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(54) **CONFIGURABLE BAG HAVING
FACEPLATES**

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(71) Applicant: **James Patrick Bowerman**, Dayton,
OH (US)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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(72) Inventor: **James Patrick Bowerman**, Dayton,
OH (US)

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(57)

ABSTRACT

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Division of application No. 16/717,481, filed on Dec. 17, 2019, now Pat. No. 12,016,447, which is a continuation of application No. 14/008,916, filed on Jan. 17, 2014, now Pat. No. 10,506,867, filed as application No. PCT/US2012/031373 on Mar. 30, 2012.

(60) Provisional application No. 61/516,346, filed on Apr. 1, 2011, provisional application No. 61/574,352, filed on Aug. 1, 2011, provisional application No. 61/628,740, filed on Nov. 4, 2011.

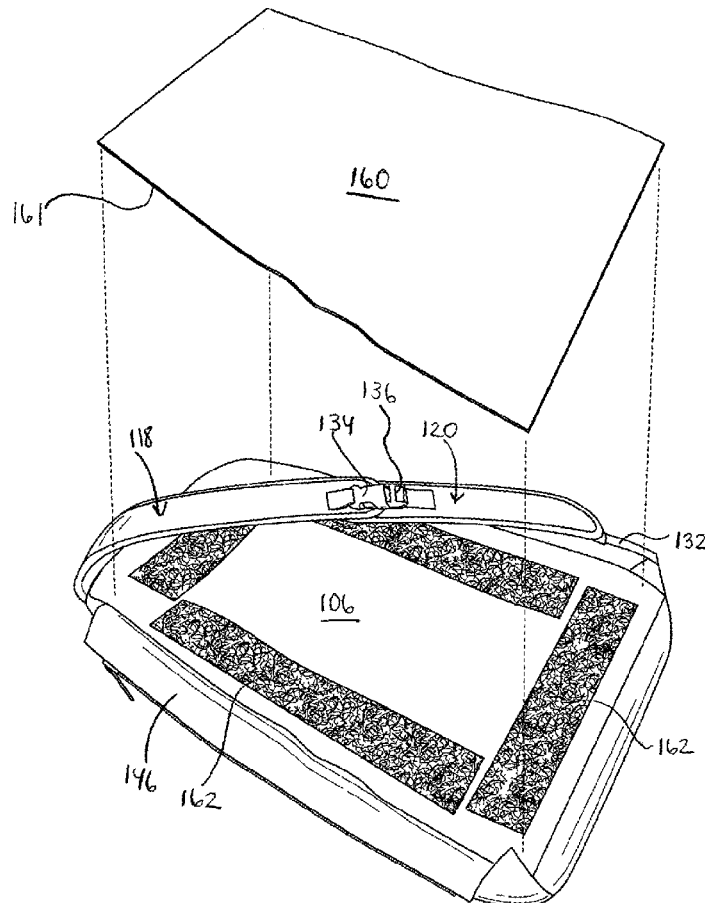
Publication Classification

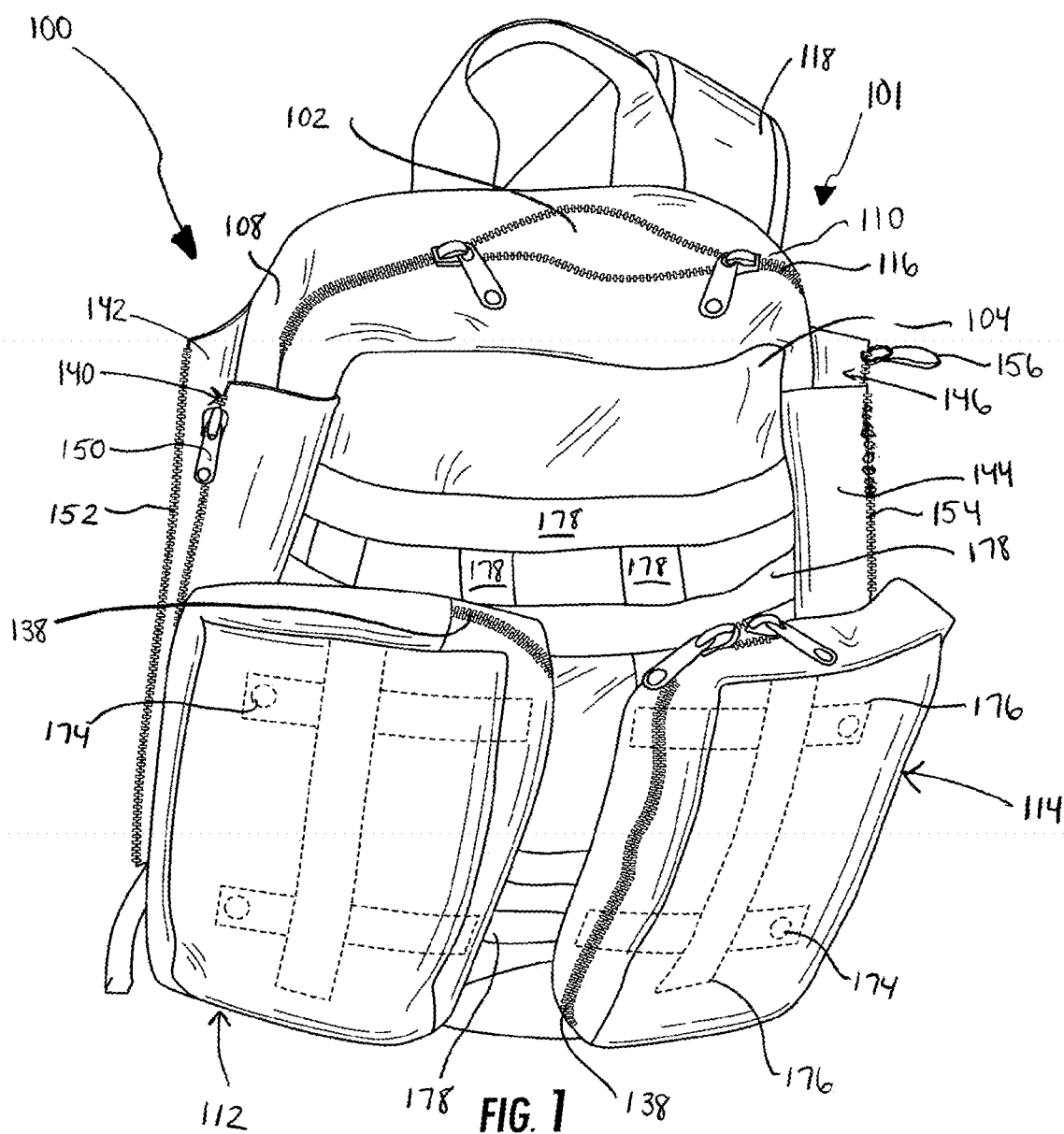
(51) **Int. Cl.**

A45F 3/02 (2006.01)

A45C 7/00 (2006.01)

A configurable bag includes a bag body, a removable faceplate, horizontal and vertical straps, a cover attachment and storage compartments. The bag body has a front panel, a back panel and sides. The removable faceplate extends over at least a portion of the back panel, while the horizontal and vertical straps are formed on the front panel to define a webbed pattern. The cover attachment connects the back panel and the removable faceplate. Upon folding the bag body about its elongate axis, the back panel and attached removable faceplate are folded on themselves to transition the bag body from a first configuration to a second configuration. Each of the storage compartments have corresponding straps that may form an interwoven cooperation with the webbed pattern such that the storage compartments are situated on opposing sides of the foldable bag body while the foldable bag body is maintained in the second configuration.





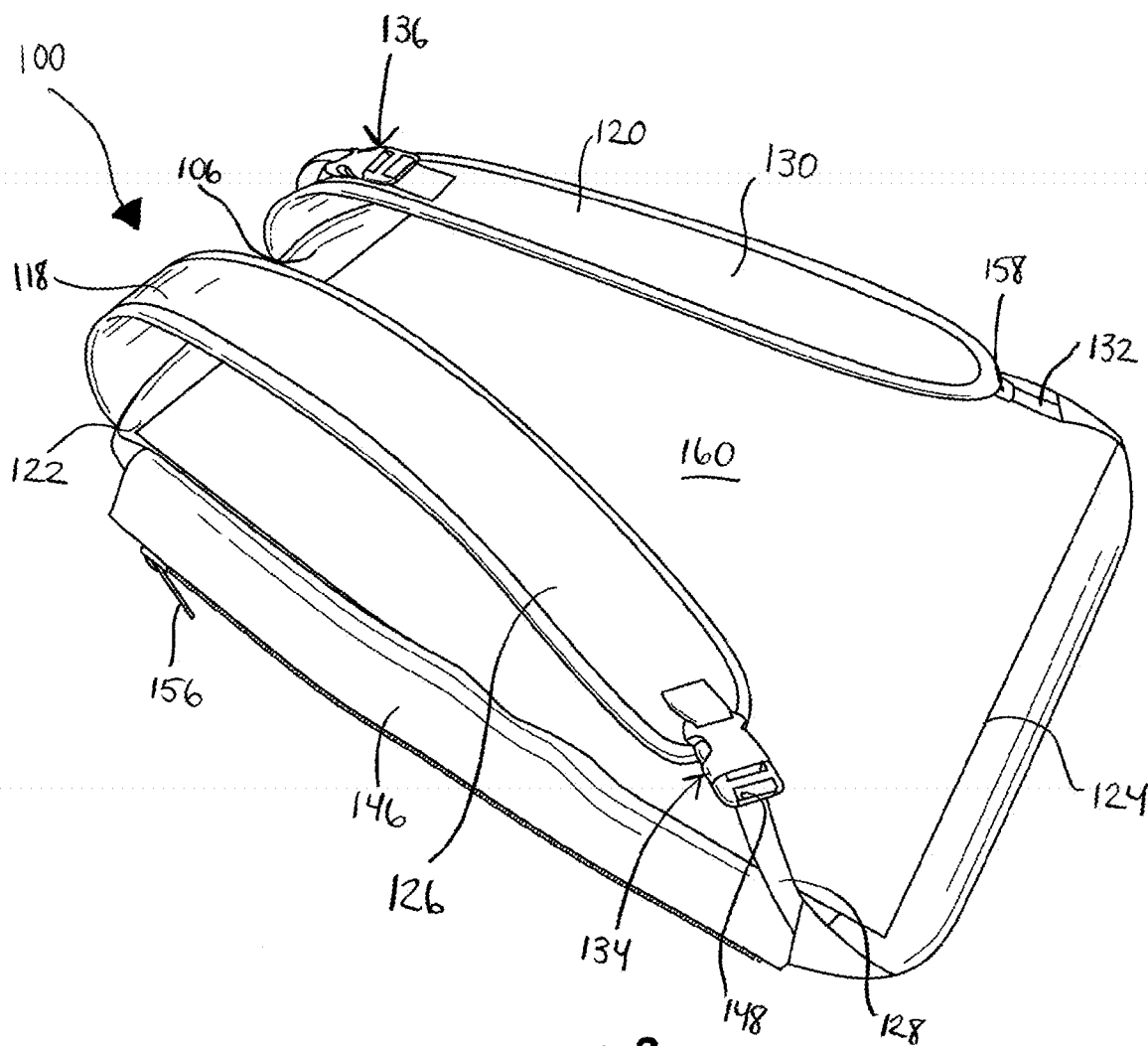


FIG. 2

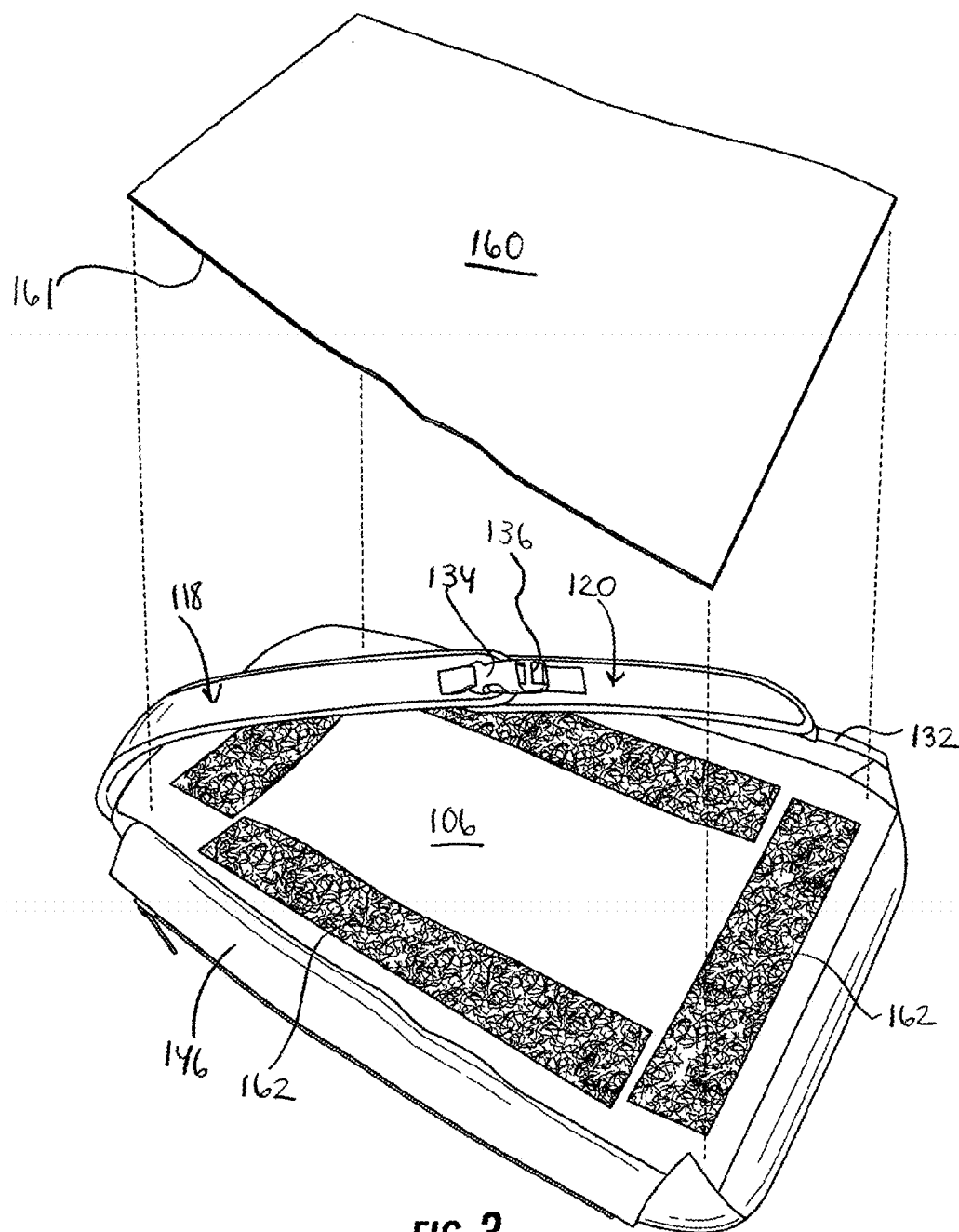


FIG. 3

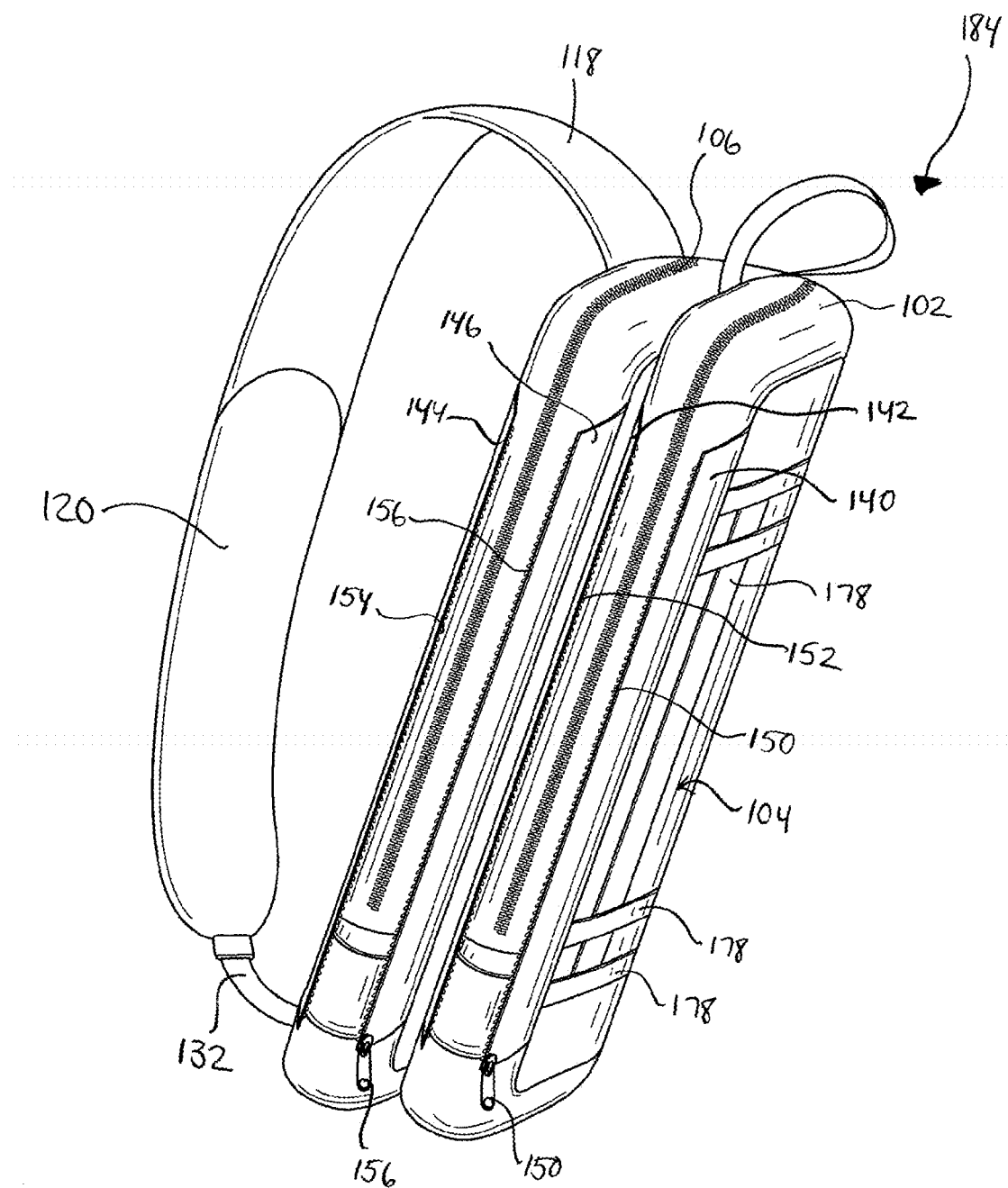


FIG. 4

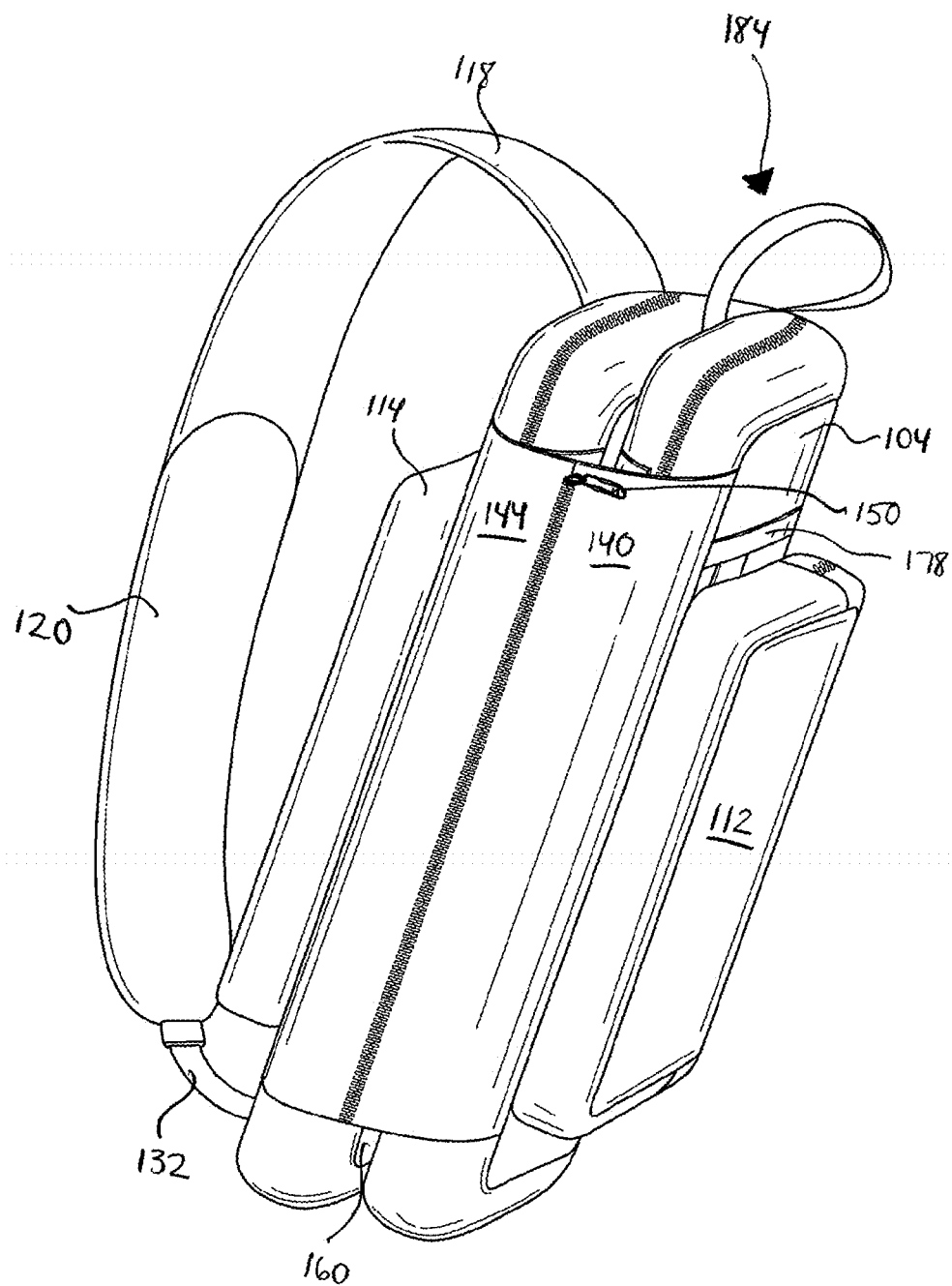


FIG. 5

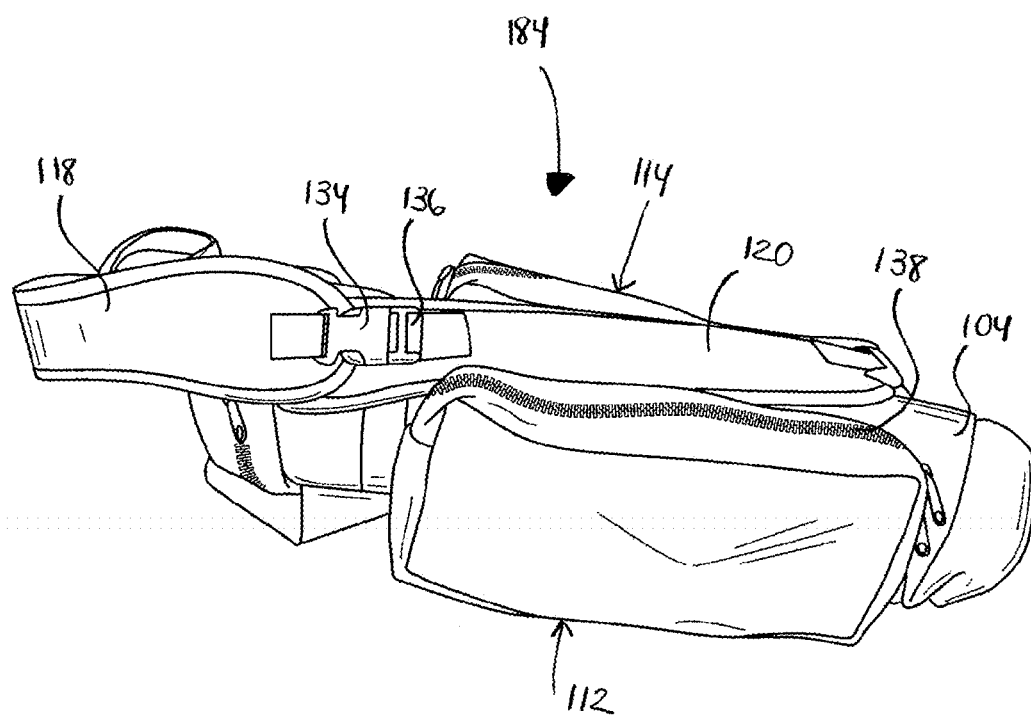
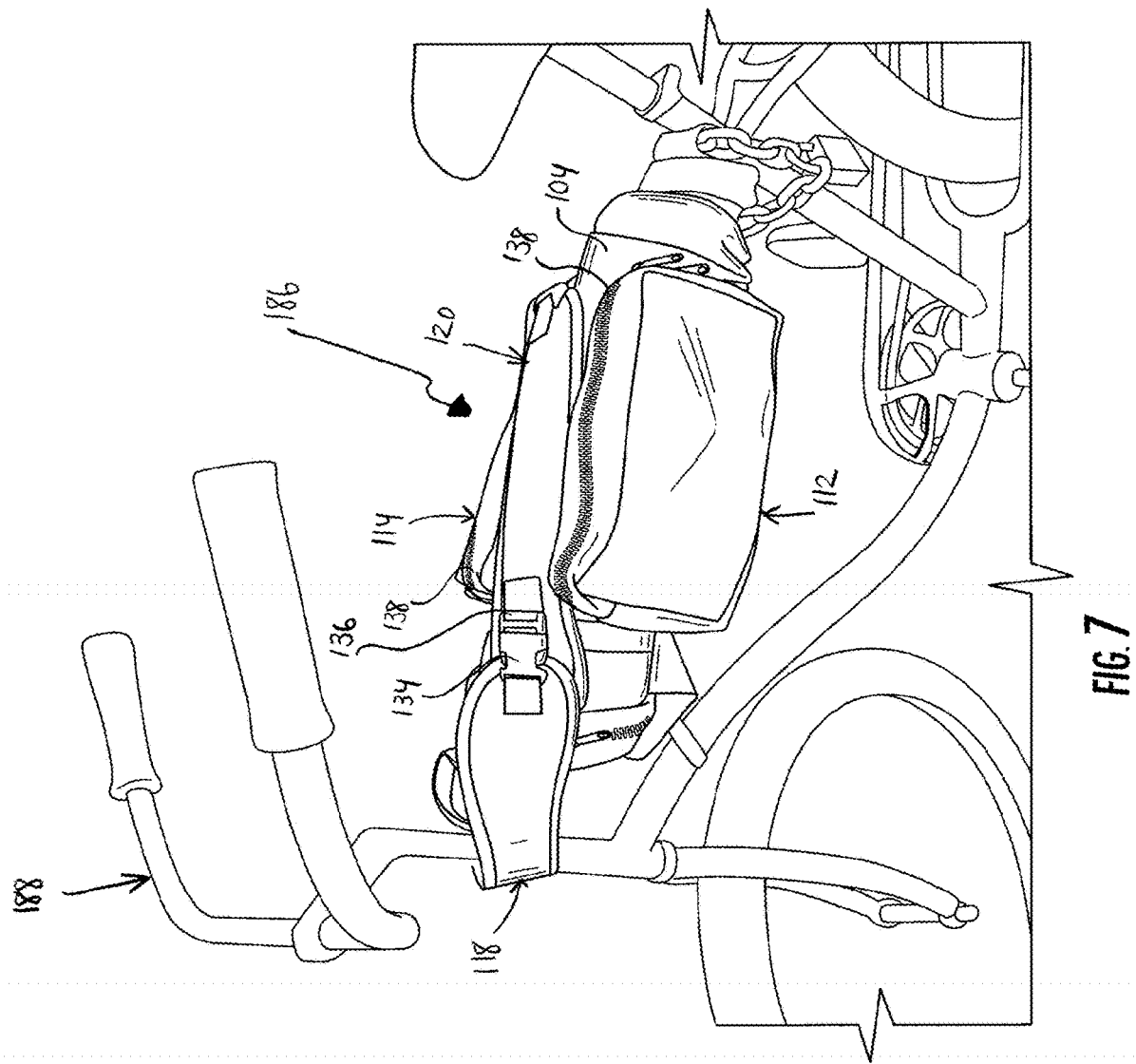
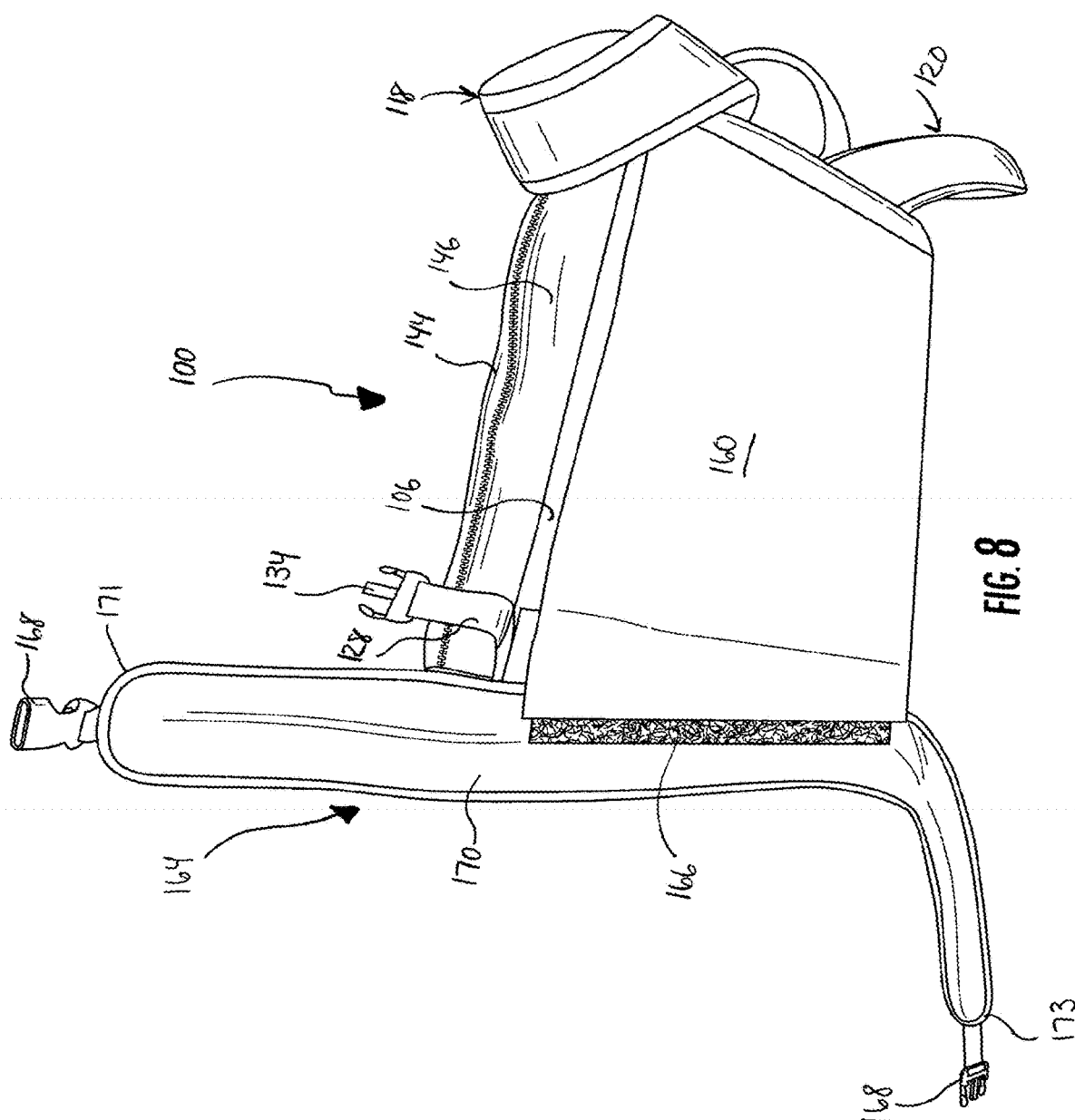
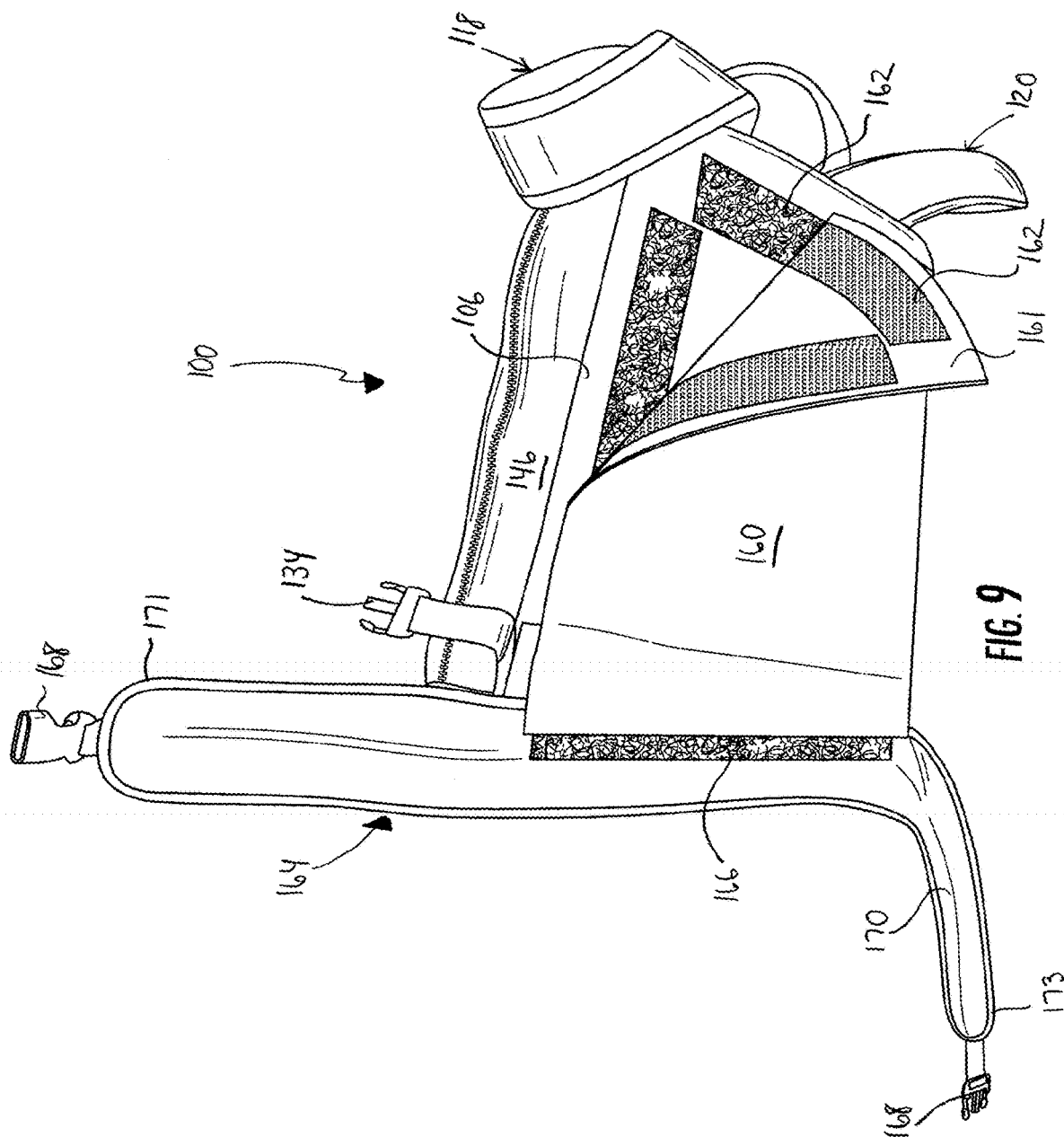


FIG. 6







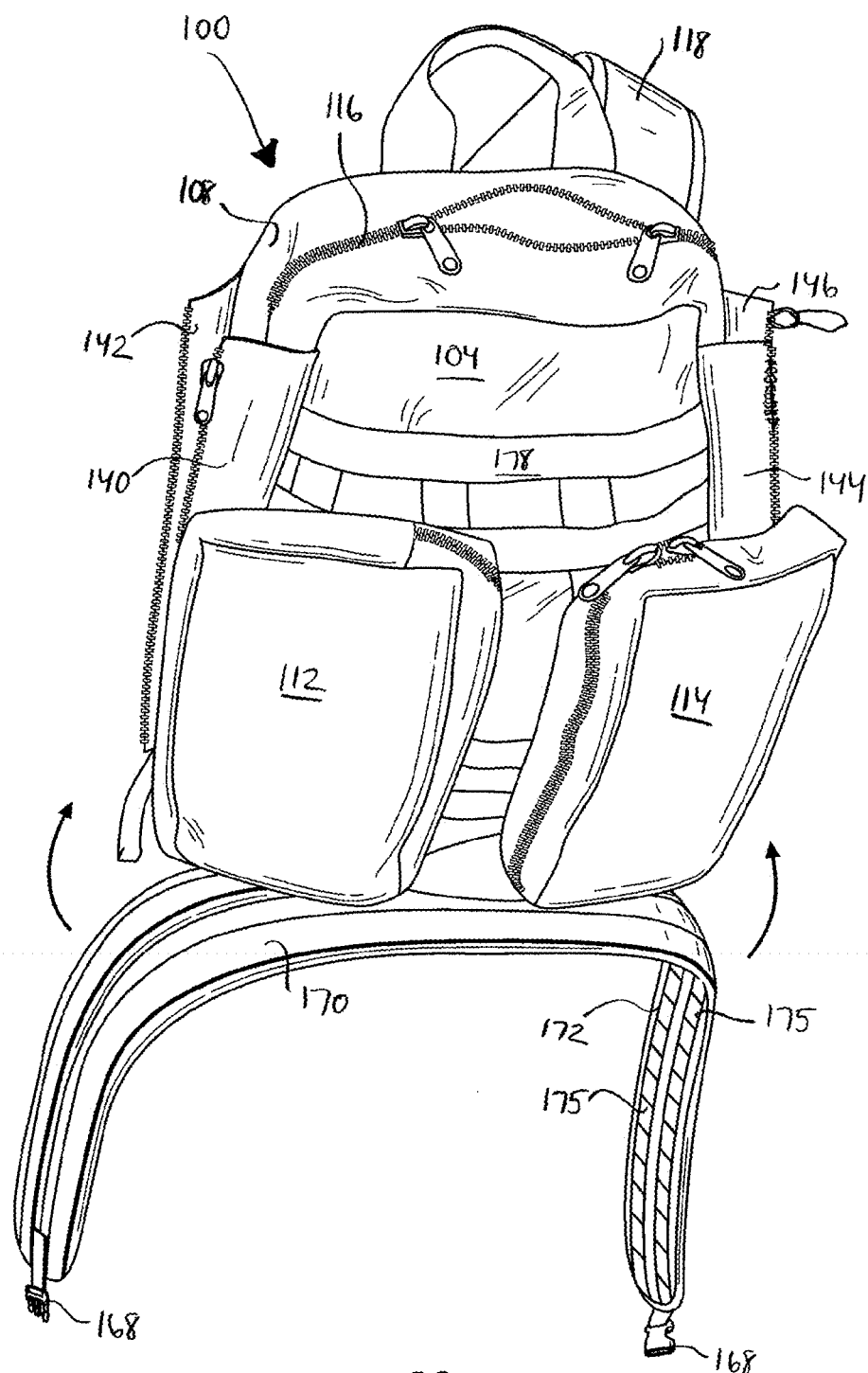
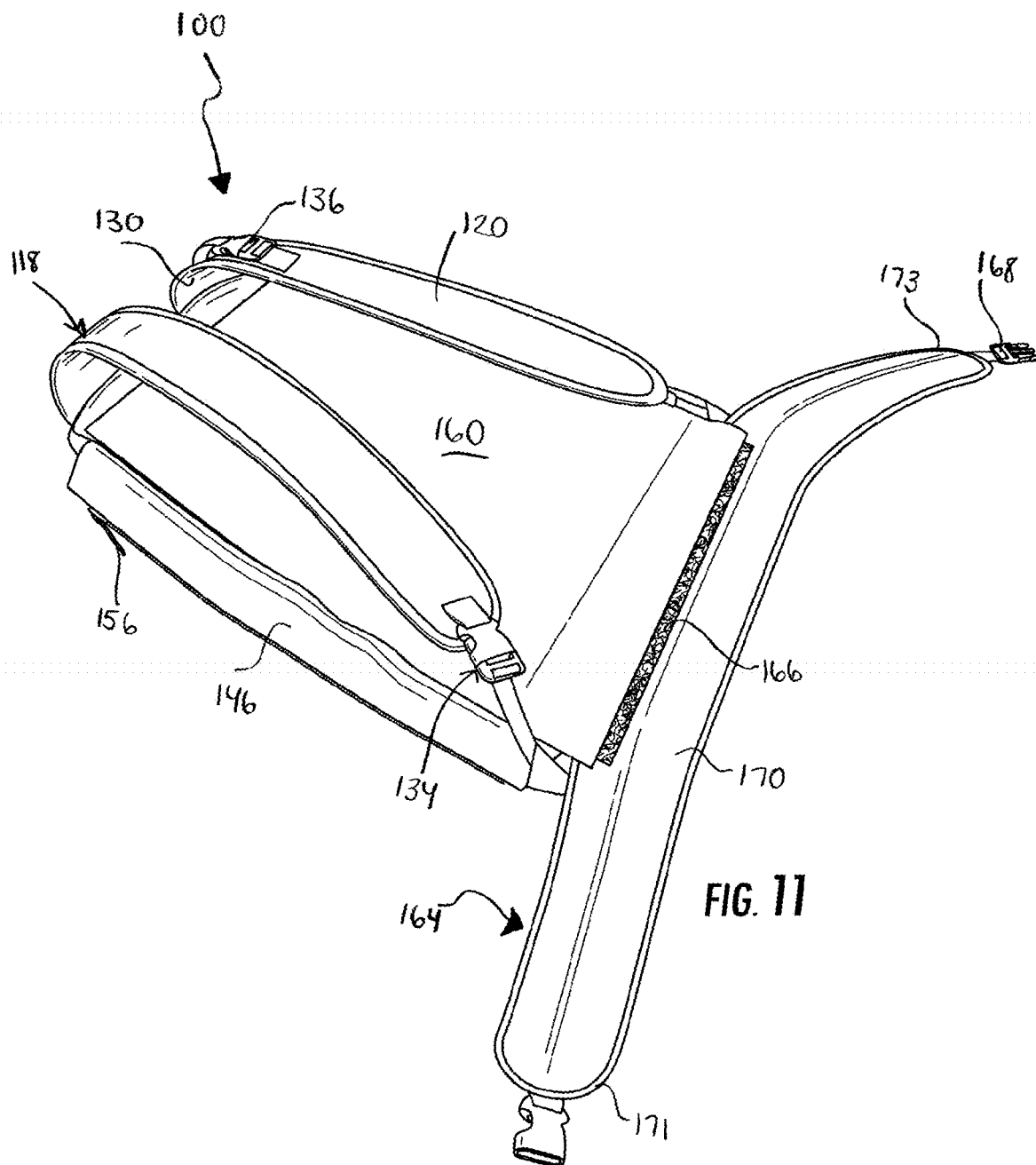
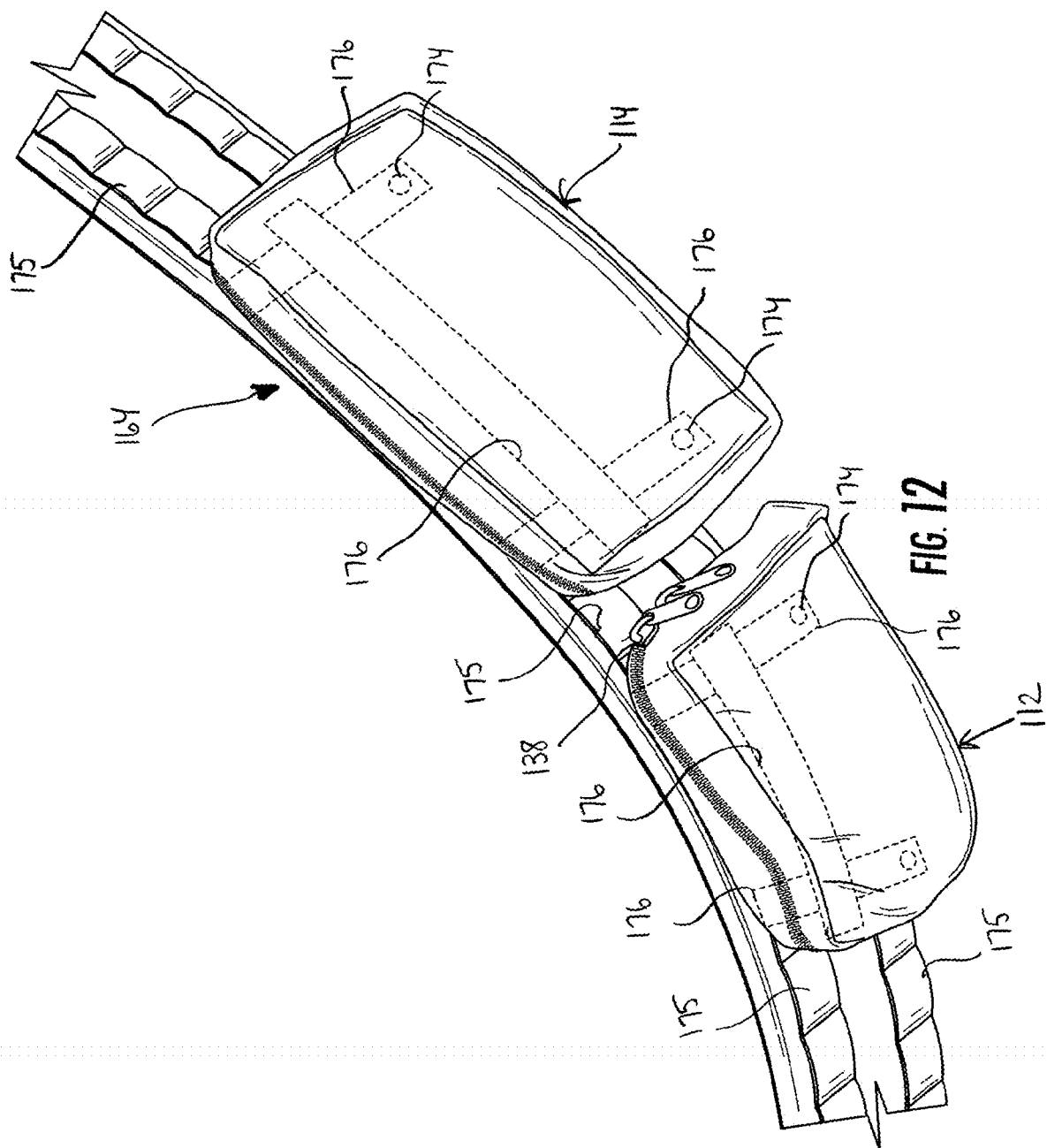
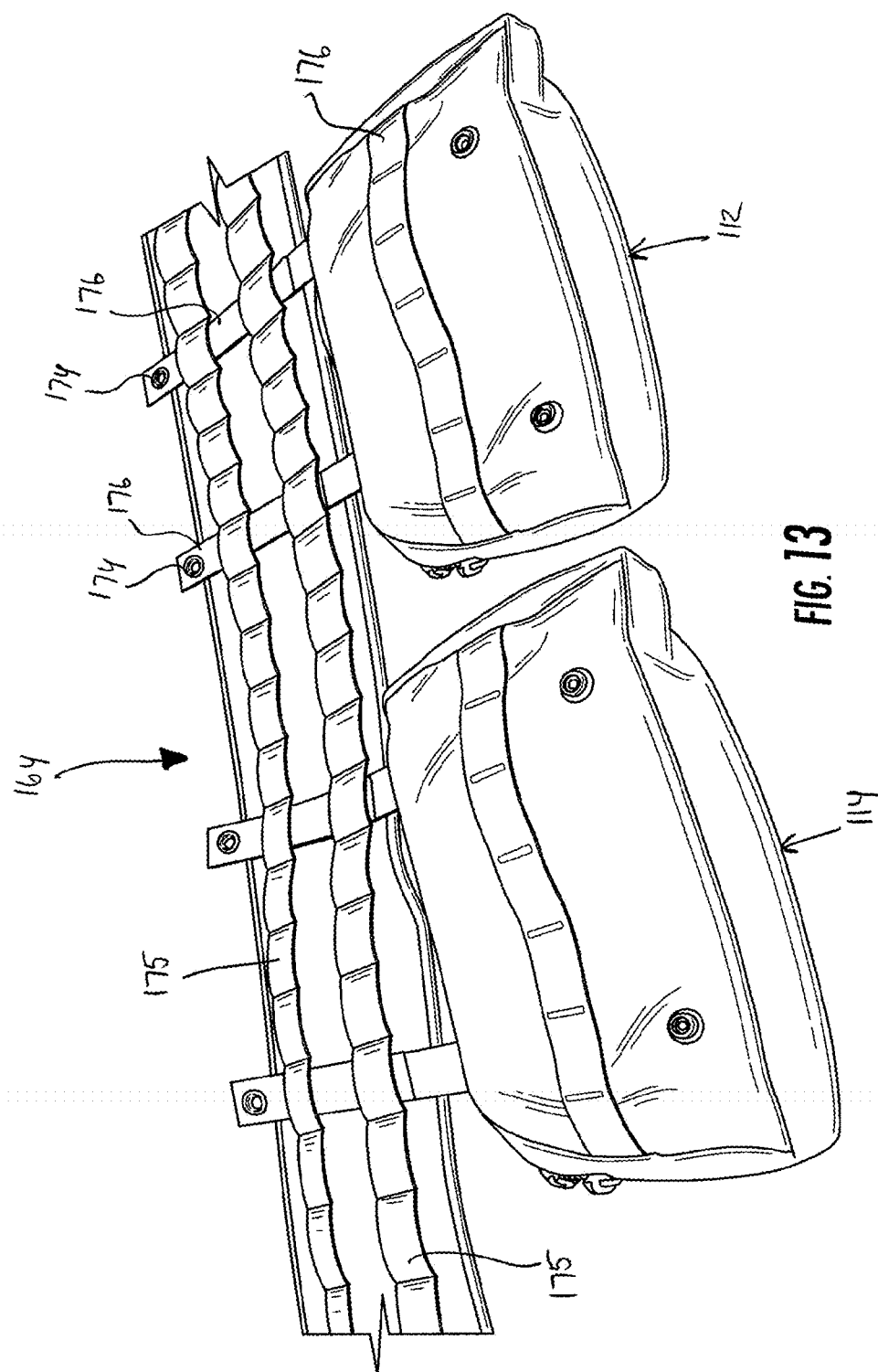


FIG. 10







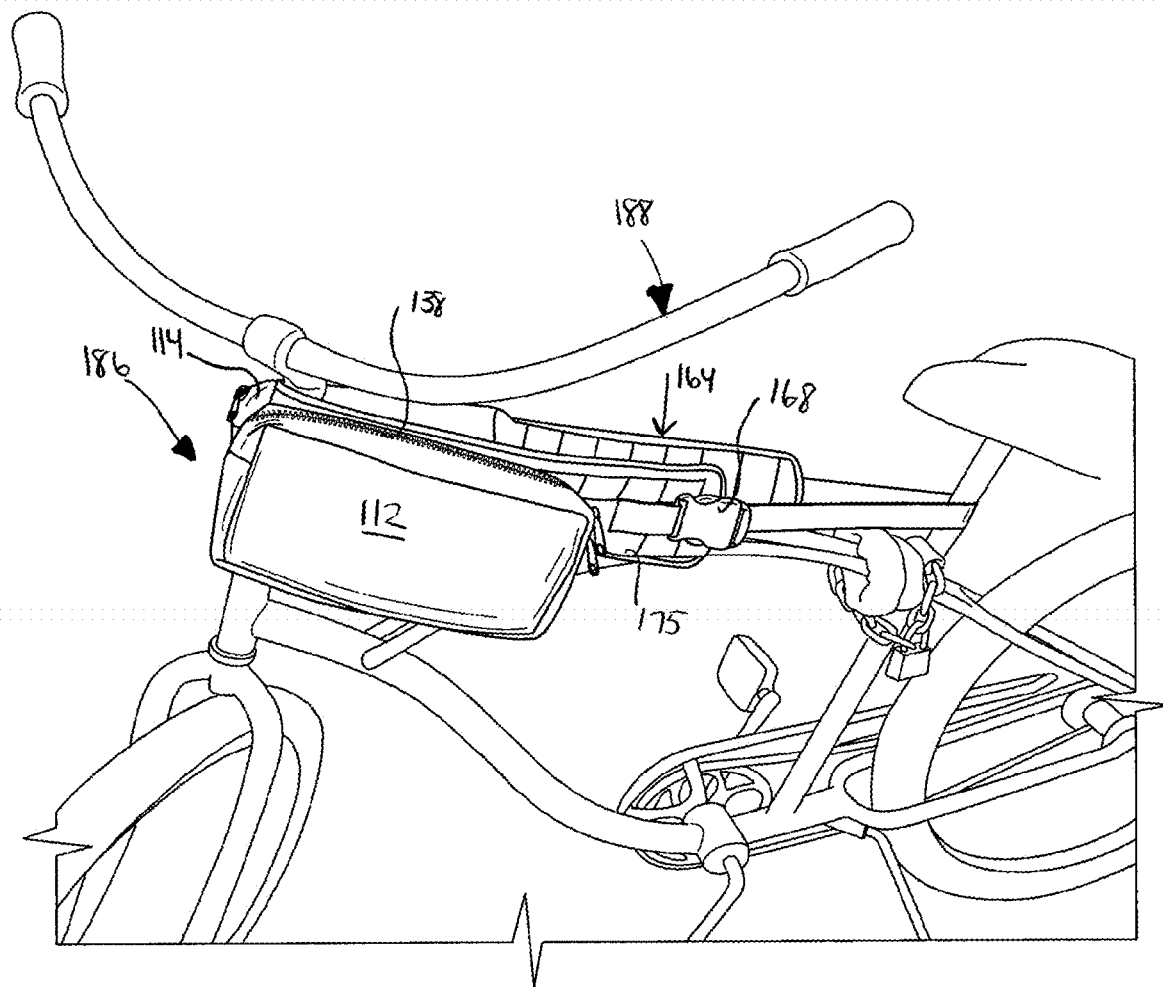


FIG. 14

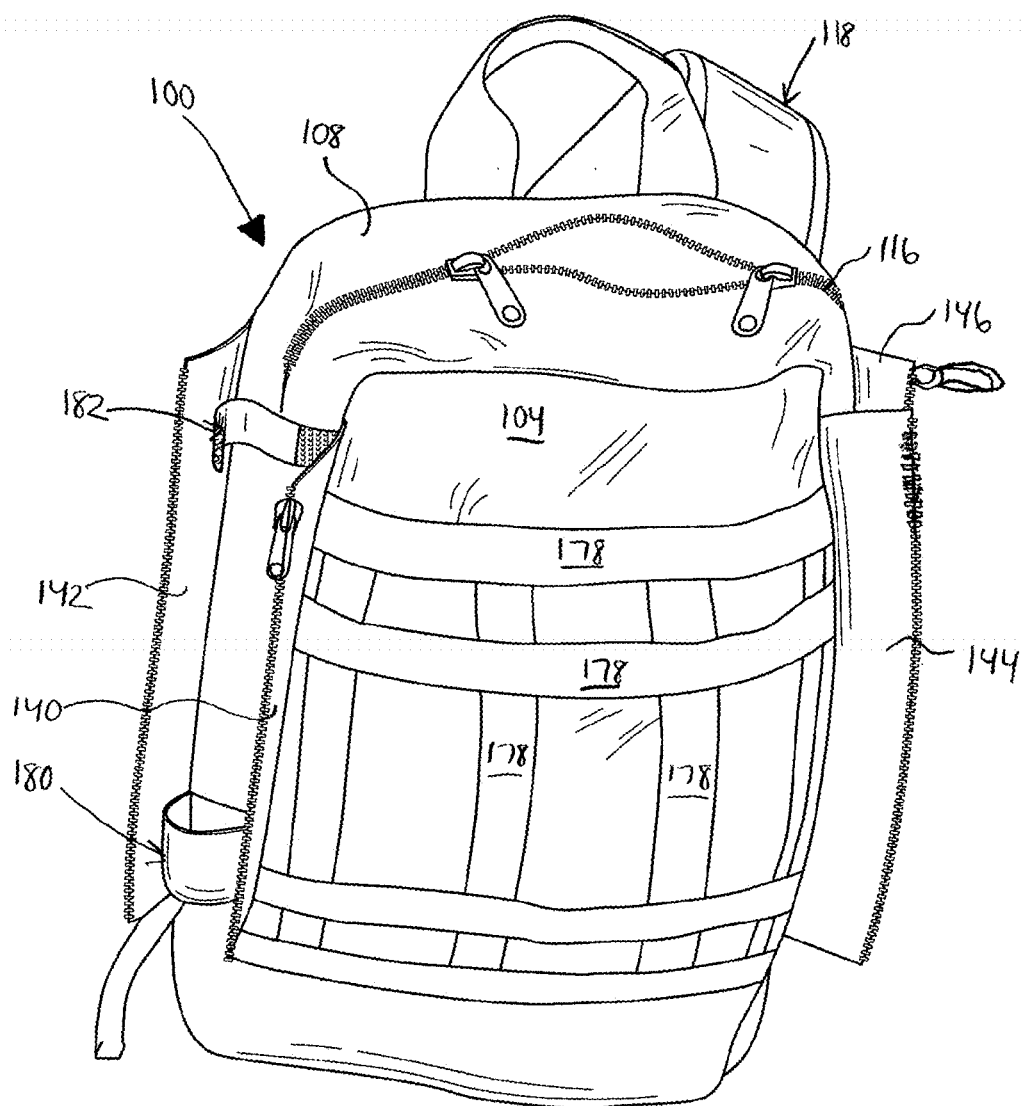
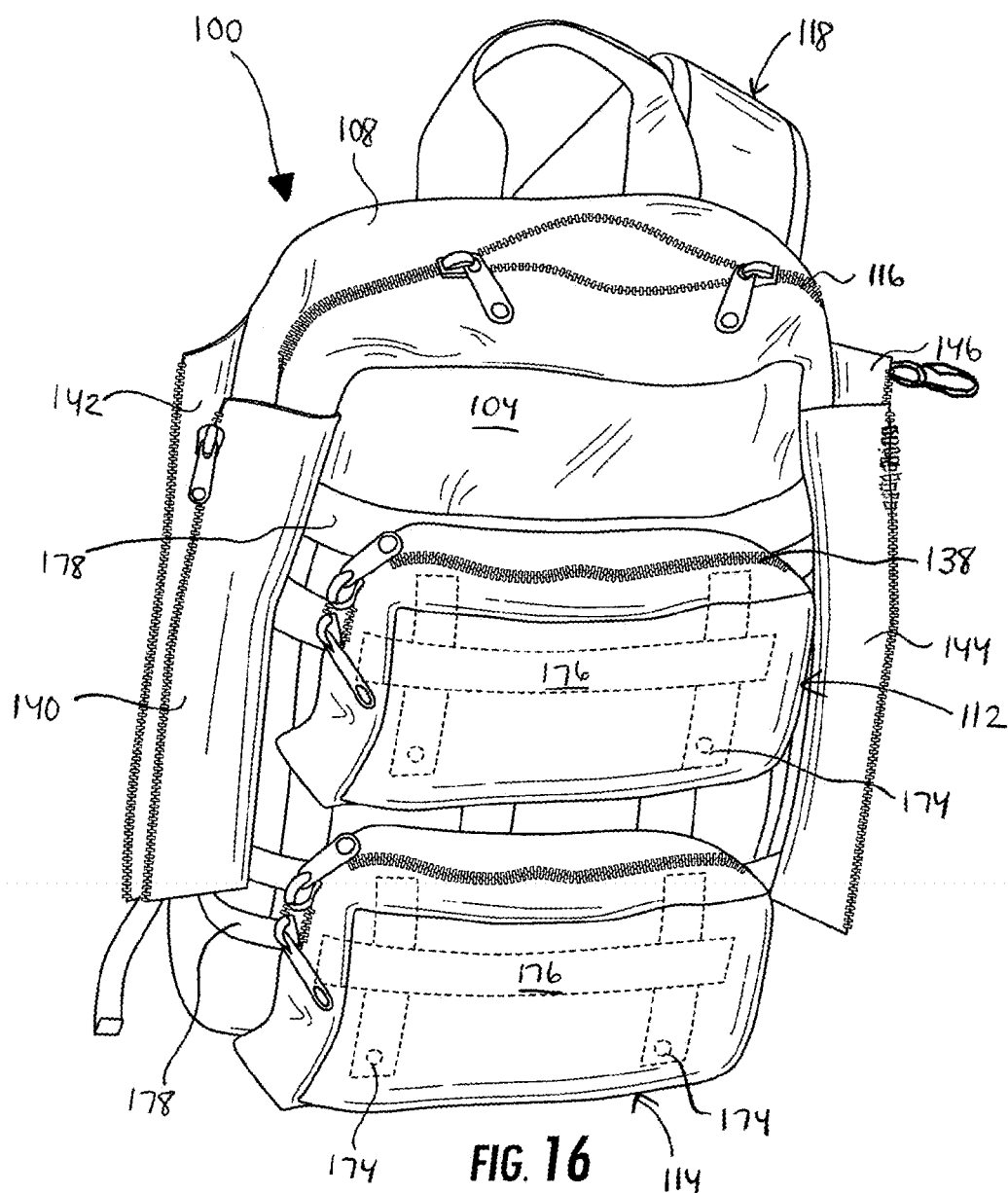


FIG. 15



CONFIGURABLE BAG HAVING FACEPLATES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to and is a divisional of pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/717,481 that was filed on Dec. 17, 2019 that is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/008,916 that was filed on Jan. 17, 2014 that is a national phase application of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2012/031373, filed on Mar. 30, 2012, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/516,346 filed on 1 Apr. 2011, U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/574,352, filed on 1 Aug. 2011, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/628,740, filed on 4 Nov. 2011. The entire contents of those applications are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The disclosure relates generally to a configurable bag having multiple configurations such as a backpack, a saddlebag, and a messenger bag and more particularly to a bag having an interchangeable faceplate.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Conventional bags, such as backpacks, often include multiple compartments and pockets for storing items. This configuration is often cumbersome, particularly when a user is not utilizing all or part of the storage space. This configuration can also be inconvenient if a user is riding a bicycle or needs to carry the bag in a manner other than using two straps often associated with backpacks. This arrangement may also be inconvenient if the user needs to quickly access an item in one of the storage compartments, causing the user to remove the backpack to access the internal space of the storage compartments.

[0004] One means of addressing the unused space is to have a collapsible bag. There are a variety of bags that convert from one configuration to another, such as from a backpack to a briefcase, but these bags are often bulky and include unused straps or handles that are bulky or dangerously exposed in the alternative configuration. For example, if the bag is used near a bicycle, the unused straps or handles could come into contact with the bike chain and/or wheels.

[0005] One means of converting conventional bags from a first configuration, such as a backpack, to a second configuration, such as a handbag, includes converting the strap of the bag with a zipper, but not converting the appearance of the storage compartments. This also limits the function of the compartments because the only change is from one strap to two straps by widening the straps and how they are placed on a user without also changing the storage capability of the bag.

[0006] Accordingly, a need exists for a configurable bag that can accommodate multiple configurations while using the straps provided and allowing a user to access storage compartments while traveling with the bag.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] Disclosed is a configurable bag having a main bag compartment defined by a foldable bag body configurable between at least a first configuration and a second configuration via a folding of the bag body. The main bag com-

partment is accessible via a closable opening disposed in the foldable bag body when in the first configuration. The first and second securing means are affixed to the bag body, wherein the first and second securing means are disposed out of position for connection when the bag body is in the first configuration. The first and second securing means are positioned for connection via the folding of the bag body into the second configuration. The first and second securing means are configured to the bag body in the second configuration when the first securing means is secured to the second securing means.

[0008] Further disclosed is a configurable bag having a first configuration with a main compartment having a front panel, a back panel, a first side, and a second side. The bag further includes first and second storage compartments adjacent the front panel. A first closure means is disposed around the main compartment. First and second straps are attached to the back panel and extend between a top and a bottom of the back panel. Each of the straps includes first and second ends and is removably connected to the back panel with a first connecting means disposed at the first end of the first strap and a second connecting means disposed at the second end of the second strap.

[0009] Also disclosed is a configurable bag having a first configuration with a main compartment having a front panel, a back panel, a first side, and a second side. The bag further includes a first side panel adjacent the first side and disposed along a longitudinal axis of the main compartment and a second side panel adjacent the second side and disposed along a longitudinal axis of the main compartment, wherein each of the side panels includes an attachment means extending along an exterior surface thereof such that when one of the first and second panels is attached to the other of the first and second panels, the main compartment is compressed therebetween. First and second straps are attached to the back panel and extend between a top and bottom of the back panel. Each of the straps includes first and second ends and is removably connected to the back panel with a first connecting means disposed at the first end of the first strap and a second connecting means disposed at the second end of the second strap.

[0010] Further disclosed is a configurable bag having a first configuration wherein first and second straps attached to the back panel extend between a top and bottom of the back panel; each of the straps has first and second ends and is removably connected to the back panel with a first connecting means disposed at the first end of the first strap and a second connecting means disposed at the second end of the second strap; first side panel is disposed adjacent the first side and second side panel is disposed adjacent the second side, each of the panels being disposed along the longitudinal axis of the main compartment, and at least one of the side panels is configured to engage the other of the side panels.

[0011] Also disclosed is a configurable bag having a second configuration wherein a first side panel engages a second side panel via an attachment means; and a first connecting means disposed at the first end of the first strap engages a second connecting means disposed at the second end of the second strap, each of the storage compartments being disposed on opposite sides of the configurable bag; and a third configuration wherein the configurable bag is attached to a bicycle, wherein the attachment means is disposed around the bicycle such that the first storage

compartment and second storage compartment are disposed on first and second sides of a bicycle, respectively.

[0012] Further disclosed is a configurable bag having a belt compartment with first and second ends, a connection means disposed at each of the first and second ends, a front panel and a back panel; first and second straps disposed on the front panel and extending along a length thereof; a first storage compartment connected to the front panel, the first storage compartment having a first attachment means disposed thereon for engaging at least one of the first and second straps; and a second storage compartment adjacent the first storage compartment and connected to the front panel, the second storage compartment having a second attachment means disposed thereon for engaging at least one of the first and second straps.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0013] The following descriptions should not be considered limiting in any way. With reference to the accompanying drawings, like elements are numbered alike:

[0014] FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a configurable bag in a first configuration;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a rear perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a rear, exploded view of the configurable bag with the cover removed;

[0017] FIG. 4 is a front perspective view of the configurable bag in a second configuration with the side panels disengaged;

[0018] FIG. 5 is a front perspective view of the configurable bag in the second configuration with the side panels engaged;

[0019] FIG. 6 is a side perspective view of the configurable bag in the second configuration with the first strap attached to the second strap;

[0020] FIG. 7 is a side perspective view of the configurable bag in a third configuration;

[0021] FIG. 8 is a rear perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration with a belt compartment;

[0022] FIG. 9 is a rear perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration with the belt compartment and the cover partially removed;

[0023] FIG. 10 is a front perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration with the belt compartment;

[0024] FIG. 11 is a rear perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration with the belt compartment and the straps attached;

[0025] FIG. 12 is a front perspective view of the belt compartment with first and second storage compartments attached thereto;

[0026] FIG. 13 is a front perspective view of the belt compartment with first and second storage compartments partially detached therefrom;

[0027] FIG. 14 is a side perspective view of the belt compartment in a saddle configuration;

[0028] FIG. 15 is a front perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration without first and second storage compartments; and

[0029] FIG. 16 is a front perspective view of the configurable bag in the first configuration with first and second storage compartments attached horizontally.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0030] Referring to FIGS. 1-3, an exemplary embodiment of a configurable bag 100 in a first configuration is illustrated. In this exemplary embodiment, the bag 100 is a backpack and includes a main compartment 102 with a front panel 104 and a back panel 106. The bag 100 is made of a collapsible material such that various sections can be compressed and expanded depending on the intended use. The bag 100 is further defined by a first side 108 and an opposing second side 110, both extending along the longitudinal axis thereof. The front panel 104 includes a first storage compartment 112 attached thereto as well as a second storage compartment 114 attached adjacent the first storage compartment 112. As seen in FIG. 1, the storage compartments 112, 114 are aligned vertically, and disposed parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bag. Turning to FIG. 16, the storage compartments 112, 114 can be arranged horizontally, and disposed perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bag, such that the first compartment 112 is disposed above the second storage compartment 114. The main compartment 102 is secured by a first closure means 116 such as a zipper or related device extending around at least a portion of the exterior surface thereof for securely closing the main compartment 102. Each of the first and second storage compartments 112, 114 is secured by a second closure means 138, such as a zipper, extending around at least a portion of the exterior surface thereof.

[0031] Turning to FIGS. 2 and 3, the back panel 106 of the bag includes first strap 118 and second strap 120 attached thereto. The straps 118, 120 extend between the top 122 and bottom 124 of the back panel 106. Preferably, the straps 118, 120 include padding or are made from a padded material such as to add comfort to a user when carrying the bag and when the interior components of the compartments 102, 112, 114 include heavier items that would add pressure to the user's shoulders. As seen in FIG. 2, the first strap 118 includes a first end 126 and a second end 128. The first end 126 is fixed to the top 122 of the back panel 106 and the second end 128 is adjacent the bottom 124 of the back panel 106. The second end 128 is further defined by a first connecting means 134. The connecting means 134, in this embodiment, is a buckle, but can be any related or suitable device for securing the strap 118. The second end 128 further includes a first adjustment means 148.

[0032] The first adjustment means 148 can be in the form of a buckle and a strap or related measure of adjusting the distance between the strap 118 and the back panel 106 to accommodate the user's comfort. A second adjustment means 158 can also be in the form of a buckle and a strap or related measure of adjusting the distance between the second strap 120 and the back panel 106. The second adjustment means 158 is fixed to the back panel 106. The first end 128 of the first strap 118 is configured to mate with the first adjustment means 148. The second end 132 of the second strap 120 is configured to mate with the second adjustment means 158. For example, if the connecting means 134 is a buckle, then the adjustment means 148 is received in the buckle 134 and adjusted thereto to accommodate the user's comfort, increasing or decreasing the distance between the strap 118 and the back panel 106.

[0033] The configurable bag 100 further includes side panels extending along the longitudinal axis of the main compartment 102. As seen in FIGS. 1, 4, and 5, first side 108 includes first side panel 140 and second side panel 142 adjacent thereto and extending between the top and bottom of the bag. The second side 110 includes third side panel 144 and fourth side panel 146 adjacent thereto and extending

between the top and bottom of the bag. The panels **140**, **142**, **144**, **146** can be made of any material sturdy enough to withstand normal wear and tear, but flexible enough to fold around the bag when the bag is compressed. In this embodiment, the side panels **140**, **142**, **144**, **146** are substantially rectangular and are permanently attached to the main compartment **102** of the bag **100**. Each of the side panels **140**, **142**, **144**, **146** includes an attachment means **150**, **152**, **154**, **156**, respectively, extending along an exterior surface thereof. As such, each of the panels can be attached to any one of the other panels. When one of the panels is attached to another panel, the main compartment **102** is compressed therebetween.

[0034] The panels can be used to compress the main compartment **102** between adjacent panels or to convert the bag **102** from the first configuration **100** to the second configuration **184**. As seen in FIG. 5, first panel **140** is attached to third panel **144** by connecting attachment means **150** with attachment means **154** and the main compartment **102** is compressed therebetween. Preferably, one of the first and second panels **140**, **142** is attached to one of the third and fourth panels **144**, **146** and the main compartment **102** is compressed therebetween to reduce the carrying capacity of the bag **100** and allow for a user to carry the bag in a different configuration. When at least one of the first and second panels **140**, **142** is attached to one of the third and fourth panels **144**, **146** such that the main compartment **102** is folded therebetween, the first storage compartment **112** and the second storage compartment **114** are disposed on opposite sides thereof such that the bag resembles the second configuration **184**.

[0035] In the illustrated embodiment, all of the disclosed attachment means **150**, **152**, **154**, **156** are zippers disposed along the exterior surface of the side panels **140**, **142**, **144**, **146**, respectively, for providing a secure and easily accessible connection between the side panels **140**, **142**, **144**, **146**. Other attachment means can be used such as snaps, hook and loop closures, or the like.

[0036] Turning to FIGS. 2 and 3, the back panel **106** of the bag **100** includes a cover or faceplate **160**. The faceplate **160** preferably extends along at least a portion of the back panel **106** and preferably, along the entire surface of the back panel **106**. The faceplate **160** is removably attached to the back panel **106** with a cover attachment means **162** such as a hook and loop closure as illustrated in FIG. 3. As seen in FIG. 3, the cover attachment means **162** is arranged in a plurality of strips disposed along the perimeter of the back panel **106**. If the hooks are disposed on the back panel **106**, then the corresponding loops are disposed in a similar arrangement on the interior **161** of the faceplate **160**. The cover attachment means **162** could also include a zipper, a plurality of snaps, or the like. In this embodiment, the faceplate **160** is substantially rectangular shaped to extend across the entire back panel **106**. Both the back panel **106** and the faceplate **160** can have alternative shapes so long as the faceplate **160** is removably attached to the back panel **106**.

[0037] Although not illustrated, the faceplate **160** can include a variety of artistic designs displayed thereon. Thus, a user could interchange the faceplate having a first artistic design with a faceplate having an alternative and second artistic design. Thus, the user could interchange the faceplate to reflect their style or design preference. The connection means **162** makes this interchangeability possible because the faceplate **160** can be quickly and securely removed and reattached to the back panel **106**. The interchangeable faceplate would also have a corresponding attachment means such as a plurality of loops arranged on

the interior of the faceplate. The material of the faceplate **160** could be similar to that of the back panel **106** or an alternative material to reflect the artistic style and preference of the user.

[0038] To convert the bag **100** from the first configuration to the second configuration, as seen in FIG. 6, the first connecting means **134** is detached at the first strap **118** and the second connecting means **136** is detached at the second strap **120**. Each of the straps is rotated around the main compartment **102** and reattached to the opposite strap. In other words, the first end **126** and the second end **128** of the first strap **118** are separated by disengaging the first connecting means **134**. Similarly, the first end **130** and the second end **132** of the second strap **120** are separated by the second connecting means **136**. Preferably, the first end **126** of the first strap **118** is rotated around the main compartment **102** and connected to the second end **128** of the second strap **120** by mating the first connecting means **134** with the second connecting means **136**. The main compartment **102** is compressed therebetween and the side panels are connected. Preferably, as seen in FIG. 5, first panel **140** is connected to third panel **144** and secured by connecting attachment means **150** to attachment means **154**. The remaining panels **142**, **146** will be compressed therebetween. In the second configuration **184**, the first and second storage compartments **112**, **114** are disposed on opposite sides of the resulting bag **184**.

[0039] To convert the bag from the first or second configuration to the third configuration **186**, as seen in FIG. 7, the bag **100** is attached to a bicycle **188**, thus forming a saddle configuration **186**. The first strap **118** and second strap **120** are connected as in the second configuration **184**, but rather than securing the straps **118**, **120** around a user, the straps **118**, **120** are wrapped around the bicycle **188**. As seen in FIG. 7, first storage compartment **112** and second storage compartment **114** are disposed on opposite sides of the bike **188** for optimal balancing needs and to provide access to the user.

[0040] Referring to FIGS. 8-14, an optional attachment to the bag **100** is a belt **164** attached to the back panel **106** with a belt attachment means **166**. Preferably, the belt attachment means **166** includes a flap extending towards the bag **100** and having a hook and loop closure such that the first side **170** of the belt **164** includes a plurality of hooks and the second side **172** of the belt **164** includes a plurality of loop closures. With this configuration, the belt **164** would be sandwiched between the faceplate **160** and the back panel **106**. Thus, the hooks on the first side **170** would attach to the underside of the faceplate **160** and the loop closures on the second side **172** would attach to the back panel **106**. The belt attachment means **166** could also be in the form of a zipper, a plurality of snaps, or the like.

[0041] The belt **164** further includes a belt connection means for securing the belt **164** to a user's waist or to a bicycle **186**. Specifically, the belt connection means **168** is partially disposed at first end **171** and second end **173** to secure the first end **171** to the second end **173**. In the illustrated embodiment, the belt connection means **168** is in the form of a buckle **168**. As such, the first end **171** engages the second end **173** to secure the buckle **168**.

[0042] As seen in FIGS. 12-14, the belt **164** may be worn separately from the bag **100** and used similarly by attaching the first and second storage compartments **112**, **114** thereto. As such, the belt **164** includes a first plurality of straps **175** on the exterior and second side **172** facing the back panel **106**. The plurality of woven straps **175** receives a second plurality of straps **176** disposed on the storage compartments

112, 114. Turning to FIG. 13, the storage compartments **112, 114** each include straps **176** that are woven through the straps **175** of the belt **164** and secured by an attachment means **174** such as a snap **174** having a mating end on the storage compartments **112, 114** and the plurality of straps **174**. The storage compartments **112, 114** are secured to the belt **164** accordingly.

[0043] An additional feature of the bag **100** is the ability to arrange the storage compartments **112, 114** in a vertical or horizontal orientation. Turning to FIG. 1, the storage compartments **112, 114** are disposed vertically with respect to the longitudinal axis of the bag **100**. As seen in FIG. 16, the storage compartments **112, 114** are disposed horizontally with respect to the longitudinal axis of the bag. This is accomplished with the plurality of straps **176** and the attachment means **174** disposed on the interior surface of the storage compartments **112, 114**. The plurality of woven straps **178** on the front panel **104** are preferably arranged in a vertical and horizontal pattern to create a woven or webbed pattern. The straps **176** of the first and second storage compartments **112, 114** are then received by and interwoven with the plurality of straps **178** disposed on the front panel **104** of the bag **100**, as seen in FIGS. 15 and 16.

[0044] Referring to FIG. 15, the bag **100** includes an additional feature for the first configuration. At least one side **108** of the bag includes a pocket **180** towards the bottom of the bag **100** and located between first side panel **140** and second side panel **142**. The pocket **180** has a closed bottom and an open top for receiving an umbrella, or similar object. Above the pocket **180** and disposed towards the first closure means **116**, the bag further includes a strap **182** having a hook and loop configuration, or similar attachment means, towards the end of the strap **182**. Preferably, the user would insert a first side of an umbrella, or similar object, into pocket **180** and secure the second side of the umbrella, or similar object, by wrapping strap **182** around the second side thereof. By engaging attachment means **150, 152** of first side panel **140** and second side panel **142**, the umbrella, or similar object, is further secured to the bag **100**.

[0045] While the invention has been described with reference to an exemplary embodiment, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or substance to the teachings of the invention without departing from the scope thereof. Therefore, it is important that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out this invention, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the apportioned claims. Moreover, unless specifically stated any use of the terms first, second, etc. do not denote any order or importance, but rather the terms first, second, etc. are used to distinguish one element from another.

1. A configurable bag comprising:

- a bag body having a front panel and a back panel that are spaced apart from one another by a plurality of sides to define a main compartment within the bag body;
- a removable faceplate extendable over at least a portion of the back panel;
- a plurality of horizontal and vertical straps formed on an area of the front panel to define a webbed pattern thereby;

cover attachment means disposed between the back panel and the removable faceplate and configured to form a secure connection therebetween, the bag body, remov-

able faceplate, webbed pattern and cover attachment means all configured such that upon folding the bag body about a relative center of the bag body along an elongate axis thereof that extends from between a relative bottom and a relative top of the bag body, the back panel and attached removable faceplate are folded on themselves to transition the bag body from a first configuration to a second configuration the latter of which defines a facing relationship between folded-over portions of the faceplate; and

- a plurality of storage compartments each comprising a plurality of storage compartment straps formed on a surface thereof such that the plurality of storage compartments are removably attachable to the front panel through interwoven cooperation between the plurality of storage compartment straps and the webbed pattern, the plurality of storage compartments configured to be disposed on opposing sides of the foldable bag body while the foldable bag body is maintained in the second configuration.

2. The configurable bag of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of side panels each of which are affixed to at least one of an adjacent front panel, back panel and side of the bag body, each of the plurality of side panels securable to an adjacent other one of the plurality of side panels through attachment means.

3. The configurable bag of claim 1, wherein the cover attachment means is at least one of a zipper, a hook and a loop closure and a plurality of snaps.

4. The configurable bag of claim 3, wherein the back panel and the cover attachment means are configured to allow a bag accessory to be disposed between the body portion and the removable faceplate.

5. The configurable bag of claim 4, wherein the bag accessory comprises a belt that is attachable to the back panel and the faceplate via disposal between the faceplate and the cover attachment means.

6. The configurable bag of claim 1, wherein the webbed pattern of straps formed on an area of the front panel are intermittently sewn into the front panel.

7. The configurable bag of claim 1, wherein the bag body defines a substantially rectangular shape.

8. The configurable bag of claim 7, further comprising:

- a first strap that at one end is secured to the bag body at one corner thereof and at a second end terminates in a first connecting means;
- a second strap that at one end is secured to the bag body at an opposing corner of the bag body from the first strap and at a second end terminates in a second connecting means, the first and second connecting means configured such that when the first and second straps are joined together, the configurable bag defines a messenger bag with a single diagonal strap that extends over the back panel.

9. The configurable bag of claim 8, wherein the first and second straps are padded.

10. The configurable bag of claim 7, further comprising:

- a first strap comprising a first end that is secured to the bag body at a first corner thereof and a second end that is secured to the bag body at a second corner thereof that is spaced from the first corner along the elongate axis;
- a second strap comprising a first end that is secured to the bag body at a third corner thereof that is spaced from the first corner along a width axis and a second end that is secured to the bag body at an adjacent corner thereof that is spaced from the one corner along the elongate axis;

a first connecting means formed adjacent the second end of the first strap; and

a second connecting means formed adjacent the second end of the second strap, wherein the first and second connecting means are configured such that when joined together, the configurable bag defines a backpack with a pair of substantially parallel single straps that extends over the back panel over the elongate axis.

11. The configurable bag of claim **10**, wherein the first and second straps are padded.

12. The configurable bag of claim **10**, further comprising a belt attached to the back panel with a belt attachment means.

13. The configurable bag of claim **12**, wherein at least one of the belt and the belt attachment means comprises a plurality of horizontal and vertical belt straps formed on a surface thereof to define a webbed belt pattern thereby.

14. The configurable bag of claim **13**, wherein the plurality of storage compartment straps are removably attachable to the belt through interwoven cooperation with the webbed belt pattern.

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