Jan. 21, 1969 D. F. LYONS 3,422,497

GUN SLING

Filed June 12, 1967

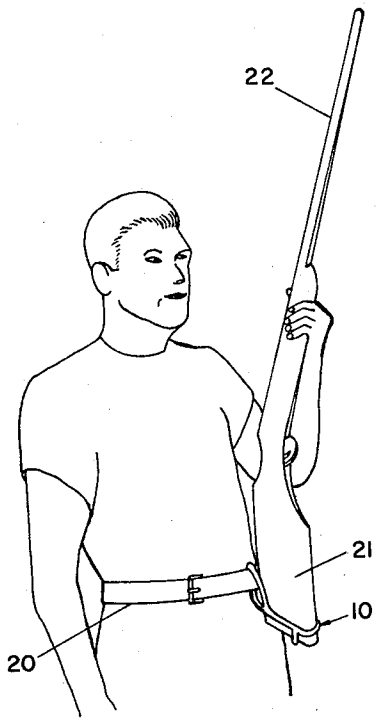



Fig. 1

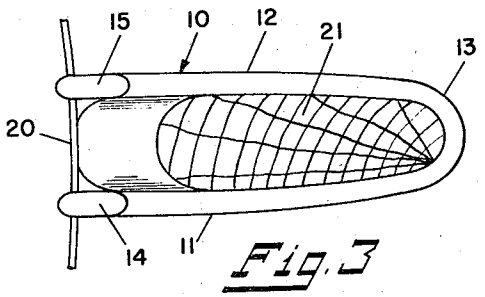



Fig. 3

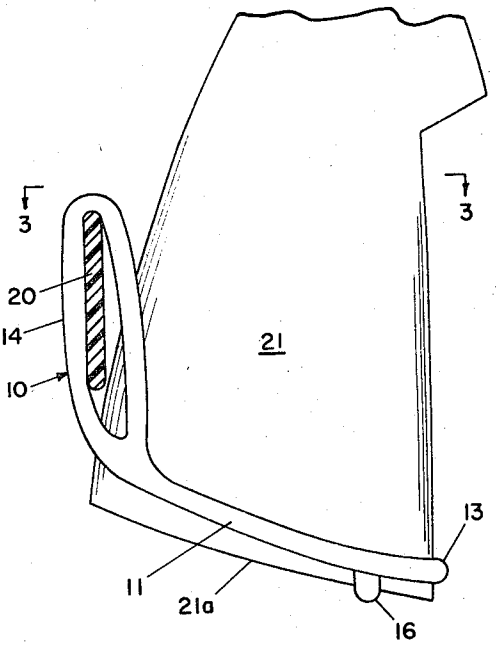



Fig. 2

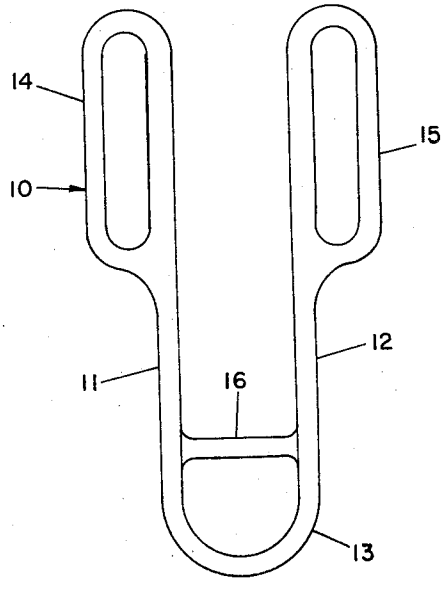



Fig. 4

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# GUN SLING

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A flexible gun sling releasably gripping the stock of a shoulder weapon for supporting the weapon in a substantially upright non-firing position. The gun sling comprises a generally U-shaped portion having a pair of side sections connected at their lower ends by an arcuate end section, loop members at the upper ends of the side sections for suspending the sling from the belt of the wearer, and a flexible cross-member connecting the side sections between their upper and lower ends for supporting the butt end of the stock of the shoulder weapon.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

*Field of the invention*

This invention pertains to the field of gun slings and more particularly to slings suspended at the waist of the wearer for carrying shoulder weapons such as rifles and shotguns.

*Description of the prior art*

Hunters, military personnel, prison guards, and others armed with shoulder weapons such as rifles and shotguns frequently have to stand or walk for long periods of time with their weapons immediately available for firing. For instance, a deer hunter on a stand must remain substantially motionless until he is ready to fire so as not to draw the attention of the deer. When hunting partridge, pheasants, and other game birds the hunter must often walk for long periods with his shotgun in position ready to be swung onto a flushing bird. The problem is accentuated for military personnel where the need to have the weapon readily available is frequently coupled with the need to maintain a military bearing. Where the shoulder weapon must be maintained in this ready position for long periods of time, fatigue, restlessness, and ultimately, carelessness result.

Many gun slings have been developed over the years, but they have generally been relatively complex structurally and therefore too expensive. Furthermore, they either hold the gun so tightly that they interfere with the rapid shouldering of the gun for firing or they hold it so loosely that the gun can accidently slip out of the sling.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention comprises a structurally simple and inexpensive sling for carrying shoulder weapons such as rifles and shotguns. The sling is adapted to be suspended from the belt of the wearer and releasably grips the stock of the shotgun or rifle for supporting same in a substantially upright and non-firing position. The weight of the supported weapon causes the flexible sling to collapse against and securely hold the stock of the weapon. When the weight of the weapon is lifted from the sling, the sling flexes outwardly releasing the stock. Since the weapon must be lifted slightly in order to release the gripping action of the sling to facilitate removal of the weapon, the weapon cannot accidentally fall out of the sling. The use of my gun sling prevents arm weariness which is common among hunters toward the end of the hunting day and therefore it permits the same fast, accurate shooting at the



end of the day as the hunter is capable of when he is fresh at the beginning of the day.

The sling is also extremely important from a safety standpoint in that it greatly reduces the possibility of accidentally dropping and discharging the weapon. The probability of such an accident, of course, is greatest when a hunter is tired and therefore tends to get somewhat careless.

The flexibility of the sling permits the weapon to be swung forwardly or to either side while it is supported in the sling so as not to restrict the wearer's manuverability.

Further objects, features and advantages of my invention will be apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein a preferred embodiment of my invention has been selected for exemplification.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a side view showing the sling in a typical weapon supporting position.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged fragmentary side view showing the stock of a shoulder weapon being supported in the sling.

FIGURE 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3—3 of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of the sling in the shape in which it is molded.

## DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now more particularly to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout the several views, my novel gun sling **10** is shown generally at FIGURE 1 wherein it is suspended from the belt **20** of the wearer for supporting the stock **21** of a shoulder weapon **22** such as a rifle or shotgun.

As best shown in FIGURE 4 of the drawings, my sling **10** basically has a generally U-shaped portion comprising a pair of side sections **11** and **12** connected together at their lower ends by an arcuate end section **13**. The upper ends of the side sections **11** and **12** have looped portions **14** and **15** formed thereon for suspending the sling from the belt of the wearer. As shown in FIGURE 4, the looped portions **14** and **15** are flat so that the loop openings normally face forward. However, as shown in FIGURES 1–3, in use the loop portions **14** and **15** are twisted forwardly so that the loop openings face to the side and are aligned for receiving the belt **20** from which the sling is suspended.

A cross-member **16** is connected to the side sections **11** and **12** of the sling near their lower ends for supporting the butt-end **21***a* of the gun stock **21**.

The sling **10** may be made of any of a number of materials which have the desired qualities of flexibility and strength. For example, such materials as plastic, rayon, nylon, and other synthetic materials are suitable. The materials should preferably retain their strength and general flexibility within normal outdoor temperature ranges.

The preferred embodiment shown in the drawings is molded as a unitary plastic piece. This construction, while not exclusive, is preferred because it has the advantages of simplicity and economy in manufacture.

The length of the sling **10** is an important factor in the proper functioning of the sling. Generally the sling should be of such a length that it will hold the gun stock **21** snugly against the body of the wearer so that the gun will be securely and safely supported; however, it should not be held so tightly against the body that it will be uncomfortable for the wearer or hamper the easy and quick withdrawal of the weapon for firing. If the sling is too long, the gun stock **21** will be supported too low and will bear against the thigh of the wearer and will therefore cause a bouncing motion while walking. In addition,

if the gun hits against the leg during walking, it may be uncomfortable for the wearer. The gun stock **21** should bear against the groin area of the body immediately below the belt.

The size of the butt-plate of the stock of most rifles and shotguns is fairly standard generally being about 4½ to 5 inches in length and 1½ to 1¾ inches thick. Accordingly, to accommodate most guns, my sling should have a length of about 5½ to 6½ inches to insure proper snugness and positioning of the gun stock against the groin area of the wearer.

As shown in FIGURE 1, when the butt end of the stock is properly positioned, the barrel of the gun will extend well above the wearer's head. This is important from a safety standpoint should the gun for some reason be accidentally fired while in the sling. If the hunter should slip, stumble or fall, the barrel of the gun will always remain beyond the hunter's head and other extremities of the body, regardless of whether he falls forward, backward or to the side.

The flexibility of the sling is an important feature since it enables the gun to be slung forwardly or to either side while supported in the sling whereby it will not restrict the wearer's manuverability in any way.

The flexibility of the sling is important for another reason. As can best be seen in FIGURES 1–3, the pressure of the gun against the end section **13** and cross-member **16** causes the side sections **11** and **12** to be moved inwardly into engagement against the sides of the gun stock thereby tightly gripping the stock. This also prevents the gun stock from twisting to the right or left and keeps it in a perpendicular position in relation to the body of the wearer as best shown in FIGURE 3. It is important that the gun remain in this substantially perpendicular relationship with the body, since the gun cannot then accidentally fall out of the rear of the sling because it will be held therein by the body of the wearer.

The weight of the gun causes the side sections **11** and **12** to snugly grip the sides of the stock. As the weight of the gun is lifted from the sling for firing, the gripping action is released to facilitate quick shouldering of the weapon. The relief of pressure from the arcuate end section **13** and the cross-member **16** allows the side sections to open up and the looped portions which have been twisted inwardly to a forward extending position as shown in FIGURE 3 end to flex outwardly toward their natural position shown in FIGURE 4 thereby opening the sling for unrestricted release of the weapon.

My novel gun sling is extremely safe and effective since



the gun must always be lifted slightly in order to release the gripping action of the sling and, therefore, prevents the gun from accidentally slipping out of the sling.

When the gun has been removed from the sling, the sling will hang downwardly against the body so as not to interfere in any way with the movement of the wearer.

I claim:

**1.** A flexible sling for supporting shoulder weapons in an upright non-firing position, said sling comprising:

(a) a generally U-shaped portion having a pair of side sections for engaging the sides of the stock of the shoulder weapon, said side sections having upper and lower ends, the lower ends of said side sections being connected by an end section for engaging the bottom side of the stock of the shoulder weapon near the butt end thereof,

(b) attaching means at the upper ends of said side sections for suspending said U-shaped portion from the belt of the wearer, and

(c) a flexible cross-member connecting said side sections for supporting the butt end of the stock of said weapon whereby the weight of said weapon in the sling causes the side sections of said U-shaped portion to grip the stock of the weapon therebetween.

**2.** The sling as specified in claim **1** wherein said attaching means comprise looped portions for receiving a belt therethrough, said looped portions being free to move laterally toward and away from each other on said belt.

**3.** The sling as specified in claim **2** wherein said looped portions are twisted inwardly into alignment for receiving the belt therethrough whereby said sling tends to flex outwardly when the weight of said weapon is lifted from said sling to facilitate quick release of the weapon.

**4.** The sling as specified in claim **1** wherein said sling comprises a unitary piece of flexible plastic.


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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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