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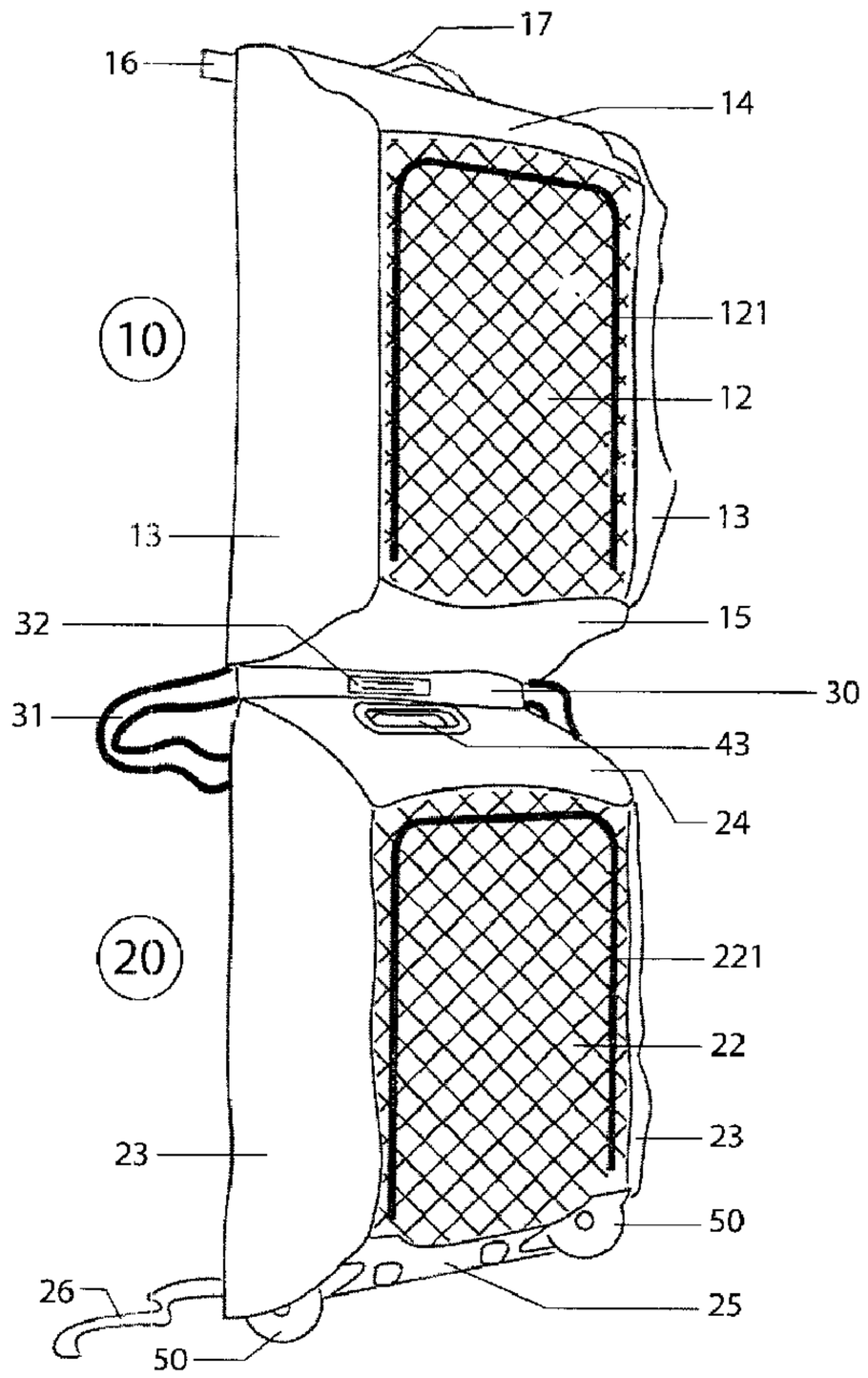
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(54) Titre : SAC POUR ARTICLES DE SPORT
(54) Title: SPORTS EQUIPMENT BAG



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
The sports equipment bag of is capable of assuming three configurations: a hang-up, a stand-up, and a transport configuration. It comprises two compartments, with partitions and pockets for equipment and items of clothing. The compartments are connected

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(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):
by a connecting strip, to accommodate moving the compartments to and from each other between the transport configuration and the hang-up configuration. Fastening means on one compartment engage fastening means on the other compartment. to secure the compartments in either the transport configuration or the stand-up configuration. Each compartment comprises a frame, sufficiently rigid to render the bag stable in the stand-up configuration. Rear and front panels of the compartments, as well as partitions and pockets, are manufactured of open texture material, to facilitate ventilation and drying of items carried in the bag. In one embodiment, one of the compartments comprises a pair of wheels and a retractable handle.

ABSTRACT

The sports equipment bag of is capable of assuming three configurations: a hang-up, a stand-up, and a transport configuration. It comprises two compartments, with partitions and pockets for equipment and items of clothing. The compartments are connected by a connecting strip, to accommodate moving the compartments to and from each other between the transport configuration and the hang-up configuration.

Fastening means on one compartment engage fastening means on the other compartment, to secure the compartments in either the transport configuration or the stand-up configuration. Each compartment comprises a frame, sufficiently rigid to render the bag stable in the stand-up configuration.

Rear and front panels of the compartments, as well as partitions and pockets, are manufactured of open texture material, to facilitate ventilation and drying of items carried in the bag.

In one embodiment, one of the compartments comprises a pair of wheels and a retractable handle.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT BAG

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to luggage products and, more particularly, to a bag for carrying sports equipment and items of clothing.

BACKGROUND ART

A number of sports require players to maintain and carry substantial amounts of equipment and items of clothing. This requirement is pronounced particularly in team sports, where players often go on road trips and stay in hotels. Similar requirement is posed by resort activities, such as skiing or aquatic sports. Although a duffle bag is commonly used by players, particularly in recreational and amateur settings, it has a number or shortcomings: it is bulky, uncomfortable to carry over larger distances, and does not allow for content to remain organized for easy access. Moreover, it is not advisable to leave perspiration- and moisture-laden equipment and items of clothing in the duffle bag for any prolonged period of time, as poor ventilation will prevent drying and result in the development of odours and even mould.

A number of patents address one or more of the above issues. Thus, for example, Canadian Patent No. 2,205,607 to Fournier describes a sports bag for the transport and storage of hockey equipment, comprising a base to which side walls and end walls are hingedly connected. The bag can assume either a planar configuration, when the base, side walls and end walls are co-planar, or a closed configuration, when the walls are hinged upwardly from the base and connected to each other, preferably by zippers, at adjacent edges to define an interior space. Pockets disposed on the interior surfaces of the bag are made of mesh, which, in the planar configuration, allows air to circulate and expedites evaporation of moisture from sports equipment and clothing. With Fournier's bag, however, the content may be accessed in an organized manner – if at all – only when the bag is completely unfolded and hung up. Also, although the pockets are made of mesh,

ventilation is hindered by the fact that the outer surface of the bag (i.e., in the planar configuration, the back side of the bag) is made of traditional non-porous materials.

A similar solution, proposed in Canadian Patent No. 2,231,470 to Schaeffer, provides for some degree of ventilation in the closed configuration, by providing side walls manufactured of mesh. In the flat configuration, however, the back side of the bag is still non-porous. Additionally, the means for hanging the bag require that multiple pegs on the wall are used at the same time, which may not be a feasible option in crowded change rooms.

Yet another similar solution is taught in Canadian Patent No. 2,364,871 to Albritton. In this specification, the bag also includes a back wall having a hook for hanging of the bag when in an open configuration, and a plurality of compartments on a front surface of the back wall. The compartments are partially manufactured of mesh, accommodating a view of contents and circulation of air. Interestingly, the compartments can have shelves projecting from the back wall.

An earlier Canadian Patent to Gorizzan (No. 1,299,147) addresses the problem of carrying and towing a sports bag, particularly a hockey bag, and proposes a solution in which the bag comprises a soft upper portion which enables substantial packing of the bag and a lower portion of increased rigidity, provided on its underside with rollers. Organized access to the content and drying issues are not addressed.

A number of patent documents discuss solutions for organizing and providing easy access to content of travel bags, such as U.S. Patent No. 4,753,342 to Pulichino *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,887,700 to Rice and U.S. Patent No. 5,060,795 to Bomes *et al.* Thus, Pulichino *et al.* describe a garment carrier providing means for organizing the content both on coat hangers and in multiple pockets. The invention also teaches use of reinforcements for maintaining the shape of the bag.

In spite of the prior art solutions, there is still a need for a sports equipment bag which will provide for superior transport and ventilation solutions, as well as a more efficient ways of organizing and accessing the equipment and items of clothing in contemporary settings. Locker and change rooms, particularly in amateur and recreational sports, generally provide insufficient space for players to organize and access their equipment and items of clothing before and after engaging in sports activities. There are few pegs for hanging the clothes, and the number of players concurrently using the same change room may leave insufficient bench, wall and floor space. These and other issues are addressed by the solutions provided in the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The sports equipment bag according to the present invention is capable of assuming three distinct configurations: a hang-up configuration, a stand-up configuration, and a transport configuration. It comprises two compartments, each compartment consisting of a rear panel, a front panel, top and bottom panels, side panels, and a plurality of partitions and pockets for accommodating sports equipment and items of clothing.

The compartments are connected by a connecting strip along the bottom side of one and the top side of the other compartment, to accommodate moving the compartments to and from each other between the transport configuration, in which the compartments are adjacent, and the hang-up configuration, in which the compartments extend from each other with rear panels in a substantially same plane. Manufactured integrally with, or attached to, said connecting strip is a shoulder strap for carrying the bag in the transport configuration.

Attached to each side of one of the compartments are at least two fastening means, provided to engage corresponding fastening means on the sides of the other compartment, to releasably secure the compartments in either the transport configuration, in which the

compartments are adjacent, or the stand-up configuration, in which bottom sides of the compartments are spaced apart from each other.

Mounted on the outside of the rear panel of at least one compartment is at least one loop for hanging the bag in the hang-up configuration. In a preferred embodiment, multiple loops are mounted in multiple positions on the outside of the rear panel, to provide for adjusting the height at which the bag is hung up.

Each of the compartments comprises a frame, said frame being sufficiently rigid to render the bag stable in the stand-up configuration.

At least one of the compartments of the sports equipment bag is provided, on the inside of the top panel, with a loop for receiving a coat hanger.

In one embodiment of the invention, the compartments of the sports equipment bag are permanently attached to the connecting strip.

In another embodiment, one of the compartments is permanently attached to the connecting strip, while the other compartment is releasably attached to the connecting strip, to facilitate separating the compartments. In this embodiment, each of the compartments comprises at least one loop for hanging the bag in the hang-up configuration. According to a preferred embodiment, means for releasably attaching said compartment to the connecting strip may comprise a series of hook-and-loop fastener strips engaging a corresponding series of rings or grommets, a zipper; or a series of buttons or snap fasteners.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, at least rear panel and front panel of each of the compartments, as well as partitions and pockets, are manufactured of open texture material, to facilitate ventilation and drying of sports equipment and items of clothing carried therein. In a more preferred embodiment, the open texture material is mesh. In a

most preferred embodiment, mesh comprises at least 60% of the outside surface of the bag.

According to a further embodiment of the invention, one of the compartment of the sports equipment bag further comprises a pair of wheels, each wheel supported in a wheel bracket mounted on the bottom panel of said compartment; and a retractable handle. The wheels and handle are provided to facilitate towing the bag in the transport configuration.

In a preferred embodiment, the retractable handle comprises a telescopic handle assembly featuring an outer tubing, supported in a bottom bracket mounted on the bottom panel and in a top bracket mounted on, and extending through, the top panel of said compartment. Inner tubing, extendably enclosed in said outer tubing, is provided with a handle.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present invention and to show in detail the embodiments and applications thereof, reference will be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows the sports equipment bag according to the invention in a hang-up configuration;

Figures 2 and 3 show the sports equipment bag according to the invention in a stand-up configuration, with front panels of compartments 10 (Fig. 3) and 20 (Fig. 2) removed;

Figure 4a is a partial rear view of the rear panels according to one embodiment of the invention, with both rear panels permanently attached to the connecting strip;

Figure 4b is a partial rear view of the rear panels according to another embodiment, with the rear panel of the compartment 10 permanently attached to the connecting strip and the rear panel of the compartment 20 releasably attached to the connecting strip;

Figure 5 is an exploded inside view of the compartment 10, and Figure 6 is an exploded inside view of the compartment 20, both with front panels removed;

Figure 7 shows the sports equipment bag in the same configuration as in Fig. 1, with external pockets provided on side panels of both compartments;

Figure 8 is a detailed rear view of the rear panel of the compartment 10;

Figure 9 depicts frames of the rear panels of the compartments 10 and 20, and, according to one embodiment of the invention, structural reinforcements of top, bottom and side panels of the compartment 20;

Figure 10 is a top view of the bag according to the invention;

Figures 11a and 11b show a detailed side and, respectively, bottom views of the compartment 20 according to one embodiment of the invention;

Figures 12 a and 12b show details of the telescopic handle assembly according to one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 13 illustrates uses of the sports equipment bag according to the invention in the hang-up and stand-up configurations;

Figure 14 illustrates hanging up of separated compartments 10 and 20 according to an embodiment of the invention; and

Figures 15 and 16 illustrate the sports equipment bag according to the invention being carried and, respectively, towed in the transport configuration.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The sports equipment bag of the present invention, shown in Figure 1 in a hang-up configuration, comprises two substantially rectangularly shaped compartments, 10 and 20, connected by a connecting strip 30. The compartments 10 and 20 are of a similar shape and size and indeed, according to one embodiment of the invention, the bag comprises two identical compartments corresponding to compartment 10 in Figure 1.

Compartment 10 comprises a rear panel 11 (not visible in Figure 1), front panel 12, side panels 13, top panel 14 and bottom panel 15. Similarly, compartment 20 comprises rear panel 21 (not visible), front panel 22, side panels 23, top panel 24 and bottom panel 25. Front panels 12 and 22 are provided with zippers 121 and 221 for easy access to sports equipment and items of clothing carried in the bag.

It will be understood that terms "top" and "bottom," as used in this description and accompanying claims, are for convenience only, and refer to positions of respective elements in the drawings.

At least two fastening means 16, one on each side of the compartment 10, are provided to engage corresponding at least two fastening means 26 on the sides of compartment 20, as will be explained in greater detail below.

Compartment 10 is further provided with at least one loop, 17, for hanging the sports equipment bag from the wall, when used in the hang-up configuration to access sports equipment and items of clothing carried therein, or to allow the content to dry.

The connecting strip 30 is provided with a shoulder strap 31 and, optionally, with a carrying handle 32. It will be obvious to a person skilled in the art that the shoulder strap 31 can be integral with the connecting strip 30, or it can be permanently or releasably attached thereto.

In a further embodiment of the invention, compartment 20 differs from compartment 10 in being further provided with a retractable handle, as will be explained in greater detail below (only the top bracket of the handle assembly, 43, is shown in Figure 1), and with a pair of wheels 50, to facilitate towing the sports equipment bag according to the invention in a transport configuration.

Figures 2 and 3 depict the bag of the present invention in a stand-up configuration, with front panels 12 and 22 not shown. The bottom panel 25 of the compartment 20 in Figure 2 is also partially hidden, to reveal the complete retractable handle assembly comprising tubing 41, bottom bracket 42 attached to the bottom panel 25, top bracket 43 attached to, and extending through, an opening in the top panel 24, and handle 44 provided with a release button 45.

In the stand-up configuration, the fastening means 16 releasably engage fastening means 26 to limit spacing apart of the bottom sides of the compartments 10 and 20. In this way, the sports equipment bag of the invention may be placed on the floor, with a relatively small footprint, while sports equipment and items of clothing carried in both compartments remain organized and readily accessible to the player. The same set of fastening means 16 and 26 , or an additional set of fastening means (not shown), are used to secure the bottom sides of compartments 10 and 20 together when the bag of the present invention is in the transport configuration.

Fastening means 16 and 26 comprise strips provided with male and, respectively, female elements of a snap fastener, a hook-and-loop fastener (Velcro®), a clasp, a buckle, or other convenient releasable fastener.

Pads 52 provide for enhanced friction and help keep the bag in the stand-up configuration in place when accessing items carried therein. The pads 52 are generally made of rubber, although a person skilled in the art will recognize that the specific material, shape, position and number of pads will depend on the design as much as on the functional considerations.

In one embodiment of the invention, depicted in Figure 4a, the compartments 10 and 20 are permanently attached to the connecting strip 30.

In another embodiment, shown in Figure 4b, the compartment 10 is permanently attached to the connecting strip 30, while the compartment 20 is releasably attached to the connecting strip 30, with fastening means 33 engaging corresponding fastening means 34 on the top side of the compartment 20. Figure 4b depicts fastening means 33 as a plurality of hook-and-loop fastener strips engaging a plurality of rings or grommets provided on the top side of compartment 20. A person skilled in the art will, however, understand that a number of alternative fastening means such as, for example, a zipper, or a series of buttons or snap fasteners, will provide for the same functionality.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 4b, the compartment 20 is provided with at least one loop, 27, for hanging the compartment 20 from the wall.

Figure 5 is an exploded view of the inside of the compartment 10, showing an arrangement of partitions and pockets for organizing sports equipment and items of clothing. Elastic straps 112, for securing larger equipment or items of clothing, extend from a frame 111 of the rear panel 11, and are releasably joined by a clasp 113. Side panels 13 comprise pockets 131. A loop, 18, mounted on the inside of the top panel 14, is provided to receive a standard triangular coat hanger (not shown).

Similarly, in Figure 6, the rear panel 21 of the compartment 20 features two larger pockets, 212 and 213. Side panels 23 comprise pockets 231, and a loop 28 is mounted on the inside of the top panel 24 to receive a coat hanger (not shown).

According to an embodiment of the invention, the top panel 24 further comprises an opening 241 for receiving the top bracket of the retractable handle assembly (not shown), while the bottom panel 25 features an openings 251 for receiving wheel brackets (not shown).

In a further embodiment, Figure 7 shows the sports equipment bag of the present invention in which the side panels 13 and 23 are provided with external pockets 132 and 232, for carrying additional sports equipment and items of clothing.

It will be understood that the specific arrangement of partitions and pockets may differ from the arrangement illustrated in Figures 5, 6 and 7. Generally, this arrangement will depend on the particular sport the bag of the present invention is designed for. Thus, for example, the arrangement of internal and external partitions and pockets in a hockey bag may be substantially different from the arrangement in a bag customized for football, baseball, track-and-field, aquatic sports, etc. All such arrangements are envisioned within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

The sports equipment bag of the present invention is at least partially manufactured of a material commonly used for luggage and bags, such as natural or synthetic canvas and polyurethane- or vinyl-based synthetic leather. Preferred material is a 600 Denier polyester with polyurethane or vinyl backing. Rear panels, front panels, partitions and pockets will be, however, preferably manufactured of an open texture material, to ensure proper ventilation and drying of equipment and items of clothing carried in the bag.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the open texture material is mesh. In a more preferred embodiment, mesh comprises at least 60% of the outer surface of the bag.

Figure 8 shows the back of the rear panel 11 of the compartment 10. Mounted on the frame 111 are multiple loops 17 for adjusting the height at which the sports equipment bag of the present invention is hung from the wall. Handles 19, also mounted on the frame

111, provide for a convenient grip when the bag is being hung up, as illustrated in Figure 13 (left).

In the embodiment of the present invention in which the compartments can be separated from each other, the compartment 20 will also be provided with multiple loops and a pair of handles providing a convenient grip when the compartment is being hung up.

To ensure structural integrity of the sports equipment bag of the present invention, particularly in the stand-up configuration, rear panels 11 and 21 are provided with frames 111 and 211, respectively. The frames are sufficiently rigid to prevent the compartments from collapsing when the bag is in the stand-up configuration and, as shown in Figure 9, may further comprise cross-bars 114 and 214. Frames may comprise tubing or square bars joined, for example, by means of fittings or rivets. Suitable light-weight materials include aluminum and polymer materials such as ABS or vinyl plastic.

To maintain the shape of the compartment when carrying heavier or oddly-shaped equipment, the side panels, as well as the top and bottom panels, may also be reinforced. In Figure 9, panels of the compartment 20 comprise such reinforcements – side panel reinforcements 233, top panel reinforcement 242, and bottom panel reinforcement 252. Reinforcements will be typically cut or moulded from a polymer material such as polyurethane.

Figure 10 is a top view of the sports equipment bag according to the invention, showing top panels 14 and 24, connecting strip 30 and shoulder strap 31. The retractable handle assembly is designated as 40. The handle 32 is optionally provided with a ring 33, for releasably attaching accessories such as laundry pouch, toiletries bag or document holder. Alternatively, the ring 33 may be used for hanging the sports equipment bag in the transport configuration.

Figures 11a and 11b are the side and, respectively, bottom views of a detail of the compartment 20 according to one embodiment of the invention. Wheels 50, supported

in brackets 51 mounted on the bottom panel 25, provide for towing of the sports equipment bag of the invention in the transport configuration. Brackets 51 are manufactured of a suitable material, such as metal or plastic, and are bolted or rivetted to the bottom panel 25. Wheels 50 are lined with, or entirely made of, rigid rubber. A plurality of pads 52 are mounted on the bottom panel 25 to provide for enhanced friction and to keep the bag in place on the floor in both the stand-up and transport configurations.

Figures 12a and 12b show details of the retractable handle assembly according to one embodiment of the invention. The assembly comprises tubing 41 mounted inside the compartment 20 by means of the bottom bracket 42 attached to the bottom panel 25 and the top bracket 43 attached to, and extending through, top panel 24. Depressing the button 45 releases the inner part of the tubing 41 and enables it to telescopically extend into the towing position, or to retract back when no longer needed. A person skilled in the art will recognize that the telescopic construction of a centrally mounted retractable handle is only one of a number of functionally equivalent solutions. Thus, in an alternative embodiment of the invention (not shown in the drawings), the retractable handle may comprise tubing that extends from both sides of the frame 211.

As shown in Figure 13, the sports equipment bag of the present invention provides for a highly efficient use of limited wall and floor space in the change room. After the bag has been extended from the transport configuration (left), it is readily hung on the wall (centre left). Featuring a relatively low profile, the bag in the hang-up configuration does not present an obstacle to the player using the bench space (centre right). If no wall space is available, the bag in the stand-up configuration features a relatively small footprint and provides for an easy access to equipment and items of clothing (right).

At home or in a hotel room, the sports equipment bag according to the invention may be conveniently hung in a well-ventilated area, allowing the equipment and items of clothing to dry.

In the embodiment of the invention where the compartments may be separated from each other, both compartment may be independently hung up on the wall, as illustrated in Figure 14.

When carried (Figure 15) or towed (Figure 16) in the transport configuration, the sports equipment bag of the present invention features a relatively low profile, enabling the player to easily negotiate narrow areas such as doors, passages or escalators, as well as crowded spaces such as entrance ways, subway or railway platforms, airport check-in areas, etc.

It will be apparent that various modifications of the sports equipment bag of the present invention may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A sports equipment bag capable of assuming three distinct configurations:
a hang-up configuration,
a stand-up configuration, and
a transport configuration,

said bag comprising:

two compartments, each compartment consisting of a rear panel, a front panel, top and bottom panels, side panels, and a plurality of partitions and pockets for accommodating sports equipment and items of clothing;

a connecting strip, pivotally connecting said two compartments along the bottom side of one and the top side of the other of said compartments, to accommodate moving the compartments to and from each other between the transport configuration, in which the compartments are adjacent, and the hang-up configuration, in which the compartments extend from each other with rear panels in a substantially same plane;

at least two fastening means, attached one to each side of one of the compartments and engaging corresponding fastening means on the sides of the other compartment, to releasably secure the compartments in either the transport configuration, in which the compartments are adjacent, or the stand-up configuration, in which bottom sides of the compartments are spaced apart from each other;

at least one loop, mounted on the outside of the rear panel of at least one compartment, for hanging the bag in the hang-up configuration; and

a shoulder strap for carrying the bag in the transport configuration;

wherein each of the compartments comprises a frame, said frame being sufficiently rigid to render the bag stable in the stand-up configuration.

2. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said compartments are permanently attached to said connecting strip.

3. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, comprising multiple loops mounted in multiple positions on the outside of the rear panel of at least one of said compartments, for adjusting the height at which the bag is hung up.

4. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one of said compartments is permanently attached to said connecting strip; and wherein the other compartment is releasably attached to said connecting strip, to facilitate separating said compartments.

5. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 4, wherein means for releasably attaching said compartment to said connecting strip are selected from a group consisting of:

a series of hook-and-loop fastener strips engaging a corresponding series of rings or grommets;

a zipper; and

a series of buttons or snap fasteners.

6. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 4, comprising multiple loops mounted in multiple positions on the outside of the rear panel of each of said compartments, for adjusting the height at which each of the separated compartments is hung up.

7. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least rear panel, front panel, partitions and pockets of the compartments are manufactured of open texture material, to facilitate ventilation and drying of sports equipment and items of clothing carried therein.

8. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said open texture material is mesh.

9. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 8, wherein mesh comprises at least 60% of the surface area of said front and rear panels.

10. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the compartments comprises a loop, mounted on the inside of the top panel for receiving a coat hanger.

11. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one of said compartments further comprises:

a pair of wheels, each wheel supported in a wheel bracket mounted on the bottom panel of said compartment; and

a retractable handle,

said wheels and retractable handle being provided to facilitate towing the bag in the transport configuration.

12. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said retractable handle comprises a telescopic handle assembly featuring:

an outer tubing, supported in a bottom bracket mounted on the bottom panel and in a top bracket mounted on, and extending through, the top panel of said compartment; and

an inner tubing, extendably enclosed in said outer tubing, and provided with a handle.

13. A sports equipment bag capable of assuming three distinct configurations:

a hang-up configuration,
a stand-up configuration, and
a transport configuration,

said bag comprising:

two compartments (10, 20), each compartment consisting of a rear panel (11, 21), a front panel (12, 22), side panels (13, 23), top panel (14, 24), bottom panel (15, 25), and a plurality of partitions and pockets (131, 132, 212, 213, 231, 232) for accommodating sports equipment and items of clothing;

a connecting strip (30), pivotally connecting said two compartments along the bottom side of the compartment (10) and the top side of the compartment (20), to accommodate moving the compartments to and from each other between the transport configuration, in which the compartments are adjacent, and the hang-up configuration, in which the compartments extend from each other with rear panels in a substantially same plane;

two fastening means (16), attached one to each side of the compartment (10) and engaging corresponding fastening means (26) on the sides of the compartment (20), to releasably secure the compartments in either the transport configuration, in which the compartments are adjacent, or the stand-up configuration, in which bottom sides of the compartments are spaced apart from each other;

a loop (17), mounted on the outside of the rear panel (11) of the compartment (10), for hanging the bag in the hang-up configuration; and

a shoulder strap (31) for carrying the bag in the transport configuration;

wherein each of the compartment (10, 20) comprises a frame (111, 211), said frame being sufficiently rigid to render the bag stable in the stand-up configuration,

wherein each compartment (10, 20) is provided, on the inside of the top panel (14, 24), with a loop (18, 28) for receiving a coat hanger, and

wherein the compartment (20) further comprises:

a pair of wheels (50) supported in wheel brackets (51) mounted on the bottom panel (25) of the compartment (20); and

a retractable handle assembly (40) comprising an outer tubing (41), supported in a bottom bracket (42) mounted on the bottom panel (25) and in a top bracket (43) mounted on, and extending through, the top panel (24) of the compartment (20), and an inner tubing, extendably enclosed in said outer tubing, and provided with a handle (44).

14. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 13, wherein at least rear panel (11, 21), front panel (12, 22), partitions and pockets (131, 132, 212, 213, 231, 232) of the

compartments (10, 20) are manufactured of open texture material, to facilitate ventilation and drying of sports equipment and items of clothing carried therein.

15. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said open texture material is mesh.

16. A sports equipment bag as claimed in Claim 15, wherein mesh comprises at least 60% of the surface area of said front and rear panels.

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 1/9

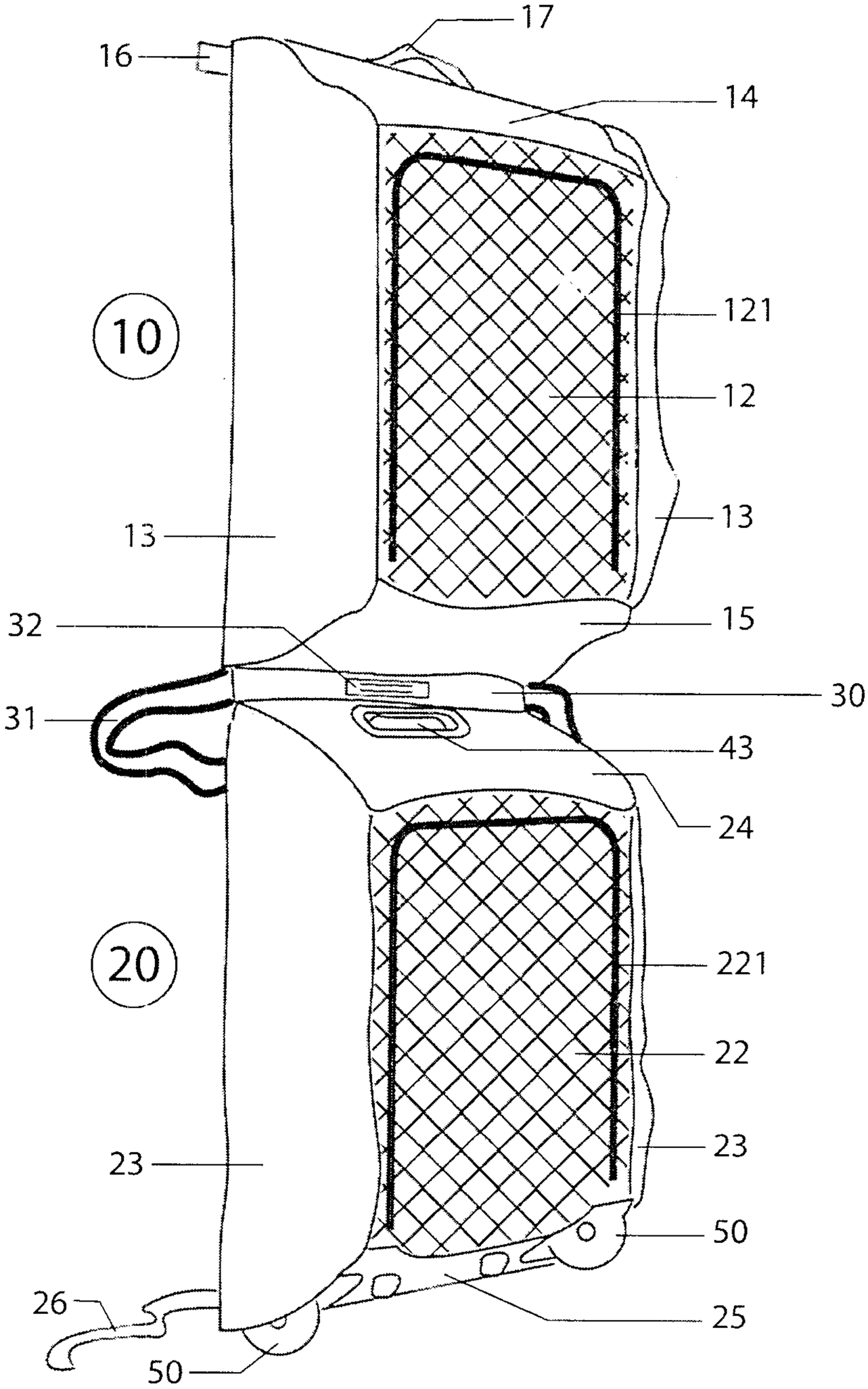


Fig. 1

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 2/9

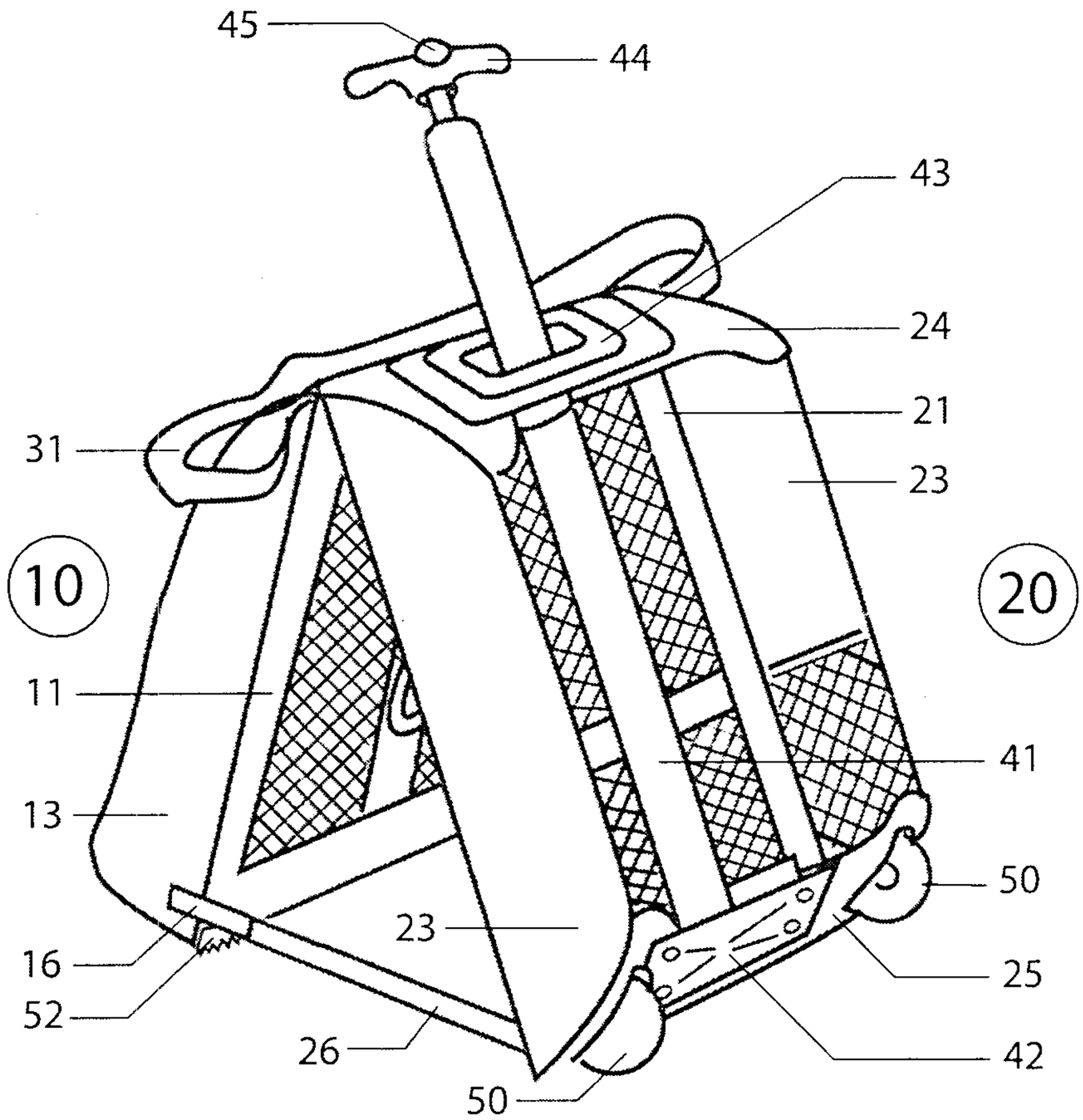


Fig. 2

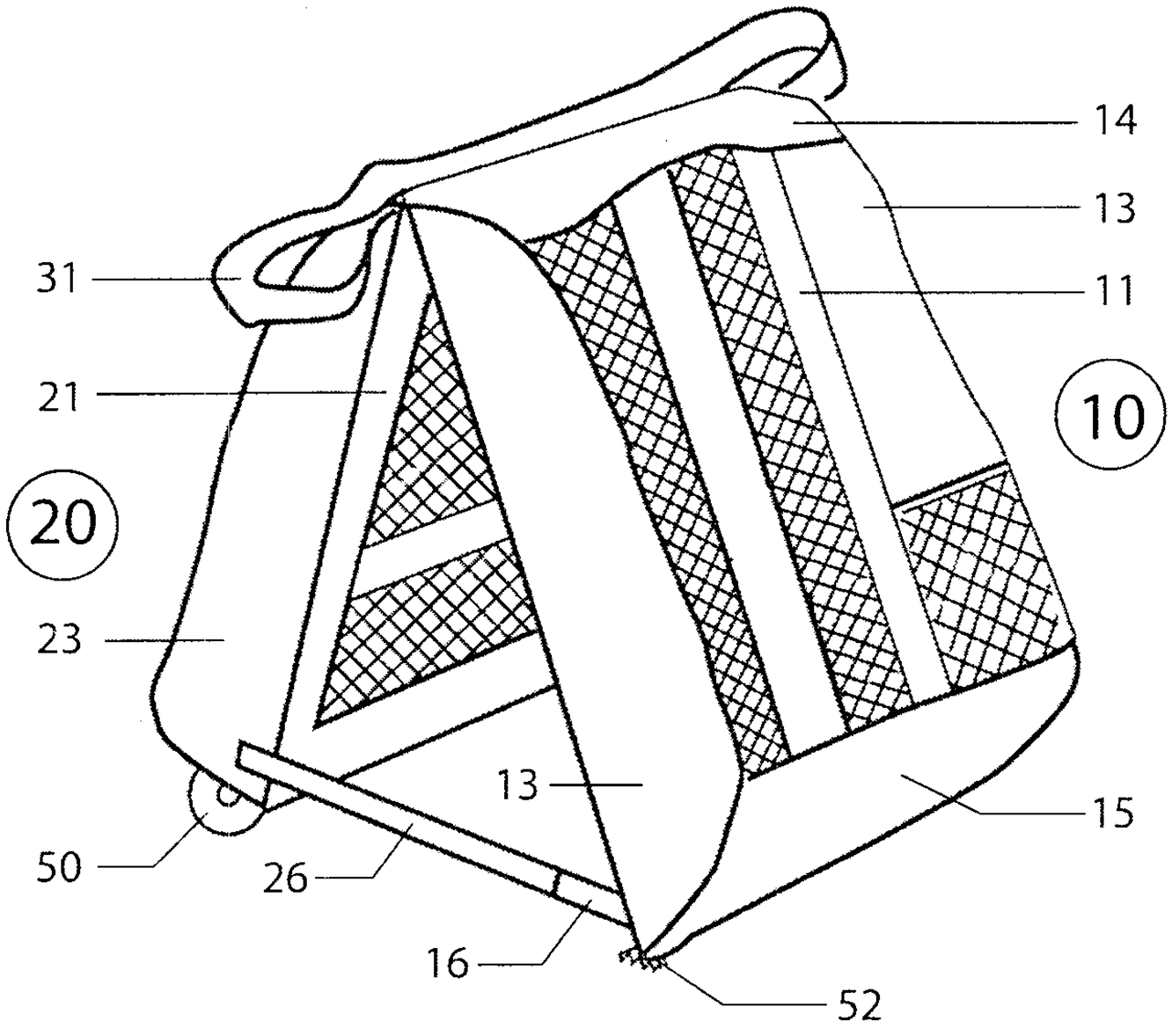


Fig. 3

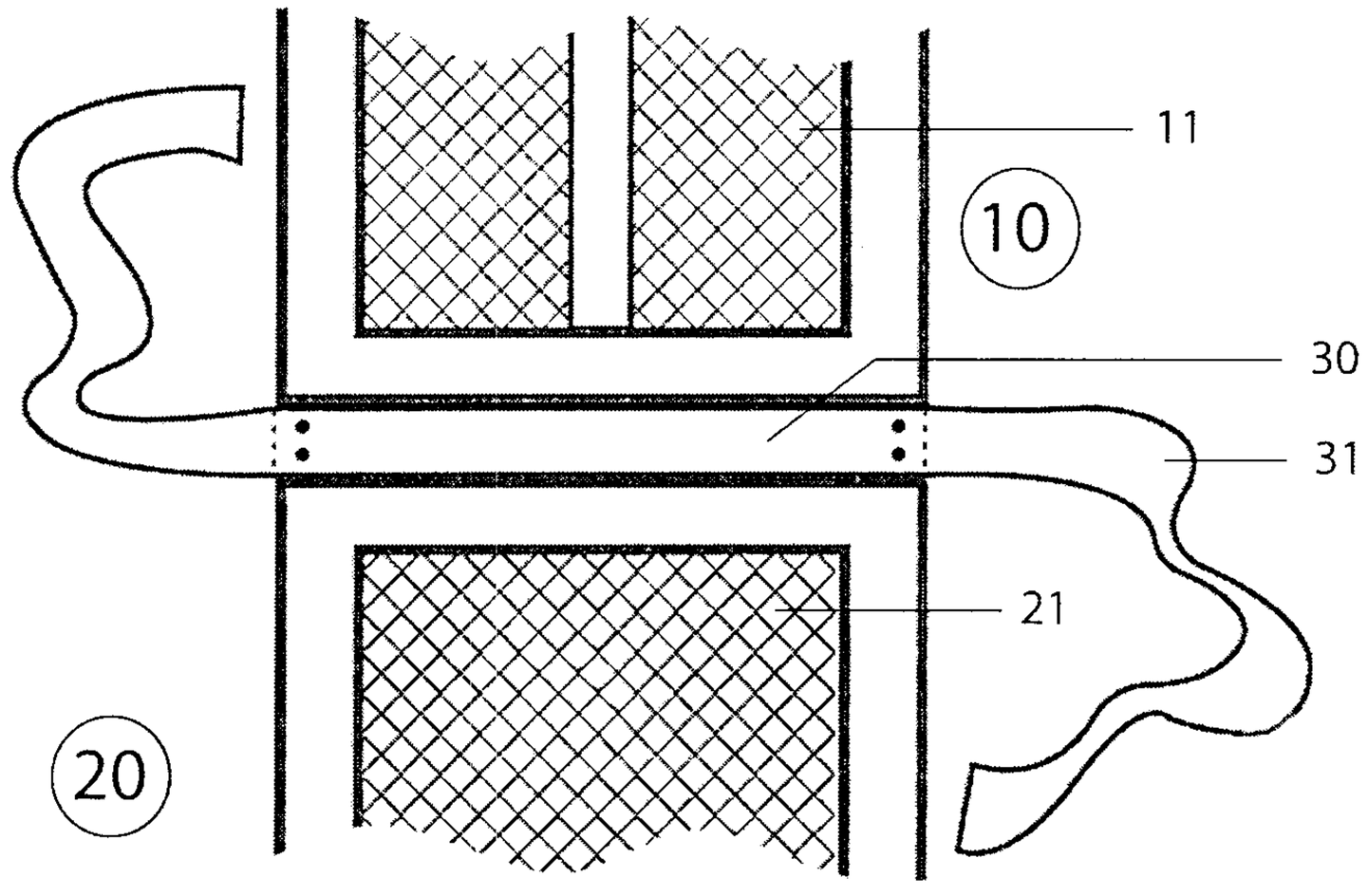


Fig. 4a

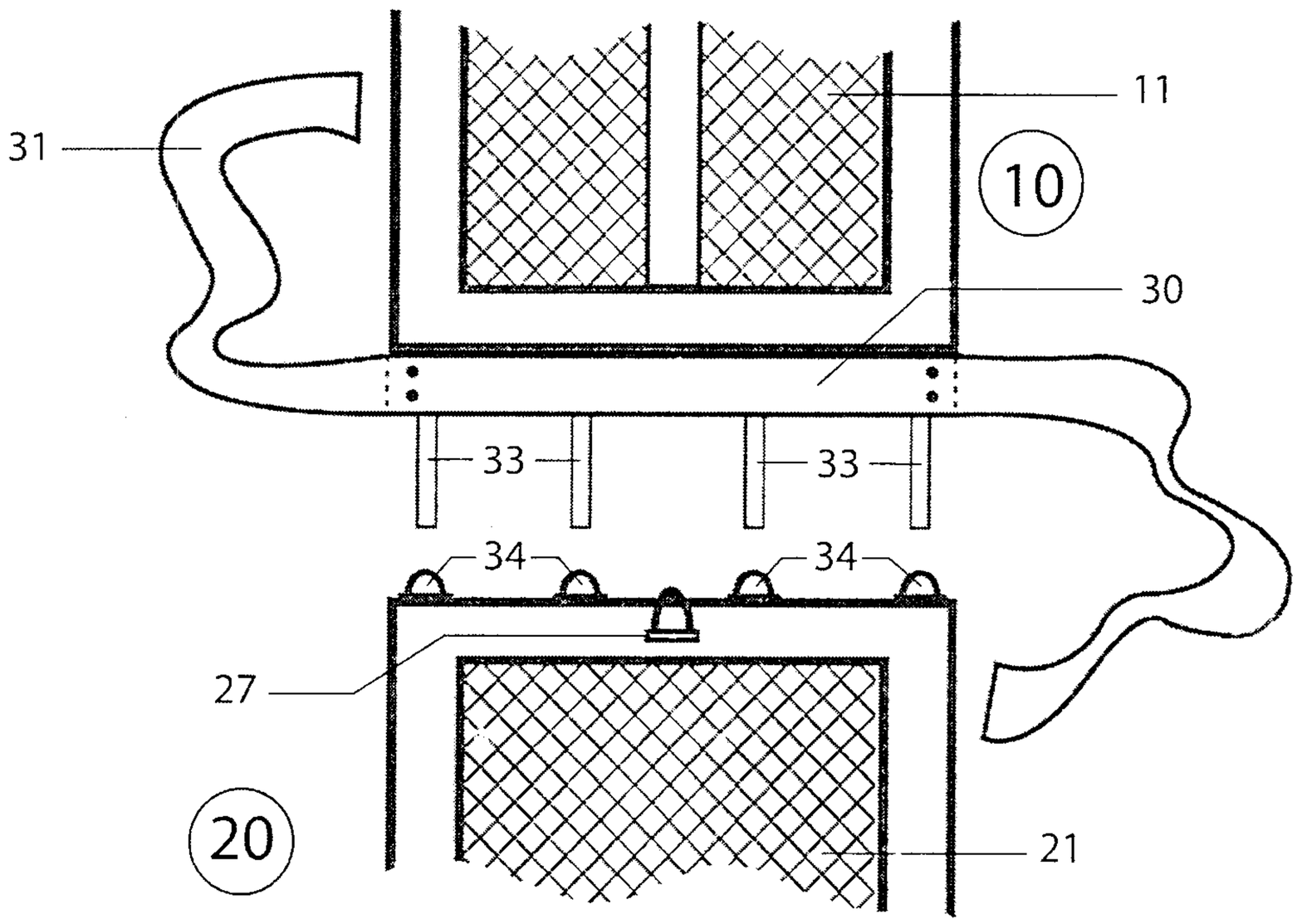


Fig. 4b

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 4/9

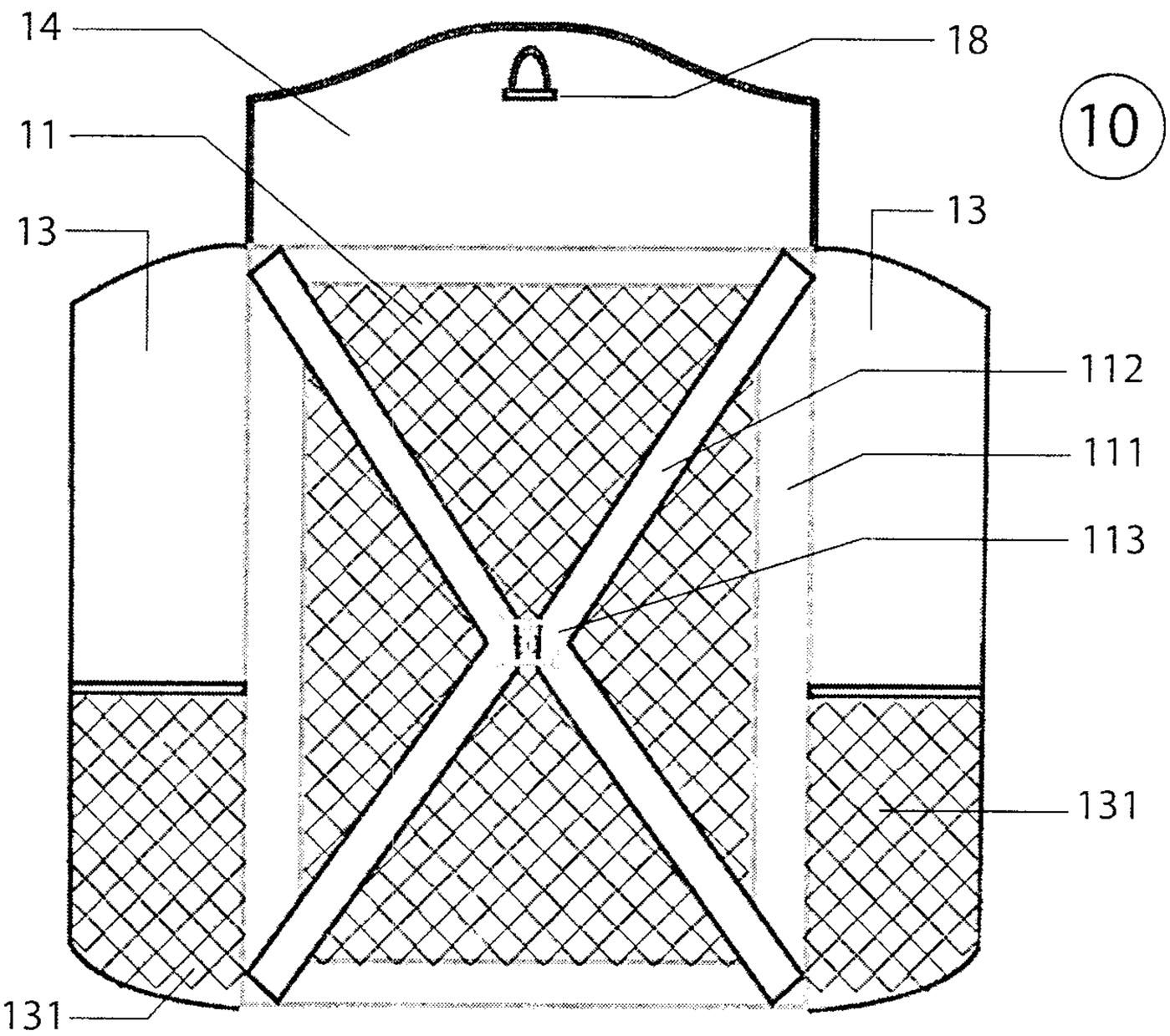


Fig. 5

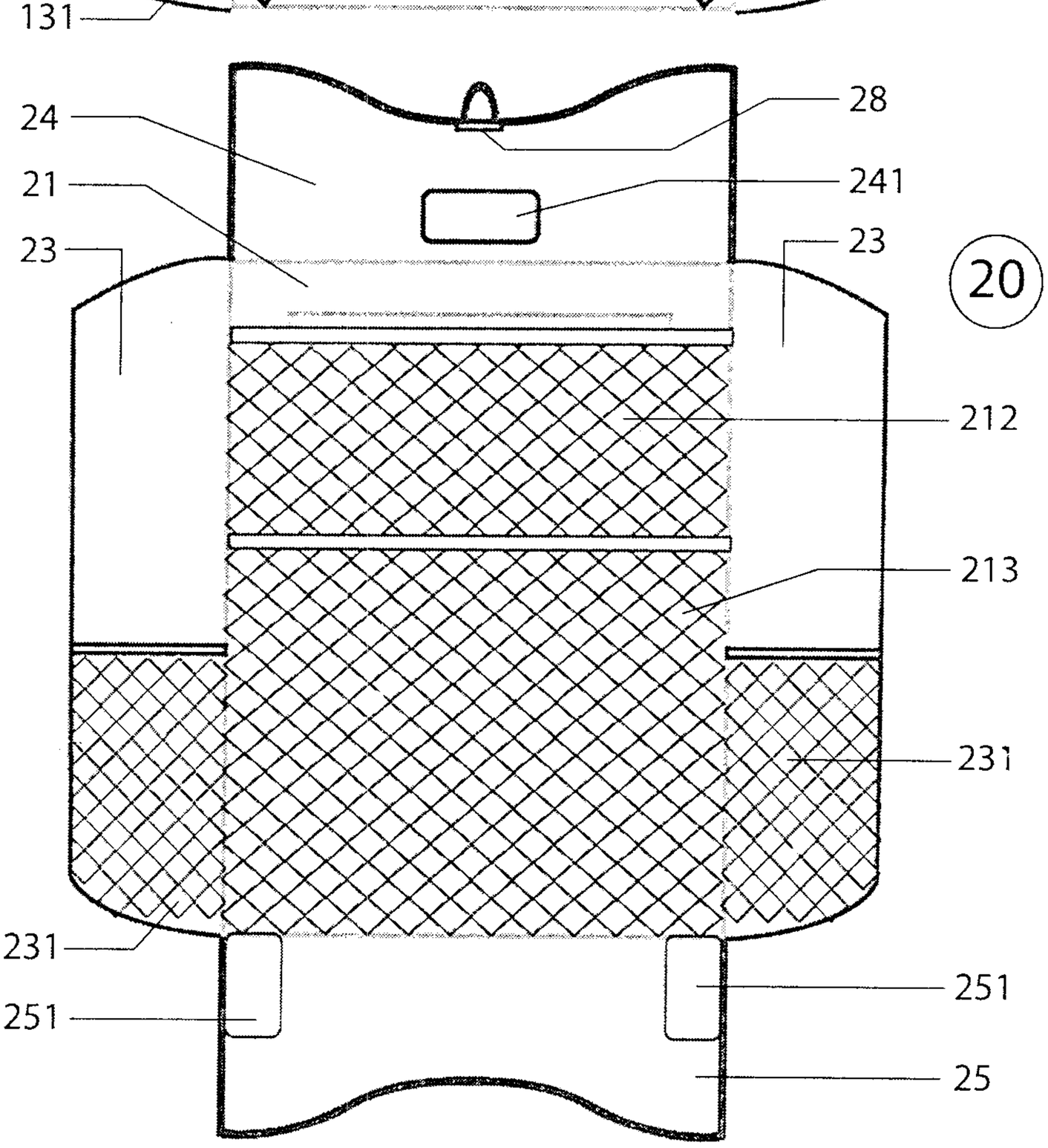


Fig. 6

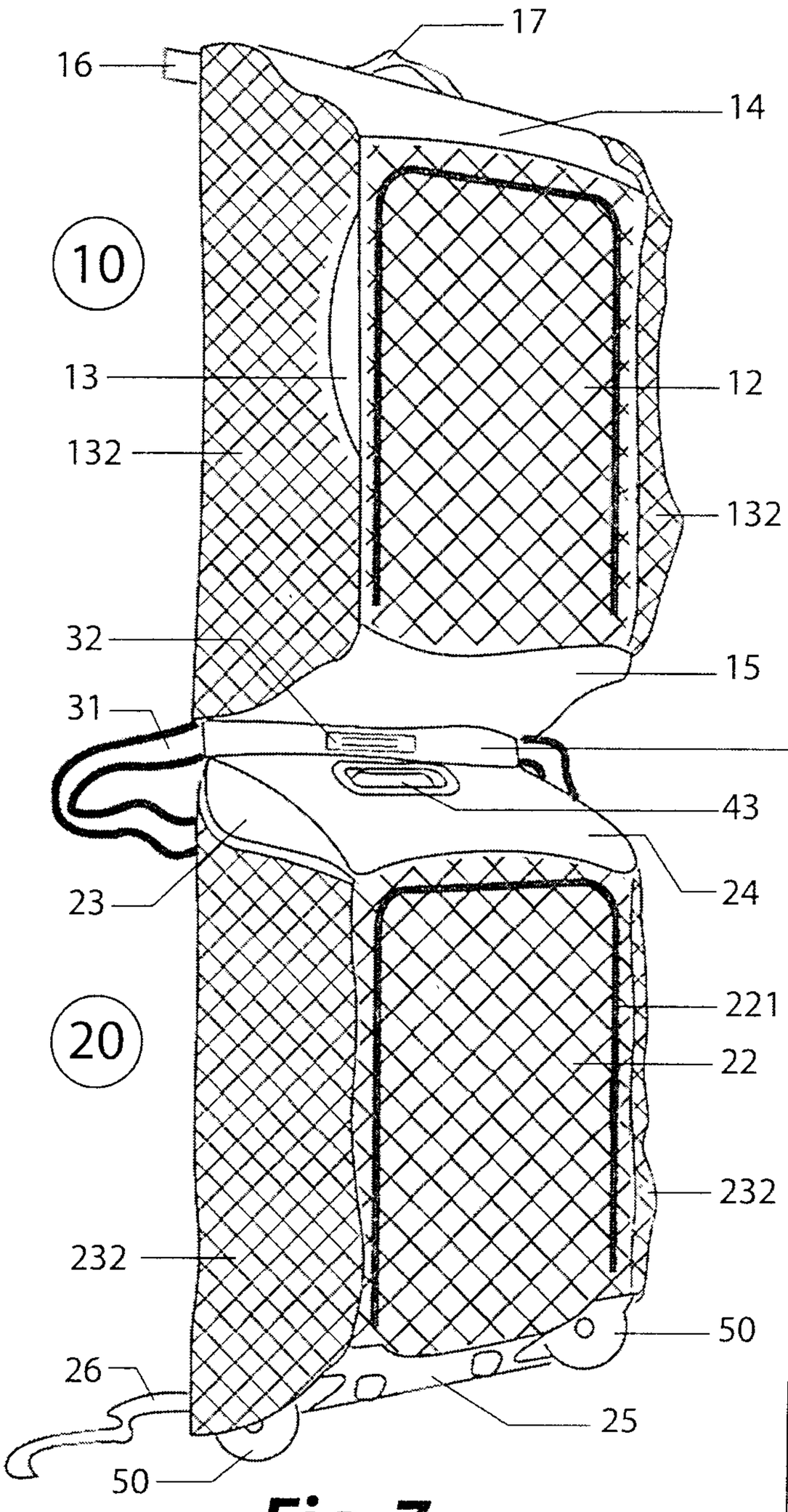

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Fig. 7

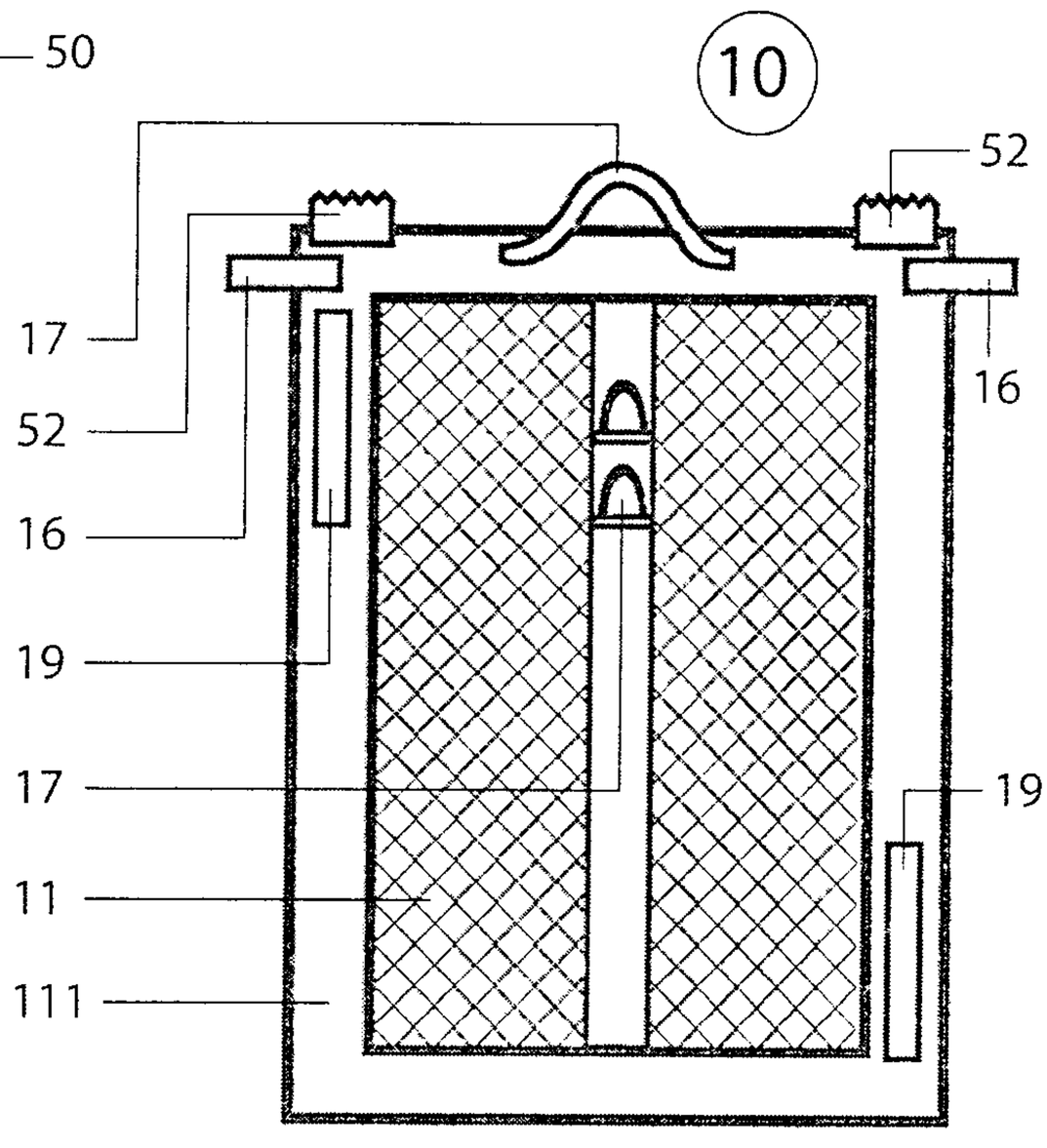

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Fig. 8

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 6/9

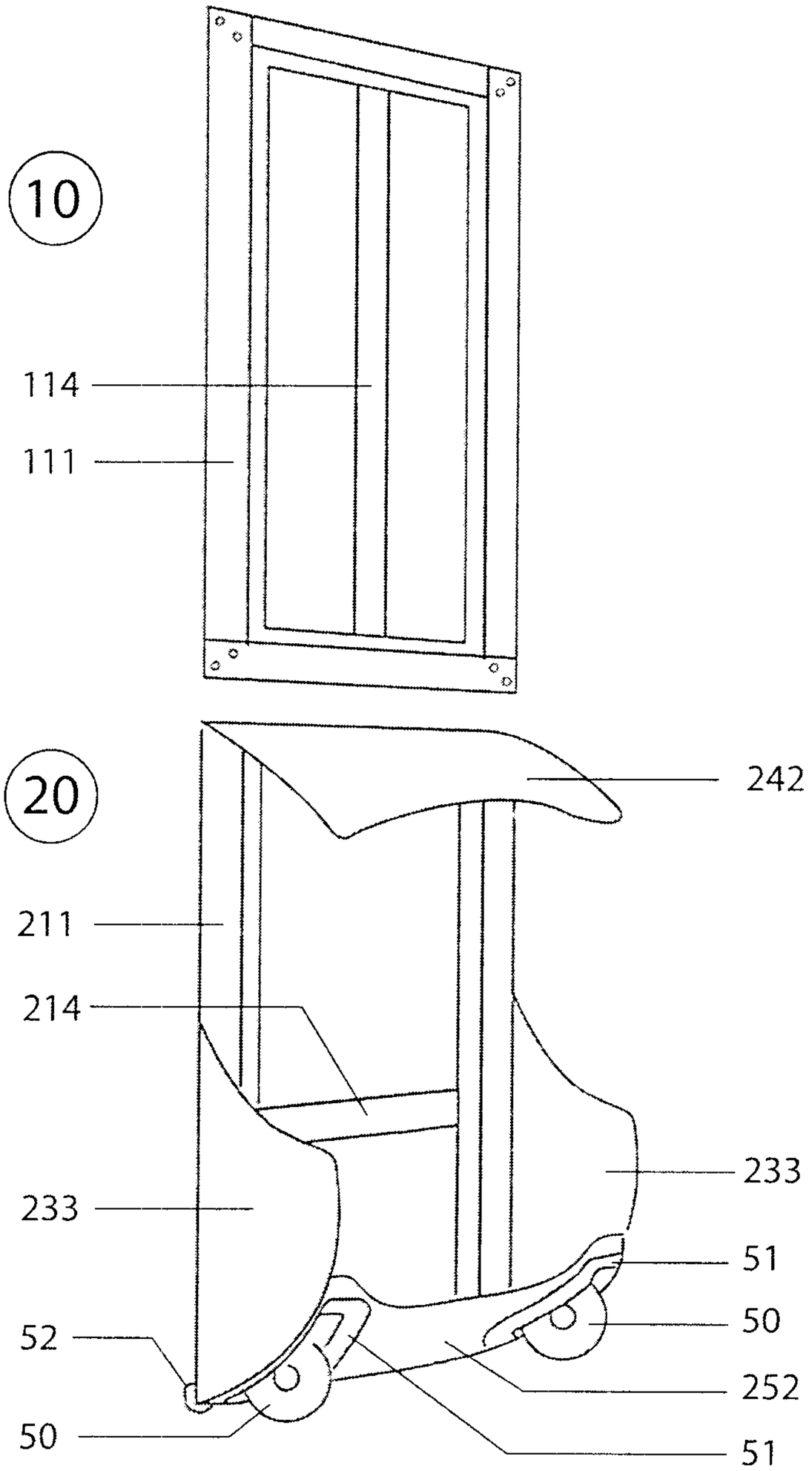


Fig. 9

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 7/9

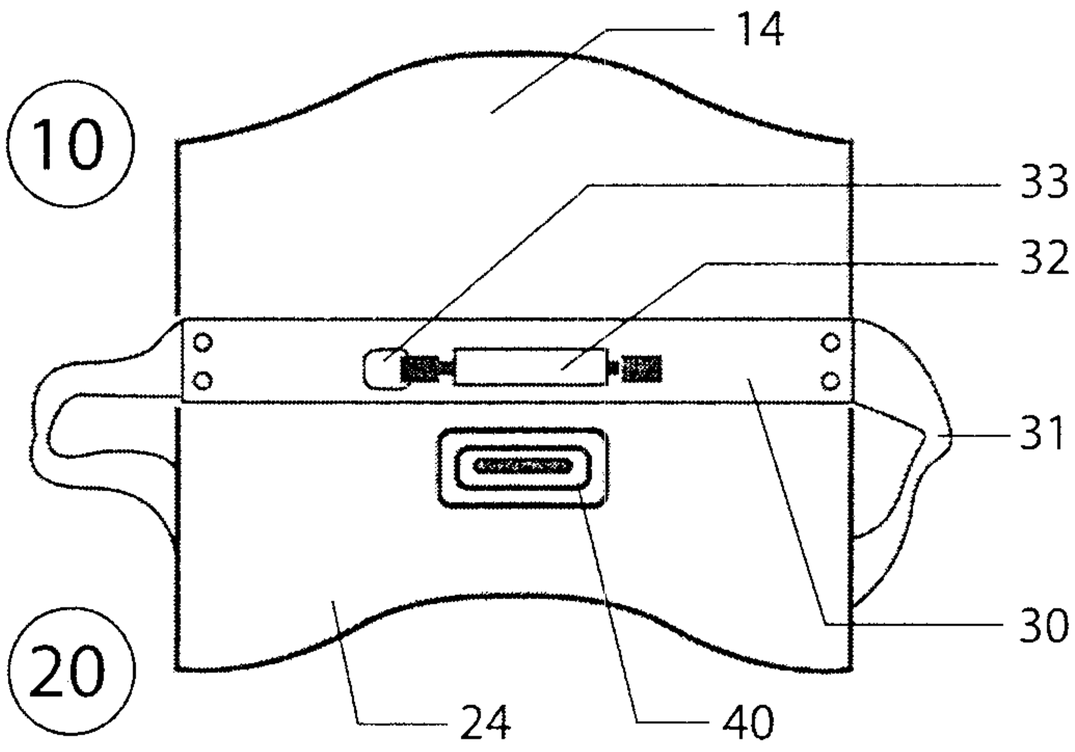


Fig. 10

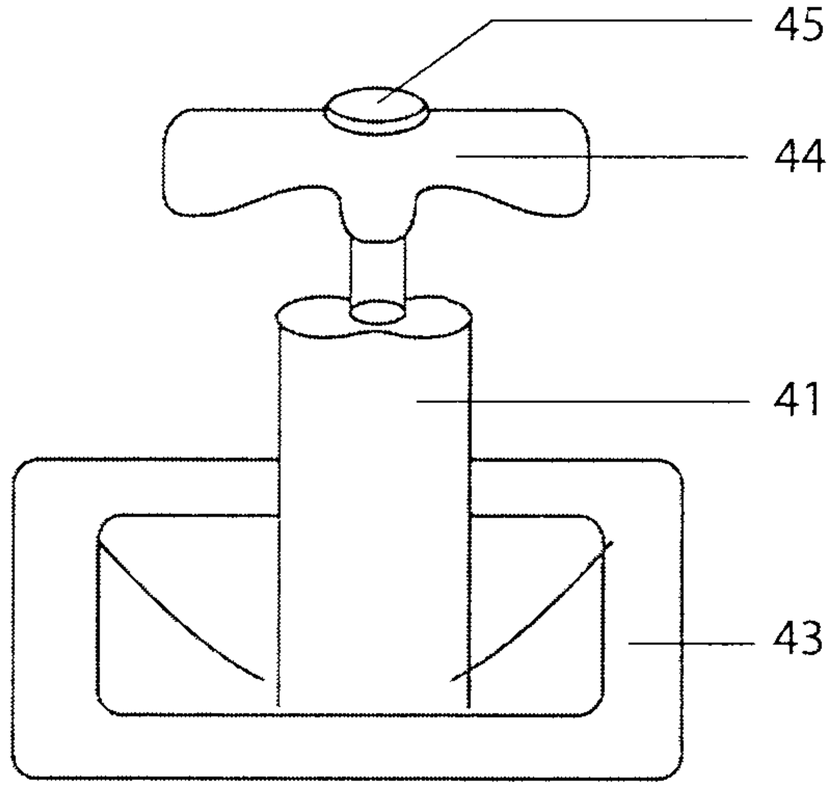


Fig. 12a

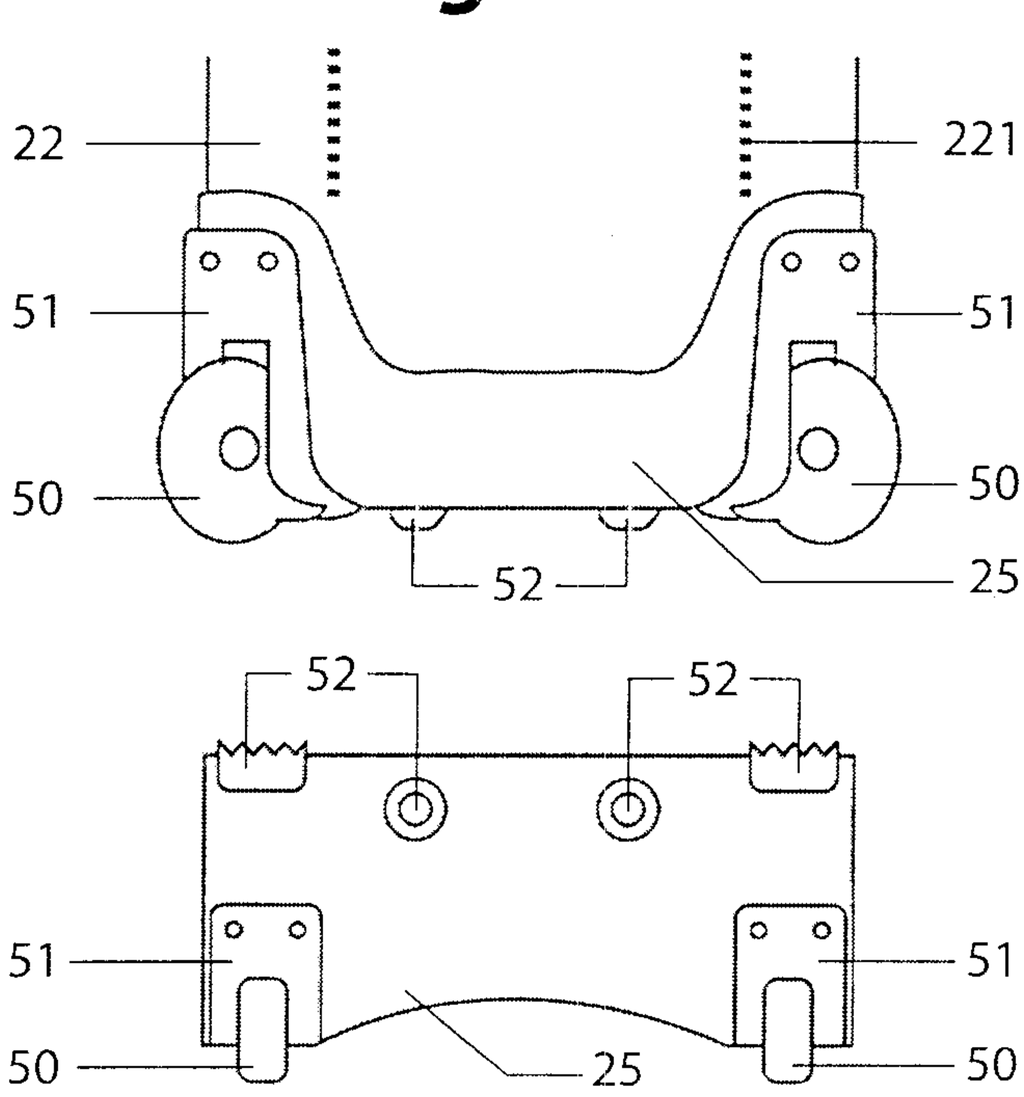


Fig. 11a

Fig. 11b

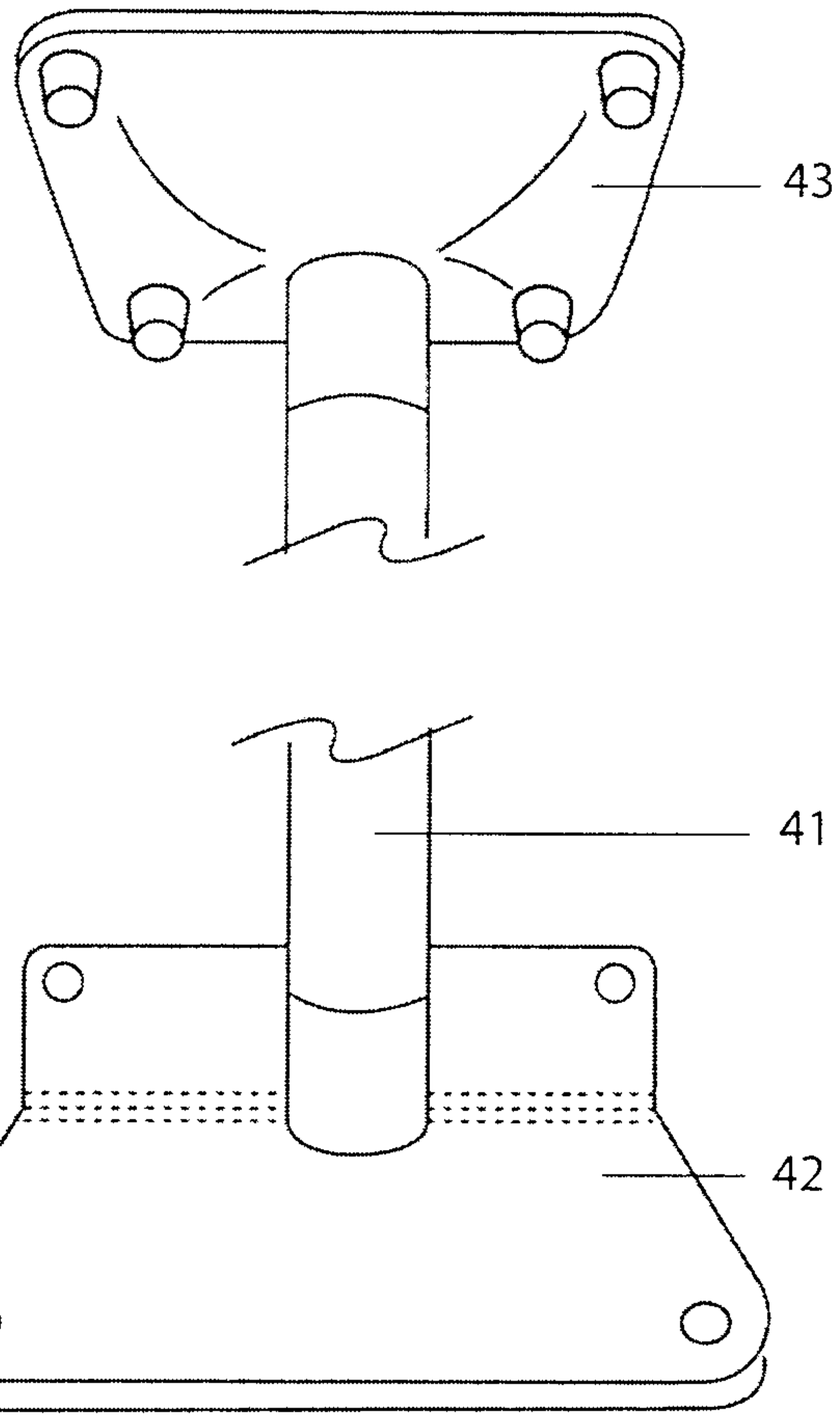


Fig. 12b

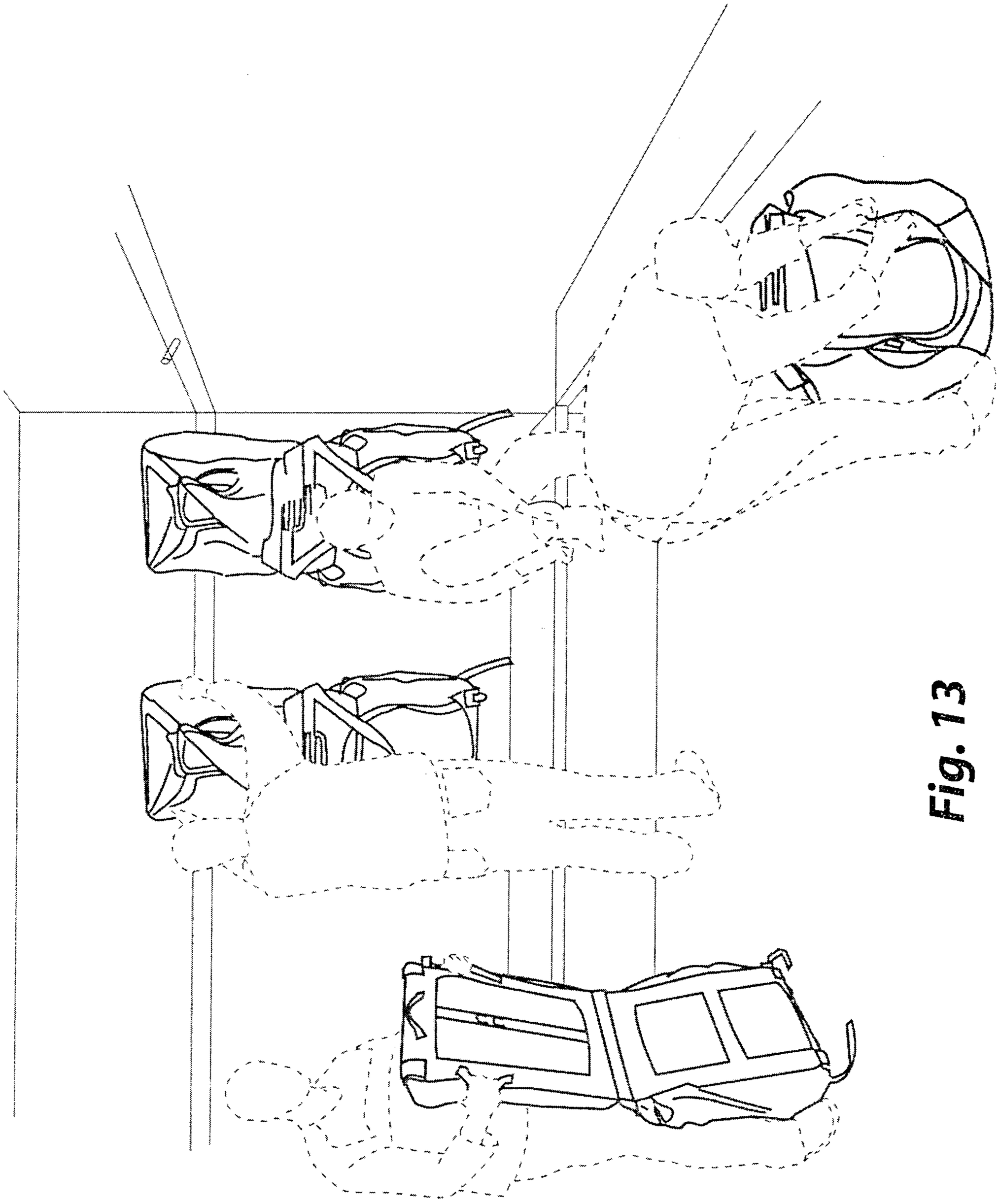


Fig. 13

Sports Equipment Bag - Drawings - 9/9

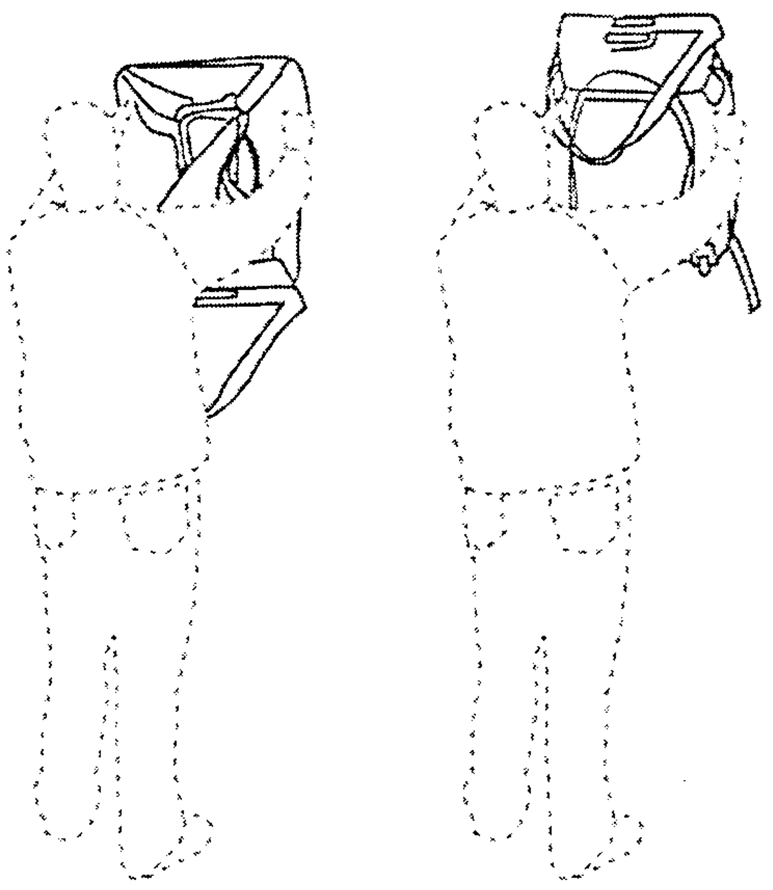


Fig. 14

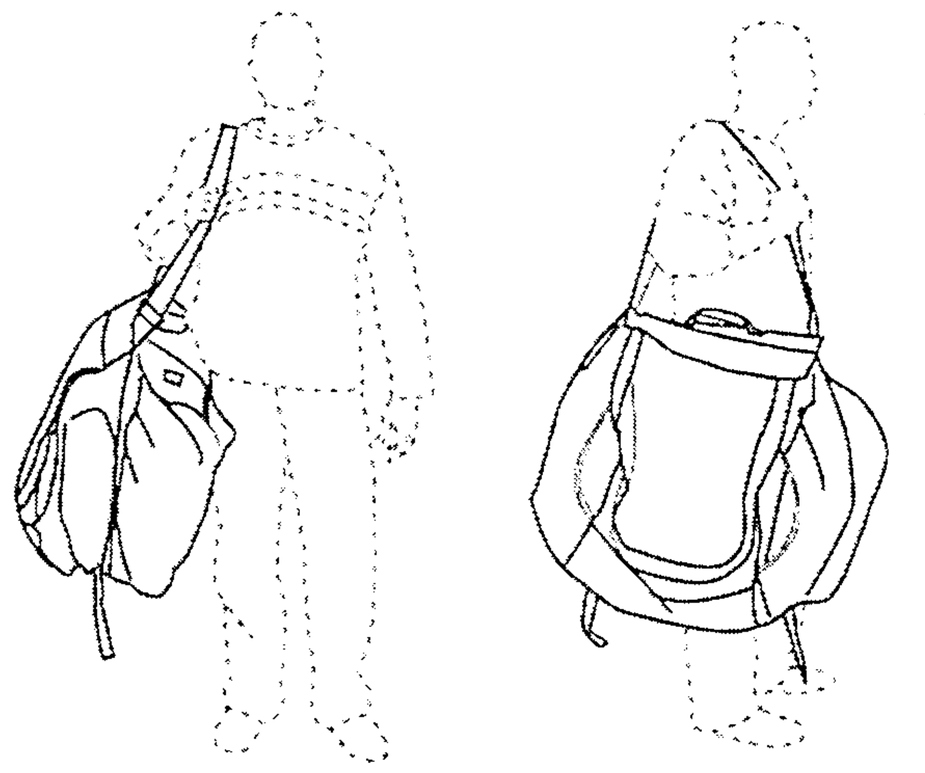


Fig. 15

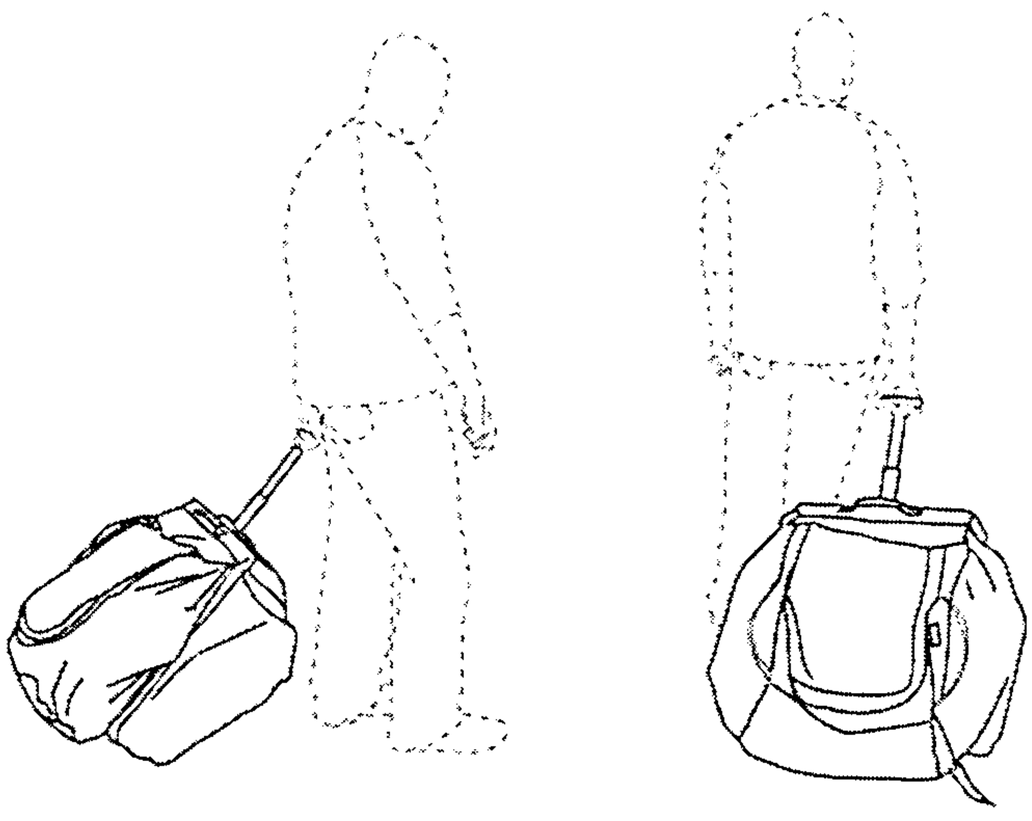
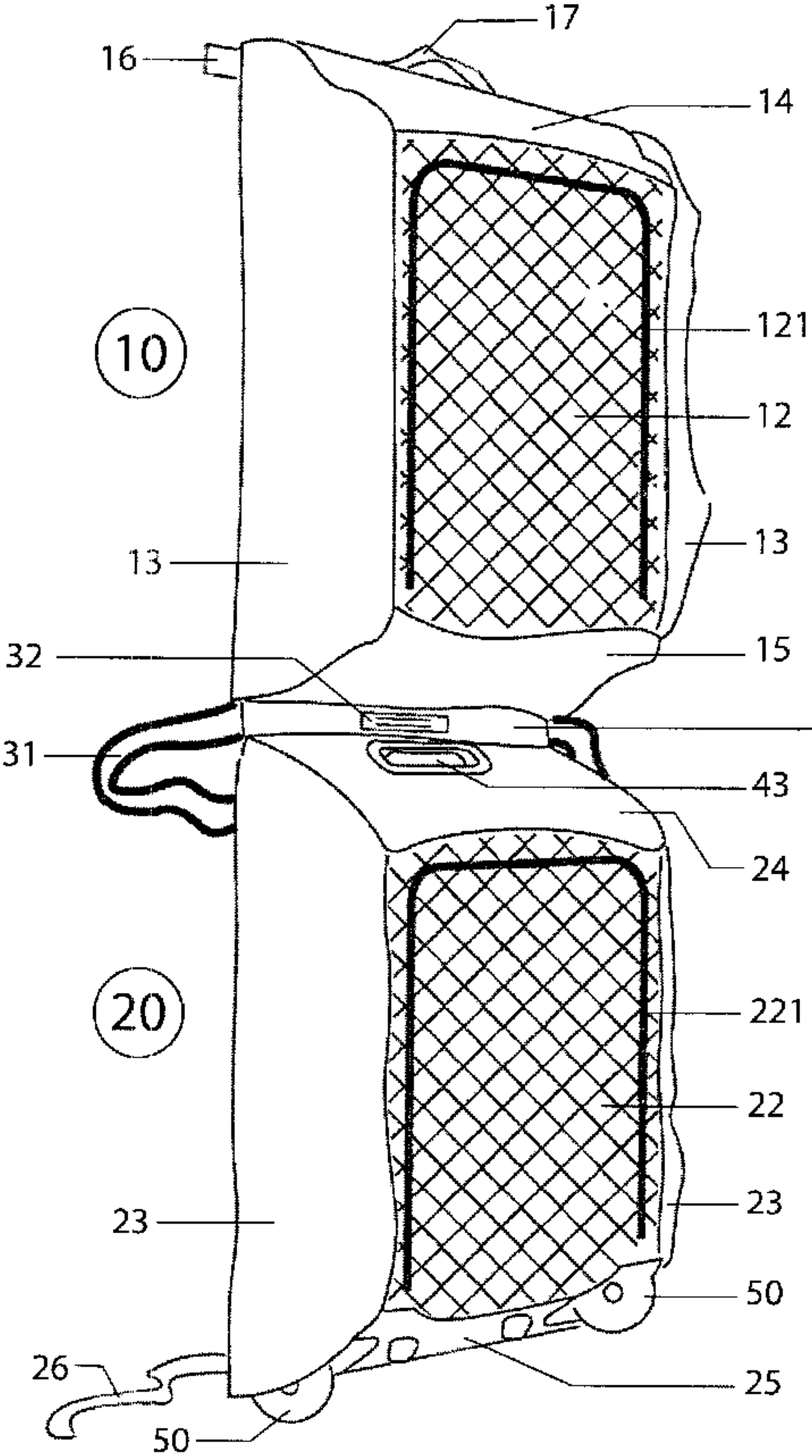


Fig. 16


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