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(54) **Sailing harness**

(57) A hooked spreader bar (17) is held to a sailor's body by straps (18) at each end (only one end is shown in the Figure). The straps (18) are formed with serrations (19) that are engaged by noses (22) of pivotable locks

(20). When the straps (18) are tight, the locks (20) prevent the straps (18) from loosening but provide a quick-release operation when pressed down at (A). The spreader bar (17) thus is reliably held to a sailor's body and can simply be fitted and removed.

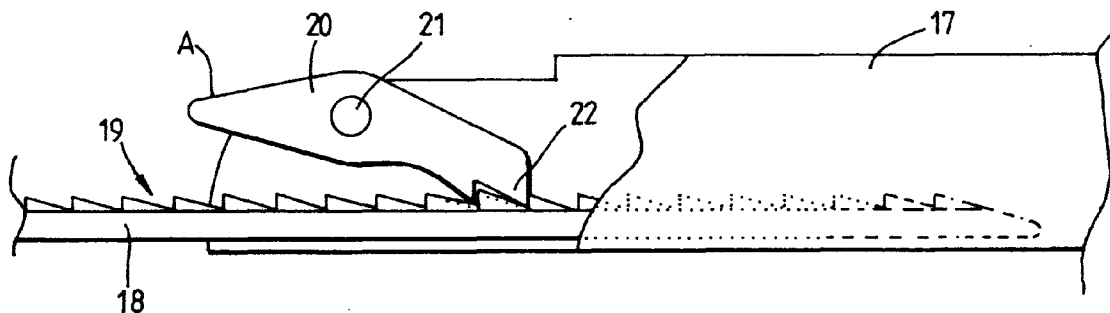


FIG. 3

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Description

The invention relates to sailing harnesses.

The invention relates in particular to sailing harness having a hooked spreader bar for attachment to a boom of a windsurfer or a trapeze line of a sail boat rigging. Such an attachment allows the sailor to use his body weight and release his hands for other tasks or simply to relieve, from time to time, the effort required to hold the boom or the trapeze line. Hooked spreader bars are already known and are attachable to a sailor's body harness by webbing straps provided for each end of the spreader bar. Such attachment requires threading of the straps into buckles. This normally takes some time, requires both hands and is not be quickly releasable. Also, inherent loose strap ends can be quite hazardous, especially in high winds where the loose ends flap violently about. Buckled straps tend to loosen in time requiring the sailor to make continuous adjustments in use.

It is an object of the invention to overcome or at least reduce these problems.

According to the invention there is provided a sailor's support apparatus comprising a hooked spreader bar that fits across the front of a body of a sailor, one or more straps extending to support around the body of the sailor having ends located opposite each respective end of the spreader bar, and quick release locking means mounted to the spreader bar arranged to hold the strap tight and securely adjacent each respective end of the spreader bar.

The support apparatus may include a harness and the straps comprise two straps that are each anchored at one end to the harness.

Ends of the straps may have serrated surfaces, pivotable stops being mounted to the spreader bar adjacent respective ends to lock against selected of the serrations when the straps are tight to form the quick-release locking means.

The pivotable stops may be spring biased towards the serrated surface of the strap.

A sailor's support apparatus according to the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :-

Figure 1 is an isometric view of a prior art apparatus;

Figure 2 is a side view of a spreader bar for use in an apparatus of the present invention; and

Figure 3 is an enlarged diagrammatic part cut-away view of part of the apparatus of the present invention.

Referring to the drawings, in Figure 1 support apparatus comprises a comprehensive harness 10 which in use adjustably fits to a sailor's upper torso having a back support 11 and shoulder straps 12. A hooked spreader bar 13 has a buckle 14 at each end and is pro-

vided with straps 15 that are buckled to straps 16 that are anchored to the harness 10. The spreader bar 13 is attached after the harness is fitted to the sailor by threading and tightening the straps 15 in conventional manner.

In Figures 2 and 3, a hooked spreader bar 17 is formed of a hollow curved tube having a cross-section that is generally circular at its centre and rectangular at each end where it is dimensioned to receive ends of straps 18, only one strap is shown (in Figure 3). The straps 18 have widths that fit snugly into the rectangular sectioned ends of the spreader bar 17. The outer (or upper, as seen in Figure 3) surfaces of the straps 18 are formed with serrations 19 and a pivotable lock 20 is mounted at each end of the spreader bar 17 on axles 21 supported in opposing sides of the spreader bar. Each lock 20 has a shaped nose 22 that fits snugly against the serrations, as shown in Figure 3. One end of each strap 18 is anchored to a suitable harness, such as shown in Figure 1 normally to comprise straps equivalent to straps 15 but in this case preferably fixed directly to the harness.

The spreader bar 17 is fitted by pushing the ends of the straps 18 into respective ends of the spreader bar 17 until the spreader bar 17 is held against the sailor's body. At this point, each lock 20 will have entered and be pressed against an appropriate respective serration of the straps 18. The straps will then be held firmly thereafter and will need no further adjustment. Due to the pivoting action of the locks 20, the more tension that is applied to the straps 18, the more firmly will the locks hold the straps in a chosen or selected relative positions inside the spreader bar. However, if the sailor wishes to loosen or remove the straps 18 from the spreader bar 17, the lock 20 can be released by pressing down at A on the locks 20 to pivot the noses 22 away and quickly out of engagement with the serrations 19.

The locks 20 may be spring biased, if preferred, towards the serrated surface of the straps 18.

It will be appreciated that other forms of quick release locking means may be used to lock the straps required distances inside the ends of the spreader bar, including a manually operable clamp or brake arrangement. Further, and because the hollow spreader bar allows, in general terms, a large measure of adjustment (the straps and spreader may be configured to allow the ends of straps 18 to enter far into the inside of the spreader bar), the straps 18 may be formed by a single length of suitable material that extends around the body of the sailor in use to provide at each of its ends both the straps 18. In this way or otherwise, the simplest apparatus provided by the invention may comprise only a single strap and the spreader bar. Normally, the apparatus of the invention will include a harness but could be simply the described spreader bar with quick-release locking means at each end and a single strap, or simple harness, which is attachable or held to say a life jacket for example.

Claims

1. A sailor's support apparatus comprising a hooked spreader bar (17) that fits across the front of a body of a sailor, one or more straps (18) extending to support around the body of the sailor characterised in that the straps (18) have ends located opposite each respective end of the spreader bar, and in that quick release locking means (20) are mounted to the spreader bar arranged to hold the strap tight and securely adjacent each respective end of the spreader bar. 5
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2. A sailor's support apparatus according to claim 1, characterised by a harness (11) in which the straps comprise two straps (18) that are each anchored at one end to the harness. 15
3. A sailor's support apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that ends of the straps have serrated surfaces (19) and pivotable stops (20) are mounted to the spreader bar (17) adjacent respective ends to lock against selected of the serrations when the straps are tight to form the quick-release locking means. 20
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4. A sailor's support according to claim 3, characterised by the pivotable stops (20) are spring biased towards the serrated surface (19) of the strap. 30

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