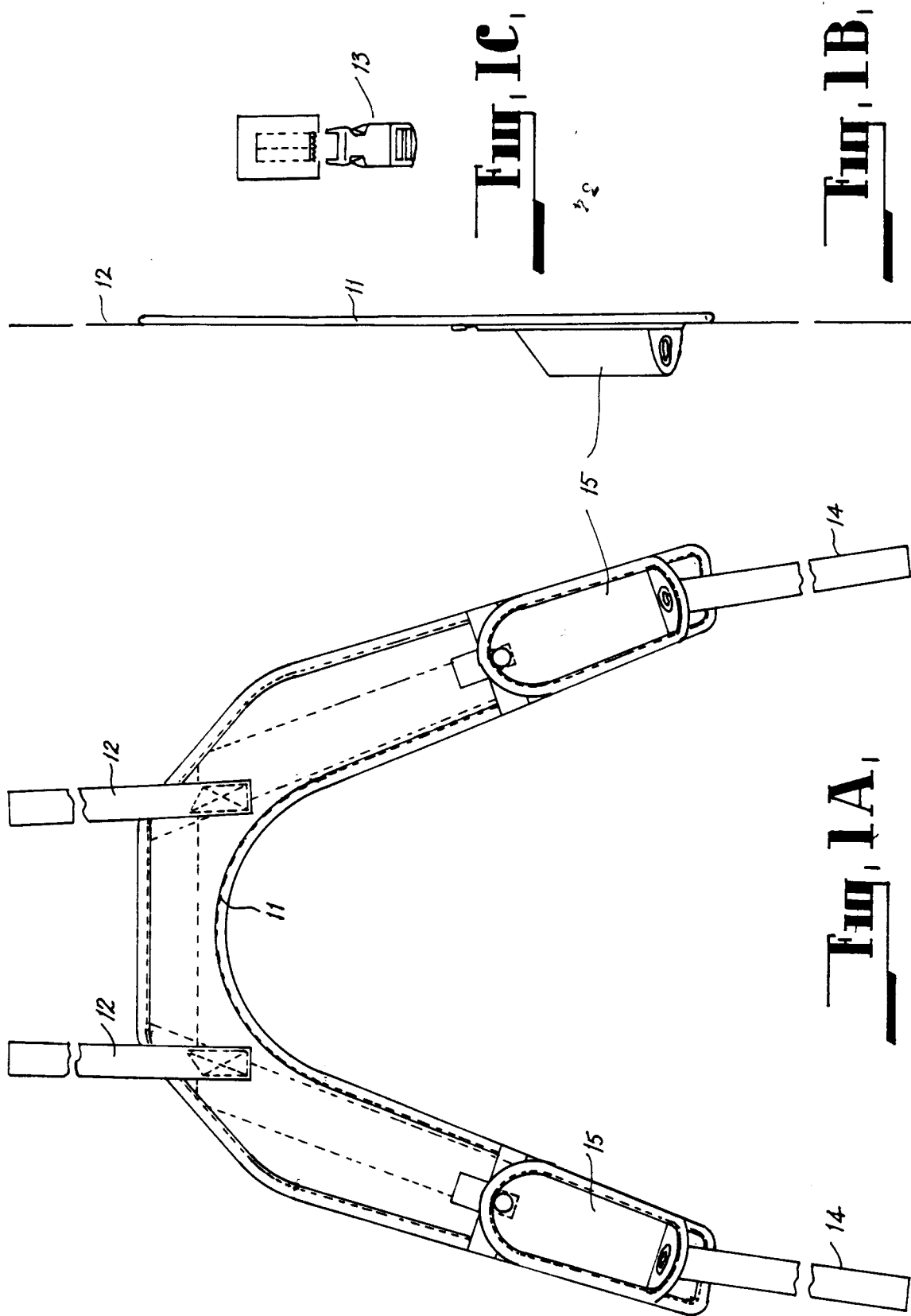
3. Un paquetage d'équipement selon la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que le support d'accessoires comprend une série de poches (19), chacune d'entre elles pouvant être adaptée pour recevoir un chargeur de munitions et étant pourvue d'un volet rabat (21) pour maintenir le chargeur en place. 20 25

4. Un paquetage d'équipement selon la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que la face arrière du support d'accessoires est pourvue d'un composant de l'une ou de plusieurs fermetures séparables (22, 23) qui sont adaptées pour avoir prise sur un autre composant (36, 37) de la fermeture séparable prévue sur la face avant ou latérale d'un étui ou poche (31) monté sur la ceinture. 30 35

5. Un paquetage d'équipement selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce qu'un support de bidon à eau est monté sur la ceinture, ledit support étant en forme d'une poche (24), ouverte à sa partie supérieure pour recevoir le bidon à eau, et est pourvue de deux rabats (25) qui recouvrent la partie supérieure du bidon de chaque côté du goulot du bidon, et sont verrouillés en place par des fermetures séparables (26). 40 45

50

55



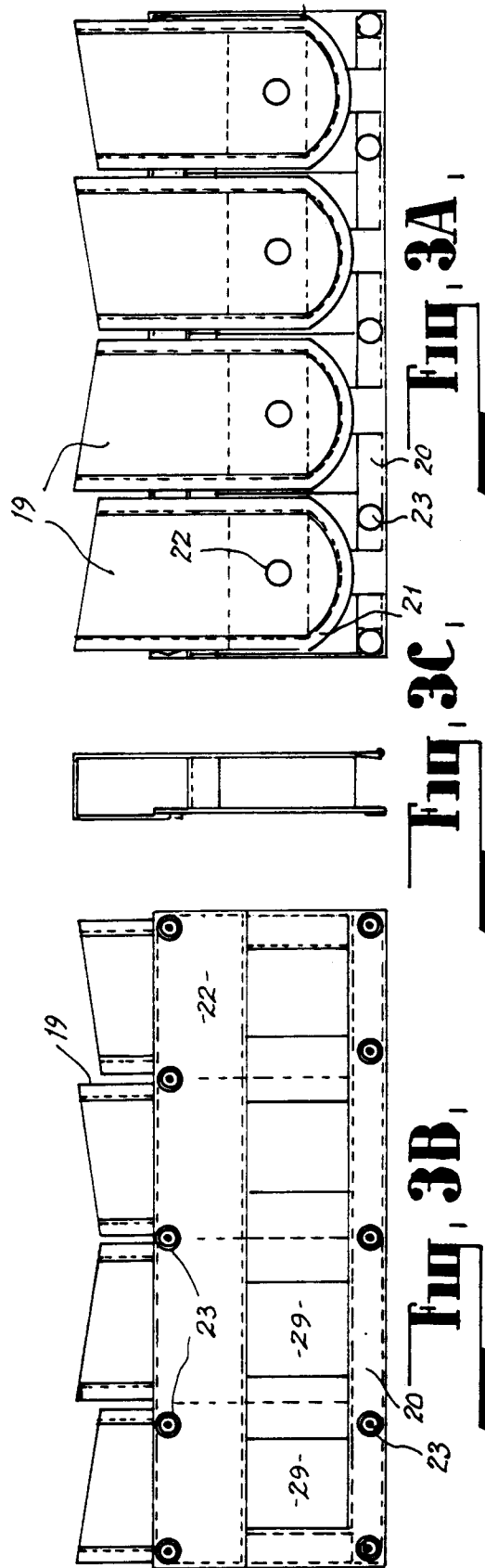
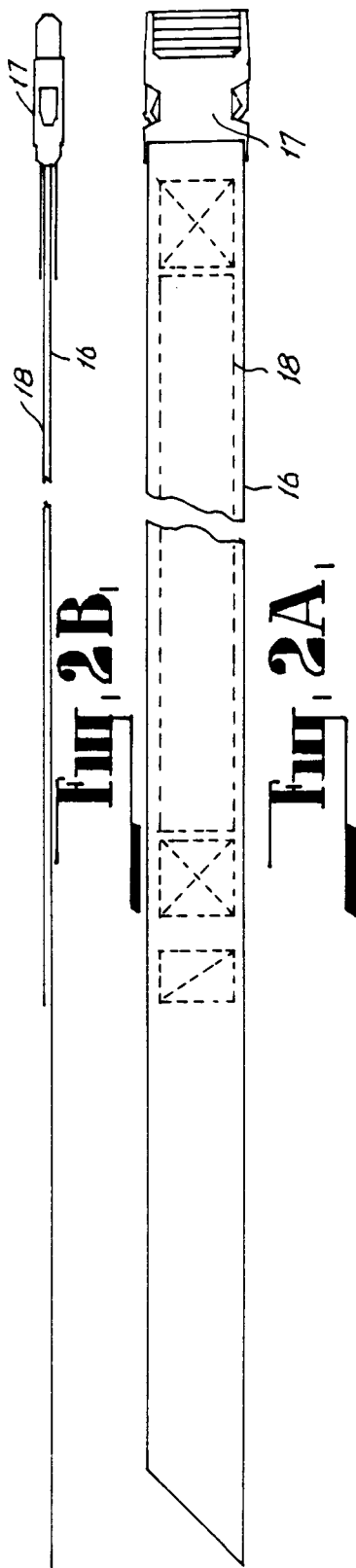


Fig. 4B,

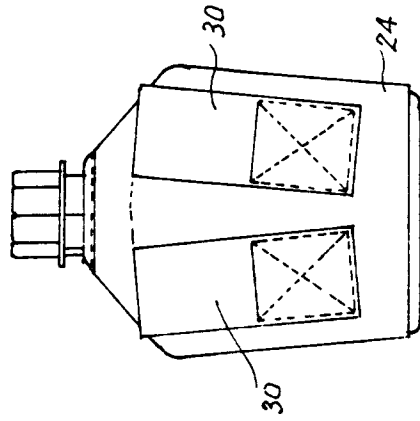
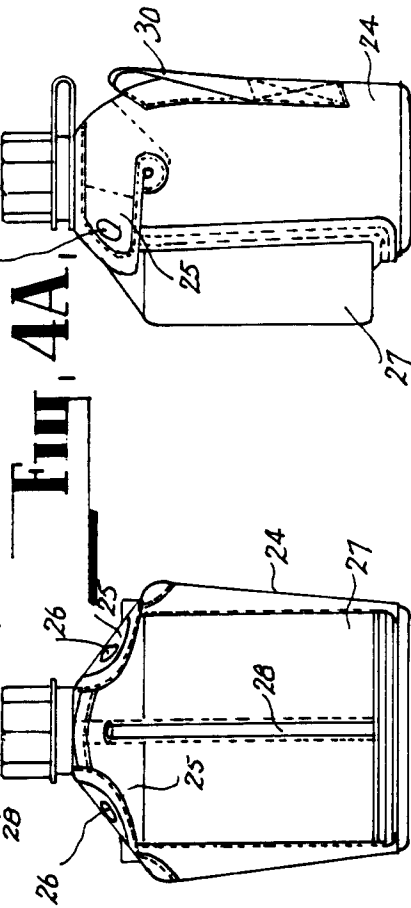
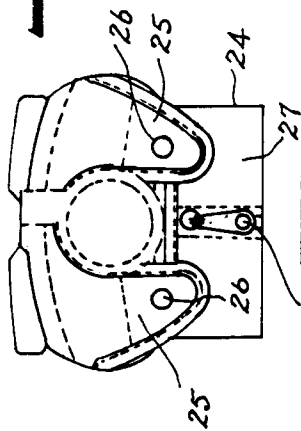


Fig. 4C,

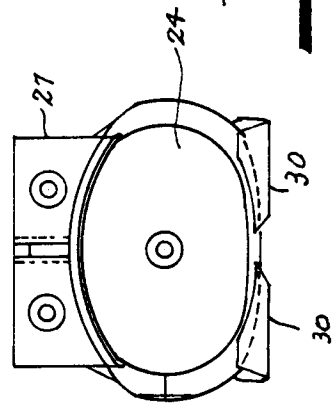


Fig. 4D,

Fig. 4E,

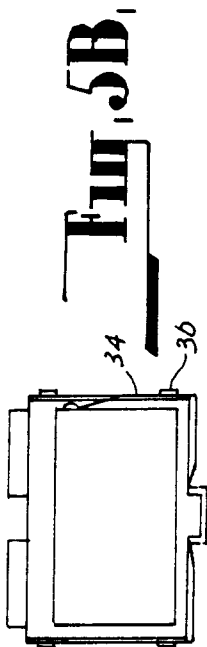


Fig. 5B,

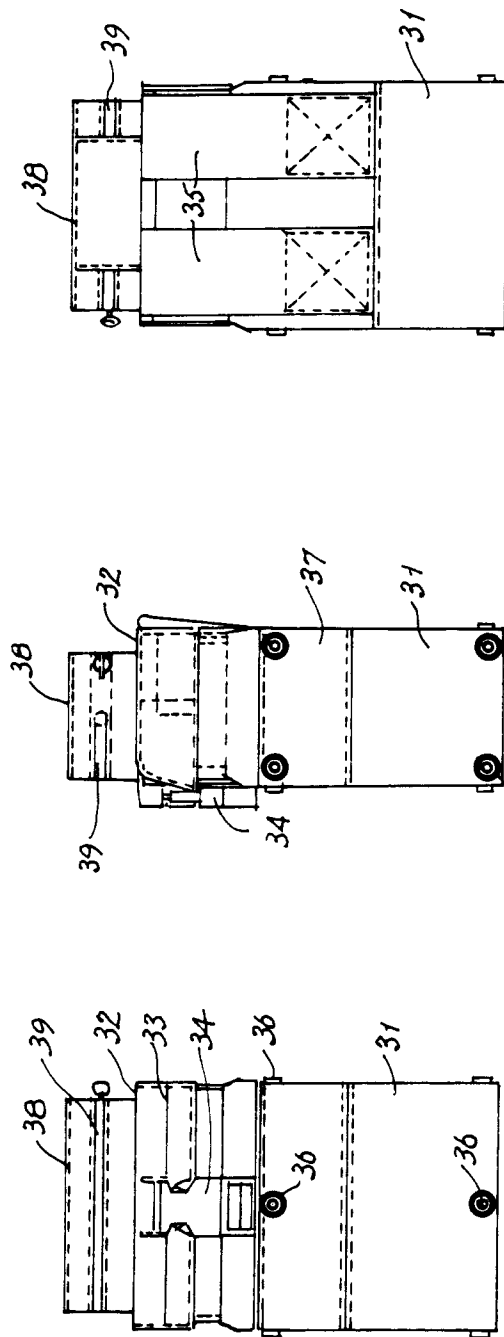


Fig. 5A,

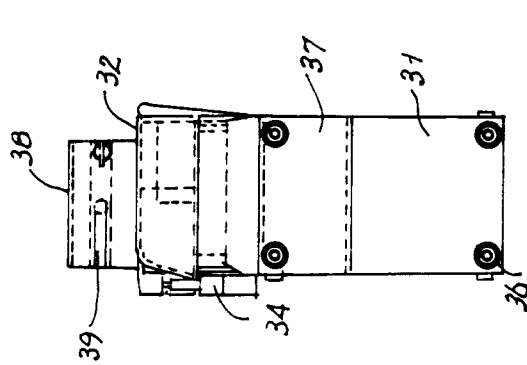


Fig. 5C,

Fig. 5D,

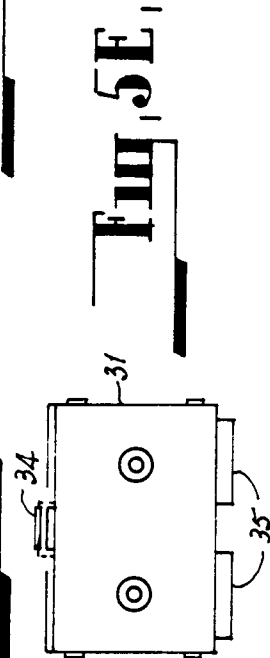


Fig. 5E,