March 3, 1970 C. M. MARG 3,498,511

GUN BEARER

Filed Aug. 4, 1967 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

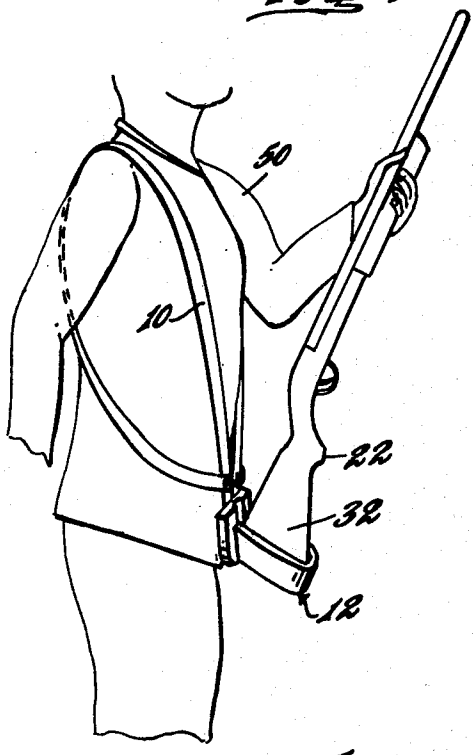


Fig. 2.

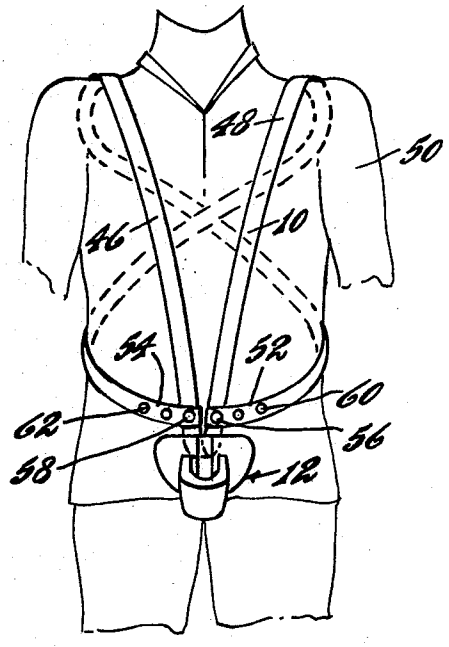


Fig. 3.

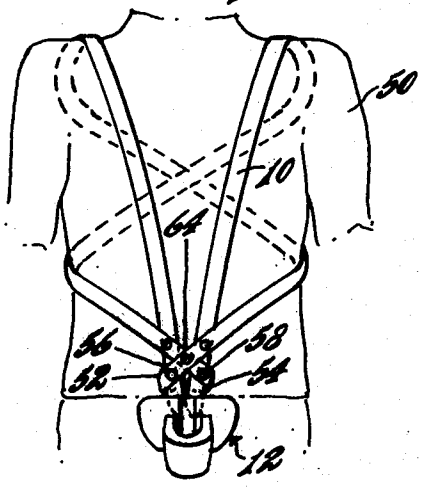
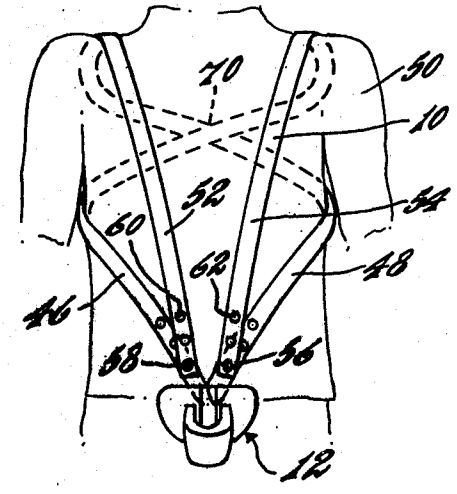


Fig. 4.



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GUN BEARER

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Fig. 5.

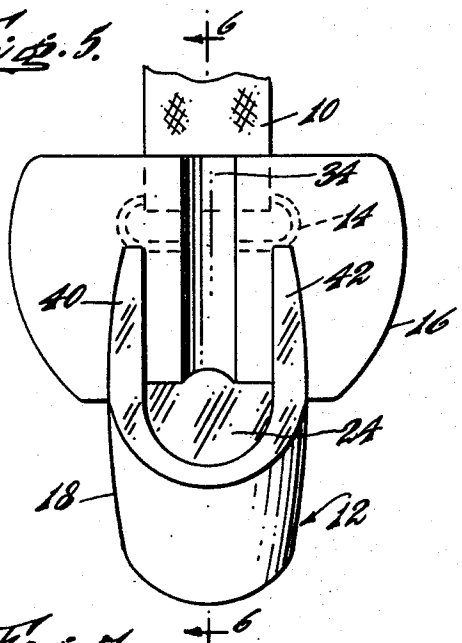


Fig. 6.

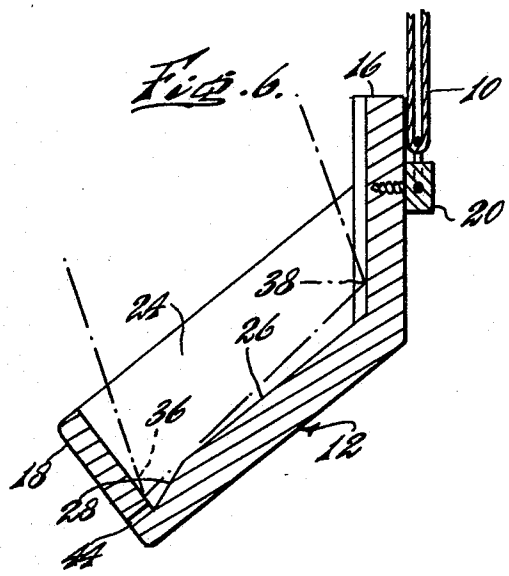


Fig. 7.

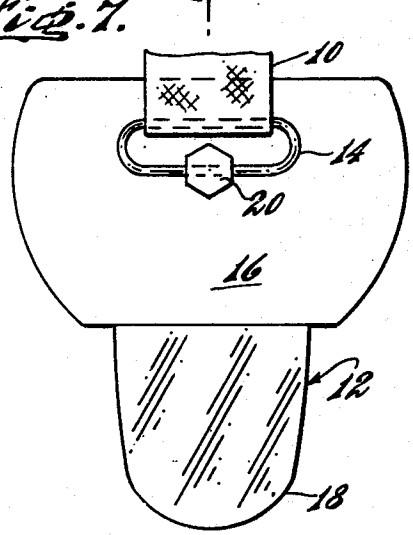


Fig. 8.

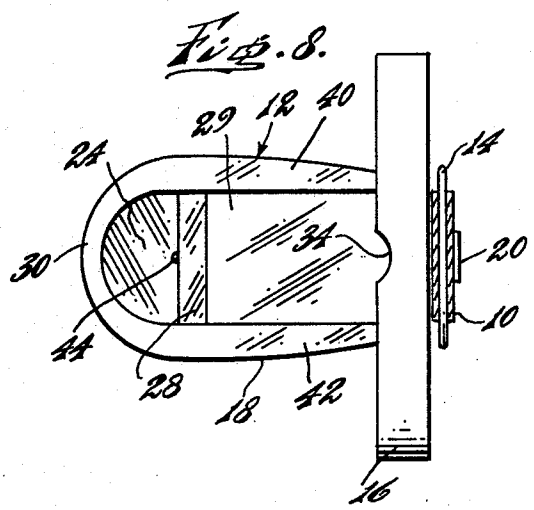
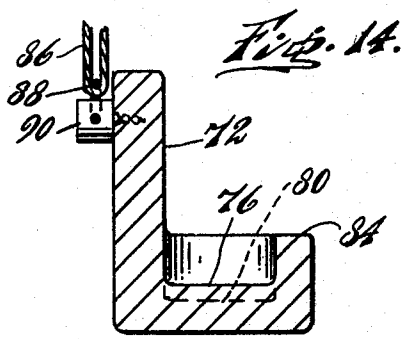


Fig. 14.



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GUN BEARER

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Fig. 9.

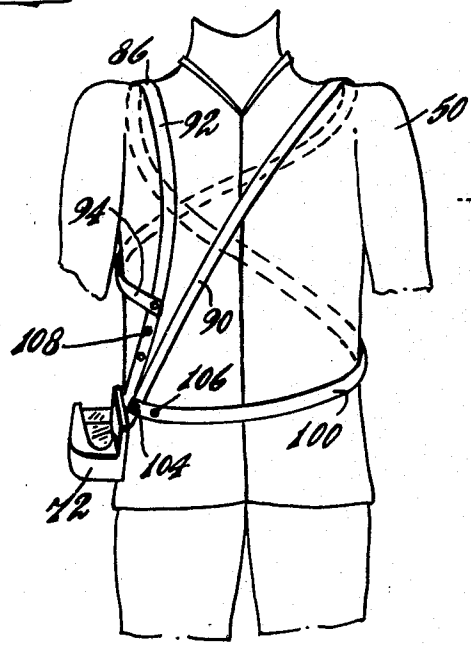


Fig. 10.

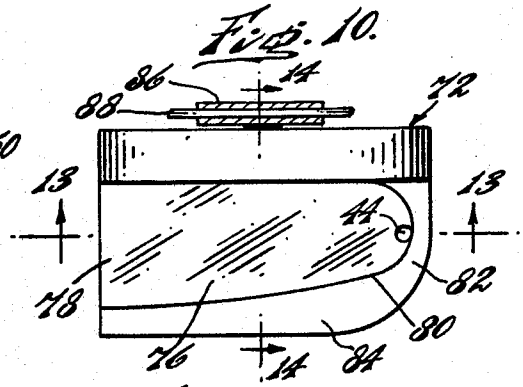


Fig. 11.

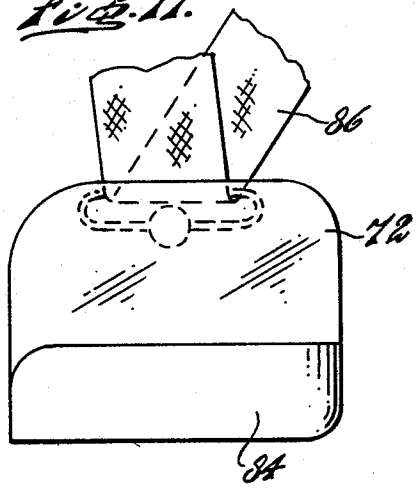


Fig. 12.

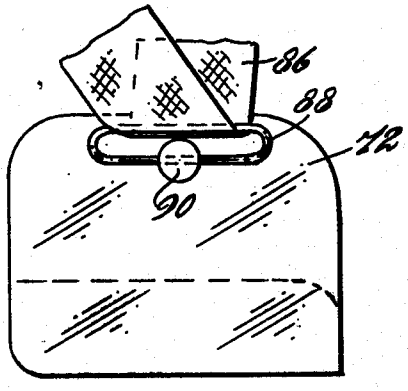
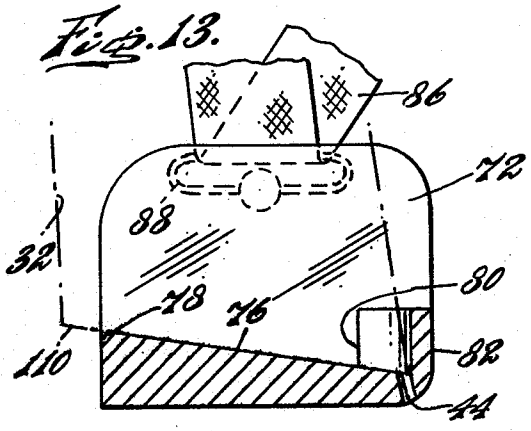


Fig. 13.



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Patented Mar. 3, 1970

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GUN BEARER

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Int. Cl. A45f 5/00, 3/00
U.S. Cl. 224—1 4 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The combination of a rigid gun holder incorporating sloping construction for universal accommodation of gun butts of all sizes rotatively secured to an adjustable, shoulder engaging harness in a swivel connection.

This invention relates to the general field of sporting goods, and more particularly is directed to devices designed and adapted as an aid for carrying and transporting rifles, shotguns and similar types of elongated firearms.

The invention relates to a novel and distinctive combination of a rigid gun holder and an attached adjustable harness for carrying a firearm. The device has been designed primarily for use by civilian sportsmen and hunters, but it is noted that the invention could find equal utility when used by military personnel in training and combat operations. More particularly, the invention enables the wearer to carry his riffle or shotgun in an accepted ready position suitable for almost instantaneous aiming and firing.

Since timing is one of the major factors in hunting, and the delay of seconds could spell the difference between success and failure, it is most critical to have the gun ready to shoot at all times. Similarly, in military type of operations, a short delay in firing could even mean the difference between life and death. It should be noted that hunters often walk long distances and carry relatively heavy firearms for long periods of time. Under such circumstances, the arms of the hunter begin to tire and reflexes are slowed to the extent that often, the gun cannot be properly brought to the firing position in the time interval required to take proper aim and to fire when the target is finally sighted.

Prior workers in the field have recognized the need to properly carry a gun at the ready position without unduly tiring the hunter. Some have attempted to provide a gun sling that attaches to the gun and then may be carried upon the shoulder. Such devices are unsatisfactory in that the gun attaching portion of the sling encircles the gun barrel, thereby interfering with sighting and aiming.

Other workers have tried to carry the rifle by attaching to a belt encircling the waist of the wearer. Such devices cause all of the weight of the gun to be carried upon the hips of the wearer, thereby causing discomfort and fatigue. Other gun carriers that are known fasten the gun to the shoulder of the hunter. Such devices provide an adequate aid in carrying the rifle, but permit no speed in bringing the gun to bear when the time for use is pressing. Still other devices carry the weapon upon only one shoulder or upon the neck of the user, thereby causing discomfort after only short periods of use. Other devices are known that carry the weapon too low or require alterations to the gun itself when attaching. As can be seen, many workers have tried to solve the problem, but the very number of devices indicates the need for one, really good, properly designed, workable gun bearer.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide an improved device of the type set forth.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide

a unique harness design in conjunction with a rifle support capable of distributing the weight of a weapon over the back and shoulders of the user.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a gun bearer designed to carry a gun in the ready position to permit rapid aiming and firing.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a unique gun bearer capable of accommodating weapons of various sizes.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a novel gun bearer arranged to support a rifle in the verticle position.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel one-piece harness capable of adjustment to the size of any wearer with or without heavy outdoor clothing.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a unique one-piece harness that engages only the shoulders of the wearer with no binding about the waist.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a novel gun bearer utilizing a single strap that permits the harness to be worn in two distinct styles, to give the wearer a choice of style to best suit his physical and clothing limitations.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel rigid gun holder incorporating an inclined back plate.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel gun bearer including a swival which allows the gun to swing in conjunction with natural body movements and conditions encountered in the field.

It is another object of this invention to provide a novel gun bearer that is inexpensive in manufacture, rugged in construction and trouble-free when in use.

Other objects and a fuller understanding of the invention will be had by referring to the following description and claims of a preferred embodiment thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing wherein like reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the invention in use.

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view showing a preferred front harness arrangement.

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view showing a modified front harness arrangement.

FIG. 4 is a front elevational view showing a modified front harness arrangement.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged front elevational view of the gun holder.

FIG. 6 is a cross sectional view taken along line **6—6** of FIG. 5, looking in the direction of the arrows.

FIG. 7 is an enlarged rear elevational view of the gun holder.

FIG. 8 is an enlarged top plan view of the gun holder.

FIG. 9 is a front elevational view showing a modified gun bearer for side use.

FIG. 10 is an enlarged top plan view of the gun holder of FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 is an enlarged front elevational view of the gun holder of FIG. 9.

FIG. 12 is an enlarged rear elevational view of the gun holder of FIG. 9.

FIG. 13 is a cross section of view taken along line **13—13** of FIG. 10, looking in the direction of the arrows.

FIG. 14 is a cross sectional view taken along line **14—14** of FIG. 10, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Although specific terms are used in the following description for the sake of clarity, these terms are intended to refer only to the particular structure of my invention selected for illustration in the drawings and are not intended to define or limit the scope of the invention.

Referring now to the drawings, I show in FIG. 1 a gun bearer constructed in accordance with the instant invention comprising in combination an elongated flexible har-

ness **10** connected to a rigid, shaped, gun holder **12** through a swivel loop **14**.

As best seen in FIGS. 5–8, the gun holder **12** comprises a flat, generally rectangular back plate **16** and a gun socket **18** extending forwardly therefrom. A swivel bolt **20** rearwardly secures the loop **14** to the back plate **16** in any well-known manner to readily permit the gun holder to swivel about the harness **10** so as to accommodate any position that a rifle or shotgun **22** may assume during carrying or transporting operations.

The gun socket **18** inclines forwardly from the back plate **16** and is hollowed to provide a gun receiving recess **24**. The socket floor **26** is generally flat and inclines forwardly and downwardly from the backplate **16**. The floor **26** forwardly joins a toe receiving recess **28** which declines at a greater angle than the socket floor itself to provide a secure area to firmly accommodate the toe **36** of a gun butt. The forward wall **30** of the gun socket **18** is accurately formed to lock the gun butt in the gun socket, in cooperation with the back plate **16**. As shown in FIGS. 5 and 8, the back plate **16** is provided with a vertical, medially positioned trough **34** to receive the heel **38** of the gun butt **32**. It is the essence of this invention to fabricate the lineal distance between the recess **28** and the base of the vertical trough **34** smaller than the front to back distance at the base of the average gun stock. In this manner, the toe **36** of the butt will be forced into the recess **29** and the heel **38** will ride in the trough **34** until wedging contact is made. The heel **38** will wedge higher in the trough **34** in the case of larger gun butts and lower in the case of smaller gun butts. In all instances however, the wedging action is exactly the same and the gun butt **32** is retained securely between the recess **28** and the trough **34**.

Right and left side walls **40**, **42** complete the gun socket **18** and extend respectively between the back plate **16** and one side of the accurately curved front wall **30**. It is contemplated that the gun holder **12** can be manufactured of separate wooden members which are adequately glued and otherwise secured in well-known manner to provide a unitary structure of the strength required to carry a rifle or shotgun. Alternately, the gun holder may be molded of a suitable plastic material, such as polyethylene, to provide a rigid, hard, gun holding assembly. A hole **44** is provided at the lowest point of the recess **28** for drainage purposes during inclement weather conditions.

In FIGS. 1–4, I show the harness **10** which is unique in that it is fabricated from a single, continuous strip of webbing, preferably two inches in width for optimum comfort when carrying a heavy weapon over long distances, and which is further unique for its adoptability into two distinctly different methods of attachment to the torso of the user as hereinafter set forth. As seen in FIG. 2, the gun bearer **12** is medially positioned at the front of the wearer and the harness **10** is adjusted with its center point at the swivel loop **14**. The equal segments **46**, **48** are respective placed over the right and left shoulders of the user **50** and are crossed in the back. The harness ends **52**, **54** are then brought to the front about the waist of the user and the end snap fasteners **56**, **58** are engaged upon the waiting parts which are secured near the center of the harness **10**. A plurality of snap fasteners may be spaced near the harness ends **52**, **54** as at **60**, **62** to permit harness length adjustment to accommodate various torso sizes. Further adjustment with this type of arrangement is possible, as shown in FIG. 3, by crossing the harness ends **52**, **54** in front of the body as at **64**. In this manner, the snap fasteners **56**, **58** are engageable upon the waiting part retained within the opposite harness segment **48**, **46** and thus results in substantial shortening of the effective harness length. It is thus seen that adjustment by utilizing the spaced snaps **56**, **58**, **60**, **62** and further adjustment by crossing the harness ends **52**, **54** is possible to suit the comfort of the individual user.

It should be noted that the harness arrangement illustrated in FIGS. 1–3 is particularly suitable for cold weather in that the straps are spaced a distance from the wearer's arm pits to thus leave adequate freedom when heavy clothing must be worn. Further, it will be observed that all of the weight of the weapon is carried upon the shoulders and little or none of the burden is supported about the waist. By employing two inch wide webbing, utmost comfort may be achieved by thus more widely distributing the load.

In the arrangement illustrated in FIG. 4, the gun holder is also positioned at the front of the user slightly below the waist. The harness **10** is medially positioned in the swivel loop **14** and the divided halves **46**, **48** rearwardly encircle the body of the user **50** below the arms to cross in back as at **70**. The harness ends **52**, **54** are carried over the shoulders for engagement with the snap fasteners **56**, **58**. As illustrated additional snap fasteners **60**, **62** may be provided as desired to allow complete adjustibality of the harness.

In a modification of the invention, I show a side carrying gun holder **72** in FIGS. 9–14 which may more readily be adapted for military use. It will be appreciated that this same arrangement may also be worn at the front by simply shifting the gun holder to the front. The gun holder **72** may also be optionally worn at the front by arranging the harness straps as in FIG. 2 or 4. The gun holder **72** attaches to a generally rectangular side plate **74** and the holder floor **76** extends at right angles from the bottom thereof to support the weight of the weapon **22**. The floor **76** inclines upwardly in a ramp **78** which extends laterally across the gun holder to receive the bottom of the gun butt **32**. The front of the floor **76** declines forwardly to form a butt receiving recess **80** to firmly anchor the toe of the gun butt **32**. The front wall **82** of the gun holder extends from the side plate **72** and is integrally formed with the side wall **84** and the floor **76** to provide a sturdy structure. As best seen in FIG. 11, the front wall is accurately curved at the recess **80** to securely hold the toe of the gun butt therein. The side wall **84** is relatively low to permit removal of the gun butt over the side with a minimum of interference and without binding.

The harness **86** attaches to the back of the side carrier through a loop **88** which swivels about the swivel bolt **90** to permit adaptability of the gun holder **72** to the most comfortable position while transporting a weapon. I have found it most desirable to employ webbing of two inches in width for this purpose to spread the weight as much as possible.

As shown in FIG. 9, the forward portion of the harness **86** is positioned with respect to the gun socket **72** so as to be shorter than the side harness portion **92**. The forward portion **90** is carried diagonally across the chest of the wearer **50** and over the shoulder opposite to the side where the weapon is to be carried. The end **94** of the forward harness portion **90** is then diagonally brought across the back and under the wearer's arm at the weapon side. The end **94** is then engaged upon the side harness portion **92** by joining the snap fastener elements **98**. The uppermost fastener element is usually employed. The side harness portion **92** is carried rearwardly and upwardly over the shoulder, adjacent to the weapon **22** and diagonally downwardly across the back of the wearer **50**. The forward end **100** of the side harness portion **92** connects to the forward harness portion **80** immediately above the gun socket **72** by utilizing the snap fastener **104**. It will be appreciated that additional snap fasteners may be provided as at **106**, **108** to permit complete adjustability of the harness **86**.

As indicated in broken lines in FIG. 13, the gun butt **32** secures within the gun holder **72** through the action of the ramp **78** in cooperation with the recess **80**. The sole **110** of the gun butt **32** near the heel thereof rests upon the top of the ramp **78** thereby urging the toe of the

butt into the recess **80**. Th curved front wall **82**, the side plate **72** and the side wall **84** all cooperate to retain the gun butt **32** within the gun holder **72** during the carrying and transporting operations.

Although I have described my invention with a certain degree of particularity, it is understood that the present disclosure has been made only by way of example and that numerous changes in the deails of construction and the combination and arrangement of parts may be resorted to without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. In a gun bearer used for supporting a firearm stock including a butt having a heel and a toe, the combination of:

(A) a rigid gun holder,
  (1) said gun holder including a vertical back plate,
    (a) said back plate being provided with an axially alinged, vertical trough,
      (1) said trough being adapted to receive the heel of the said butt therein,
  (2) said gun holder further including a rigid gun socket attached at one end thereof of the said back plate,
    (a) said gun socket being downwardly inclined from the said back plate,
    (b) said gun socket being formed to provide gun butt toe receiving recess;

(B) a loop secured to the back of the said back plate
  (1) said loop being attached in a swivel connection; and

(C) a one piece harness associated with the said back plate and being threaded through the said loop,
  (1) said harness being provided with length adjusting means.

2. The invention of claim **1** wherein the said trough extends the entire height of the said back plate.

3. The invention of claim **1** wherein the shortest distance between the front of the said gun butt toe receiving recess and the said trough is less than the front to back distance of the said gun butt at the base thereof.

4. The invention of claim **1** wherein the said gun butt toe receiving recess declines at a greater angle from the said back plate than the remainder of the said gun socket.

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224—5