SKI TOW ROPE GRIP

Robert F. Hoffman, South Orange, N. J.

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1 Claim. (Cl. 104—216)

This invention relates to a ski tow rope grip for use by skiers in gripping a tow rope during the ascending of a ski slope or slide. Many ski slides or runs, which are in most cases quite steep, embody tow ropes which, by power, move up the incline of the run and are gripped by skiers by one or both hands, while using their skis as sled surfaces, to take them to the top of the run thereby eliminating the tiresome laborious climb to the top of the ski run.

Skiers usually wear heavy gloves, due to temperatures and conditions when skiing is best, and such gloves often get wet, and tow ropes get wet and icy resulting in severe muscular strain on the fingers and forearm muscles of the skier due to the comparatively heavy or strong pressure required to be exerted on the rope to prevent slipping and to provide sufficient grip on the tow rope to carry the skier along with the rope as it ascends the slope. Also when the gloves and tow rope become wet or icy the difficulty of maintaining sufficient grip thereon increases and causes discomfort to the skier, as well as backward slipping when the grip is insufficient.

Tow rope grips have been provided, some of which being designed for definite diameter of rope will not effectively grip tow ropes of another diameter, and still others while being capable of properly gripping ropes of various diameters, must be released and dropped by the skier when the top pulley of the tow rope is reached. They are usually attached to a cord which is tied to some part of the skiers wearing apparatus, but they flop and fly about during the descent on the ski run or slope and must be groped for when desiring to again ascend the slope by a tow rope. It is an object of the present invention to provide a tow rope grip which is simple in construction, to effectively grip tow ropes of different diameters within the maximum and minimum limits for safety factors in tow ropes, which grip is mounted on a gloved hand of the user and remains there, it being so designed and constructed that it may be employed to grip a ski pole during the descent on the run or slope, thus always being convenient for use and eliminating disadvantages of present types of tow rope grips.

With these and other objects in view, as may appear from the accompanying specification, the invention consists of various features of construction and combination of parts, which will be first described in connection with the accompanying drawings, showing a ski tow rope grip of a preferred form embodying the invention, and the features forming the invention will be specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the improved tow rope grip showing it gripping a tow rope.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the improved tow rope grip.

Figure 3 is an end view of the tow rope grip.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the improved tow rope grip showing it engaging a ski pole.

Figure 5 is a view illustrating the manner of using the tow rope grip in ascending a ski slope or run.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, the improved tow rope grip includes a channeled body 1, the channel opening out through one side of the body 1 as clearly shown in Figures 1, 2, and 4 of the drawings. The channel 2 extends throughout the complete length of the body 1 and is of sufficient radius to grip tow ropes of maximum and minimum diameters within the safety factors for tow ropes. One of the sides of the channeled body 1, namely, the side 3 has a longitudinally extending opening cut there through intermediate the ends of the body. A gripping lever 5 has one end pivotally mounted as shown at 6 in one end of the opening 4. The gripping lever 5 has a portion of its length adjacent to its pivot point curved to form the tow rope gripping section 7, the inner rope engaging surface of which is roughened to provide a firm grip upon a tow rope, as indicated at A in Figures 1 and 5 of the drawings. The free end of the gripping lever 5 flares outwardly from the outer surface of the adjacent side of the channeled body 1 so that it may be gripped by the hand of the user, either by his thumb as shown in Figures 1 and 5, or between the thumb and index finger as shown in Figure 4 of the drawings, or any other convenient way to force the gripping portion 7 into gripping engagement with a tow rope or with a ski pole which is indicated at B in Figure 4 of the drawings. The inner surface of the channeled body 1 directly opposite to the gripping portion 7 of the lever 5 is roughened as shown at 9 so as to provide a firmer gripping engagement with a tow rope or ski pole.

The channeled body 1 has a laterally extending flange 10 on the end thereof adjacent to the pivot 5 of the gripping lever 5. The flange 10 may have its outer edge eccentric of the curvature of the channeled body 1, as shown in Figure 3 if so desired, and this flange forms a laterally extending abutment against which the heel of the hand of the user rests as shown in Figures 1, 4, and 5.
of the drawings. An attaching band 11, which may be in the form of an elastic strap or a buckled strap, is attached to the flange 10 and to an attaching lip 12 formed on the other end of the channeled body 1. The attaching strap 11 serves to hold the tow rope grip on the hand of the user so that it will always be convenient for use in gripping either a tow rope or a ski pole.

If it is so desired, coil springs as shown at 13 may be coiled about the pivot pin 14 and engage the lever 5 and channeled body 1 for urging the gripping lever 5 out of gripping position.

Figure 5 of the drawings shows an accepted manner of employing the tow rope grip, showing it mounted or carried by the left hand of the skier with his forearm placed transversely across his back forming a back rest against which he leans during the ascent of the slope. Of course, the tow rope grips may be used on both hands or on either the right or left hand, as desired.

It will be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the specific construction or arrangement of parts shown, but that they may be widely modified within the invention defined by the claim.

What is claimed is:
A ski tow rope grip including a channeled receiving body having a channel extending throughout its entire length and having a longitudinally-extending opening in one side thereof, a gripping lever pivotally connected to said channeled body and having an inwardly extending portion extending through said opening for gripping engagement with an article in the channel of the body, the end of said gripping lever outwardly of said inwardly-extending portion extending exteriorly of the body for pressure engagement by the hand of a user, the inner surface of the inwardly-extending portion of said gripping lever and a raised portion of the inner surface of the channeled body opposite the inwardly-extending portion of said lever being roughened, said body having a lateral flange on one end thereof forming an abutment for engagement by the heel of the hand of a user, an attaching strap carried by said body and a spring engaging said gripping lever for urging it into non-gripping position.

ROBERT F. HOFFMAN.

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