

(19)



NL Octrooicentrum

(11)

2003236

(12) **C OCTROOI**

(21) Aanvraagnummer: **2003236**

(51) Int.Cl.:
A45F 5/10 (2006.01)

(22) Aanvraag ingediend: **17.07.2009**

(43) Aanvraag gepubliceerd:

-

(47) Octrooi verleend:
18.01.2011

(45) Octrooischrift uitgegeven:
26.01.2011

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(54) **Bag-handle grip and bag comprising the same.**

(57) The present invention relates to a bag-handle grip and a bag comprising the same.
The bag-handle grip according to the present invention is characterized in that a hollow structure is formed by a curved central section and a flat section defined by first and second outer sections. In the folded position, an edge of the second outer section is placed parallel and into direct or close contact to the scored line dividing the central section and the first outer section for engaging the central section essentially perpendicularly when a squeezing force is applied to move the scored lines towards each other. These measures increase the structural strength of the bag-handle grip.

NL C 2003236

Dit octrooi is verleend ongeacht het bijgevoegde resultaat van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek en schriftelijke opinie. Het octrooischrift komt overeen met de oorspronkelijk ingediende stukken.

Bag-handle grip and bag comprising the same

The present invention relates to a bag-handle grip and a bag comprising the same.

5 A bag-handle grip is a device which protects a user's hand when carrying bags. These devices prevent cutting of the hand by bag-handles, especially when one carries multiple heavily loaded thin plastic bags. Using a bag-handle grip, one can carry multiple bags using a single grip
10 with more comfort. The bag-handle grip is positioned around bag handles of one or more carrier bags and protects the user's hand during transportation from localized weight pressure by the bag handles.

 Generally, retail stores provide carrier bags in
15 different materials with several types of handles to the customer for carrying goods. Unfortunately, filled carrier bags often cause that the bag handles act like a string or wire cutting in a user's hand and fingers. This discomfort results in painful hands in a short period of time. A bag-
20 handle grip provides a quick and convenient manner of distributing the load from the bag handle to a wider inner hand surface area of the user's hand, wherein the wrist and hand generally remain in the normal position.

 Such a bag-handle grip, as defined in the preamble of
25 claim 1, is known from US 5,803,522. This bag-handle grip comprises a sheet of pliable material having two scored lines, thereby dividing the sheet into a central section, adapted for receiving a bag-handle in a length direction thereof, and a first and second outer section. The first and
30 second outer section are provided with coupling means for mutual coupling. The sheet can be brought into a folded position by bending the central section and folding the first and second outer sections along the scored lines. By

coupling the outer sections a hollow structure is formed that encloses a bag-handle received by the central section.

An object of the present invention is to provide a bag-handle grip with improved structural strength. A further
5 object is to provide an ergonomic bag-handle grip for durable repeated use, which is safe, reliable, and with the advantages of simplicity and low production costs. Such a bag-handle grip must provide protection against cutting of the hand by a bag-handle or by the bag-handle grip itself.

10 Ergonomics of the bag-handle grip is important for people with joint problems or other reduced hand functions, such as people who cannot close their hands entirely.

An even further object is to provide a bag-handle grip which prevents bag-handles from multiple bags to separate
15 when the bags are put down on the ground. The bag-handle grip maintain the gripping on the bag-handles of the various bags such that a user can simply pick up all the bags simultaneously.

Consequently, the user simply pick up all the bags
20 simultaneously using the bag-handle grip.

At least one of the objects is achieved with the bag-handle grip according to independent claim 1. According to the invention, the scored lines are arranged such that the hollow structure is formed by the curved central section and
25 a flat section defined by the first and second outer section. Furthermore, the arrangement is such that in the folded position, an edge of the second outer section is placed parallel and into direct or close contact to the scored line dividing the central section and first outer
30 section for engaging the central section essentially perpendicularly when a squeezing force is applied to move the scored lines towards each other.

It should be noted that the term bag-handle grip refers to the folded (use) position, wherein the sheet is bent and folded, but also to the essentially flat position, which mostly corresponds to the position in which the product is sold, and possibly to a storage position, in which the outer sections are folded inwards.

In the folded position, the hollow structure preferably displays a closed U-shaped cross section along its length direction. The curved region, corresponding to the central section, is facing downwards during use. This section therefore rests on the fingers of the user. It is therefore important to have this section curved and smooth. On the opposite side, at the ends of the curved region, the first and second outer section lie within an essentially flat plane. During use, this region will be adjacent to the sensitive palm area. Therefore, it is important that this region does not have any protruding parts such as coupling means used for connecting the first and second outer section.

The width of the flat region of the bag-handle grip in the folded position corresponds approximately to the width of the second outer section. When a user squeezes the bag-handle grip, for instance under influence of the weight of the bags that he or she carries, the second outer section will engage the curved central section, preferably just below the first outer section, perpendicularly. Due to this angle, an improved structural behavior is obtained.

It should be noted that a scored line should be interpreted as any structural measure applied to the sheet to facilitate folding along such line. For example, the sheet of material could be punched, carved or partially cut to form such lines.

An important aspect of the present invention is that the second outer section engages the central section to improve the structural properties of the bag-handle grip. The angle between these elements should be such that the second outer section does not slip which would cause a collapse of the bag-handle grip. Perpendicular engagement should therefore be construed as engagement under any angle preventing such collapse, for instance angles between 70 and 110 degrees.

The first and second outer section are preferably of equal size. An even further or other improvement is achieved when a maximum size of the first outer section measured in a direction perpendicular to the length direction corresponds approximately to half of the size of the central section in this direction. Combining these two measures results in a symmetric structure. It should be noted that this maximum size for rectangular sheets corresponds to the width of these sections. However, this shape is not mandatory, as other shapes offer the same structural strength provided that a large enough part of the edge of the second outer section runs parallel to the scored line between the central section and the first outer section.

A particular convenient bag-handle grip is obtained when the scored lines run parallel and or when the sheet has a rectangular shape. For convenient storage and portability it is advantageous if the size and shape of the central section correspond to a credit card. After use, the outer sections can be folded towards the central section in the storage position to obtain an essentially flat structure having the size and shape of a credit card. Consequently, the user can easily place the bag-handle grip in his or her wallet. This capability is important to make sure that a user does not forget the bag-handle grip when he or she goes

shopping, it then normally resides in his or her wallet or purse. As such, a user is more inclined to repeatedly use the same bag-handle grip.

The sheet of the bag-handle grip is preferably made
5 from homogeneous material. In this embodiment, the first and second outer section and the central section have identical material properties such as bending strength. However, the shape of the sheet in the folded position as described above, e.g. the closed U-shaped cross section, still allows
10 sufficient structural strength to be obtained. Additionally or alternatively, at least one of the central section, the first and second outer section, is made from a material out of the group consisting of cardboard, paper, PVC, polyethylene, laminated paper cardboard, coated thin metal,
15 wood, recycled plastics, and thin metal laminated with textile.

Despite the measures mentioned above, the present invention does not exclude hybrid solutions in which the central section is made from pliable material, for instance
20 one of the materials just described, and wherein the first and or second outer section is made from essentially rigid material. Furthermore, the material used for the coupling means arranged on these outer sections does not need to correspond to this rigid material.

25 The first or second coupling means preferably comprise an arcuate cut thereby defining a tongue. The other of the first or second coupling means then comprises a straight cut adapted to receive the tongue. Preferably, the straight cut is located in the second outer section and the arcuate cut
30 in the first outer section. These sections can be coupled by first placing the first outer section over the second outer section and then pushing the tongue through the straight cut. The tongue itself preferably extends inwards.

Consequently, pulling on the first and second outer section, to try and separate them, is resisted to by the coupling between the tongue received in the straight cut.

5 The ends of the arcuate and straight cut may end in circular openings. These openings prevent tearing or ripping of the sheet which would result in extension of the cuts. A further advantage of the openings is that sideways movement in the length direction of the bag-handle grip is resisted to. Without the circular openings, the risk of the tongue
10 leaving the straight cut would be much higher.

It should obvious to the skilled person that the term cut should be interpreted as a relatively narrow opening, such as a slit, groove, or the like. Moreover, during the process of making these cuts, the sheet may be cut only,
15 wherein no material is removed, or the cuts may be obtained by a pushing and or die-cutting process, in which a small strip of material is removed.

The first and second coupling means could also comprise Velcro. Velcro normally comprises a hook part and a loop
20 part. A particular convenient sheet can be obtained by arranging a hook part on the first outer section and a loop part on the second outer section for mutual coupling. By further arranging a hook part on the other side of the second outer section, and by arranging a loop part on the
25 side of the central section which faces away from the user's fingers, the sheet can be folded in a storage position by folding the outer sections inwards. Such storage position could for instance correspond to the credit card arrangement mentioned above.

30 The present invention also provides a bag with a bag-handle, wherein the bag-handle comprises an opening through which the bag-handle grip as previously defined is placed, and wherein the bag-handle is connected to the central

section of this bag-handle grip. An example of such a bag is a regular thin-walled plastic bag in which preferably one bag-handle is fixedly connected to the central section of the bag-handle grip. The other bag-handle, assuming the bag
5 comprises two handles, can be placed in the central section after the bag has been loaded with products to be carried. A user can then still use the bag-handle grip to carry even more bags that are not equipped with the bag-handle grip according to the invention. Furthermore, by attaching the
10 bag-handle grip according to the invention to a bag, a user can carry more goods in the bag with great easy and comfort. The bag-handle grip is therefore very suitable for heavy lifting bags.

The present invention will now be described in more
15 detail under reference to the appended figures wherein:

Figures 1A and 1B illustrate an embodiment of the bag-handle grip according to the present invention;

Figures 2A-2E show how the bag-handle grip of figures 1A-1B is constructed from the sheet by folding and bending;

20 Figure 3 demonstrates how the bag-handle of figures 1A-1B can be used to carry several bags; and

Figure 4 illustrates an embodiment of a bag comprising the bag-handle grip of figures 1A-1B.

Figure 1A illustrates the bag-handle grip according to
25 the present invention in a flat position. This position normally corresponds to the position used for fabrication of the sheet, e.g. for applying the scored lines and or the coupling means.

The bag-handle grip comprises a rectangular sheet 1
30 having rounded edges which is divided in a central section 2, a first outer section 3, and a second outer section 4, by respectively scored line 5 and 6. A tongue 7 is formed by an arcuate cut 8 in first outer section 3. Tongue 7 can be

received by the opening defined by the straight cut 9 arranged in second outer section 4. Because tongue 7 is folded inwards it does not cause any discomfort.

Furthermore, as a result of the weight of the goods in the bag, the locking between tongue 7 and straight cut 9 will improve. Punched circular openings 10 are provided on the ends of both cuts 8, 9 to prevent further shearing or tearing of sheet 1.

Figure 1B illustrates a cross-section taken along I. This cross-section illustrates the arcuate cut 8, the straight cut 9, and scored lines 5, 6 in more detail. As shown, at the position of scored lines 5, 6, sheet 1 is less thick which facilitates folding along these lines. The profile of scored lines 5, 6, which is V-shaped in figure 1B, depends on the production process used. For instance, sheet 1 could be partially cut, punched or die-cut resulting in other profiles such as U-shaped profiles.

A bag-handle of a bag can be placed onto central section 2 in a length direction thereof. This direction is indicated by arrow 11 in figure 1A.

Figures 2A-2D demonstrates how the sheet in figure 1A can be shaped into the folded (use) position of the bag-handle grip. As shown, central section 2 is bent and outer sections 3, 4 are placed on top of each other. The coupling of outer sections 3, 4, depicted in figure 2C, is achieved by placing tongue 7 through straight cut 9.

Figure 2E illustrates a storage position of the bag-handle grip wherein outer sections 3, 4 are folded inwards. The resulting size preferably corresponds to the size of a credit card, as a result of which the bag-handle can be easily stored in a wallet or purse.

An advantage of the present invention is the ability for companies to place messages or advertisements on central

portion 2, or outer sections 3, 4. When folded in the storage position, this information is clearly visible.

Circular openings further prevent the disengagement of tongue 7 and straight cut 9 when first outer section 3 and second outer section 4 are pulled away from each other in the length direction of the bag-handle grip.

Figure 3 demonstrates how the bag-handle of figures 1A-1B can be used to carry multiple bags 12. An advantage of the bag-handle grip according to the present invention is that the bags can be put down on the ground without the bag-handle grip detaching from the bag-handles of the bags.

Figure 4 illustrates a bag 13 comprising the bag-handle grip of figures 1A-1B. As shown, the bag-handle grip is connected to one of the bag-handles 14 of the bag at central section 2. A user can first fill the bag with goods, then put the other bag-handle 15 in central section 2, and then close the bag-handle grip as was shown in figures 2A-2D. The user may also use the bag-handle grip to carry other bags as well.

In a preferred embodiment, the length of rectangular sheet 1, as measured along arrow 11, is in between 82 and 86 mm, whereas its width is in between 104 and 108 mm. Sheet 1 is normally made from pliable material such as previously described using a carving process for the fabrication of scored lines 5, 6, and the formation of arcuate cut 7 and straight cut 9. The diameter of circular openings 10 is normally in between 3 and 5 mm. Scored lines 5, 6, are arranged 25 mm from the outer edges of sheet 1, which results in the desired credit card shape in the storage position. Depending on the width of sheet 1, it is possible to store your credit card within the bag-handle grip after folding in storage position. To this end, the thickness of sheet 1 is in between 0.5 and 1.0 mm. To facilitate folding,

the thickness of sheet 1 at the position of scored lines 5, 6 is reduced to approximately 70 percent of the nominal thickness.

5 The present invention has been described using embodiments thereof. It should be obvious to the skilled person in the art that various modifications are possible without deviating from the scope of the invention which is defined by the appended claims.

Conclusies

1. Tashandvat greep omvattende een dunne laag materiaal (1) voorzien van ten minste twee groeflijnen (5, 6) van een zijde naar een tegenovergestelde zijde van de dunne laag (1), daarbij de dunne laag (1) scheidende in een centraal deel (2), aangepast voor het ontvangen van een tashandvat in een lengterichting daarvan, en een eerste en tweede buitendeel (3, 4), waarbij het eerste (3) en tweede (4) buitendeel zijn verschaft met respectievelijk eerste (7) en tweede (9) koppelmiddelen voor het aan elkaar koppelen van de buitendelen (3, 4), waarbij het centrale deel (2) een buigzaam deel heeft, en waarbij elk van de buitendelen (3, 4) gevouwen kan worden ten opzichte van het centrale deel (2) langs de respectievelijke groeflijnen (5, 6), waarbij de genoemde dunne laag (1) in een gevouwen positie kan worden gebracht door het genoemde vouwen en buigen waarbij het eerste buitendeel (3) op het tweede buitendeel (4) is geplaatst en hieraan gekoppeld is door de genoemde eerste (7) en tweede (9) koppelmiddelen, hierbij een holle structuur vormende welke een tashandvat omsluit wanneer deze is ontvangen door het genoemde centrale deel (2), met het kenmerk, dat de groeflijnen (5,6) zijn ingericht zodanig dat:
- de genoemde holle structuur is gevormd door het gekromde centrale deel (2) en een vlak deel gedefinieerd door het eerste (3) en tweede (4) buitendeel;
 - in de gevouwen positie, een rand van het tweede buitendeel (4) parallel geplaatst is en direct of bijna in contact komt met de groeflijn (5) welke het centrale deel (2) en het eerste buitendeel (3) scheidt, voor het in hoofdzaak loodrecht aangrijpen van het genoemde centrale

deel (2) wanneer een knijpende kracht wordt uitgeoefend voor het naar elkaar bewegen van de groeflijnen (5, 6).

2. Tashandvat greep volgens conclusie 1, waarbij het
5 eerste (3) en tweede (4) buitendeel van gelijke grootte zijn.

3. Tashandvat greep volgens conclusie 1 of 2, waarbij
10 een maximale grootte van het eerste buitendeel (3) gemeten in een richting loodrecht op de genoemde lengterichting correspondeert met ongeveer een helft van de grootte van het centrale deel (2) in deze richting.

4. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-
15 3, waarbij de groeflijnen (5, 6) parallel lopen.

5. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-
4, waarbij de dunne laag (1) een rechthoekige vorm heeft.

20 6. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-5, waarbij de grootte en vorm van het centrale deel (2) overeenkomen met een credit card.

7. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-
25 6, waarbij de dunne laag (1) gemaakt is uit een homogeen materiaal.

8. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-
7, waarbij ten minste één van het centrale deel (2), het
30 eerste (3) en tweede (4) buitendeel, gemaakt is van een materiaal uit de groep bestaande uit karton, papier, PVC, polyethyleen, gelamineerd papierkarton, gecoat dun metaal,

hout, gerecycled plastic, en dun metaal gelamineerd met textiel.

5 9. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-8, waarbij de eerste of tweede koppelmiddelen (7, 9) een boogvormige snede (8) omvatten hierbij een lip (7) vormende, en waarbij de andere van de genoemde eerste of tweede koppelmiddelen (7, 9) een rechte snede (9) omvat aangepast voor het ontvangen van de genoemde lip (7).

10

10. Tashandvat greep volgens conclusie 9, waarbij de genoemde lip (7) zich naar binnen toe uitstrekt.

11. Tashandvat greep volgens conclusie 9 of 10,
15 waarbij de genoemde boogvormige snede (8) en de genoemde rechte snede (9) eindigen in circulaire openingen (10).

12. Tashandvat greep volgens een van de conclusies 1-8, waarbij de eerste en tweede koppelmiddelen klittenband
20 omvatten.

13. Tas met een tashandvat, waarbij het tashandvat een opening omvat door welke de tashandvat greep zoals gedefinieerd in een van de conclusies 1-12 is geplaatst, en
25 waarbij het tashandvat is verbonden aan het centrale deel (2) van het genoemde tashandvat greep.

1/3

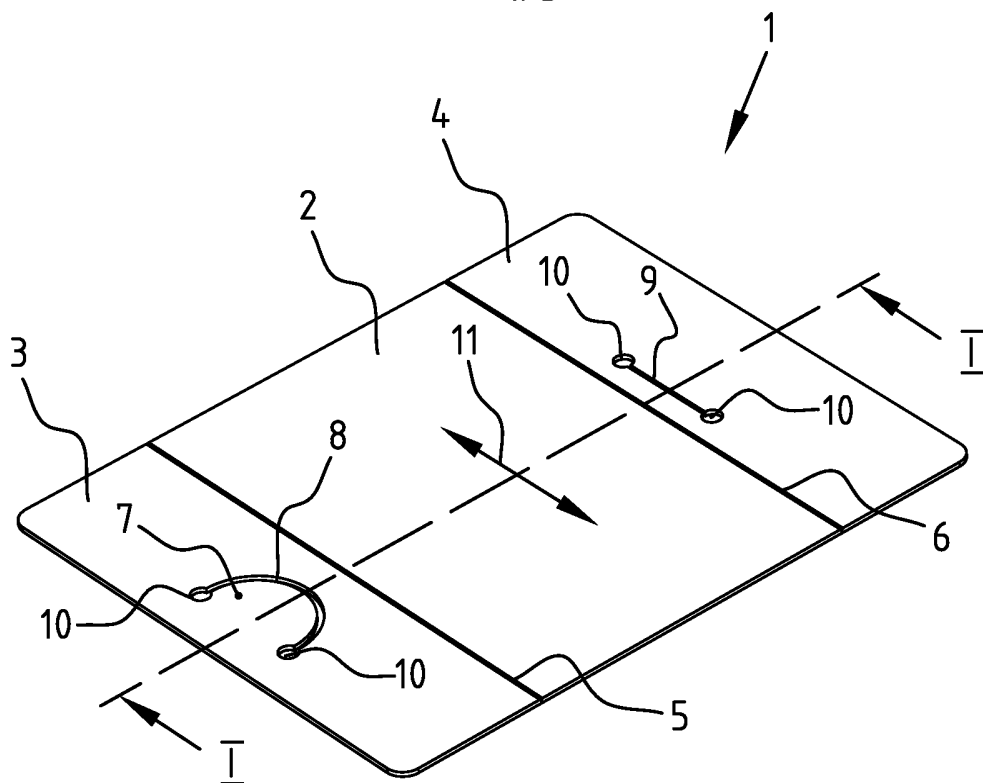


FIG. 1A

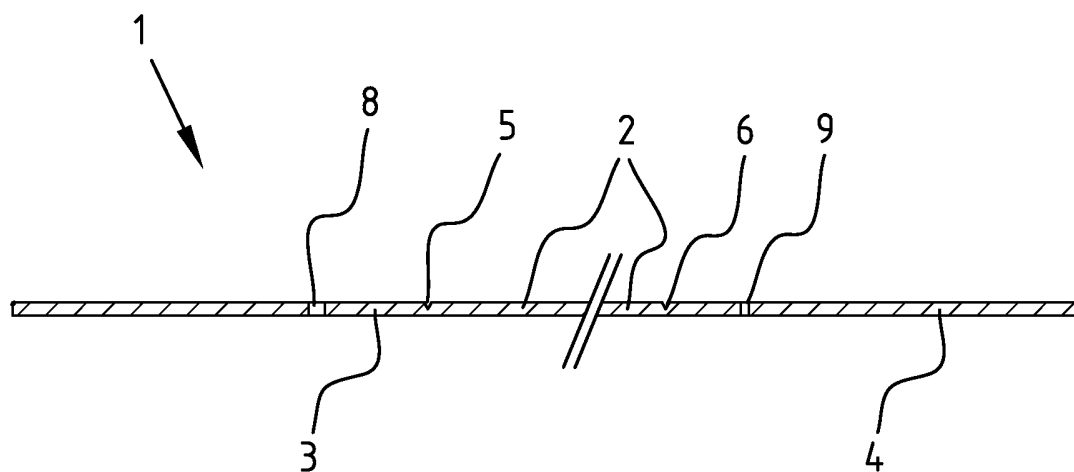


FIG. 1B

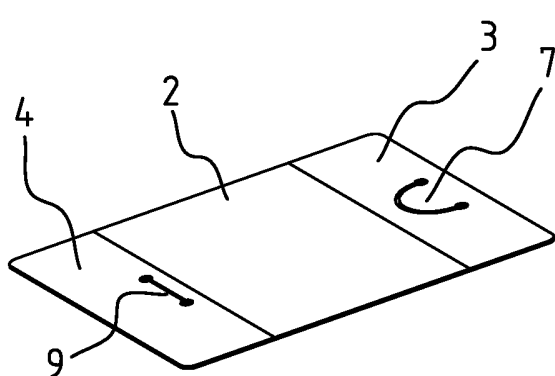


FIG. 2A

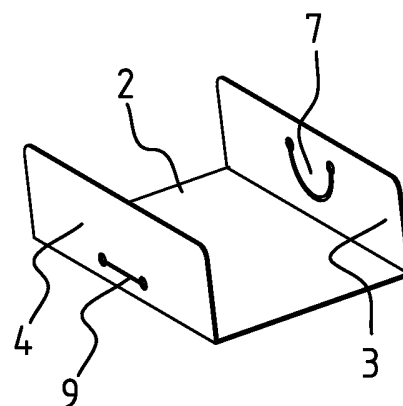


FIG. 2B

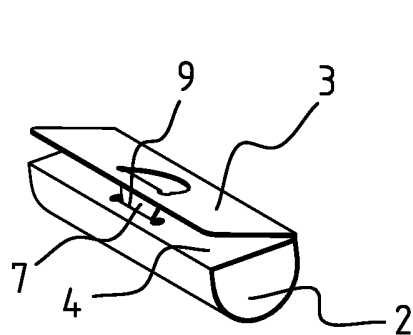


FIG. 2C

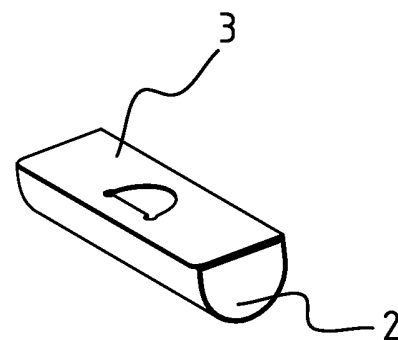


FIG. 2D

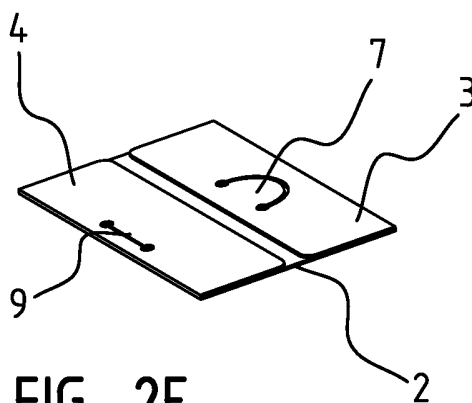


FIG. 2E

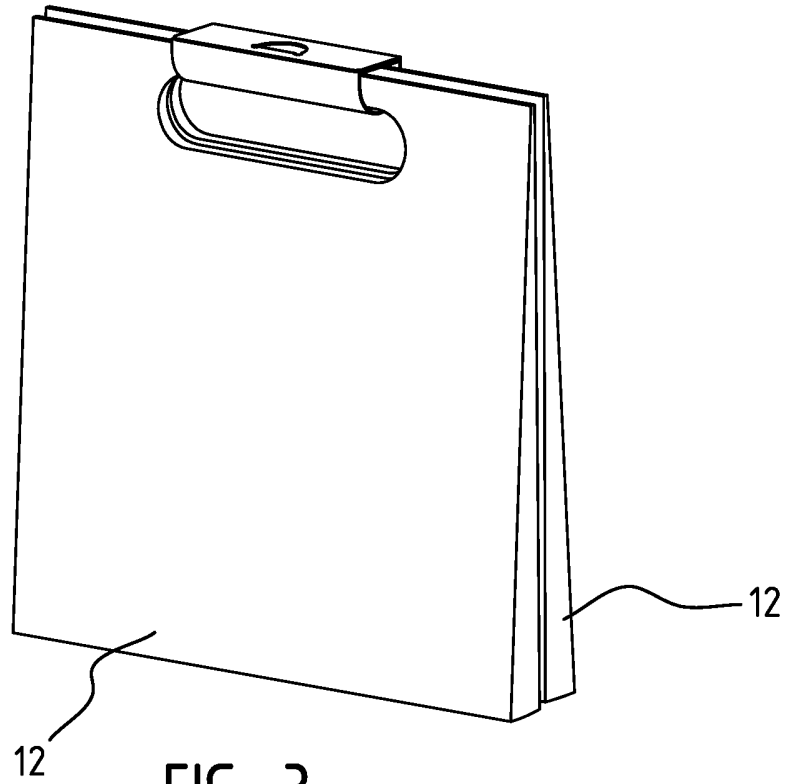


FIG. 3

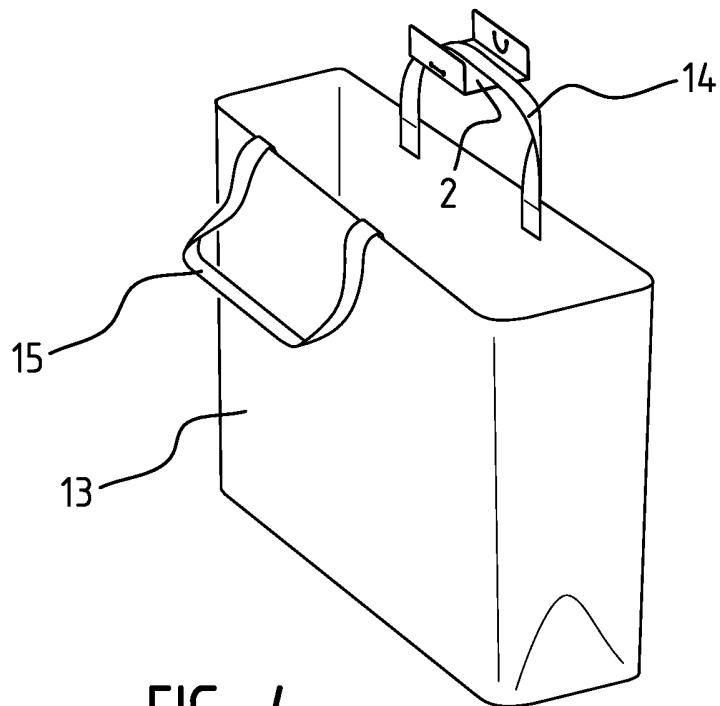


FIG. 4

SAMENWERKINGSVERDRAG (PCT)

RAPPORT BETREFFENDE NIEUWHEIDSONDERZOEK VAN INTERNATIONAAL TYPE

IDENTIFICATIE VAN DE NATIONALE AANVRAGE	KENMERK VAN DE AANVRAGER OF VAN DE GEMACHTIGDE 3B/2HG78/SG/1
Nederlands aanvraag nr. 2003236	Indieningsdatum 17-07-2009
	Ingeroepen voorrangsdatum
Aanvrager (Naam) VAN SWAM, Dhr. Sebastiaan	
Datum van het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type 26-11-2009	Door de Instantie voor Internationaal Onderzoek aan het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type toegekend nr. SN 53283
I. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP (bij toepassing van verschillende classificaties, alle classificatiesymbolen opgeven) Volgens de internationale classificatie (IPC) A45F5/10	
II. ONDERZOCHE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK	
Onderzochte minimumdocumentatie	
Classificatiesysteem	Classificatiesymbolen
IPC8	A45F
Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen	
III. ☐	GEEN ONDERZOEK MOGELIJK VOOR BEPAALDE CONCLUSIES (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)
IV. ☐	GEBREK AAN EENHEID VAN UITVINDING (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek
NL 2003236

A. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP
INV. A45F5/10
ADD.

Volgens de Internationale Classificatie van octrooien (IPC) of zowel volgens de nationale classificatie als volgens de IPC.

B. ONDERZOCHE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK

Onderzochte minimum documentatie (classificatie gevolgd door classificatiesymbolen)
A45F

Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor dergelijke documenten, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen

Tijdens het onderzoek geraadpleegde elektronische gegevensbestanden (naam van de gegevensbestanden en, waar uitvoerbaar, gebruikte trefwoorden)
EP0-Internal

C. VAN BELANG GEACHTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
X	JP 2000 139541 A (KOBAYASHI) 23 mei 2000 (2000-05-23)	1-8, 12, 13
Y	* samenvatting * * figuren 1-14 *	9-11
X	FR 2 859 081 A3 (CHANG YEN HAO) 4 maart 2005 (2005-03-04) * het gehele document *	1-6, 8, 12, 13
X	US 2003/131447 A1 (MIKUS DAVID) 17 juli 2003 (2003-07-17) * alinea's [0038] - [0045] * * figuren 1-4b *	1-6, 8, 12, 13
Y	JP 02 047918 A (FUJITSU) 16 februari 1990 (1990-02-16) * figuren 1-6 *	9-11

☐ Verdere documenten worden vermeld in het vervolg van vak C.

☒ Leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie zijn vermeld in een bijlage

° Speciale categorieën van aangehaalde documenten

A niet tot de categorie X of Y behorende literatuur die de stand van de techniek beschrijft

D in de octrooiaanvraag vermeld

E eerdere octrooi(aanvraag), gepubliceerd op of na de indieningsdatum, waarin dezelfde uitvinding wordt beschreven

L om andere redenen vermelde literatuur

O niet-schriftelijke stand van de techniek

P tussen de voorrangsdatum en de indieningsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur

T na de indieningsdatum of de voorrangsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur die niet bezwarend is voor de octrooiaanvraag, maar wordt vermeld ter verheldering van de theorie of het principe dat ten grondslag ligt aan de uitvinding

X de conclusie wordt als niet nieuw of niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van deze literatuur

Y de conclusie wordt als niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van de combinatie van deze literatuur met andere geciteerde literatuur van dezelfde categorie, waarbij de combinatie voor de vakman voor de hand liggend wordt geacht

Z lid van dezelfde octrooifamilie of overeenkomstige octrooipublicatie

Datum waarop het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type werd voltooid

16 april 2010

Verzenddatum van het rapport van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type

Naam en adres van de instantie

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

De bevoegde ambtenaar

Witkowska-Piela, A

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Informatie over leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek

NL 2003236

In het rapport genoemd octrooigescrift	Datum van publicatie	Overeenkomend(e) geschrift(en)	Datum van publicatie
JP 2000139541	A	23-05-2000	GEEN
FR 2859081	A3	04-03-2005	GEEN
US 2003131447	A1	17-07-2003	GEEN
JP 2047918	A	16-02-1990	GEEN



OCTROOICENTRUM NEDERLAND

WRITTEN OPINION

File No. SN53283	Filing date (day/month/year) 17.07.2009	Priority date (day/month/year)	Application No. NL2003236
International Patent Classification (IPC) INV. A45F5/10			
Applicant Sebastiaan van Swam te Wijchen			

This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the application

	Examiner Witkowska-Piela, A
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WRITTEN OPINION

Application number
NL2003236

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. This opinion has been established on the basis of the latest set of claims filed before the start of the search.
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Yes: Claims	6, 8-11
	No: Claims	1-5, 7, 12, 13
Inventive step	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-13
Industrial applicability	Yes: Claims	1-13
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

WRITTEN OPINION

Application number
NL2003236

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the application

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1 JP 2000 139541 A (KOBAYASHI) 23 mei 2000 (2000-05-23)
- D2 FR 2 859 081 A3 (CHANG YEN HAO) 4 maart 2005 (2005-03-04)
- D3 US 2003/131447 A1 (MIKUS DAVID) 17 juli 2003 (2003-07-17)
- D4 JP 02 047918 A (FUJITSU) 16 februari 1990 (1990-02-16)

2 The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of **claim 1 is not new**.

D1 discloses

a bag-handle grip (fig.1) comprising a sheet of material (1) having at least two scored lines from a side to an opposite side of the sheet (fig.3, borders between the thicker part and thinner parts (2),(3) of the element (1) extending approximately along the inner edges of the coupling means ((8,9)), thereby dividing the sheet into a central section (thick part of the element (1)), adapted for receiving a bag-handle in a length direction thereof, and a first (2) and second (3) outer section, wherein the first and second outer section are provided with first (8) and second (9) coupling means, respectively, for coupling the outer sections to each other, wherein the central section has a bendable part, and wherein each of the outer sections can be folded with respect to the central section along the respective scored lines, wherein said sheet can be brought into a folded position (fig.5) by said bending and folding in which the first outer section (2) is placed on top of the second outer section (3) and coupled thereto using said first (8) and second (9) coupling means, thereby forming a hollow structure that encloses a bag-handle when received by said central section, wherein the scored lines are arranged such that:

- said hollow structure (fig.5) is formed by the curved central section (thicker part of the element (1)) and a flat section defined by the first (2) and second (3) outer section;

- in the folded position, an edge of the second (3) outer section is placed parallel and into direct or close contact to the scored line dividing central section and first outer section (2) for engaging said central section essentially perpendicularly when a squeezing force is applied to move to the scored lines towards each other.

- 3 Dependent **claims 2- 13** do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of novelty or inventive step, see D1-D4 and references applying to this documents cited in the search report.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the application

- 4 Some of the features in the apparatus claim 1 relate to a method of using the apparatus rather than clearly defining the apparatus in terms of its technical features.

Therefore, these features can not be seen as limiting the extent of the matter protected by the claims.

In the document D3 it is not clearly shown that the hollow structure is formed by a flat section defined by the first (22) and second (22) outer section, however, this document is still considered as depriving the claim 1 of novelty because the only difference between the subject-matter of claim 1 and the bag-handle grip known from D3 relies in features that relate to a method of using the apparatus rather than technical features of the apparatus itself.
