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(54) **OBJECT CARRYING SYSTEM**

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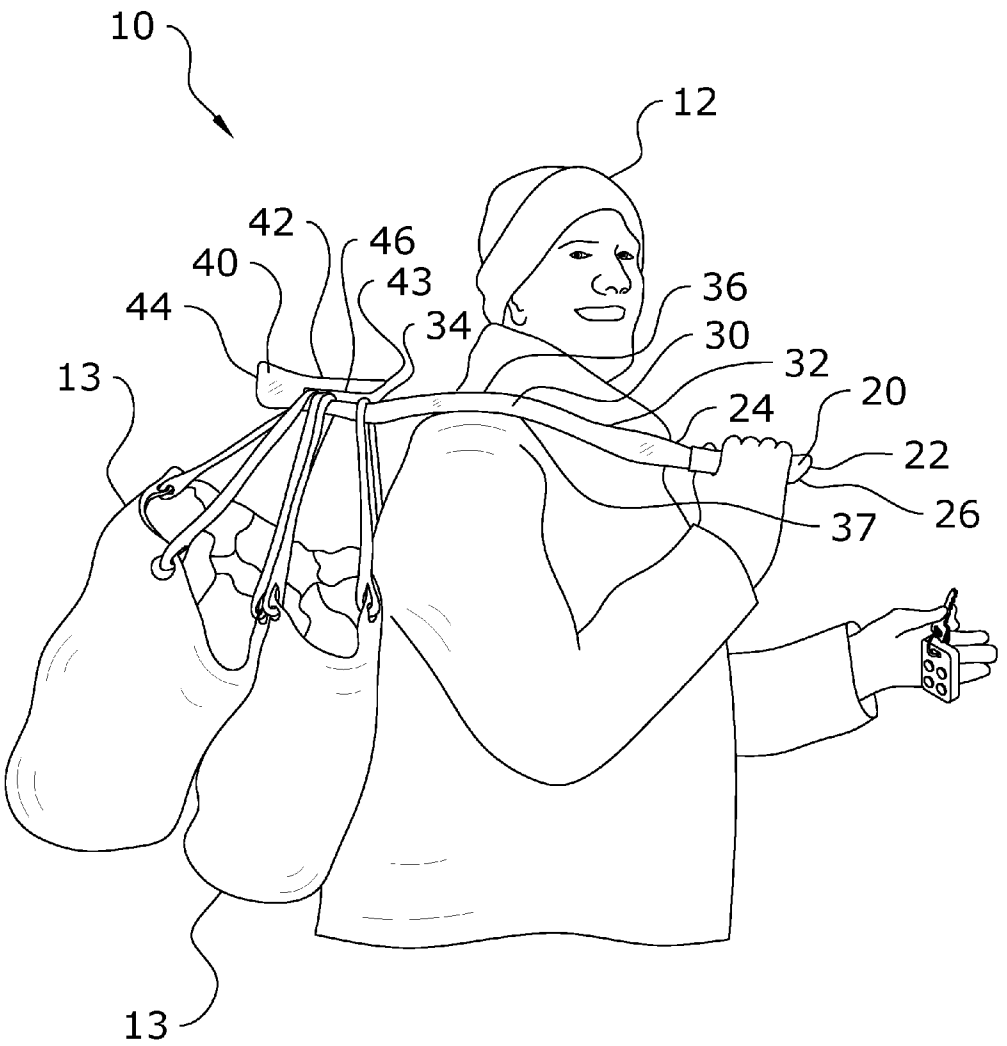
CPC ***A45F 5/1026*** (2013.01); *A45F 2005/104* (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An object carrying system for transporting objects more efficiently through redistribution of weight. The object carrying system generally includes a handle portion, a fulcrum portion, and a receiver portion. The handle portion is adapted to be grasped by one hand of a user while an object may be retained within the receiver portion. The fulcrum portion, which is positioned between the handle and receiver portions, comprises an upwardly-curved configuration which is adapted to rest on the shoulder of the user when carrying the object. By positioning the object in the receiver portion, positioning the fulcrum portion over the shoulder, and pulling downwardly on the handle portion, the weight of the object may be effectively distributed from the arms of the user to the shoulder, thus greatly reducing discomfort when carrying an object with the present invention.



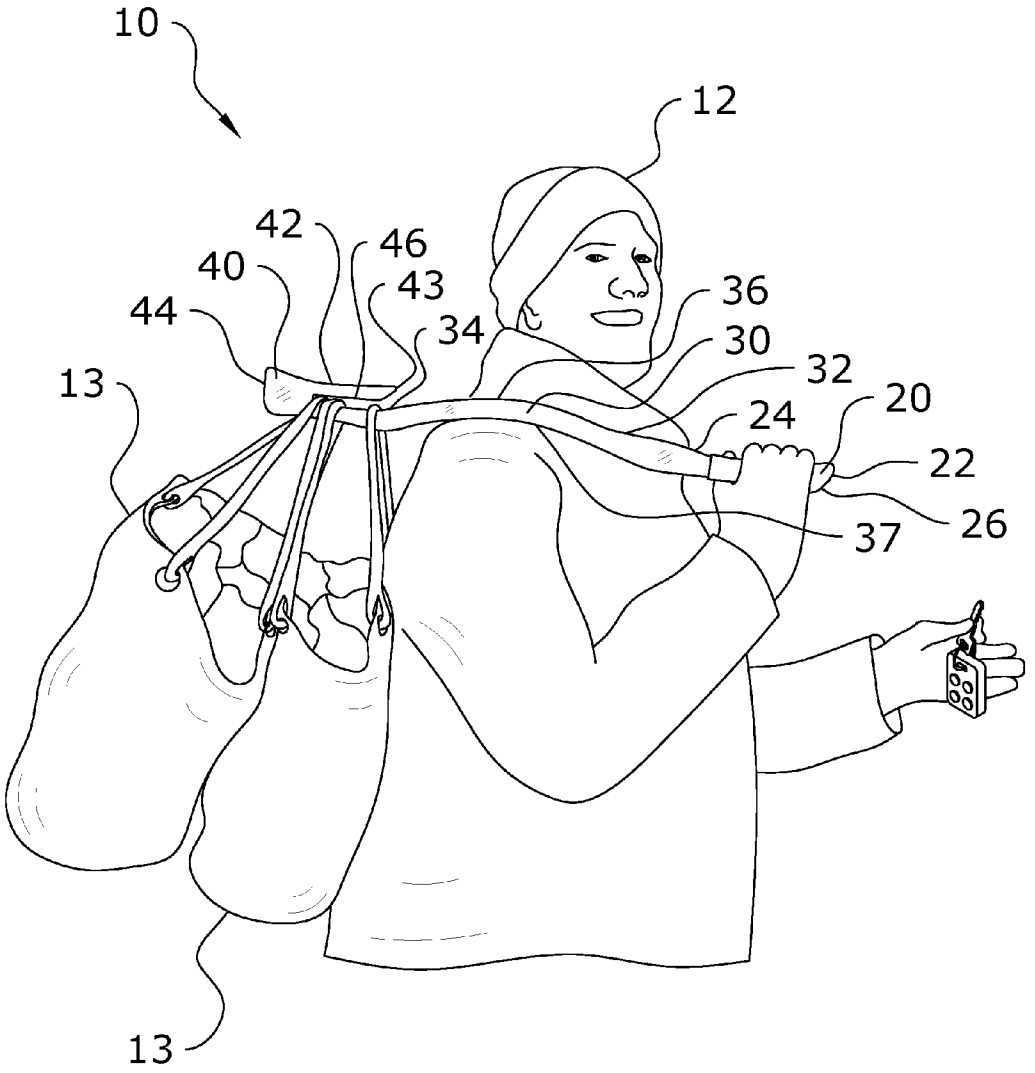


FIG. 1

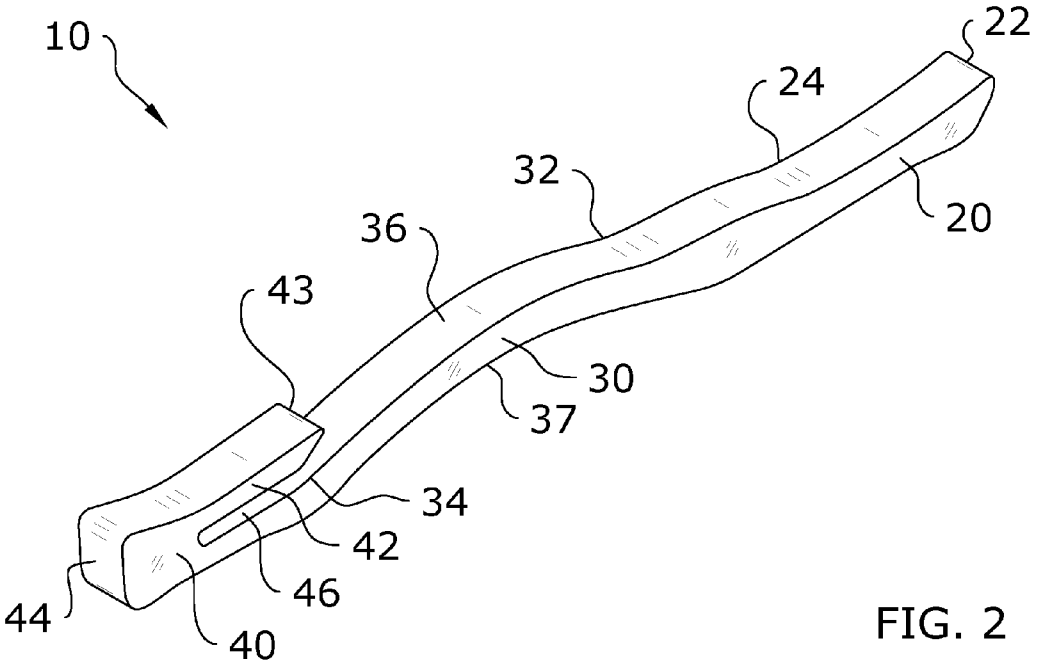

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FIG. 2

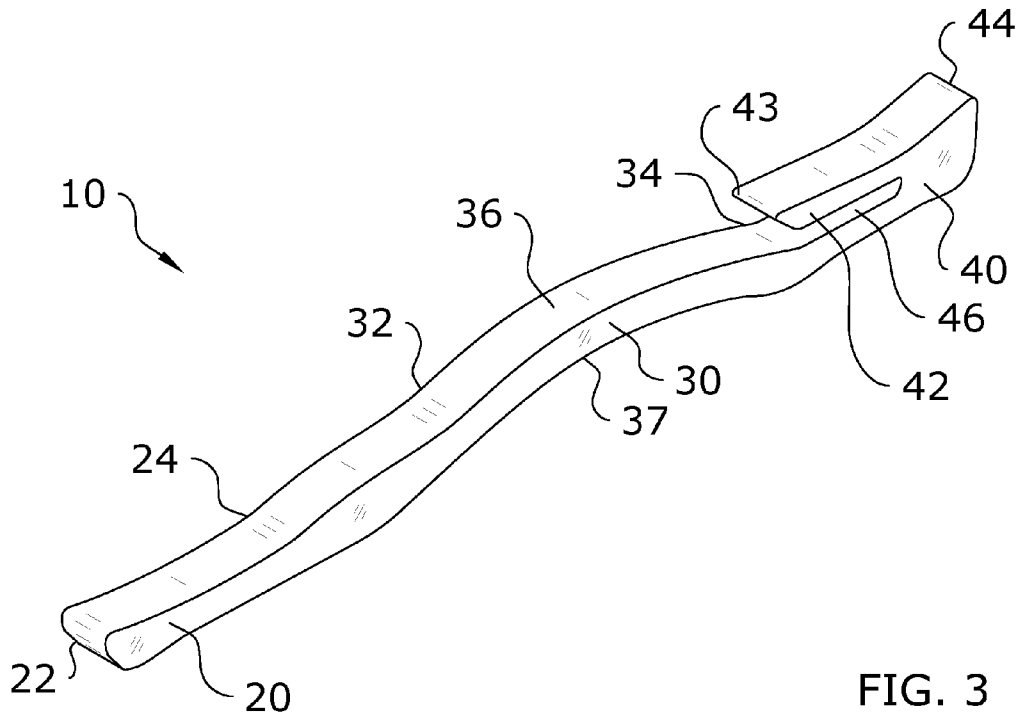
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FIG. 3

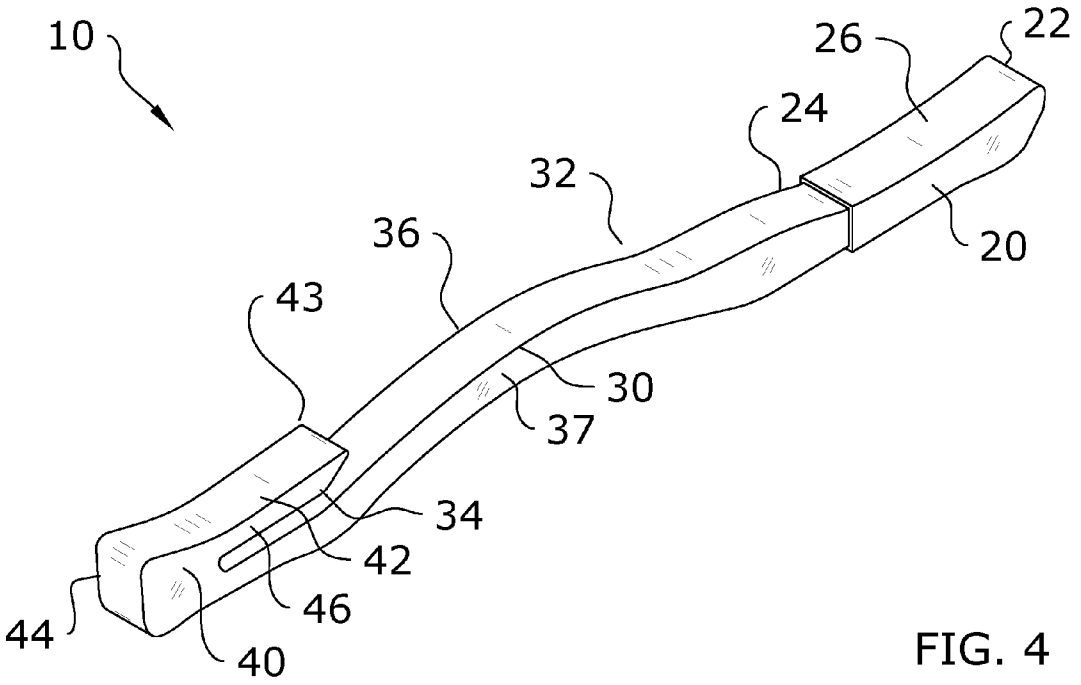
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FIG. 4

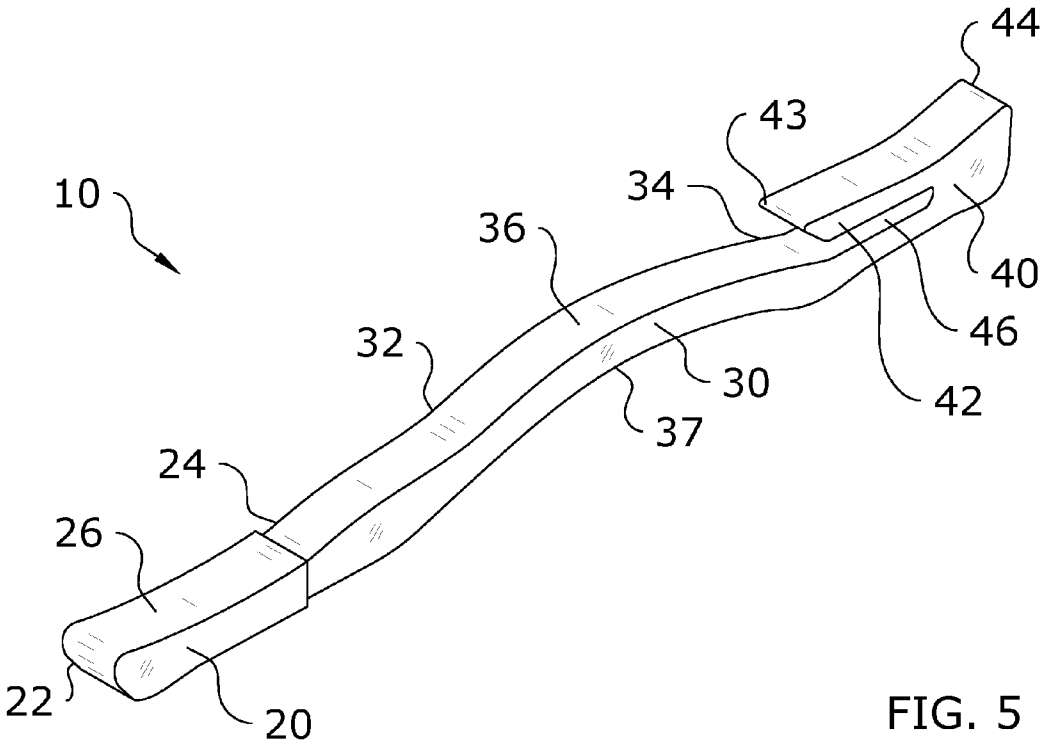
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FIG. 5

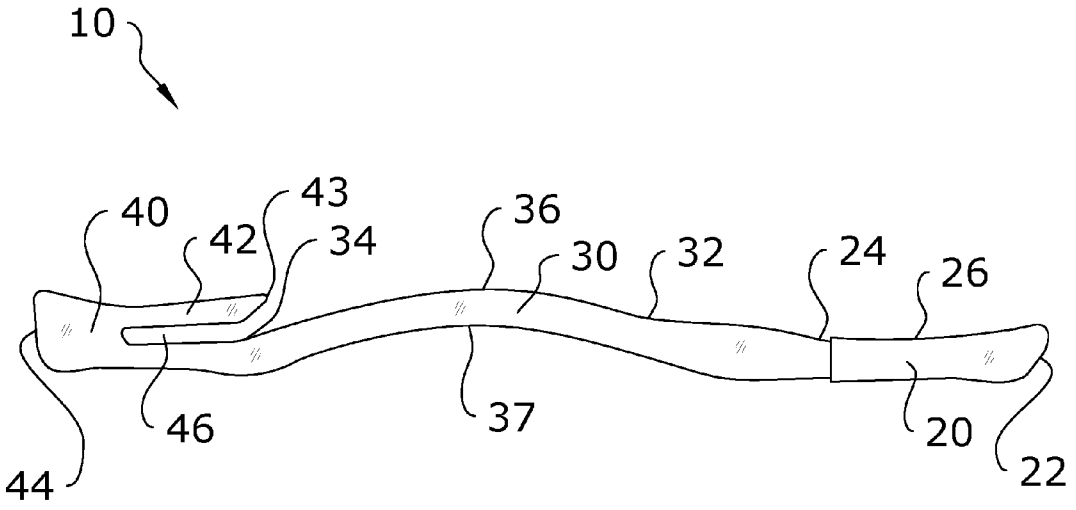
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FIG. 6

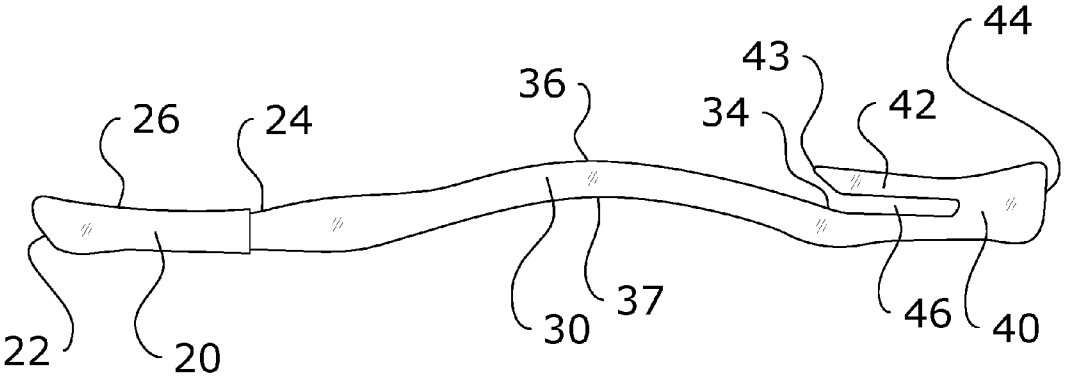
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FIG. 7

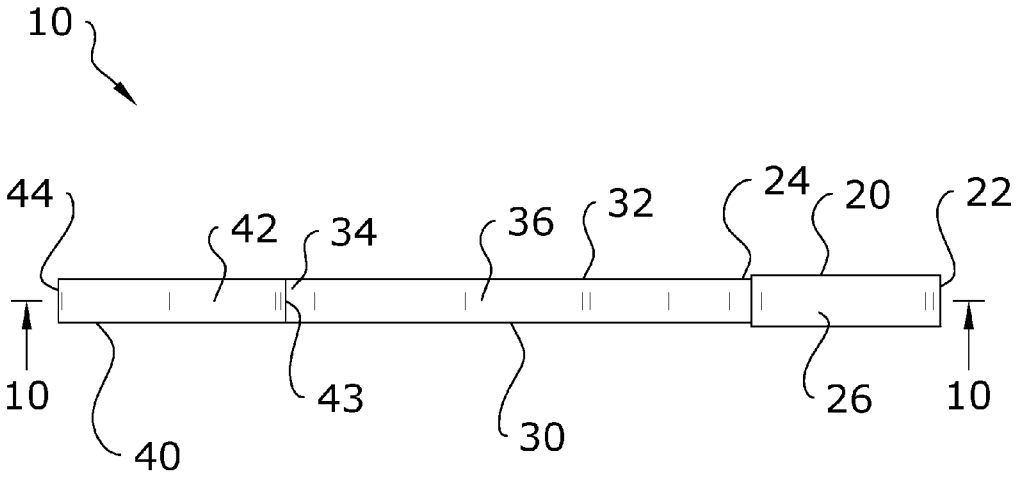
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FIG. 8

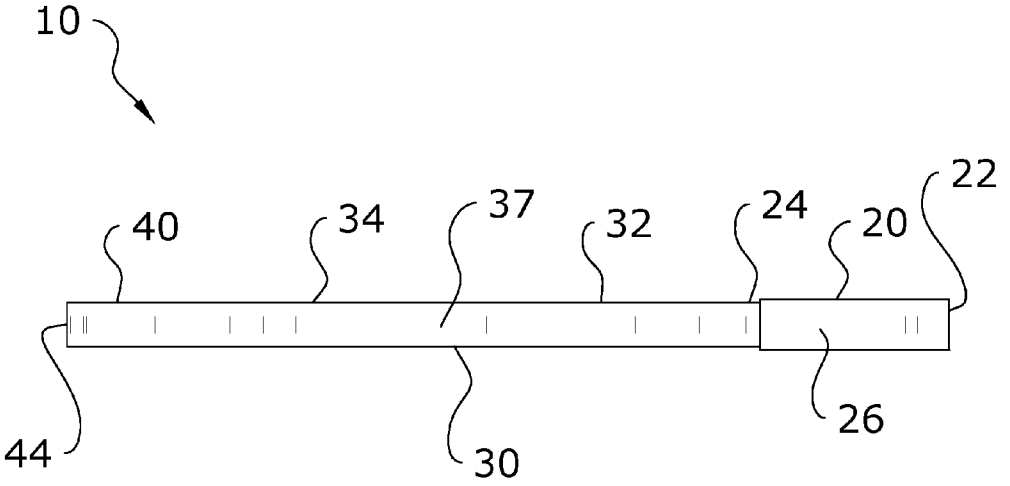
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FIG. 9

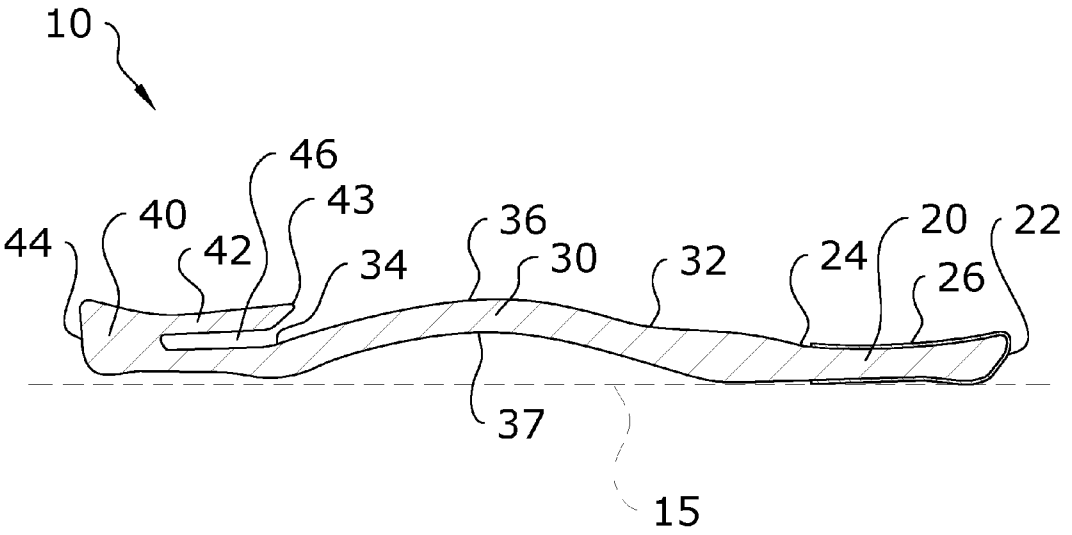

FIG. 10

OBJECT CARRYING SYSTEM

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 62/120,106 filed Feb. 24, 2015. The 62/120,106 application is currently pending. The 62/120,106 application is hereby incorporated by reference into this application.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not applicable to this application.

BACKGROUND

[0003] 1. Field

[0004] Example embodiments in general relate to an object carrying system for transporting objects more efficiently through redistribution of weight.

[0005] 2. Related Art

[0006] Any discussion of the related art throughout the specification should in no way be considered as an admission that such related art is widely known or forms part of common general knowledge in the field.

[0007] Carrying sticks such as bindle sticks have been in use for many years. In a common configuration, a long stick from a tree or an elongated piece of wood is used to retain an object on a distal end, with the stick or piece of wood being rested on a user's shoulder. In modern popular culture, the conventional bindle stick is commonly portrayed as a stick with cloth or a blanket tied around one end for carrying items over one's shoulder.

[0008] While the conventional design of a bindle stick has been suitable for transporting objects, it suffers from a number of shortcomings. The stick is typically linear in design, and thus will often dig into one's shoulder causing pain and discomfort; particularly on longer journeys. Further, the weight of the object is focused on the portion resting on the shoulder, causing undue stress on the individual due to the lack of weight distribution to aid in transport.

SUMMARY

[0009] An example embodiment of the present invention is directed to an object carrying system. The object carrying system includes a handle portion, a fulcrum portion, and a receiver portion. The handle portion is adapted to be grasped by one hand of a user while an object may be retained within the receiver portion. The fulcrum portion, which is positioned between the handle and receiver portions, comprises an upwardly-curved configuration which is adapted to rest on the shoulder of the user when carrying the object. By positioning the object in the receiver portion, positioning the fulcrum portion over the shoulder, and pulling downwardly on the handle portion, the weight of the object may be effectively distributed from the arms of the user to the shoulder, thus greatly reducing discomfort when carrying an object with the present invention.

[0010] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, some of the features of the object carrying system in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the object carrying system that will be described hereinafter and that will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto. In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the object carrying system in detail, it is to be understood that the object carrying system is not limited in its application to the details of construction or to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The object carrying system is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] Example embodiments will become more fully understood from the detailed description given herein below and the accompanying drawings, wherein like elements are represented by like reference characters, which are given by way of illustration only and thus are not limitative of the example embodiments herein.

[0012] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an object carrying system in accordance with an example embodiment.

[0013] FIG. **2** is a frontal upper perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] FIG. **3** is a rear upper perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. **4** is a frontal upper perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention with a handle cover installed.

[0016] FIG. **5** is a rear upper perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention with a handle cover installed.

[0017] FIG. **6** is a first side view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention with a handle cover installed.

[0018] FIG. **7** is a second side view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention with a handle cover installed.

[0019] FIG. **8** is a top view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0020] FIG. **9** is a bottom view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. **10** is a side sectional view of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A. Overview

[0022] An example object carrying system generally comprises a handle portion **20**, a fulcrum portion **30**, and a receiver portion **40**. The handle portion **20** is adapted to be grasped by one hand of a user **12** while an object **13** may be retained within the receiver portion **40**. The fulcrum portion **30**, which is positioned between the handle and receiver portions **20**, **40**, comprises an upwardly-curved configuration which is adapted to rest on the shoulder of the user **12** when carrying the object **13**. By positioning the object **13** in the receiver portion **40**, positioning the fulcrum portion **30** over the shoulder, and pulling downwardly on the handle portion **20**, the weight of the object **13** may be effectively distributed from the arms of the user **12** to the shoulder, thus greatly reducing discomfort when carrying an object **13** with the present invention.

[0023] It should be appreciated that the present invention may be utilized to aid in carrying a wide range of objects **13**.

The present invention may be utilized to carry one or more objects **13**. The present invention is particularly suitable for carrying bags, such as a bag of groceries. However, the functionality of the present invention should in no way be so limited. Any type of object **13** may be carried by the receiver portion **40**, and the overall configuration of the present invention may vary depending on the type of objects **13** being carried.

[0024] It should also be appreciated that the shape, size, configuration, dimensions, and materials of the present invention may vary in different embodiments. The present invention should not be construed as limited in any of the above-mentioned regards. Any type of material may be utilized so long as the material is durable enough to function without bending, warping, or breaking from the weight of the object **13**.

B. Handle Portion

[0025] As shown throughout the figures, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a handle portion **20** which is adapted to be gripped with one or both hands of a user **12** when the present invention is in use. The handle portion **20** may be integrally formed with the other portions **30**, **40** of the present invention as shown in the exemplary figures, or may be a discrete, connected portion in other embodiments.

[0026] As shown in FIG. **1**, the handle portion **20** generally comprises a first end **22** and a second end **24**. The first end **22** of the handle portion **20** is adapted to be grasped by a user with one or both hands when the present invention is in use. The second end **24** of the handle portion **20** is either connected to or integrally formed with the fulcrum portion **30**. It should be appreciated that the handle portion **20** may comprise various sizes, orientations, and configurations in different embodiments. Thus, the exemplary figures should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention in those regards.

[0027] In some embodiments, the handle portion **20** may be comprised of an ergonomic configuration to improve comfort during use. The handle portion **20** is pulled downwardly by a user **12** with varying pressure to balance the weight from the object **13** on the receiver portion **40**. The handle portion **20** may also function as a placeholder for other objects **13**, such as bags, to help aid in the balance of weight on the user's **12** shoulder when the present invention is in use.

[0028] As shown in FIGS. **4-7**, the handle portion **20** may include a cover **26**. The cover **26** may comprise a tubular piece of material which fits over the handle portion **20** to improve comfort for the user **12**. The cover **26** will preferably comprise a soft, malleable material such as plastic or rubber, though other types of materials may be utilized in different embodiments of the present invention. The cover **26** may be removably or fixedly secured to the handle portion **20**. Additionally, the cover **26** may be positioned to substantially cover the full length of the handle portion **20**, or may be positioned to cover only a portion of the handle portion **20**.

C. Fulcrum Portion

[0029] As shown throughout the figures, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a fulcrum portion **30** which is positioned between the handle portion **20** and the receiver portion **40**. The fulcrum portion **30** may be connected to or integrally formed with the handle portion **20** and the receiver portion **40**.

[0030] The fulcrum portion **30** comprises a curved portion which is adapted to fit over the shoulder of a user **12** as shown in FIG. **1**. The fulcrum portion **30** acts as a fulcrum for the present invention to aid in redistributing weight and thus improving comfort of a user **12** when the present invention is in use. The fulcrum portion **30** acts as a fulcrum to support the weight of the object **13** on the receiver portion **40** while the user **12** is pulling down on the handle portion **20**.

[0031] The fulcrum portion **30** generally comprises a first end **32** and a second end **34**. The first end **32** of the fulcrum portion **30** is either connected to or integrally formed with the handle portion **20**. The second end **34** of the fulcrum portion **30** is either connected to or integrally formed with the receiver portion **40** as shown in the figures. When in use, the present invention will generally pivot about the shoulder of the user **12** at the fulcrum portion **30**.

[0032] The fulcrum portion **30** curves upwardly from its junction with the handle portion **20** to its midpoint and curves downwardly from its midpoint to its junction with the receiver portion **40**. The shape, size, angle, and configuration of the curve of the fulcrum portion **30** may vary in different embodiments. The angle of the fulcrum portion **30** may vary in different embodiments.

[0033] Generally, the fulcrum portion **30** will comprise an outer curve **36** and an inner curve **37**, wherein the inner curve **37** rests against the user's **12** shoulder. The inner curve **37** may include padding which is either integrally or removably connected thereto, which aids in comfort for the user **12** of the present invention.

D. Receiver Portion

[0034] As shown throughout the figures, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a receiver portion **40** which is adapted to removably retain an object **13** to be carried by the present invention. The shape, size, placement, orientation, and configuration of the receiver portion **40** may vary in different embodiments. Thus, the exemplary figures and descriptions herein should not be construed as limiting in those regards.

[0035] The receiver portion **40** may comprise a hook configuration, wherein the object **13** is removably retained therein. In a preferred embodiment as shown in the figures, the receiver portion **40** comprises a projection **42** which extends toward the handle portion **20** and fulcrum portion **30** of the present invention. The projection **42** may comprise an inner end **43** which faces toward the fulcrum portion **30** and an outer end **44** which faces away from the fulcrum portion **30**.

[0036] The projection **42** will preferably define a slot **46** into which the object **13** may be removably inserted to carry the object **13**. The shape, size, orientation, and configuration of the slot **46** may vary in different embodiments of the present invention. Thus, the scope of the present invention should not be construed as limited by exemplary figures and descriptions herein in those regards.

[0037] As best shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, the inner end **43** of the projection **42** will generally be angled. In a preferred embodiment, the angle of the inner end **43** of the projection **42** will be substantially the same or equal to the angle of the outer curve **36** of the fulcrum portion **30**. This configuration

ensures that the object **13** may easily be inserted and removed from the slot **46** without being caught up on the projection **42**.

[0038] As shown in FIG. **10**, the inner end **43** of the projection **42** will preferably terminate near the outer curve **36** of the fulcrum portion **30**, leaving only a small gap between the inner end **43** of the projection **42** and the fulcrum portion **30**. This configuration reduces the risk that the object **13** will inadvertently slide out of the slot **46**, though this risk may be further minimized by the manner in which the present invention is oriented on a user's **12** shoulder.

[0039] FIG. **10** illustrates a longitudinal axis **15** extending along the lower end of the handle portion **20**. In some embodiments, the receiver portion **40** will not be aligned with this longitudinal axis **15**. More specifically as shown in FIG. **10**, the receiver portion **40** may be at a slightly higher elevation than the longitudinal axis **15** of the handle portion **20**. In other embodiments, the receiver portion **40** may be aligned with the longitudinal axis **15** of the handle portion **20**.

E. Operation of Preferred Embodiment

[0040] An exemplary embodiment of the present invention comprises a practical tool which redistributes the weight of objects **13** such as groceries from the traditional hand of a user **12** (when the user **12** is carrying such objects **13**) to a more durable part of the human form: the shoulder. Using the concept of a fulcrum and lever aids in eliminating pain in the hands and arms while also providing the added benefit of a free hand which can be used to do other things, such as carry keys.

[0041] In use, the user **12** first places the object **13** or objects **13** onto the receiver portion **40**, such as by inserted the objects **13** or objects **13** into the slot **46** thereof. The user **12** may then grasp and lift the fulcrum portion **30** onto one of their shoulders with one hand, with the inner curve **37** being rested against the shoulder as shown in FIG. **1**. When lifting, the user **12** may place their other hand on the handle portion **20** and push downwardly to balance the weight when bringing the present invention onto the shoulder. The user **12** then uses the hand of the above-mentioned shoulder to pull downwardly on the handle portion **20** in order to balance the weight from the objects **13** on the receiver portion.

[0042] Such a design configuration aids the user **12** in redistributing the weight from the objects **13** being carried using the shoulder which the fulcrum portion **30** rests on, with the present invention functioning largely as a lever able to pivot about the shoulder via the fulcrum portion **30**. These principles allow the present invention to be functional and practical for lifting more weight with less effort.

[0043] As the user **12** travels with the object **13** in the receiver portion **40**, the user **12** may freely rotate the present invention about the shoulder via its fulcrum portion **30** to aid in comfort. The weight of the objects **13** will be directed to the shoulder, rather than the arms, which will considerably lessen the effort necessary for carrying the objects **13** when compared with traditional, linear carrying devices.

[0044] Upon reaching a destination, the user **12** will retain the handle portion **20** in a first hand while, with their second hand, the user **12** grasps the fulcrum portion **30** and lifts it off the shoulder. The present invention may then slowly be lowered to the ground, at which point the object **13** may easily be removed from the receiver portion **40**.

[0045] Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although methods and materials similar to or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the object carrying system, suitable methods and materials are described above. All publications, patent applications, patents, and other references mentioned herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety to the extent allowed by applicable law and regulations. The object carrying system may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiment be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive. Any headings utilized within the description are for convenience only and have no legal or limiting effect.

What is claimed is:

1. An object carrying device, comprising:
- a handle portion;
- a fulcrum portion connected to the handle portion, wherein the fulcrum portion comprises a curved configuration; and
- a receiver portion for removably receiving an object, wherein the receiver portion is connected to the fulcrum portion.

2. The object carrying device of claim **1**, wherein the handle portion, the fulcrum portion, and the receiver portion are integrally formed of a unitary structure.

3. The object carrying device of claim **1**, wherein the fulcrum portion extends upwardly from the handle portion and the receiver portion.

4. The object carrying device of claim **3**, wherein the fulcrum portion is adapted to rest on a user's shoulder.

5. The object carrying device of claim **1**, wherein the receiver portion comprises a projection.

6. The object carrying device of claim **5**, wherein the projection extends toward the handle portion.

7. The object carrying device of claim **5**, wherein the projection defines a slot.

8. The object carrying device of claim **7**, wherein the object is removably secured within the slot.

9. The object carrying device of claim **7**, wherein the projection comprises an inner end oriented at a first angle.

10. The object carrying device of claim **9**, wherein an outer curve of the fulcrum portion is oriented at a second angle, wherein the first angle is equal to the second angle.

11. An object carrying device, comprising:
- a handle portion adapted to be gripped by a user;
- a fulcrum portion connected to the second end of the handle portion, wherein the fulcrum portion comprises an upwardly-curved configuration; and
- a receiver portion, wherein the receiver portion includes a slot for removably receiving an object, wherein the receiver portion is connected to the fulcrum portion.

12. The object carrying device of claim **11**, wherein the handle portion, the fulcrum portion, and the receiver portion are integrally formed of a unitary structure.

13. The object carrying device of claim **11**, further comprising a removable handle cover.

14. The object carrying device of claim **11**, wherein the handle portion comprises an ergonomic configuration.

15. The object carrying device of claim **11**, further comprising a longitudinal axis extending through the handle portion, wherein the receiver portion is not aligned with the longitudinal axis extending through the handle portion.

16. The object carrying device of claim **11**, wherein the receiver portion comprises a projection.

17. The object carrying device of claim **16**, wherein the projection extends toward the handle portion.

18. The object carrying device of claim **17**, wherein the slot is defined by the projection.

19. The object carrying device of claim **17**, wherein the projection comprises an inner end and an outer end, wherein the inner end of the projection terminates near the fulcrum portion.

20. An object carrying device, comprising:

a handle portion adapted to be gripped by a user;

a cover removably secured over the handle portion;

a fulcrum portion connected to the second end of the handle portion, wherein the fulcrum portion comprises an upwardly-curved configuration; and

a receiver portion comprising a projection, wherein the projection defines a slot for removably receiving an object, wherein the receiver portion is connected to the fulcrum portion, wherein the projection terminates near the fulcrum portion.

* * * * *