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(54) **DISPOSABLE CONVERTIBLE BACKPACK TOTE**

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Publication Classification

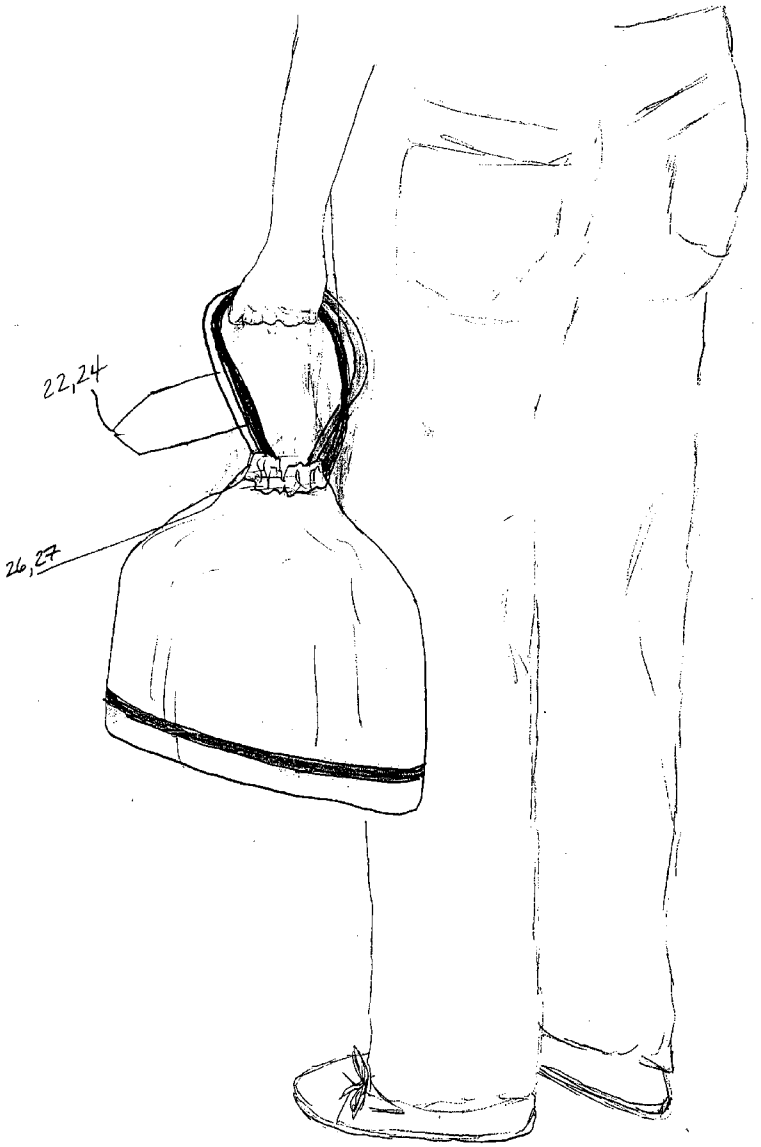
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A45F 3/02	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **224/581**; 224/579; 224/627; 224/601

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A device for carrying items that functions as a tote bag and is convertible into a securely held backpack or a shoulder sling. A user may utilize closed loop drawstrings as armhole loops and perforatedly attached straps for securing the tote around the user's waist.



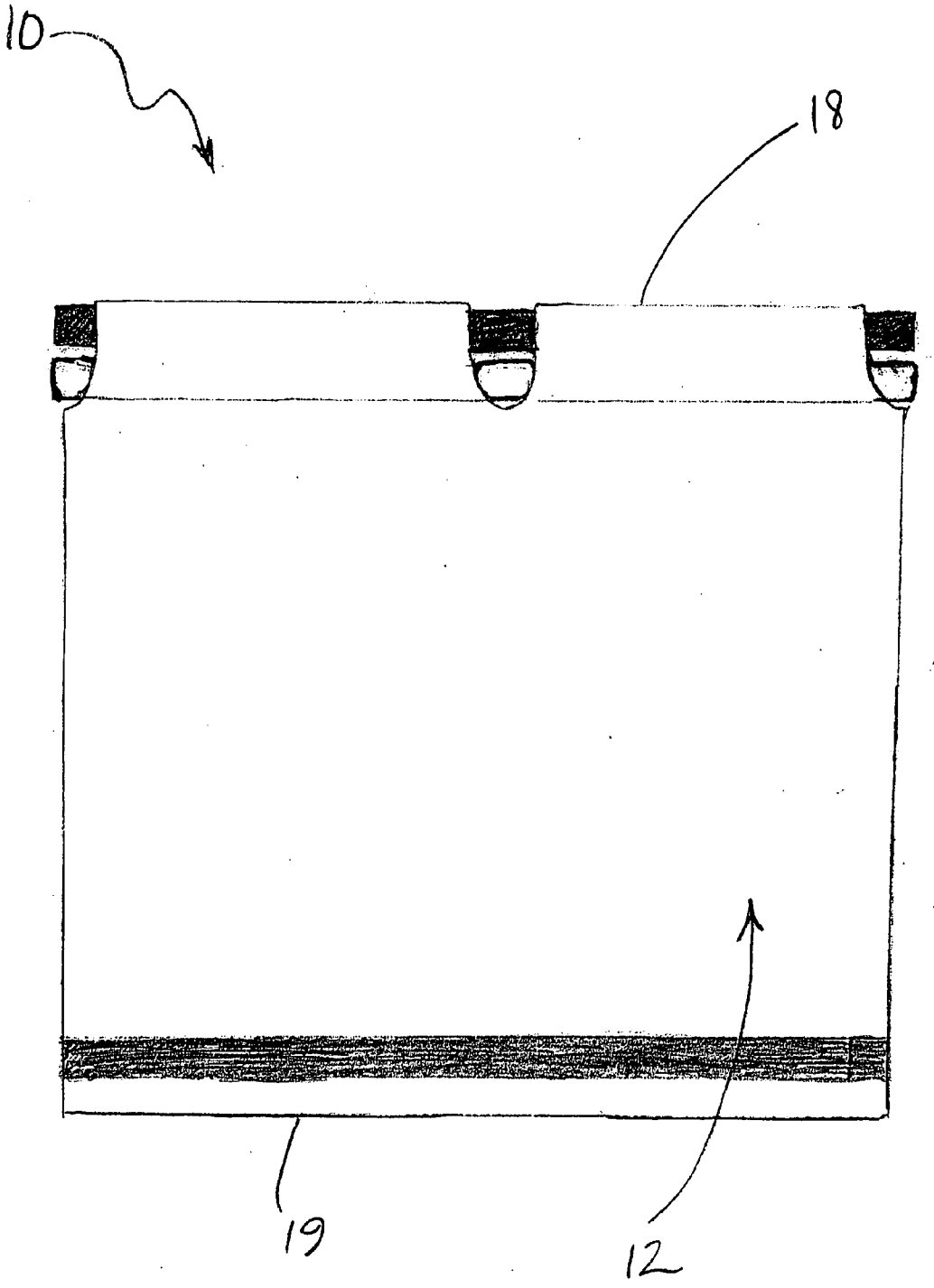


FIG. 1

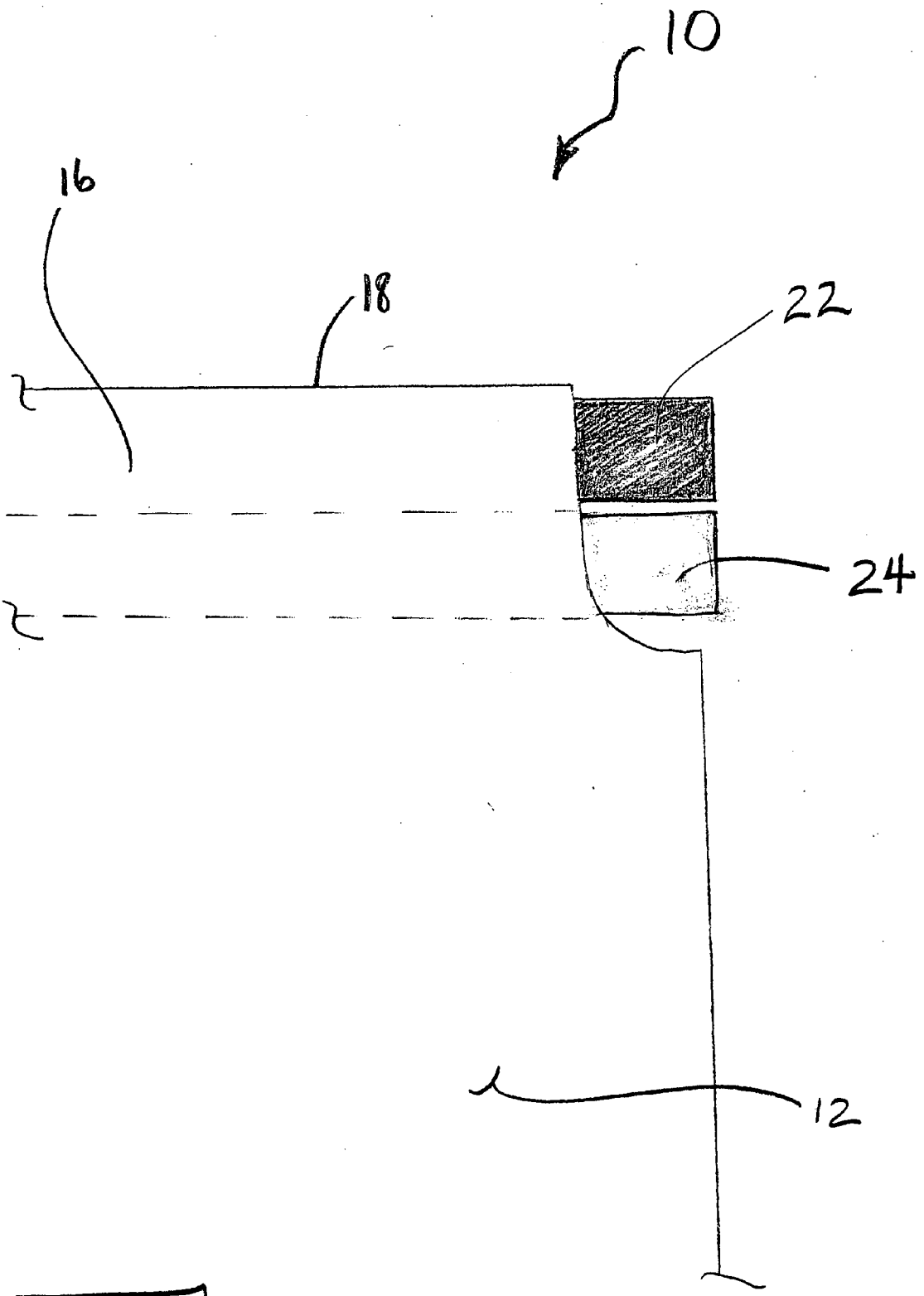


FIG 2

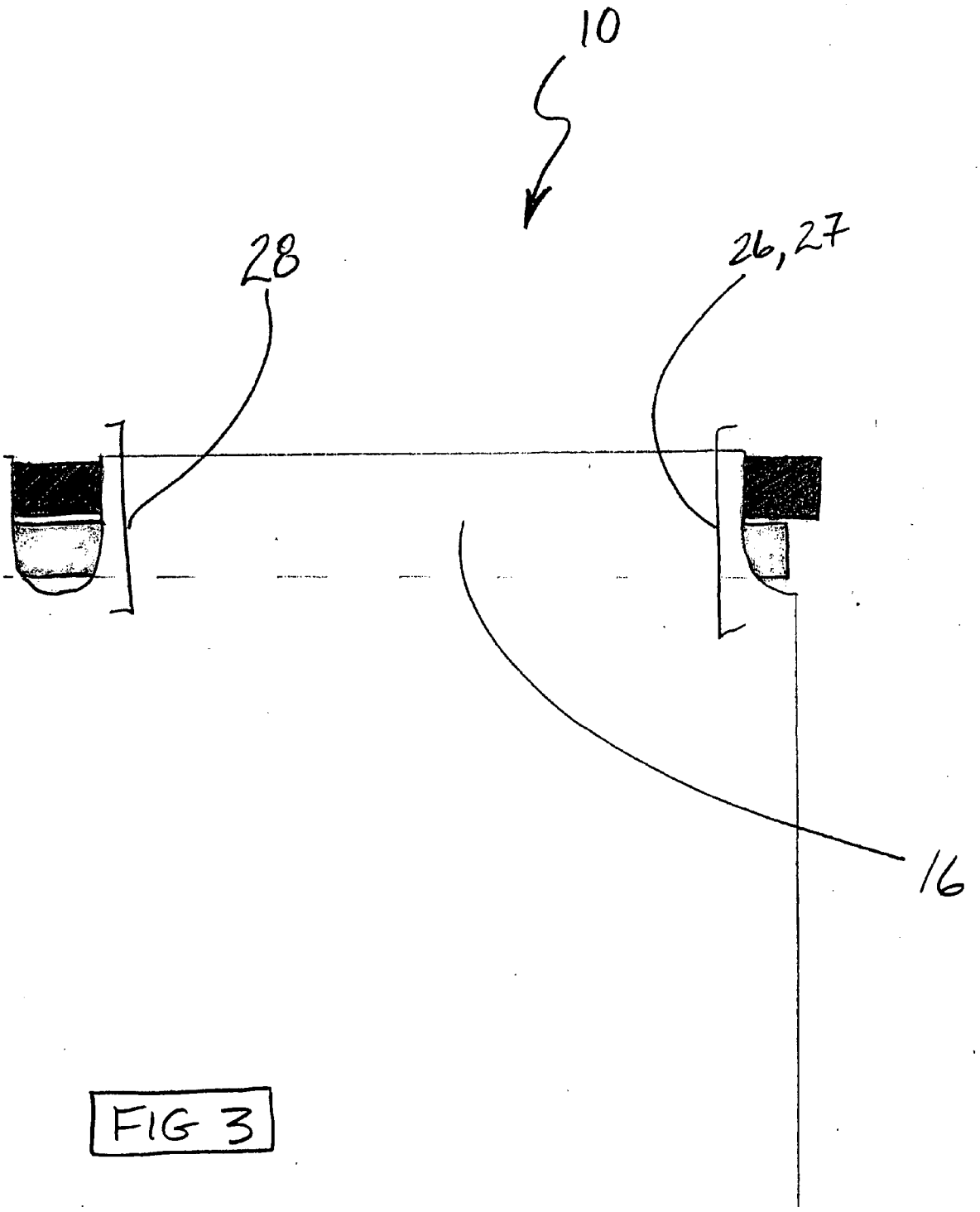


FIG 3

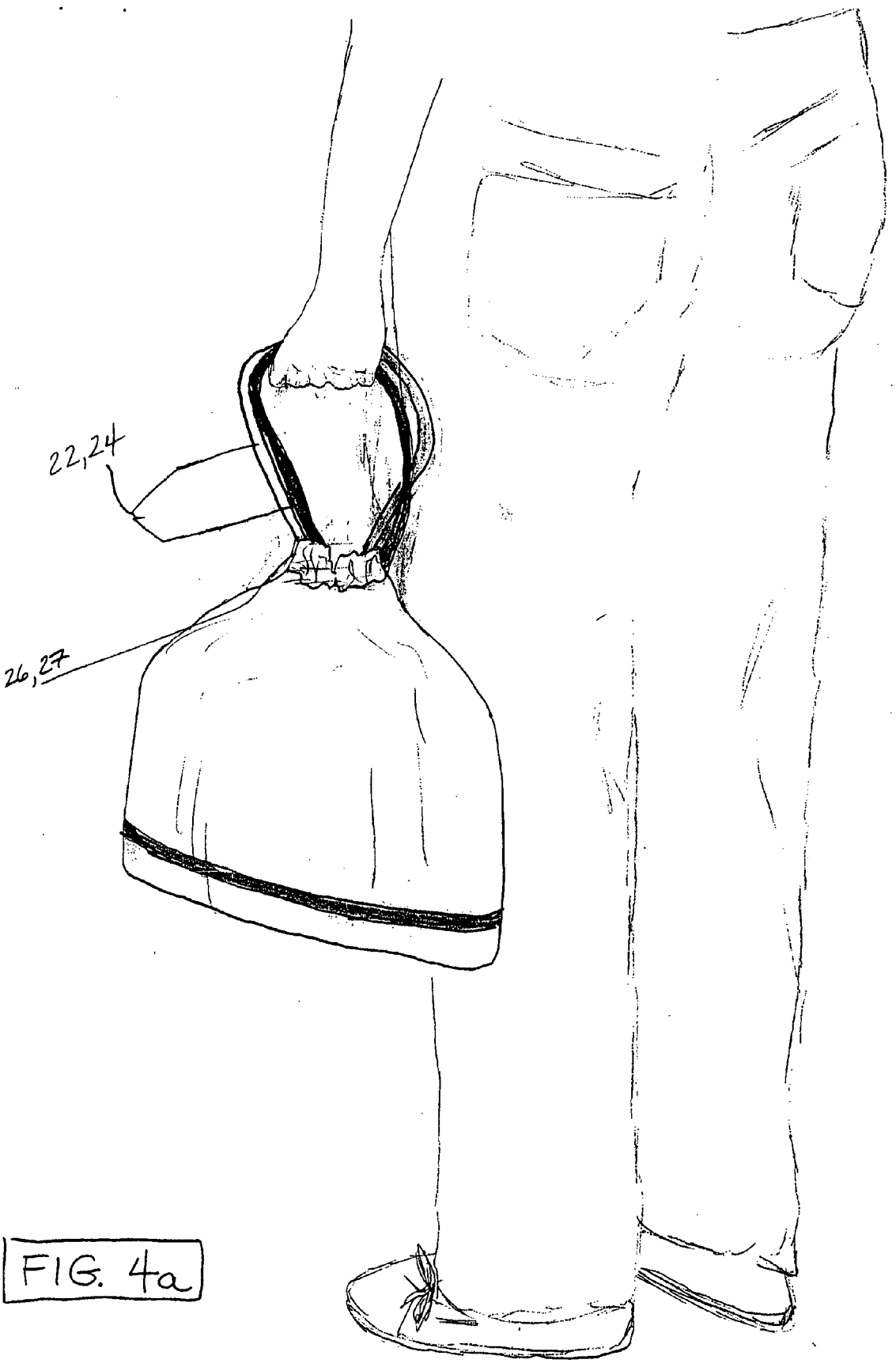


FIG. 4a

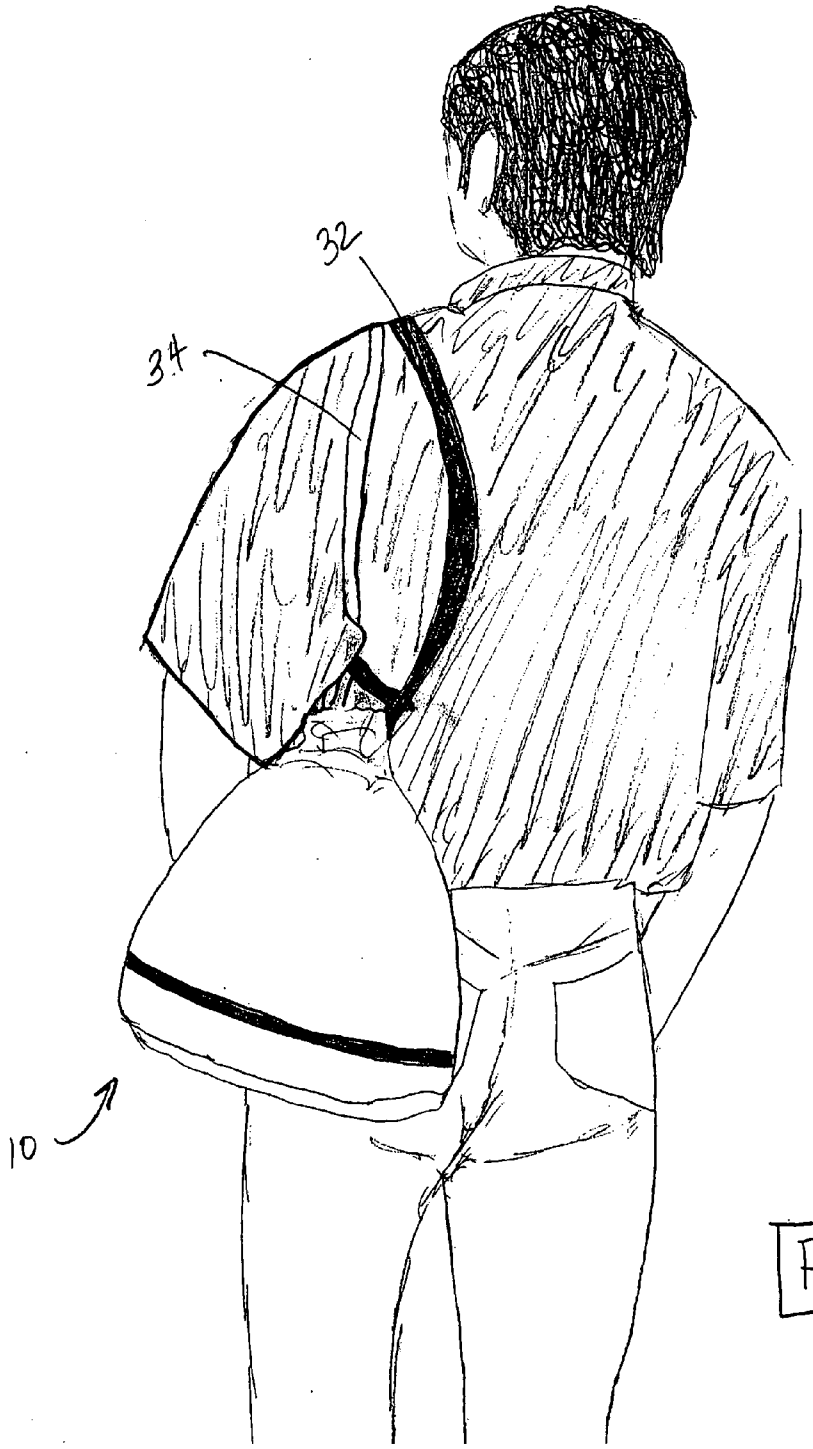


FIG. 4b

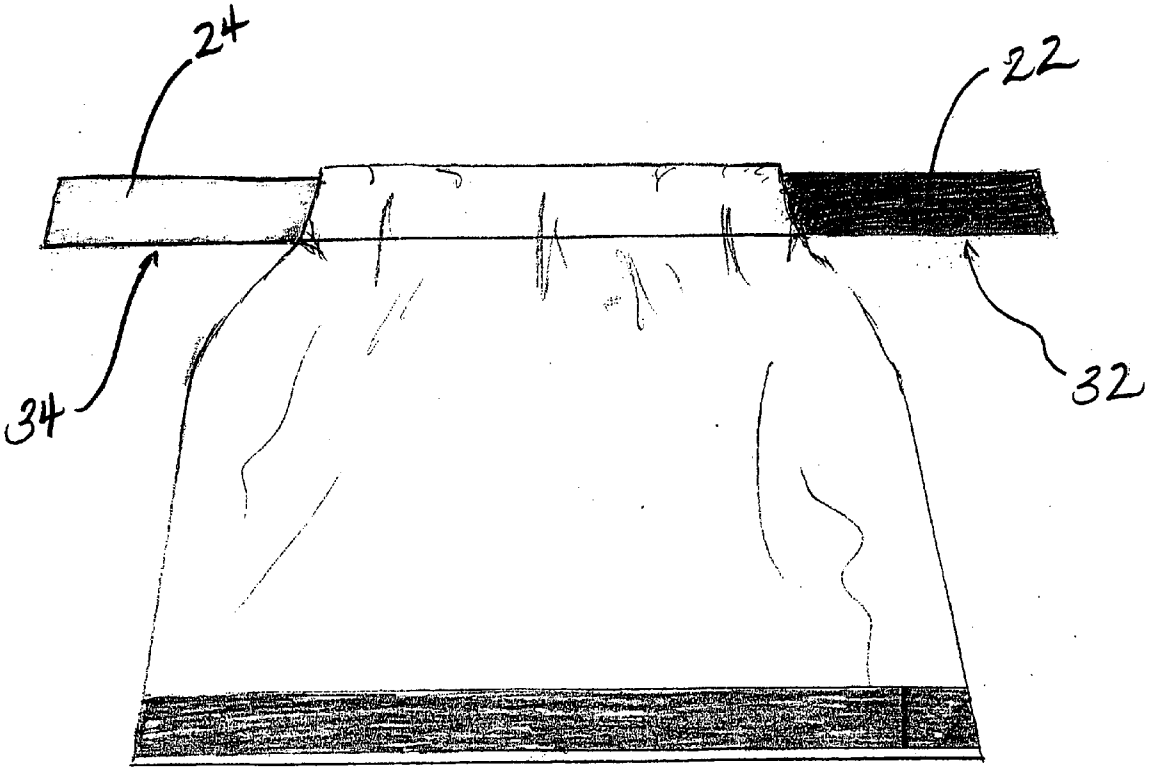


FIG 5

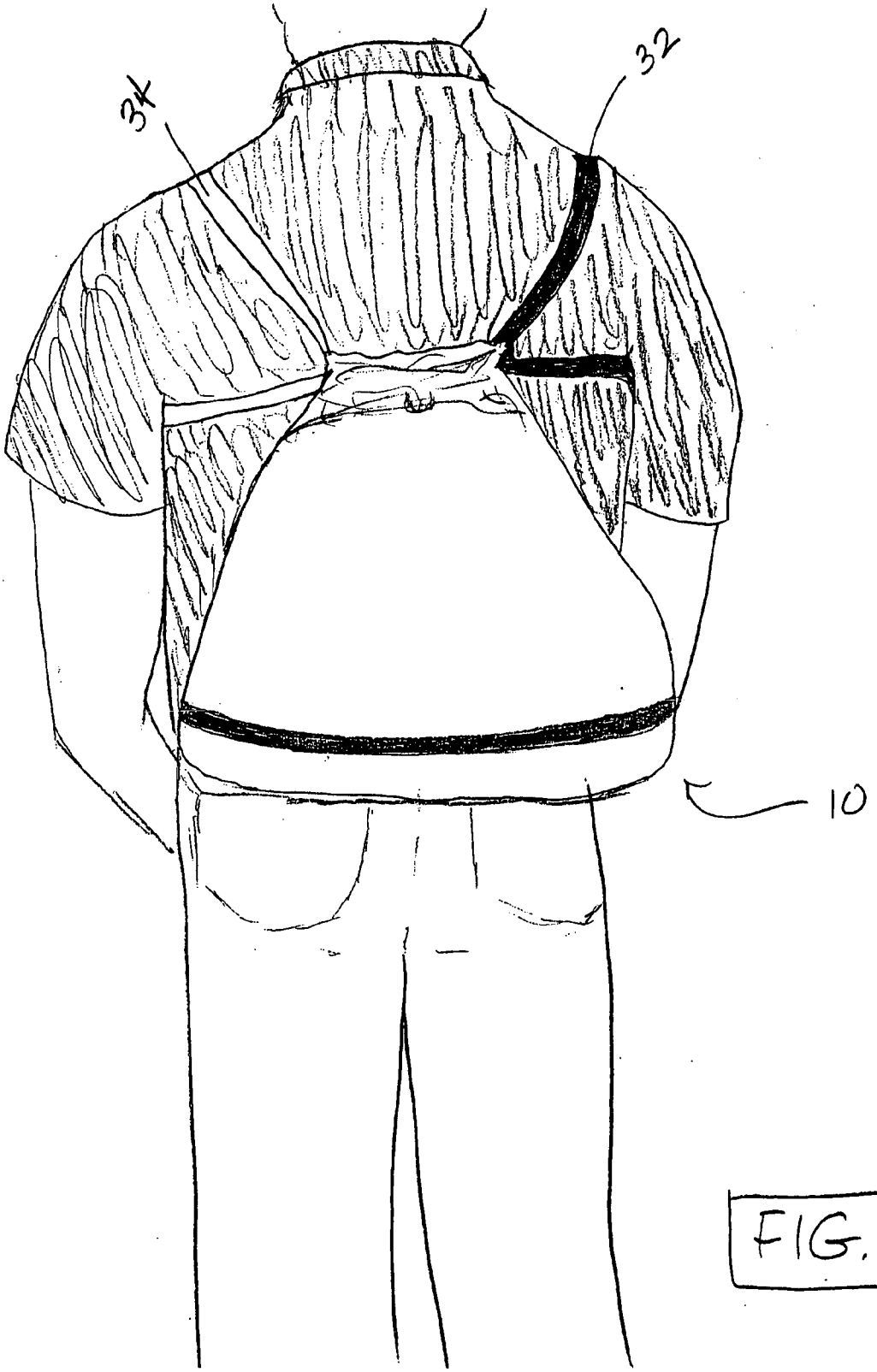


FIG. 6

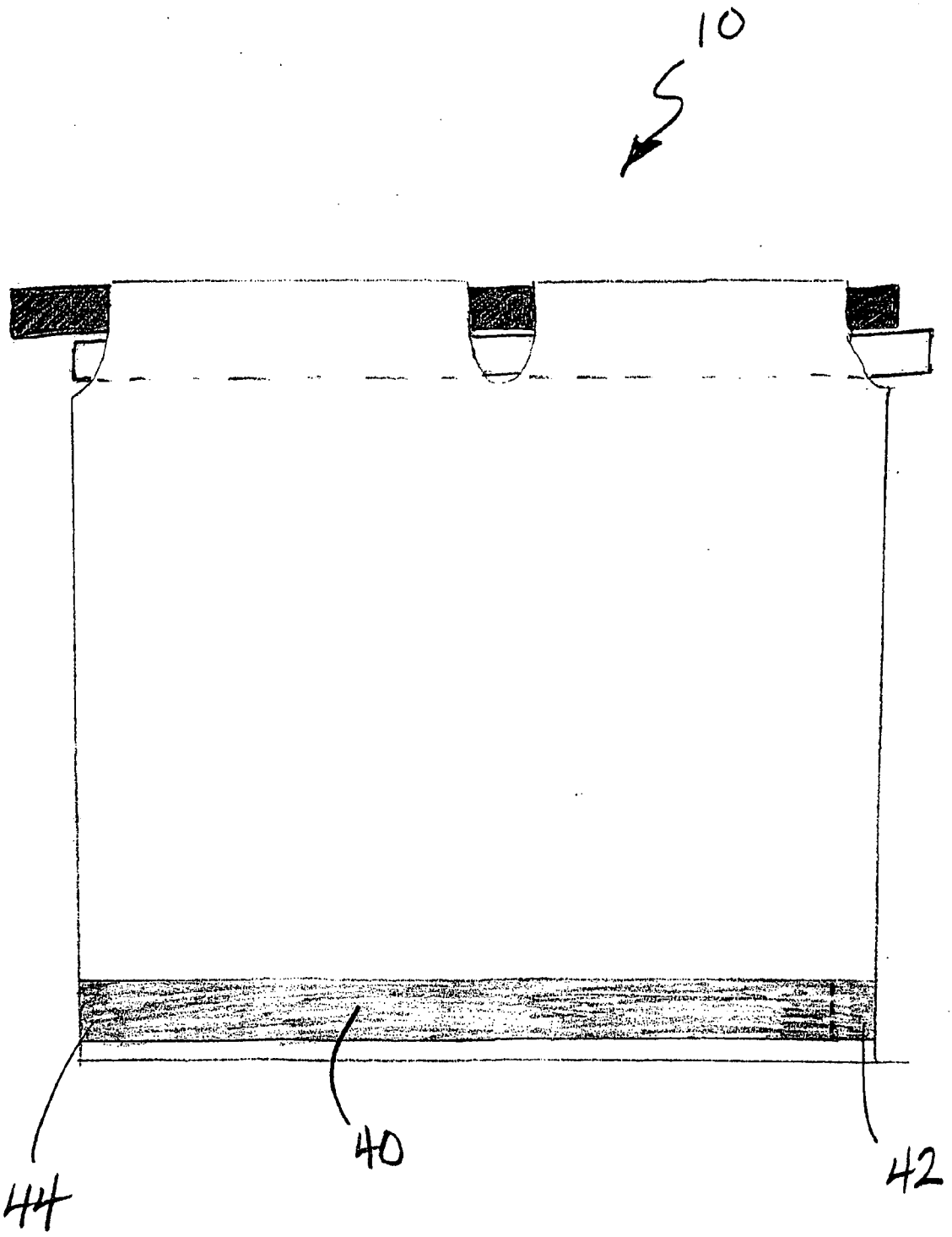


FIG. 7

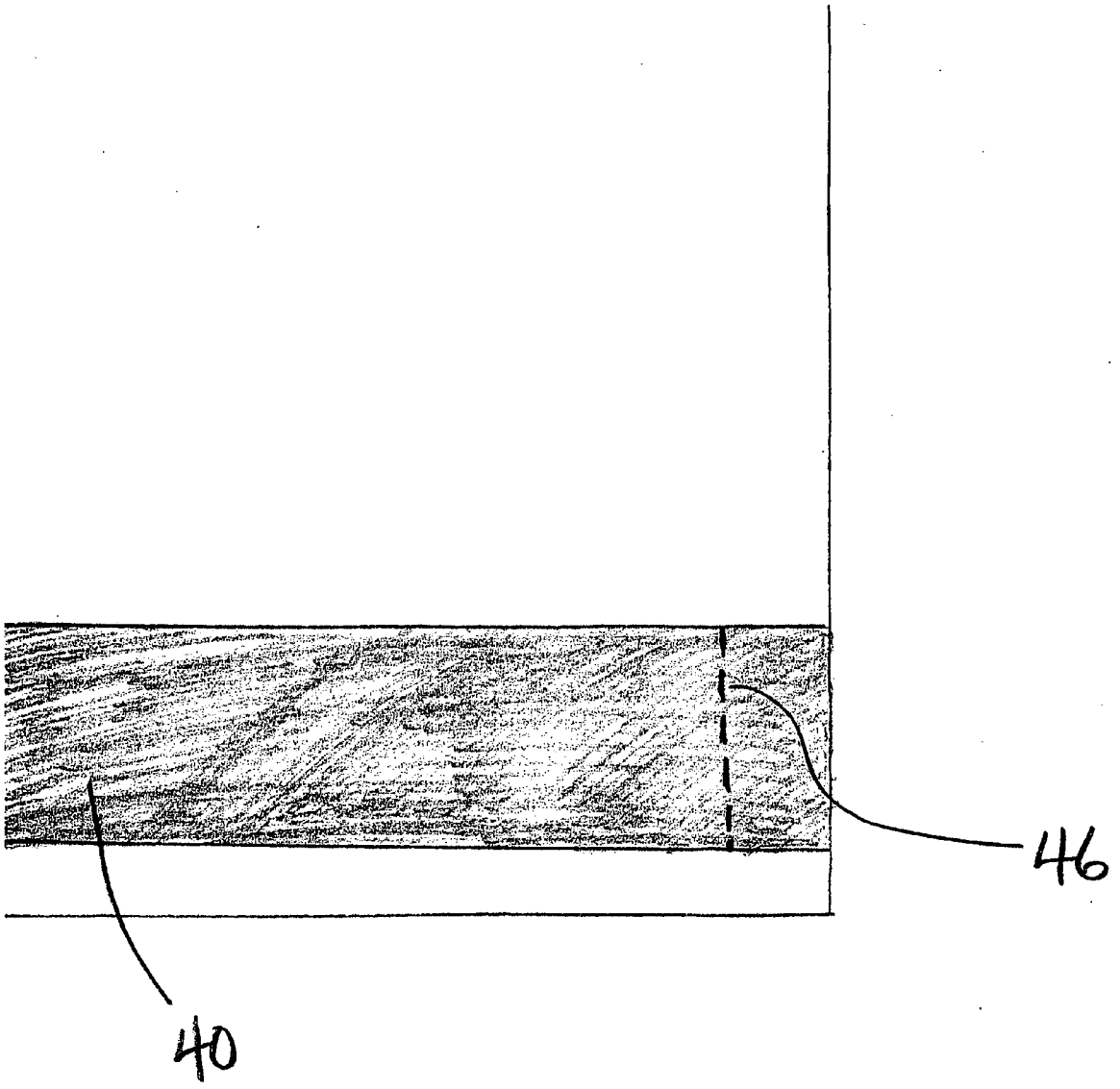


FIG. 8

DISPOSABLE CONVERTIBLE BACKPACK TOTE

PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims priority from the disclosure of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/737,278, entitled "Disposable Convertible Backpack Tote."

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates, in general, to devices for carrying items and, more particularly, to a disposable device that functions as a "tote" type bag and is convertible into a securely held backpack.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Plastic bags, that is bags formed of thermoplastic synthetic resin film, for example polyethylene, have come into common usage as produce bags, grocery bags, general and specialty merchandise bags, and the like. Such bags are produced in a variety of configurations and constructions with one of the most widely known forms of bag being what is usually generally referred to in the industry as a T-shirt bag.

[0004] Attendees at conventions, tradeshows, and similar events may collect a substantial amount of literature samples and other items provided by vendors displaying their goods and services at the event. Each trade sponsor may have a separate hand-held bag for its literature or giveaway items, and the convention goer may end up with several different bags all carried by the straps, loops or handles of the bag, all in one hand.

[0005] Yet further, visitors to amusement parks, theme parks, national parks, museums, sporting events, water parks, or other similar tourist attractions may be inundated with things to carry or tote around. The least of which may likely include handheld bags for souvenirs, paper products or literature, extra clothing (swim wear, jacket, etc.), or the like.

[0006] Plastic bag manufacturers have explored various avenues for carrying these bags. Some bags, for instance, have incorporated loop handles, while others have slits or cut-out holes. Additionally, some have wood, metal, or other material incorporated to create a handle.

[0007] Some of the disposable plastic bags that are currently available allow users to hold the bag with their hands and wear the bags on their backs. However, some of these bag designs involve elaborate, intricately interwoven corded rope systems that attach at the top, the bottom, the left side, and the right side of the bag. As a result, a user may not be able to simply or easily convert from handheld usage to shoulder "sling" tote to backpack usage without tangling the ropes, drawing the bag into a new configuration from its original flat shape, or requiring instructions for usage.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] This application discloses a new disposable convertible bag that functions as a hand-held tote and is convertible into a "sling" type tote, worn on either shoulder, and into a securely held backpack. Embodiments of the invention may employ one or more of the following features disclosed herein either singly or in combination. These embodiments may facilitate the emerging technologies discussed in the background above, as well as the technologies yet to come.

[0009] Embodiments of the invention may provide a disposable plastic or similar material bag with at least two closed loop drawstrings incorporated within at least one hem at the top of the bag. The tote may be carried in the user's hand utilizing the drawstrings in several different manners. In one example, the drawstrings may be pulled together from the top center notch of the tote providing a handle of approximately one half of the total length of each drawstring. In another example, the user may pull both drawstrings from the end notches only, and hold the tote in his hand in this orientation.

[0010] Additionally, the user may pull each of the drawstrings in opposing lateral directions, such that the full length of each of the closed loop drawstrings are exposed through either end notch and utilize the resulting loops as armholes, with one arm going through both loops. The tote is then worn slung over either of the user's shoulders. Further, the user may also project each arm through a respective loop, one on each side, with the open top end of the tote resting upon the user's back in a back-pack fashion.

[0011] An embodiment of the invention may provide attached plastic straps across the bottom of the tote bag, parallel to the closed bottom end. The attached straps are located one per side and perforatedly detachable. The user may detach the perforated straps and tie both ends around his waist to secure the tote while in use as a backpack. The user may further tighten or loosen his waist straps according to his preferences.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] In order that the invention may be more readily understood, particular embodiments will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

[0013] FIG. **1** is a plan view of an exemplary tote.

[0014] FIG. **2** is a partial plan view depicting a corner region of the tote of FIG. **1**.

[0015] FIG. **3** is a partial plan view depicting a corner and middle region of the tote of FIG. **1**.

[0016] FIG. **4***a* shows a perspective view of a user holding the tote of FIG. **1** in an exemplary handheld mode.

[0017] FIG. **4***b* shows a perspective view of a user holding the tote of FIG. **1** in an exemplary slung-over shoulder mode.

[0018] FIG. **5** is a plan view of a tote of the present invention.

[0019] FIG. **6** shows a perspective view of the tote of FIG. **5** being worn as a backpack in exemplary fashion.

[0020] FIG. **7** is a plan view of a tote of the present invention.

[0021] FIG. **8** is a partial plan view of a corner region of the tote as seen in FIG. **7**.

[0022] These figures are intended to be exemplary of the present invention, and not limiting thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0023] Turning to the figures, wherein like numerals denote like components throughout the several views, FIG. **1** is generally directed to a device for carrying items. The device can be disposable and convertible. Embodiments of the invention enable a user to conveniently convert a hand-held tote into a shoulder "sling" or a backpack, and optionally secure it to his waist.

[0024] In one embodiment, as further represented by FIG. **1**, there is shown a disposable, convertible tote **10** having at least two sides **12** (only one side shown), and an open top end **18** and a closed bottom end **19**. The tote **10** may be made from a film of thermoplastic material, such as polyethylene, but may be made from any suitable material, including paper or cloth as would be appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0025] In the present example, as shown in FIG. **2**, at least one hem **16** is provided on each side **12** of the backpack tote **10** at the open top end **18**, and at least two closed loop drawstrings **22**, **24** are provided within each of the at least one hem **16** (only one hem per side is shown). The closed loop drawstrings **22**, **24** are generally formed to have circumferences which are at least similar in length to the circumference of the top opening of the backpack tote **10**, but may be longer.

[0026] Referring now to FIG. **3**, the tote **10** is formed with end notches **26**, **27**, at each end of each hem **16**, and with at least one center notch **28** near the center of each hem **16**. Either the center notch **28** or the end notches **26**, **27** will allow the bag to be carried handheld. If both drawstrings are pulled together from either the center notch **28** or the end notches **26**, **27**, the user uses approximately one half of the drawstring loop's length, as shown in FIG. **4***a* for example. In this example, both drawstrings **22**, **24** are pulled together from the end notches **26**, **27**. The center notch **28** need not be located in the center of the hem, it may be offset to one side or the other. Additional notches may also be present in the hem.

[0027] The tote **10** may also be slung over the user's shoulder with each drawstring **22**, **24** pulled in an opposing lateral direction, such that substantially the full length of each of the closed loop drawstrings are exposed through either end notch **26**, **27**. The resulting loops **32**, **34** are utilized as armholes in the present example, with one arm going through both loops **32**, **34**, as shown in FIG. **4***b*.

[0028] Referring now to FIG. **5**, an embodiment regarding conversion of the tote **10** into a backpack is shown in which the closed loop drawstrings **22**, **24** are each pulled in an opposite direction through the end notches **26**, **27** forming armhole loops **32**, **34**. With the closed loop drawstrings pulled, the user simply projects one arm through each armhole loop **32**, **34**, oriented so that the tote **10** rests on the users back with the open top end **18** of the tote **10** positioned above the closed bottom end **19**, as shown in FIG. **6**.

[0029] In addition, as shown in FIGS. **7** and **8**, each tote **10** may have a strap **40** on each side **12** of the backpack tote **10** that allows the user to secure the backpack tote **10** around his waist. Each strap **40** may be oriented parallel to and in close proximity with the closed bottom end **19**, and may have first and second ends **42**, **44**. The first and second ends **42**, **44** may be perforated **46** near either end **42**, **44** of the strap, such that when detached (while being worn on the user's back), one strap end **42**, **44** hangs down on either side of the user, so that a strap **40** may be tied around the user's waist. The user may tighten or loosen the tied straps **40** according to his preference.

[0030] Each tote **10** may have a logo or design on either or both sides **12** that allows manufacturers or licensees to advertise. Similarly, the tote **10** may be manufactured in various sizes and shapes, as would be understood by one skilled in the art. Further, this backpack tote **10** can be re-used as a user of the tote **10** saw fit.

[0031] The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. While a specific embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein, without departing from the scope, spirit and intent of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

[0032] Therefore, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described. Accordingly, all such suitable changes or modifications in structure or operation which may be resorted to are intended to fall within the scope of the claimed invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A disposable convertible tote for carrying items, comprising:

a tote with at least two sides, and an open top end and a closed bottom end;

at least one hem provided on each of said sides defining said open top end, and said each at least one hem having two ends and a center;

end notches at said each end of said each hem and center notches at said center of each of said at least one hems; and

two or more closed loop drawstrings within said at least one hem having circumferences which at least frame said open top end.

2. The disposable tote of claim 1, further comprising

a strap attached on each side of said tote, having first and second ends; and

said strap oriented parallel to and in close proximity with said closed bottom end, and perforated near said first or second strap end such that when each of said straps are perforatedly detached, the said strap ends are oriented for tying around a user's waist.

3. A method of carrying a tote, the method comprising:

providing a tote, wherein the tote comprises an enclosure having a plurality of sides connected at a closed bottom end and an open top end, a plurality of closed-loop drawstrings running through the open top end, and a strap oriented on each side of said tote, wherein each of said straps are perforatedly attached;

pulling each of the strings to provide first and second pulled strings;

placing the first pulled string over a first shoulder; and

placing the second pulled string over a second shoulder.

* * * * *